

The New Zealand Beekeeper

MAY 1958

MR. T. S. WINTER

Retiring Superintendent
of the
Beekeeping Industry



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(Incorporated)

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THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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Editorial

MARKETING RESPONSIBILITY

Since the Honey Marketing Authority was established in 1953 the work of the National Beekeepers' Association has been simplified, and although the industry has encountered difficulties during this period, its general organisation is sound. As time goes on we must expect changing conditions and no doubt changes will be required in marketing policy and perhaps in the shape of the marketing structure as well. It is desirable, therefore, that the functions of the Association and the Marketing Authority respectively should be clearly understood.

Under the Primary Products Marketing Act, 1953, authority is given for the making of regulations to enable primary producers to control the marketing of their products, and the Act stipulates that such regulations shall require the approval of the majority of the producers concerned. The National Beekeepers' Association exists to promote the interests of beekeepers generally and has served the industry in this capacity for the past 50 years, and it was through the efforts of the Association that honey producers were able to express their approval and secure the introduction of the Honey Marketing Regulations, 1953.

The form of the Regulations is, therefore, of direct concern to the Association and any amendments to them which are considered desirable should be sought through the Association. Alterations to the function or constitution of the Authority, or to the incidence of the seal levy, would come within this category. Similarly any matter outside the scope of the Regulations remains within the province of the Association.

The purpose of the Honey Marketing Authority is to control the marketing of honey within the framework of the Regulations, and especially to operate the pooling organisation and determine the selling policy to be followed. In addition to this specific responsibility it is in a position to advise or support the Association in its more general task.

To put the matter briefly, the Honey Marketing Authority operates within the provisions of the Regulations; the National Beekeepers' Association concerns itself with the form of the Regulations or matters which are not covered therein.

Producers have the opportunity in the Association of discussing the marketing position from time to time and it is appropriate that their opinions on policy matters should go forward through the Association, not to be implemented, but to be considered by the Authority in the light of its special function and responsibility. Indeed it is of benefit

to the Authority in making its decisions to know the attitude of producers to matters such as the contract system, for instance, or the administration of the seal account. In presenting its recommendations the Association is not interfering in the operations of the Authority but rather acknowledging its place in the marketing sphere.

The work of the Honey Marketing Authority calls for vigour and concentration and its members deserve the support of producers. It is also desirable that there should be a clear understanding and close co-operation between the two bodies working for beekeepers if the best results are to be obtained in a well organised industry.



Dominion Conference

The Annual Conference of the Association is to be held this year in Wellington. Particulars are given elsewhere in this issue.

New Subscription Scale

The attention of Branch Secretaries and members is drawn to the amended subscription scale, as listed inside the back cover. The minimum subscription is now 10/- for up to 60 hives and the maximum is extended to £5 for members with over 570 hives.

H.M.A. Election

An election of two producer representatives for the Honey Marketing Authority will be held during September, the retiring members being Messrs. E. A. Field and W. T. Herron. Details of the election are given elsewhere in this issue.

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 3. 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.

International Congress

Details of the programme and arrangements for the XVII International Beekeeping Congress to be held in Rome on September 18-23, 1958, have now been received and anyone requiring this information may obtain it from the Editor.

Election Procedure

Producers who have sold honey to a packer and who wish to vote at the forthcoming H.M.A. Election are advised that they will be required to send to the Manager of the Honey Marketing Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland, prior to June 30, a statutory declaration showing the amount of honey sold.

A declaration in the form given below will be acceptable to the Returning Officer:

IN THE MATTER of the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953.

I, (Full Name of (Address) (Occupation), do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. That during the two years ending on the 30th day of June, 1958, I supplied to (Full Name) of (Address) (Occupation), who is a packer of honey, tons of honey in respect of which I did not purchase any seals.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Justice of the Peace Act, 1927.

Declared at by the said (Full Name) this day of 1958, before me:

.....
A Justice of the Peace.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Death of Noted Inventor

The death is announced in Australia of Mr. C. A. Hungerford, inventor of the semi-radial honey extractor now so widely used throughout Australia and abroad. During the war years he was one of the first to develop a charcoal gas producer for motor vehicles to overcome the petrol shortage.

Of more recent years Mr. Hungerford was prominent with his ideas of planting honey-producing forests with trees propagated from selected Eucalypts, and through his drive and enthusiasm the "Honey Flora Propagation Society" was formed.

Antarctica Crossed

Sir Edmund Hillary returned to New Zealand after leading the New Zealand support party in the successful British Antarctic Expedition. The main party completed the crossing of the Continent in 99 days.

Royal Jelly Inquiries

Inquiries for supplies of royal jelly from New Zealand have been received by the General Secretary from the U.S.A. firms listed below. Beekeepers who wish to develop this trade should write to any of the addresses mentioned:

- 1) Scrivanich and Co., 1343 Arch St., Philadelphia P.A., U.S.A.
- 2) Sears International Inc., 24-16 Bridge Plaza South, Long Island City 1, N.Y., U.S.A.
- 3) Joseph Sear and Company Inc., Empire State Building, New York, U.S.A.
- 4) M. Buckley and Associates, 3204 East 27th St., Oakland 1, California, U.S.A.
- 5) I.M.T. Commodity Corporation, 233 Broadway, New York 7, N.Y., U.S.A.

Adequate Rainfall!

Milford Sound recorded 69.06 inches of rain during February and another 10 inches descended during the first couple of days in March, says a recent report. These figures are not unusual for Milford which has an annual average rainfall of 253.5 inches.

Prime Minister Eats Honey

"Eat what you like, work as hard as you like, but never neglect regular meals," said Mr. Nash in an interview at Sydney during the course of his recent tour.

Mr. Nash, who confessed to working 15 to 16 hours a day has, however, a diet all of his own. He told a special interviewer that he had only one good solid meal a day — his lunch.

"For that midday meal I might have up to four courses, including a grill, but I make sure it is a substantial meal. I don't have much for breakfast at all. A pittance, really. My breakfast consists of a glass of hot water, good orange juice made from the pure, whole juice of oranges, followed by an egg and milk drink.

"I've been having that breakfast for years now, and it's always kept me fighting fit.

"For the evening meal, well, maybe a few sandwiches or something like that, I never seem to want much then after that good, solid midday meal.

Honey and Lemon

"But for going to bed at night, I have something else. My dear wife always leaves some honey and plenty of lemon juice in a glass. I pour hot water over this, stir it all up and drink it. That's a grand mixture, and so healthful, too. And I always sleep well."

High Octane!

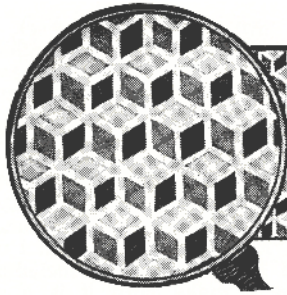
A story is going the rounds that Sir Edmond Hillary is giving up beekeeping to take over a service station. He will probably be selling BP (bee pee!).

THE INDIAN BEE JOURNAL

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Mr. T. S. Winter Retires

OUTSTANDING RECORD OF SERVICE

One of the best known personalities in New Zealand beekeeping, Mr. T. S. Winter, retires from the position of Beekeeping Superintendent in the Department of Agriculture at the end of June. Mr. Winter has given over 40 years' continuous service in the beekeeping industry, including 34 years as an officer of the Department of Agriculture, and his experience in both production and administrative work has been of inestimable value to New Zealand beekeeping.

An account of Mr. Winter's early career is given in the following extract from the "N.Z. Fruitgrower and Apiarist" of September 16, 1925, on the occasion of his appointment as Apiary Instructor with headquarters at Hamilton:

Mr Winter first became interested in bees when a schoolboy and attended to the bees placed at the disposal of the children by the teacher.

On returning from the war nine years ago, he took up the study in earnest at the Ruakura State Apiary, after which he was employed for a season by a commercial beekeeper. He was then employed by the Department of Agriculture at the queen-rearing apiary at Tauranga, and later was appointed apiary inspector with headquarters at Christchurch.

Mr Winter resigned his position as apiary inspector to take up commercial beekeeping and in conjunction with a partner he purchased a large commercial apiary in Canterbury.

While thus employed he was offered and accepted a position as travelling representative on the staff of the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, his work being among the merchants and retailers of the Dominion.

The success which he achieved in placing honey in every merchant's and retailer's store throughout New Zealand was recognised by the H.P.A. and Mr Winter was later appointed as South Island representative, establishing depots at Christchurch and Dunedin. Three years ago (1922) he was appointed store manager in Auckland, headquarters of the H.P.A., his duties being to supervise the handling and packing of all honey placed on the New Zealand market, and to control the sales department. He also had charge of the bee supplies department, handling beekeepers' requisites until that department, together with the Dunedin factory which manufactured these goods, was disposed of by the company. Mr Winter has also acted as official honey grader to the company for the past three years.

Twelve months ago the National Beekeepers' Association found itself without a secretary and with very little funds. Mr Winter eventually agreed to accept the position. Within a month he successfully organised the annual conference, which was held at Christchurch, and re-established the Association's funds. During Mr Winter's terms of office as secretary, much valuable work has been done to help the industry, including the Honey Export Act, which is now in operation.

The above account is in itself a notable record but it was followed by over 30 years in the Department, during which time Mr. Winter occupied in turn the positions of Apiary Instructor, Apiary Instructor and Honey Grader, Chief Honey Grader, Senior Apiary Instructor, and Superintendent Beekeeping Industry.

In the course of his work he was responsible for designing and introducing the present official Honey Grading system. This was designed to provide for a pro rata payment to producers, according to grade, as at present; and also for a flexible payout system to meet any firm changes in market values for the various grades of honey, if required. He also prepared several Departmental Bulletins on beekeeping, and of these Bulletin No. 267, "Beekeeping in New Zealand," is a book of 162 pages and is a recognised reference work for practical beekeeping under New Zealand conditions.

An onerous part of Mr. Winter's work was in the preparation of new beekeeping legislation, which included the Apiaries Amendment Acts of 1951 and 1953 as well as Regulations which have been introduced from time to time in the interests of honey producers. During the years of the 1939-45 war he did an immense amount of work in maintaining the apiary inspection service and attending to special emergency duties such as ensuring supplies of petrol and sugar for honey producers.

In all his administrative work Mr. Winter had the sure touch of one with an intimate understanding of beekeeping problems and his support and co-operation have been of great value in the work of the National Beekeepers' Association. In the advances which the honey industry has made during the last

40 years his unique contribution will be apparent for many years to come.

Mr. Winter served overseas in the First World War and after being severely wounded on Gallipoli he was eventually invalided home in 1916. The strenuous years since then have made their demands and the coming time of relaxation is richly deserved. In recording our appreciation of his work we wish him an enjoyable retirement with good health and happiness in the years ahead.

MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION

To the Editor,
"The N.Z. Beekeeper."

Dear Sir,—The news of the impending retirement of Mr. T. S. Winter, Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry, will be received with genuine regret by all members of the National Beekeepers' Association.

Mr. Winter's association with beekeeping has been long and in many ways, unique. As a commercial producer, instructor, grader, salesman, and administrator over a period of many years, he has acquired a wealth of experience, always made available, freely and without stint, for the benefit of the beekeepers of this country.

Mr. Winter was the first to fill the post of Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry, and the good relations which have always obtained between producers and the Department are due in large measure to the sincere, tactful and friendly way in which he discharged his duties.

The welfare of the industry and of the Association has always been his

first thought. In paying tribute to Mr. Winter as an administrator, we remember with affection, Tom Winter, the man. I know that all members of the Association will join with me in wishing him a happy retirement, full of years.

J. W. FRASER,
President.

To the Editor,
"The N.Z. Beekeeper."

Dear Sir,—Another chapter in the history of the beekeeping industry will close with the retirement of Mr. T. S. Winter.

Those who have come into beekeeping in recent years will have appreciated his sound advice and balanced judgment and those who have been in the industry since earlier days will be well aware of his unstinting assistance and encouragement in those years when beekeeping was a hard struggle to eke out a crust, let alone an income.

To me personally, as Dominion President for so many years and during my term as Chairman of the Marketing Authority, his assistance and knowledge gained over many years have been of inestimable value to me and the industry.

All members of the Honey Marketing Authority are sorry to see him leave us. We will miss his knowledge and his loyalty.

May I express the thanks of the Authority to Tom Winter for doing so much more than was required of him in his official capacity.

He carries the good wishes of every member of the Authority and the staff for a happy and contented retirement.

E. A. FIELD

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MEETING WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

On February 26 the President (Mr. J. W. Fraser) and the General Secretary waited upon the new Minister of Agriculture with a view to (1) acquainting him with the broad background of the industry and its problems and (2) ascertaining the effects (if any) that the Labour Government's policy may have on the industry's operation in the future.

After covering background and the importance of the industry through the pollination service it rendered to agriculture generally, the present and



pressing problems of the industry were covered under the headings of (1) Toxic Pesticides, (2) Research Facilities, (3) Marketing.

Research Facilities

It will be recalled that late last year the appointment of two additional research officers to assist the industry was approved by the then Minister of Agriculture following representations over a long period. To date the positions have not been filled and while there was reason to believe that difficulties may have existed with regard to the appointment of a purely scientific officer to assist Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, it was felt that the appointment of the second officer who was to be a practical fields officer with the designation of "Apiculturist" had been delayed unnecessarily. This point was made to

the Minister and he gave his assurance that the matter will be looked into.

Toxic Pesticides

The Apiaries Protection Regulations (under the Apiaries Act) had been accepted by the Executive as a purely "stop-gap" measure of protection for beekeepers on the assurance that the more comprehensive proposed "Agricultural Chemicals Bill" would be introduced at an early date. Information had suggested that the proposed bill was not being proceeded with.

The matter was raised with the Minister and he gave his assurance that the Bill would be re-investigated with a view to presentation to the House this year.

Marketing

An invitation was extended to the Chairman of the H.M.A. to attend the official visit of the industry's representatives to the new Minister of Agriculture, in order that (1) the particular problems of marketing would be specifically introduced to the Minister from an official source and (2) that the industry might demonstrate some degree of solidarity through the joint approach of its two recognised governing bodies.

However, the Chairman of the Authority, having already seen the Minister, was not present at the interview.

In view of the request for assistance made at last year's Conference, and considering the general policy of the new Government, it was deemed appropriate to inquire whether a guaranteed price system could be applied to honey producers per medium of the H.M.A. The inquiry was exploratory in nature with a view to presenting such a scheme, if available, to the industry for its consideration.

The following is the text of the written statement handed to the Minister in support of the submissions made:



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Statement to Minister

The Rt. Hon. C. F. Skinner
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Foxton
February 26, 1958

Sir, I wish to thank you for this opportunity of reviewing the condition and problems of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand as it exists today and would like to take this opportunity of extending to you on behalf of the National Beekeepers' Association our warm congratulations on your election to high office and to convey our best wishes in the tasks of national administration which lie ahead. It is a generally acknowledged fact that this Dominion's economy rests largely on the success of its primary production and this fact must place a considerable responsibility on your position.

The beekeeping industry considers itself to be a most important and integral part in this country's economy by virtue not only of its honey production but the far more significant by-product of POLLINATION which directly adds many millions of pounds annually to our national income.

The industry itself is, comparatively speaking, a small one, and for this reason its importance tends to be overlooked. Of 5,000 registered beekeepers owning 180,000 hives only about 300 can be classified as true commercial beekeepers and they operate over 160,000 or 83% of the total registered hives. The value of the average honey crop is £750,000, of which approximately one-third is obtained from overseas sales, largely in the United Kingdom. White clover and other flowering pasture grasses account for some 90% of total honey production and from this fact it will be apparent that the honey-bee, in the hands of the specialist commercial beekeeper, is the pollinating agent "par excellence" and as such has a profound effect on the level of pasture maintenance and improvement. This fact is readily recognised by farmers and last year we were pleased to receive the support of Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Inc.) in seeking the appointment of further research officers to assist in pollination research.

We feel sure, Sir, that you, as successive Ministers of Agriculture before you, will readily accept the important place which beekeeping holds in New Zealand and will accord the industry the same degree of sympathy and support as your predecessors, in the interest of national economy.

Our industry, in common with most other primary industries, does have its problems however, and I would like to take this opportunity of acquainting you briefly with some of the major matters upon which my Association will be possibly obliged to make further representation at a later date.

PESTICIDES AND WEEDICIDES

The changing pattern of agricultural development has brought many problems for the beekeeper. Land development and intensified farming practices with the use of modern weedicides have led to the destruction of many sources of early nectar and pollen which were invaluable in building up hive strength for the flush of summer-pasture nectar flow and the result has been a drastically shortened period of honey production on which the beekeeper must rely for his annual income. Adverse weather conditions during this period inevitably result in heavy financial loss thus making beekeeping one of the most hazardous of occupations in the field of agriculture. The position has been worsened of late by the increasing use of potent chemical pesticides which not only destroy insect pests but are also extremely toxic to the pollinating honey-bee in the course of its nectar-gathering operations and some extremely heavy financial losses have already been suffered by beekeepers in this respect. A measure of protection against pesticides was given to beekeepers last year under the Apiaries Protection Regulations which were accepted by my Association on the assurance that a more comprehensive protection scheme would be shortly introduced under a proposed Agricultural Chemicals Bill, the draft of which had already been referred to farmers' organisations, spray contractors, etc., and had received general endorsement from all interested parties.

It is a matter of concern to my Association that this Bill now appears to have been "shelved", as we regarded its provisions as to labelling of containers of toxic pesticides, the licensing of contract applicators, and regulation of sale in respect of untested chemicals to be of the greatest importance. The matter is all the more disturbing in view of the fact that the regulatory provisions of the Bill were regarded as a minimum protection by a senior research officer of the department who had studied this problem at first hand on the Continent and in the United States of America.

It is likely that my Association will be approaching you again on this subject at an early date when it is hoped that you will give the matter your close scrutiny.

RESEARCH

As a result of our representations and the support of Federated Farmers, the appointment of two additional research officers to assist the industry was authorised last year. To date we understand that neither of the positions has been filled and while we can understand the difficulty in securing a suitable bio-chemist and specialist for laboratory and highly specialised technical work, we do feel justified in expressing our disappointment at the failure to fill the second position, that of field experimentalist to be engaged in pollination and pesticide trials, when there are senior apiary instructors already in the Department adequately qualified to carry out this work. We trust that you will give your sympathetic consideration to this matter and look forward to the latter position being filled at an early date.

Some time ago we also suggested that facilities be made available to enable suitable senior officers of the Department to further their experience with first-hand studies of American beekeeping practices. We are still hopeful that this will be done in the not too distant future.

MARKETING

In an average season approximately one-third of the Dominion crop is exported as surplus to local market requirements and following the dissolution of the Internal Marketing Division the export of honey has been solely operated by the government-created, producer-controlled Honey Marketing Authority. The industry is of the opinion that the Authority and the regulations governing its operations provide the soundest possible framework for the organised marketing of honey and strongly supports its retention.

Severe difficulties nevertheless exist in our marketing structure at the present time. These are:—

1. The heavy initial costs which confronted the Authority following the abolition of the old I.M.D. have placed a severe burden on the industry.
2. Even under buoyant overseas marketing conditions, realisations are insufficient to enable the Authority to return a price to the producer which fully covers the established cost of production and this must inevitably result in a reduction in apiaries and consequently in the level of bee population to carry out an effective pollination service.

In our opinion the time is coming — has arrived — when beekeepers will have to be recompensed for the pollination service which they indirectly provide if the industry is to be maintained as an effective link in our agricultural economy. As an approach to this aspect of our problems we would be glad to know whether the Government would consider the introduction of a "guaranteed price" scheme to cover the beekeeping industry. The growing significance of honey-bees as pollinating agents in modern agriculture, widely acknowledged, suggests that it is a matter of national importance that commercial beekeeping should not be allowed to decline.

No doubt you will be shortly receiving more detailed representations on the question of marketing from the chairman of the Authority, Mr E. A. Field, and the purpose of these comments has been to provide merely a broad basis for discussion at this stage.

We thank you again for affording us the opportunity of this meeting.

For and on behalf of the Executive,

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.)

J. W. FRASER, President

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Minister's Reply

Following the interview with the Minister and a further formal letter from the General Secretary, the following correspondence has taken place:

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, N.Z.,
April 11, 1958.

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

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I have received your letter of March 14, 1958, advising that three subjects were of concern to the beekeeping industry today.

1. The question of a guaranteed price for honey exports cannot be considered until your organisation acting in co-operation with the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority, give me a comprehensive review showing the amount of honey normally exported each year, the returns from export honey and pay-out to producers in relation to the cost of honey production, also how and to what extent you consider a subsidy would be required to meet your present difficulties.
2. The appointment of an additional Apiculturist will be reviewed by my department and the Public Service Commission when the annual staffing recommendations are being considered.
3. The present position with regard to the proposed Agricultural Chemicals Bill is that a revised draft of the legislation is being considered by a committee which is studying the effect of this legislation on the certification of therapeutants scheme as administered by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. I await a report from the department giving the views of this committee regarding the redrafted legislation, after which consideration will be given to the confidential circulation of the revised draft Bill to other interested organisations such as the National Beekeepers' Association.

Yours faithfully,

RAY BOORD,
For Minister of Agriculture.

Foxton,
April 14, 1958.

Hon. C. F. Skinner, M.P.,
The Minister of Agriculture,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.

Dear Mr. Skinner,

I acknowledge your letter in reply dated April 11 in connection with our submissions to you during discussions on February 26.

Re Guaranteed Price for Honey Exports

Your request for full information on volume of exports, and realisations in relation to cost-of-production is noted and my Executive will be collaborating with the Honey Marketing Authority in providing you with this information at the earliest possible date.

Additional Apiculturist

From a reading of your letter dated April 11 it would appear that you are not aware of the position outlined in our earlier submissions. The appointment has already been authorised during the term of the previous government. The complaint of my Association is in the fact that nothing appears to have been done within the department to fill the position. Accordingly I would appreciate your assurance that the position will be filled without further delay.

Agricultural Chemicals Bill

I thank you for your advices in this regard and look forward to receiving a copy of the re-drafted Bill in due course.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER,
General Secretary.

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Joint Meeting

A special meeting of the Honey Marketing Authority and the National Executive was held in Wellington on May 7 for the purpose of reviewing the financial position of the Authority and the returns to suppliers for the years 1953-57 and considering the approach to the Government for assistance to the beekeeping industry.

Apologies were received from Messrs W. B. Bray and W. Nelson, who were unable to be present, and Mr. J. K. Bray deputised for the former. After a full discussion of the factors involved general agreement was reached on the form and extent of assistance desired and arrangements were made to present the required information to the Minister of Agriculture. It is hoped that a reply from the Minister will be received in time to be considered at the Annual Conference in July.

Personal

At the meeting of the Honey Marketing Authority in Wellington on May 7 and 8 reference was made to the illness of Mr. W. B. Bray and of Mrs. Wallace Nelson and members expressed their sympathy and good wishes in each case. Mr. J. K. Bray and Mr. R. R. Chandler (a member of the N.B.A. Executive) deputised for Mr. Bray and Mr. Nelson respectively at the meeting.

Executive Meeting

The opportunity was taken to hold an Executive Meeting in Wellington on May 7 and 8 while members were together for the joint meeting with the Honey Marketing Authority. All members were present and the President (Mr. J. W. Fraser) was in the chair.

The President reviewed the steps taken since the last meeting leading up to the interview with the Minister of Agriculture (the Rt. Hon. C. F. Skinner) in February, and the written statement presented to the Minister was endorsed by the Executive. Members also approved the action taken in arranging the joint meeting with the Honey Marketing Authority, at which the wishes of the industry could be formulated in response to the letter from the Minister.

Administrative Matters

Mr. A. M. W. Greig (Director of Horticulture) and Mr. T. S. Winter (Superintendent Beekeeping Industry) were welcomed to the meeting and Mr. Greig reviewed the progress being made with the Agricultural Chemicals Bill and other matters.

The draft syllabus for the Diploma in Apiculture was now before the examining board for final approval. Proposals which have been agreed upon for the control of any future outbreak of Acarine (a disease which has not so far occurred in New Zealand) are now embodied in the Apiaries Amendment Bill for enactment at an early date. Regulations for the Identification of Apiaries are now in the drafting stage.

Mr. Greig also discussed the appointment of additional research workers in the Apiary Section, and he and Mr. Winter were thanked for their assistance and attendance at the meeting.

Pesticides

Members quoted instances of continued losses of bees which were attributed either to hormones and pesticides or to unknown causes and the following resolution was carried: "That while appreciating the work done by Research Officers, in view of the continued mysterious losses of bees, further investigations into the dangers of agricultural chemicals should be made."

Nectar Sources

In discussing the available sources of honey in New Zealand mention was made of an article in the "Journal of Agriculture" on the propagation of Eucalypts, and it was the experience of those present that some of the species mentioned were excellent sources of nectar. It was recalled that a previous Conference resolution had urged the planting of nectar-producing trees and it was decided that the Forestry Service and the Department of Agriculture should again be asked to investigate this matter.

Conference Arrangements

The meeting discussed possible improvements in the programme at the Annual Conference and proposals were made to add interest and pleasure to this annual event. It was also decided that where possible a period of Conference should be devoted to a paper or demonstration and discussion, on topics of production or educational interest.

Conference Arrangements

The Annual Dominion Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association is to be held in the Conference Hall, on the first floor of Wool House, 139-141 Featherston street, Wellington, on August 5, 6 and 7, 1958.

Note: Please note carefully these conference dates. Owing to extremely heavy calls on accommodation in Wellington, the dates originally fixed had to be abandoned.

Members should make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Beekeepers! Make an all-out effort to attend this meeting. It will be more interesting, instructive, entertaining, comfortable, and perhaps more important, than any other conference since 1839!

Beekeepers' wives, etc.! Come to Wellington and . . .

- *go shopping in the capital city*
- *see the sights*
- *meet other beekeepers' wives, etc.*
- *bring your husbands, etc., to the Conference*
- *attend the Conference, or part of it, if you wish.*

Make this trip a holiday before the busy season comes round.

Important: Be sure to make your accommodation arrangements in ample time. Don't miss the 1958 Conference!

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 1958 SEASON

Prices	3lb. pkgs.	2lb. pkgs.
Up to 24	32/6 each	30/- each
Over 24	31/6 each	28/6 each

Weight of four 3lb. packages crated, approx. 28lb.
Queenless packages less 6/-

For further particulars, write . . .

W. I. HAINES

Bonnetts Road - Kaitaia, Northland

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

Annual Report

The Hon. C. F. Skinner
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings Wellington

Auckland
April 24, 1956

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting to you in accordance with the provisions of the Primary Products Marketing Act, 1953, a report on the proceedings and operations of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority for the year ended August 31, 1957.

Members of Authority

On September 6, 1956, Mr. J. W. Fraser, of Invercargill, the President of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated), was appointed as the Association's nominee on the Authority in lieu of Mr. E. D. Williams. There was no election of producer members during the year and the following members remained in office: Mr. E. A. Field (chairman), Mr. W. T. Herron, Mr. W. W. Nelson and Mr. T. E. Pearson. Mr. K. B. Longmore continued in office as Government representative.

Contracts with Suppliers

The contract system was continued for a further season. In previous years beekeepers were required to send in their contracts early in December, but at the request of the industry a later date was decided upon this year, the extended date being January 18, 1957. The comparative figures for the supply of honey for the last four years are:—

	1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
North Island	349	737	1,088	697
South Island	449	452	770	542
	<hr/> 798	<hr/> 1,189	<hr/> 1,858	<hr/> 1,239

Honey Supplied to Authority

Although contracts for the season were considerably lower, the actual quantity received was almost up to the previous year's figure.

Receipts for the last four years were:—

1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1,125	2,206	1,669	1,571

Marketing

Marketing conditions overseas were favourable during the first half of the year but unfortunately they became particularly difficult during the latter period with the result that stocks on hand at balance date reached an extremely high level. Our London agents, Messrs. Kimpton Brothers (Red Carnation) Ltd., were requested to take special steps to dispose of the accumulated stocks and most of them have been sold since the balance date.

During the year 361 tons of honey were sold in the United Kingdom and European markets and 29 tons in other overseas markets.

The packing of Imperial Bee Honey for the local market was continued and 369 tons of retail packs and bulk honey were sold in this country. With a view to increasing local sales a selling agent was appointed for the Auckland Province.

Seals Revenue

There was a substantial increase in the revenue from this source this year. The comparative figures for the last four years are as follows:—

1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57
£ 15,893	£ 15,377	£ 15,883	£ 20,718

Depots

The Authority has receiving depots at New Plymouth, Greymouth, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill. Wherever possible honey is exported direct from these depots.

Payments to Suppliers

Advance payments on graded honey and manuka honey were made at the same rates as for the previous season, i.e. 9d. per lb. pro rata and 7d. per lb. respectively. Birch honey was brought into line with manuka and advance payments of 7d. per lb. were made on this class of honey as well. The final payment for all classes of honey was fixed at 3¼d. per lb., this being an increase of ¼d. per lb. over the final payment for the previous season. Following is a table showing the payments for graded honey for the last four seasons:—

Payments for Graded Honey excluding Manuka and Special Lines

Year	Quantity Sup- plied, lb.	Average Grading	Pro Rata Advance,		Contract Premiums,		Final Payment		Over-all Average Payment, per lb.
			d. per lb.	£ Total	d. per lb.	£ Total	d. per lb.	£ Total	
1953/54	2,156,913	89.75	8	64,533	¾	4,333	3½	31,455	11.16
1954/55	4,425,505	85.22	9	141,268	¾	7,550	3¼	59,928	11.32
1955/56	3,442,262	88.70	9	115,502	¾	8,964	3	43,028	11.60
1956/57	3,252,935	89.93	9	109,707	¾	8,024	3¼	44,050	11.93

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 was the lower. The carry-over of stocks at the end of the year was £30,339 in excess of the previous year. The indebtedness to the Department of Agriculture remained at the previous figure of £71,187 and the bank overdraft went up from £27,819 to £52,632.

As mentioned earlier in this report, overseas transactions during the first half of the year were favourable and this is reflected in the improved revenue position. In addition to increasing the final payment to suppliers by ¼d. per lb. it was possible to transfer £12,000 to Stock Fluctuation Account. This appropriation was considered advisable in view of the falling tendency of overseas prices at the end of the year. The surplus, after providing for the final payment to suppliers and the transfer of £12,000 to Stock Fluctuation Account, was £819 and this has been added to the Accumulated Fund. The Stock Fluctuation Account now stands at £40,000 and the Accumulated Fund at £11,331.

New Premises

The Fletcher Construction Co. Ltd. commenced work on the new premises in January 1957.

The construction work has taken longer than expected and it is unlikely that the building will be ready for occupation before June 1958.

The opportunity is being taken to install the most modern equipment for blending and packing of honey and a great deal of investigation work has been carried out with this object in view.

Industry Publicity

During the year the Authority decided to allocate £1,000 for the purpose of advertising honey for the benefit of the industry as a whole and a radio and newspaper campaign was launched towards the end of the year.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express the Authority's appreciation of the interest you have taken in our affairs since you were appointed to your present office and I hope to have further discussions with you from time to time.

I acknowledge once again the splendid assistance and advice given to us at all times by the Department of Agriculture and the officers of the Apiary Section in particular.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) E. A. FIELD, Chairman

Reminder to Beekeepers

CONTRACTS

Suppliers to the Authority are reminded that the last day for sending in contract honey is June 30, 1958.

NON-CONTRACT HONEY

June 30 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 June 30, but they will be subject to special purchase arrangements in each case.

W. H. CHUDLEY, Manager

Honey Marketing Authority Election, 1958

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:—

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

The rolls will be open for public inspection during ordinary office hours for 14 days from July 23, 1958.

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 enquiry 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 an 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 June 30, 1958, according to the average value of seals purchased during that period. Suppliers are advised that in order to qualify for votes consignments of honey must reach one of the Authority's depots by Monday, June 30, 1958.

The address of the Returning Officer is:—

Returning Officer
Honey Marketing Authority Election,
C/o. Department of Agriculture
Private Bag, AUCKLAND.

Declaration forms in respect of the supply of honey to packers may be obtained from the office of the Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

May 2, 1958

W. H. CHUDLEY, Manager
N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority

Opossum Pest

The opossum was now a nation-wide pest in New Zealand. It was increasing at the rate of 300,000 a year, Mr J. J. Shine, a member of the Rabbit Destruction Council, told a meeting of the provincial executive of Waikato Federated Farmers in Hamilton.

Some people, he said, regarded opossums, as merely tree dwellers, but they had changed their eating habits in New Zealand and would now eat practically anything, including farmers' crops.

The depredations of the opossum on the West Coast had resulted in many of the finest timber trees becoming mere bleached skeletons.

Mr. Shine said that in the past there had been a fight waged against the pest by the wild life branch through the medium of a bounty system. However, the opossum had increased to such an extent that the Government had realised that something else must be done and had approached the rabbit boards in regard to taking over the problem.

The scheme proposed was that the rabbit boards should be given authority to deal with opossums, but rabbits would still be regarded as the No. 1 enemy. If the scheme of the Rabbit Destruction Council were accepted, the opossum would get completely commercialised, as the rabbit had been.
— Press Association, 21/4/58.

HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements
ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED

J. GADSDEN & Co. Ltd.

P.O. BOX 94, AUCKLAND

P.O. BOX 216, CHRISTCHURCH

P.O. BOX 14, PETONE

P.O. BOX 669, DUNEDIN

NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1957

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Honey Stocks on Hand 1/9/56:						
New Zealand	110,922	17	11			
Overseas	44,632	17	1			
	155,555	15	0			
Payments to Suppliers:						
Initial Payments	117,592	17	4			
Contract Premiums	8,024	14	4			
Final Payments	47,156	9	0			
	172,774	0	8			
Freight and Cartage Inward	2,897	1	5			
Store Costs:						
Rent, Refrigeration and Factory Expenses	5,071	3	11			
Storage and other Depot Exes.	2,545	19	5			
Packing Material	10,889	12	5			
Wages	5,679	1	5			
Depreciation of Plant and Tools	63	0	0			
	24,248	17	2			
Local Sales Expenses:						
Commission	304	12	6			
Freight and Cartage Outward	1,282	8	1			
	1,587	0	7			
Export Expenses:						
Freight, Landing Charges and Cartage	8,586	3	3			
Commission	4,783	0	5			
Agents' Incentive Payments	1,571	1	8			
Insurance	365	15	1			
General Expenses	351	2	1			
Warehousing	1,055	9	2			
Advertising Expenses Overseas	243	5	2			
	16,955	16	10			
Export Expenses:						
Provision for Contingency as at 31/8/56 not utilised				175	0	0
Proceeds of Used Tins and Cases						1,398 13 4
Honey Levy Account:						
Balance of Account transferred						16,340 18 4

General Revenue Account — Continued

Administration:		
Office Rent and Services ..	835 0 0	
Printing and Stationery ..	266 3 7	
Salaries and Super. Contribution	5,840 13 2	
General Expenses	332 13 3	
Postages, Tolls, Telegrams and Cables ..	290 8 0	
Insurance ..	433 3 8	
Bank Interest ..	233 7 11	
Depreciat'n on Office Equipment	11 16 4	
	8,233 5 11	
		Honey Stocks on Hand, 31/8/57:
		New Zealand
		Overseas
		154,791 11 7
		31,103 5 7
		<u>185,894 17 2</u>
Marketing Authority:		
Members' Honoraria ..	1,400 0 0	
Members' Travelling Expenses	544 3 9	
	1,944 3 9	
Transfer to Stock Fluctuation Account	12,000 0 0	
Balance transferred to Accumulated Fund	819 0 3	
	<u>£397,015 1 7</u>	<u>£397,015 1 7</u>

HONEY LEVY ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1957

Printing and General Expenses ..	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Grant to National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) ..	1,007	18	3			
Grant to National Beekeepers' Association ..	800	0	0			
Industry Publicity Expenses (New Zealand) ..	10	0	0			
Balance transferred to General Revenue Acc.	559	13	8			
	18,340	18	4			
	£20,718	10	3			
				Revenue from Honey Levy ..	20,718	10 3
					<u>£20,718 10 3</u>	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT AUGUST 31, 1957

LIABILITIES		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS				
Bank Overdraft:												
Res've Bank of N.Z., Wellington	..			52,632	14	4		Land and Buildings:				
Mortgage:							3,800	0	0			
State Advances Corporation	..			24,069	17	6		Freehold Land at Parnell — at cost				
Sundry Creditors:								Factory and Office — Expenditure to 31/8/57				
Department of Agriculture	..	71,187	5	11					28,236	10	11	
Trade Creditors and Accrued Expenses	..	2,584	12	0				Bank:				
Honey Suppliers	..	45,502	8	3				Bank of N.Z., Auckland				
					119,274	6	2	Honey Stocks — at cost or market valuation				
					40,000	0	0	Packing Material — at cost				
Stock Fluctuation Account								Plant and Tools — at cost less depreciation				
As at 31/8/56	..	10,512	17	11				Office Appliances — at cost less depreciation				
Add Surplus from Gen. Revenue Account for year ended August 31, 1957	..				819	0	3	Stationery				
								Sundry Debtors:				
					11,331	18	2	Overseas Agency				
								Current Accounts				
								18,554		12	2	
								8,161		13	9	
								26,716		5	11	
								Air Travel Deposit Account		34	8	8
										£247,308 16 2		
										£247,308 16 2		

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.

(Sgd.) C. R. J. ATKIN, Controller and Auditor-General

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

March 14, 1958

NEW AUCKLAND PREMISES

For the Honey Marketing Authority

When it became apparent that the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority would be required to vacate the space occupied in the Internal Marketing Building in Auckland a search was made for alternative suitable premises.

The requirement was for a building of not less than 20,000 sq. ft. of floor space with reasonable stacking height and preferably situated handy to shipping, rail and road transport.

No suitable existing building was available but a conveniently situated property in Parnell, overlooking the railway and wharves was purchased and a decision made to erect a new building on this site to suit the requirements of the Authority.

The major purpose of the building is for the handling, grading and storing of bulk honey packed in standard 120lb. cases, and the blending of bulk honey and packing into retail containers. As many thousand cases are handled in the course of each year an efficient system of transporting and stacking in the building is of prime importance and the building has been planned to make the best use of fork lift trucks operating on unobstructed floors.

The most economical way to attain this was by planning the main working area as a single storey structure designed for high floor loading with wide span portal arches supporting the roof structure.

The site has a substantial grade falling to the North-east and to obtain the large working floor at the most economical level a basement of approximately 4,000 sq. ft. in area was constructed at the Eastern corner of the site and the main floor carried over this area.

A requirement of the Town Planning Department of the City Council is that all new buildings in this area are to provide off-street parking. This basement area has direct level access from the lower end of Garfield Street and complies with the off-street parking by-law and at the same time basement floor space beyond parking requirements will take excess storage during times of peak intake of honey.

To carry heavy loads that will be imposed from high stacking of bulk honey and at the same time ensure that no contraction cracks will occur in the main working floors a comparatively new technique has been employed. These floors are run in high grade prestressed concrete poured in situ and post tensioned in both directions with high tensile steel wires. The area of this single floor slab is 15,500 sq. ft.

Six prestressed concrete portal frames carry the whole roof structure, three of the portal frames have a clear span of 82ft. and the remainder have a clear span of 103ft. Between the portal frames are precast prestressed concrete purlins with high tensile wires passing through the purlins and portal frames and post tensioned and grouted to tie the whole roof structure together. This design gives a very pleasing simplicity of framing members of permanent construction and requiring the very minimum of maintenance upkeep.

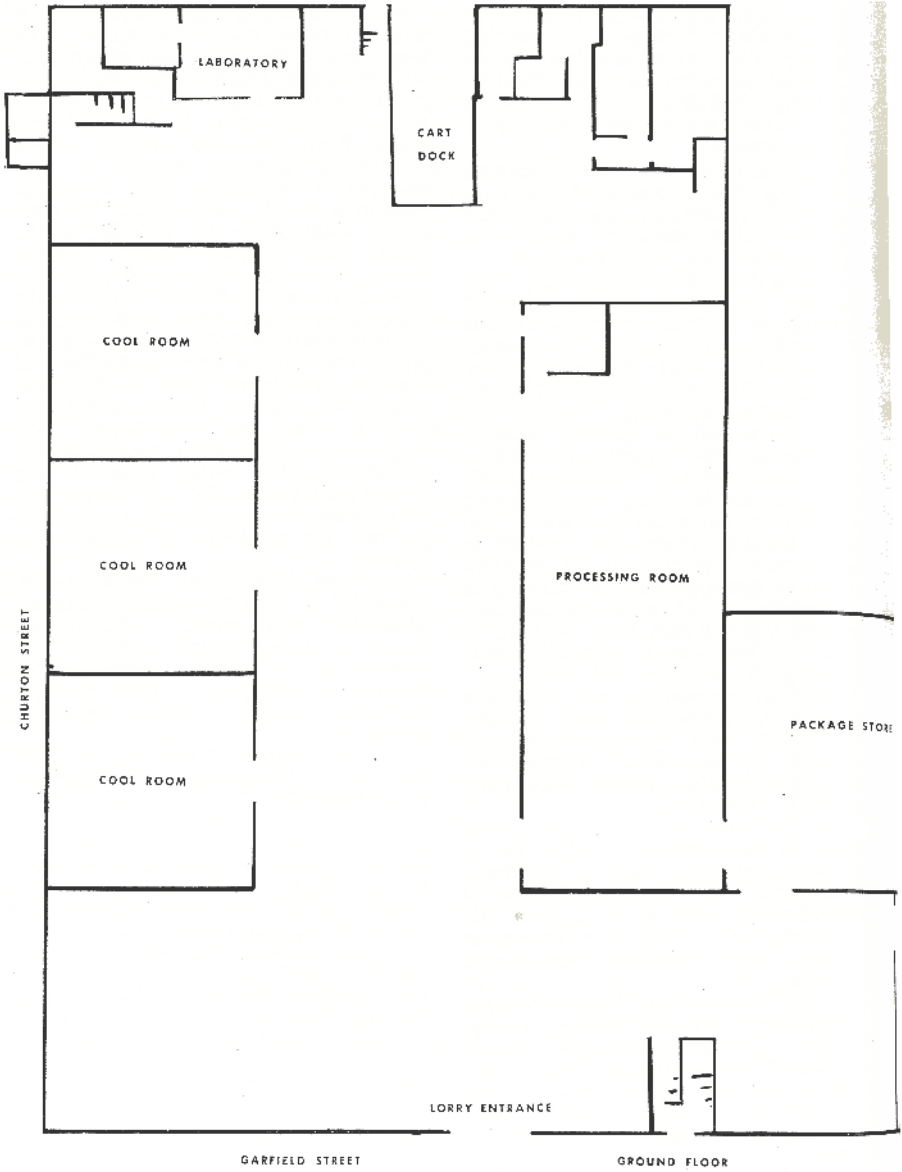
The roof is covered with heavy industrial type trough section aluminium alloy roofing. This roofing has an embossed surface and has been treated by a special process which imparts a blue-green tint to the roof and stops the glare normal to bright aluminium.

The main ridge of the roof is 138ft. long and is fitted with continuous bee-proof ventilator.

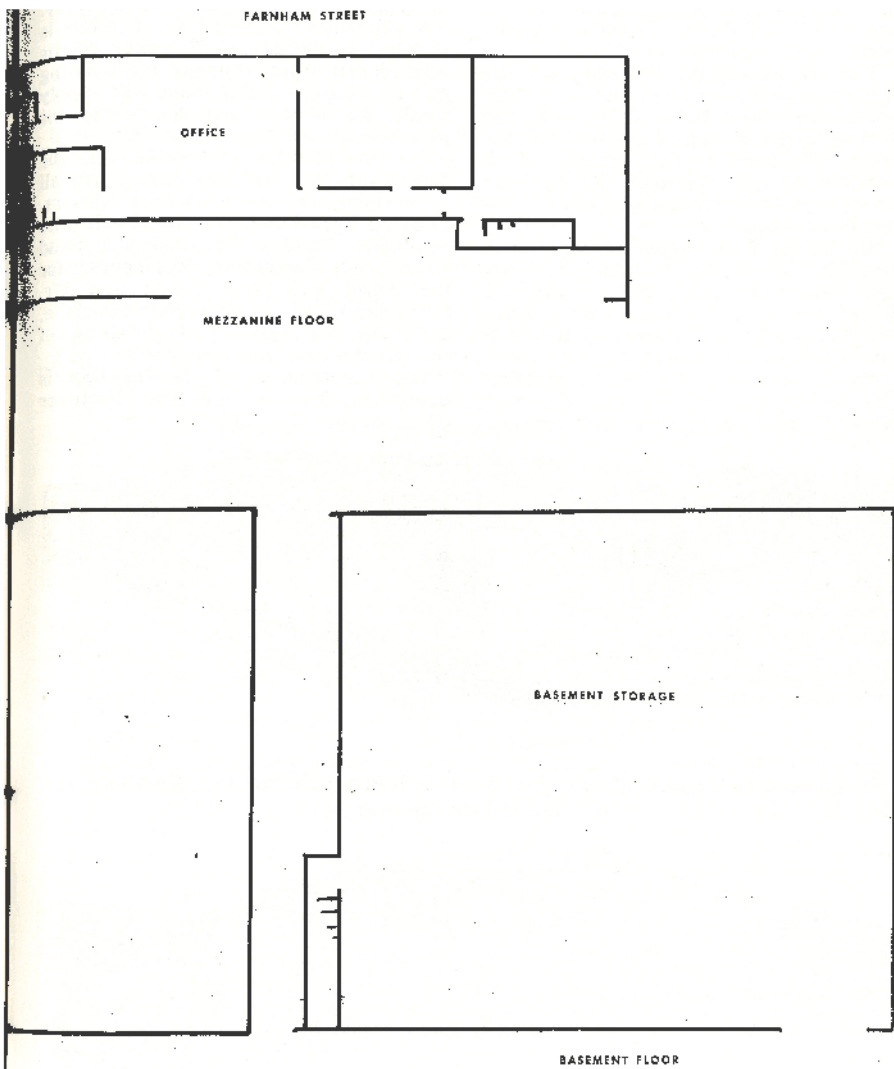
On either side of the ridge is a continuous 8ft wide strip of translucent fibreglass roof light sheets, in the same trough section as the aluminium roofing, to give an even lighting over the main working floors.

As the whole of the roof is carried by the portal frames the enclosing exterior walls are merely curtain walls for enclosure and weather protection, the large gable ends of the building being mainly glazing in light steel window-wall framing.

The main floor has lorry access at both ends of the building, the access from Farnham Street being by cart dock having the main floor at lorry tray height and at the Garfield Street end lorries can drive into the buildings



Premises at Garfield, Churton and Farnham Street



for the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority

at main floor level and also basement floor level for pallet loading and unloading by fork lift truck.

The mezzanine floor is carried across the Farnham Street frontage extending 20ft back from the street frontage curtain wall and above the cart dock. Below the mezzanine floor at main floor level to one side of the cart dock are the Grader's offices and laboratory and on the other side of the cart dock are the staff locker rooms, shower rooms and conveniences.

The offices of the Authority are on the mezzanine floor level and the public access to the offices is by way of a short flight of steps from the Churton Street frontage. The offices face north-west and overlook the harbour with the railway station and wharves in the foreground.

The main floor level is between 4 and 5ft. below the footpath level on the south-west frontage to Churton Street and the coolrooms with a combined capacity of approximately 300 tons back to this frontage.

On the opposite side of the building and facing the coolrooms is the processing and packing room and between

the coolroom and processing room is a 32ft. wide area of working floor for grading and stacking of honey.

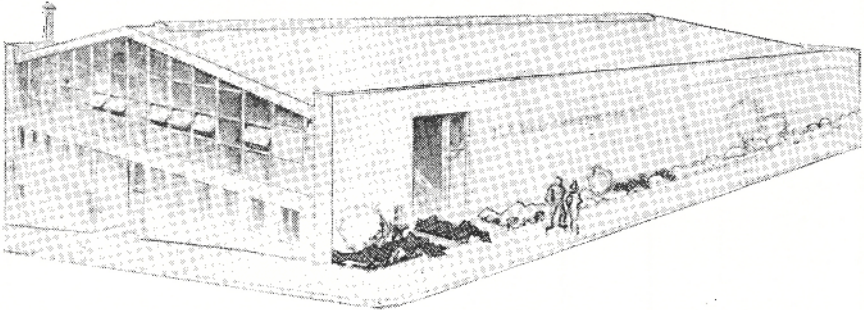
To the rear of the processing room and over part of the basement area is a storeroom for the storage of containers, cartons, etc.

The balance of the main floor, an area of approximately 5,500 sq. ft at the south-east end of the building will be used for the stacking of bulk honey.

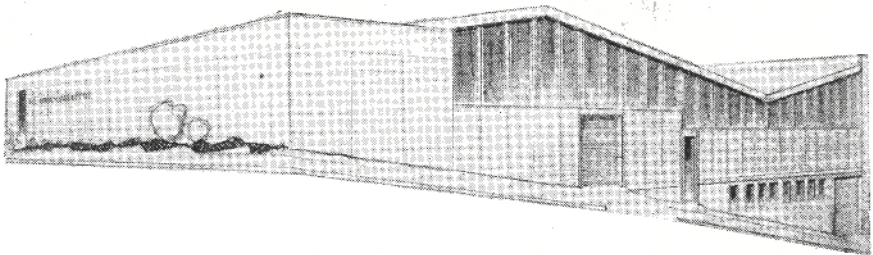
A separate basement boiler room is situated below the staff locker rooms in the north-west corner of the building and an oil-fired boiler plant will supply steam for heating and hot water for processing, washing down, etc.

The Architects responsible for the design of the building and overall supervision of the work are Messrs. Chilwell and James, of Auckland, who retained Messrs T. Arnold and Associates, Consulting Engineers, for the detail structural design and Mr. Sutherland, of Prestressed Concrete, Ltd., for the specialised detailing of the prestressed concrete work.

The construction of the building is being carried out by The Fletcher Construction Co., Ltd.



Sketch of the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority building, cnr. Farnham and Churton Streets



Corner view, Churton and Garfield Streets



DEPARTMENT
of
AGRICULTURE

Horticulture Division

BRIEF REVIEW OF BEEKEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND

The beekeeping industry in New Zealand is important to our economy in that it not only adds to the wealth of the country by the production of a first-class food that would otherwise go to waste, and commercial beeswax used extensively in industry, but also supplies a national service of pollination of economic plants.

It is recognised in all progressive agricultural countries that the only way to ensure an adequate spread of honey-bees to provide a national pollination service under modern agricultural methods is to foster beekeeping and to provide a protection service to the beekeeping industry as far as possible.

New Zealand Beekeeping Statistics

A complete purge of the apiary register made by local registrars in May 1957 following a period of consolidation of economic units to reduce production costs as far as possible, and to re-site apiaries in the more productive areas where lighter-coloured grades of honey are produced, showed:—

	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives	
	5,287	11,387	177,654	
				Percentage of Total
Group	Beekeepers	No. of Hives	Hives Kept	
1 to 29 hives	4,595	19,817	11.15	
30 to 50 hives	165	6,184	3.49	
51 to 250 hives	289	26,522	14.9	
251 and over	238	125,131	70.43	

The above table shows that commercial beekeepers in New Zealand are of major importance in the industry when expressed in terms of hive holdings, production, and the provision of a pollination service to agriculture.

The present trend is a reduction in the number of hives kept for domestic purposes and a gradual building up of commercial apiaries and hives, particularly in districts where the lighter-coloured grades of honey are produced.

Apiary registrations at the end of February 1958 show an increase in the number of apiaries and hives kept in the Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, Otago and Southland districts and a decrease in Northland, Auckland and Hamilton districts.

Following is the present position, and distribution between North and South Islands:—

	Registered Apiaries	Hives Kept
North Island	6,865	111,506
South Island	4,437	69,115

Honey Production

Honey production fluctuates considerably owing to seasonal influences and has varied considerably during the past five seasons.

Crops above average have been secured this year in Northland, Tauranga, Oamaru, Marlborough and particularly in Canterbury. In other districts below-average to poor crops have been secured, notably in Taranaki, Manawatu and Westland where poor beekeeping conditions continued throughout the season.

Overall production from commercial and domestic apiaries for the season ended March 31, 1958, not including any honey produced for bee-feeding purposes, is estimated at 5,885 tons of honey (approximately 5,400 tons commercial group,

30 hives and over, and the balance in domestic and semi-commercial apiaries — 1 to 29 hives), and 206,000lb. of commercial beeswax, about 515 tons of honey and 18,000lb. of beeswax less than the previous season.

Control of Bee Diseases

It is recognised that a purely instruction service to the beekeeping industry without power to enforce proper measures for the control of bee diseases would be insufficient to foster beekeeping; also that the permanent Apiary Instructors are able to personally inspect a portion only of the apiaries in their respective districts owing to the number of apiaries and hives spread over large areas, the somewhat restricted breeding season, and the nature of the work involved.

Part-time apiary inspection by selected competent beekeepers was therefore introduced in New Zealand in 1923. The men so employed work in allotted areas and inspect apiaries specified by the permanent instructor each season. The main advantage is that it provides simultaneous inspection of apiaries, as far as possible, at the appropriate time each season, spread over areas where the disease is troublesome, and is the only economic way of providing an inspection service to hold bee diseases at a satisfactory level.

Though it would not be practicable to completely eradicate American foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*) introduced in the early days with importations of bees from overseas, many important beekeeping pasture land areas are now completely free from the trouble.

The incidence of bee diseases last season ranged from 0.1% to 1.9% of the hives inspected by the Department in chosen areas, in five of the main honey-producing districts and from 2% to 4.7% in the remaining six districts. These figures do not include many thousands of hives in clean areas which were not covered by inspection last season.

We are extremely fortunate, in New Zealand, in that Acarine disease does not occur here. This disease, caused by a small parasitic mite, occurs in the United Kingdom and in parts of Europe, and has recently been reported from the Argentine, Uruguay and India.

Though the importation of bees into New Zealand is now governed by a strict quarantine system there is always the possibility of an illegal importation of bees which may bring trouble. Steps are therefore being taken to provide the necessary authority to deal drastically with any outbreak of a new disease such as Acarine, should it occur, particulars of which will be circulated in due course.

T. S. WINTER

Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry

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BRANCH NOTES

SOUTH CANTERBURY

An interesting Field Day was held on February 1 at the apiary of Mr. I. C. Thomas, of Waimate.

The day was fine and the spot chosen for the gathering was very pleasantly sheltered and many took the opportunity of a refreshing plunge in the river. I understand some of the young ladies present overdid the sun bathing somewhat, with detrimental results. After lunch the menfolk travelled to the apiary, which had a fair crop of honey on in spite of the previous unfavourable weather. Demonstrations of removing the honey crop were given by members. Mr. I. Forster had put on all the various types of escape boards, and it was interesting to note how one type of board had cleared all the bees. It was quite a simple device which could be made in the home workshop.

Mr. R. Davidson, of Timaru, demonstrated his method of getting those bees out of the supers. He had a mixture in a bottle, and the secret seemed to be in the right mixture. I think it takes years to get it perfect. For full particulars write 190 Otipua Road. Anyhow he made the bees run down out of the honey.

Beekeepers present expressed their approval of the well-kept apiary and the strong condition of the hives.

After general discussion a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Thomas for making his apiary available for our benefit.

In his reply, Mr Thomas mentioned that the particular apiary was his first-out apiary, and that one season all hives were infected with A.F.B., but this setback was overcome and many good crops harvested in the years following.

Afternoon tea back at the river concluded a happy day.—J. G. McKenzie.

MAY 1958

WEST COAST

As in the past the Branch had an effective eye-catching display at the West Coast Industries Fair on February 27 and 28 and March 1. We do not sell or advertise any trade brand — just the industry and products and their uses — and one has to have taken a part as attendant in charge to realise the interest a well-arranged display can create.

I think it safe to say that the crop was about 20 per cent of normal, with in some cases no extraction. I did not touch two stands at all and left them a bit heavy perhaps, the reason being bad roads. But better too much feed than sugar feeding and extra work in the spring.

I was very much taken aback last week to see that a local retailer had a full window display of honey — 1lb cartons at 2/-. And there was heavy freight on that line because it was neither produced nor packed on the Coast.

The newspapers have lately been headlining the primary producers' complaints about international price cutting and dumping. There seems to be a curious inconsistency somewhere. We all welcome cheapness in the things we buy but it is an injustice when it applies to the things we sell.

Personal: Congratulations to Mr. Dick Hobbs (our apiary instructor) whose wife has presented him with a son. They now have a family of three — two girls and a boy. — Tom Holland.

AFRICAN BEEKEEPING

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The Editor, P.O. Box 4,
Bergvliet, C.P., South Africa.



WEST COAST FIELD DAY

A group taken at a recent field day held at the apiary of Mr. S. Graham, Franz Josef

Front row, from left: Mr. A. Graham, Miss Glasson (partly obscured), Miss Glasson, Miss Kennedy, S. Graham, E. Airey, the two Ilton boys, T. Holland (kneeling), R. Hobbs, R. V. Glasson, A. Ecroyd, W. Buchanan
 Back row: A visitor, Miss Graham, P. Lucas, L. A. Ilton (partly obscured), B. Fowler, Mr. Perrin, Mr. Glasson (Jun.), Mr. Stanton, Mr. Chavasse (partly obscured), J. Fitton, K. Ecroyd, J. Marshall

— Photo by Mr. Edwards

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The Waikato Floods

It rained for three days and three nights. That was all. Then in brilliant sunshine the people in the Waikato valley found themselves in the middle of or waiting for the worst flood for 50 years. Here is the story of the beekeepers and their hives during that time.

Firstly it must be remembered that a great number of hives had been shifted during the lesser floods of the



previous few years and it was thanks to the action taken as a result of these warnings that the losses were not catastrophic.

The area affected ran from Taumarunui to Huntly, over 100 miles. Thanks to the dry nature of the ground before the rain much of the rain soaked away on the flats where it fell, and thus it was simply a question of watching or waiting for the rivers to flood, as the storage lakes behind each of the hydro electric dams became full and the engineers were forced to open the spillways one by one in succession down the Waikato River. But, of course, it was just as much or more local rivers in flood which caused losses to beekeepers. The Waipa was the worst offender.

Mr. A. Bennett of the Department of Agriculture in Hamilton, decided to make a survey and he sent questionnaires to 57 commercial beekeepers in the area. The results showed that 13 beekeepers had suffered loss in a total of 16 apiaries. The total number of hives affected was nearly 400, which carried at the time approximately nine tons of honey. The total loss estimated by the beekeepers themselves ran into nearly £2000. The greatest losses were sustained by two men, each of whom

lost £400 worth of equipment and honey.

When the position was placed before a Government representative examining farmers' claims for compensation, he stated that the farmers were going to get so little for their big losses that there was no possibility of beekeepers getting anything at all for their comparatively small disaster.

Mr. Balle, near Ohaupo, saw the water rise 20 feet over the top of his hives and in the same area Mr. Wheeler, waiting patiently for the waters to recede, was rewarded by finding his apiary of 50 hives completely disappeared. However, the farmers downstream were soon ringing him up to report pieces of hive equipment scattered all over their paddocks.

One beekeeper, Mr. E. D. Bryant of Huntly, actually had to swim 200 yards across a swollen river to reach his apiary, which was in danger and completely cut off.

Dudley Lorimer found the water mark just level with the excluders and when the waters had subsided found that requeening had been greatly simplified. To anyone using this method of killing old queens he recommends taking the combs out of the bottom story first.

Those beekeepers who have returned recently to look at their flooded hives report that they have recovered remarkably. Most queens layed at an astonishing pace to replace the dead brood and many of the hives are now really too strong and will need watching for stores.

Mr. Sage at Ohaupo has generously offered to sell 50 nuclei he had raised for himself to any flood victim.

The experts tell us it could have been worse — if the rains had come in winter when the whole area was already saturated. Let us hope we have at least another 50 years before that happens. The Waikato may have been diverted by tunnel to come out at Raglan by then. Anyway it gives us another 50 years to talk about it! — R.R.C.

Bees and Hormones

(Reprinted from "Straight Furrow" of April 16, 1958)

Are hormones affecting bees? A Galatea beekeeper has posed this question after finding many of his working bees died following an aerial application of hormones in his district.

One season's damage was estimated at £300, it was reported to the Eastern Bay of Plenty Executive at Whakatane. One speaker said beekeepers had lost 3½ tons of honey last season, believed to be a result of hormone spraying.

On the suggestion of Galatea farmers the meeting decided to ask the Department of Agriculture to investigate whether hormones and insecticides are affecting plants and bees. It will be suggested that more information about the contents should be written on the containers of these chemicals so that users would know their qualities.

Galatea speakers said a beekeeper at Galatea had found that after hormones had been used against weeds in the district, his bees would not enter the hives at night. After a night out in the open the bees would be dead.

Mr. J. H. White (Waimana) thought that bees had a stronger smell than sight. Perhaps the guard bees would not allow working bees inside the hive if they smelled hormones.

Mr. J. Orr, of Galatea, said the ragwort on his property had been sprayed from the air with hormones.

The hormones had not killed ragwort or anything else, but apparently had affected bees, although there was no conclusive evidence of this.

Beekeepers claimed to have lost 3½ tons of honey last season because of the use of hormones and insecticides. They claimed that, had they known the contents of hormones and insecticides used, they might have been able to take preventive action.

The idea of the Galatea suggestion was to have the department clarify the position.

Mr. R. R. Butler, Galatea, said he had been told it had cost a Galatea beekeeper £300. Mr. Butler said a dairy farmer would not be happy if a beekeeper had caused him £300 of damage. But, apart from that, the position affected farming activities in Galatea district.

Farmers in Galatea depended on the regeneration of clover, said Mr. Butler. For this, bees were very important. It had been found that if ti-tree in Galatea suffered from blight, bees concentrated more on clover and the clover growth would be terrific.

"If the bees are affected by hormones, we in Galatea may get into a sorry state," Mr. Butler said.

He agreed with Mr. A. L. Richardson that hormones had also improved the position of the farmer.

Otago Pioneer Family

Five generations of the Marshall family gathered at Outram over Easter to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the family's arrival at Port Chalmers on July 13, 1858. About 150 members of the clan came from all over New Zealand to attend the celebrations.

Robert Marshall, with his wife and five children, left Glasgow in the *Three Bells*, a sailing ship of 602 tons, on March 28, 1858, and arrived at Port Chalmers 107 days later. Six more children were subsequently added to the family.

After disembarking, the family made for the Taieri, where Robert Marshall found employment and later began farming on his own account. Life was not easy in those days and when provisions were needed the children were left in the care of a neighbour while the parents walked 20 miles to Dunedin over poor roads. There they made their purchases, stayed overnight with friends, and tramped back the next day with the provisions on their backs.

When the Edendale settlement was broken up for closer settlement some

of the family moved to Southland and many of their descendants are still there. There are believed to be over 200 descendants of the first Marshall settlers in the Taieri area.

Interest in Beekeeping

Since the early days the family has maintained an interest in keeping bees. Today Mr. J. M. (Jim) Marshall is well known in beekeeping circles and he operates several apiaries in addition to working his small but highly productive Taieri farm. The following extract from his pen appears in "Bees in Their Bonnets," published in 1948, and it illustrates very well the diligent workmanship of the pioneers:

WINTERING BEES IN 1873

(From the article "How Grandfather Kept Bees").

At the first signs of winter, all the hives were "pitted" and brought out again when the first settled spring weather came.

A suitable site was chosen for the pit, not too close to shelter, and it required to be on a slight rise to turn all rain. The turf was taken off in even-sized sods, and each one carefully laid aside. An oblong area was thus prepared to take the hives in two close rows. Some lengths of timber were laid along the prepared areas. In the evening, the hives were placed on these in two rows and the entrances turned inwards. The hives were close in the rows and the rows were about a foot apart. Straw was loosely built on top, bringing it to a peak like a stack. The sides were then thatched with good straight straw. Over this again were placed, tile fashion, the turfs with the grass inwards. (About as many more were needed as came off the site). In the middle at the top, an air vent was left about a foot square into which loose straw was dropped. This vent was kept free from sods. Such was the winter quarters of the bees in those bygone days. It was claimed that each year the bees were "pitted" there were no winter losses.

THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

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MAY 1958

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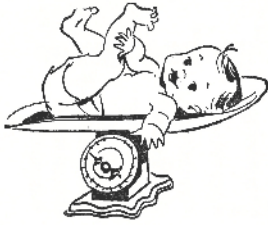
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Notes for Beginners

by 'SKEP'

I have always considered that this is the right and proper time of year to take stock of your beekeeping position: consider all the mistakes you have made: ponder on your successes: decide what alterations, increases or decreases you intend to make during the coming season and finally make definite plans and order materials to enable these plans to be put into effect.

If this has been your first season of beekeeping, the crop has been good and the strain of bees all that it should be, you will be full of enthusiasm. That is grand and just as it should be, but realise that the next season is not necessarily going to be the same; in fact it has been aptly stated that "no two seasons are alike in beekeeping." That is how I have found it over the years: what you have done with success this year could put you all wrong next year. You must be prepared to adapt your actions to suit the season and as you proceed with beekeeping you will find that no hard and fast plans can be strictly adhered to. Our changeable climate, nectar and pollen supplies, dispositions of the bees, etc. all tend to upset the even tenor of your ways. To some mentalities this state of affairs would never do and the owner of such a mentality will never make a competent beekeeper. When conditions are not favourable you have to think quickly, act quickly, improvise and take advantage of every opportunity to get your apiary in good working order.

Problems and Difficulties

Apart from actual bee work, you will have made many observations and learnt many lessons concerning the actual apiary site, hive positions, etc. Is the site too sheltered; is there any appreciable amount of drifting: is the yard stock proof and is it easily accessible; and finally are the flying bees worrying anyone unduly.

First, we will take the shelter problem. I have come to the conclusion

that too much shelter is worse than none at all. If an apiary is so sheltered that the bees are oblivious to a gale that may be blowing, this is fatal. Flying bees come out and once out of shelter never make back to the hive. Reasonable shelter, such as a gorse hedge, makes for easier working conditions for the beekeeper and if correctly sited will protect the hives from cold winds that would otherwise lower the temperature within the hive and lead to excessive consumption of stores. However, some of our best and most successful apiaries are situated right out in the open. More than once we have had to abandon what looked to be a perfect site on account of excessive shelter.

Watch too for flood levels. In normal times it is often difficult to appreciate that flood conditions may destroy an apiary. Even excessive surface water can cause losses and it is always advisable to seek local knowledge on this aspect.

Now the drifting problem. This can be very disconcerting. Hives in nice straight rows look well but, generally speaking, lead to drifting. Hives placed in a horse-shoe pattern with the entrances pointing inwards will not drift, neither will hives put down in an irregular pattern, with the entrances facing different ways. However, to make it easy for grass cutting, supering, honey removal, etc., some sort of order is necessary. I have found that the horse-shoe or elongated diamond shape arrangements are as good as any. Big apiaries (30 hives or more) seldom have any drifting problem but the beginner will not have such large apiaries. If a beginner increases his hive holding appreciably he will inevitably have to obtain a site on someone else's property and the new site will in all probability be on a farm. Make sure that the hives are securely fenced; you owe this to the farmer as well as yourself. Cattle can wreck

an apiary in a very short time; even sheep rubbing against the hives can disturb the cluster and push a hive off its stand. Make the fence secure with a barb on top if cattle are grazing on the property; make the yard big enough and provide for a gateway so that whatever vehicle you are using can be brought close up to the hives. There is enough heavy work in beekeeping without having to carry supers of honey any further than is absolutely necessary. Make sure also that you are not encroaching on any other beekeeper. You need the goodwill of others and nothing is more annoying to an established apiarist than seeing another apiarist put a yard right on top of him. You may rest assured that the established apiarist will have the area fully stocked and you will only be sharing the crop with him and not getting a full reward for your labours.

Some people are very allergic to bees and bee-stings and become very agitated if they have to come in close contact with flying bees. A little thought and planning will ensure that an apiary is situated so that no one can complain that the bees are worrying them.

Bees Work

Work among the bees for the next three months should be absolutely nil. Make sure that the hives are amply supplied with stores, have a weather-proof lid and make certain that the

hives are mouseproof. Mice can cause a tremendous amount of damage in a hive and every endeavour should be made to exclude them. Entrance guards should be made of metal as mice will gnaw through wooden guards. Perhaps the best idea of all is to put a queen excluder under the bottom super; a wooden entrance guard can then be used to contract the hive entrance. This, however, must not be done until after the drones have been turned out of the hives and the excluder must be removed before any drones are hatched in the spring. Keep the grass cleared from around the hives and see that a current of air can circulate under the bottom board. As soon as the cold weather comes the bees will cluster and hive activity will be at a low level.

The beekeeper himself can now relax, but, as stated earlier in this article, it is advisable to proceed with the assembly of gear for the coming season. It is surprising how the winter months slip by and procrastination is the thief of time.

Retrospect and Anticipation

This completes my first year's effort as "Skep." I only hope that someone has gleaned some worthwhile information from my remarks. Next August we will be commencing a new season. The hives will be headed by second-year queens and we will have to make provision for some measure of swarm control.

So, until August, Good wintering!

Is It a Dandelion?

By I. W. Forster, Apiary Instructor Oamaru

[*Editor's Note: In response to inquiries on this topic the following article is reprinted from The N.Z. Beekeeper of February, 1949.*]

The daisy family with its 10,000 odd plant species contains a wealth of nectar and pollen bearers. To this order of plants belongs the dandelion group with their yellow flowers of a typical daisy-like construction. A compact mass of tiny florets surrounded by a fringe of petals.

All of this dandelion group supply nectar in great or small quantities according to location and climate. Such

nectar is usually of a bright yellow colour and produces a good flavoured light amber honey.

Bees also gather large quantities of bright yellow or orange pollen from this plant group. While it has been suggested that the low nitrogen content of catsear pollen makes it unsuitable for brood rearing, the writer does not know of any case where this has been apparent.

All members of the dandelion group being similar as to flower type and colour, foliage and growing habits, difficulty is often experienced in sorting out the different individual plant types.

Further confusion is caused by the fact that catsear is commonly called cap-weed in the south, where actually cap-weed is seldom seen.

While the flowering time is very variable according to location and climate and cannot be entirely depended on when identifying the plants, other characteristics are clearly defined. These are given here to assist those who may not be clear as to which plant is which.

CATSEAR (*Hypochaeris radiata*)

Leaves moderately lobed and hairy. Flower stalks are branched and grow up to a height of about one foot. Sometimes has odd stem leaves.

Catsear is a perennial that enjoys a wide distribution throughout New Zealand, flourishing under conditions that range from low lying damp plains to the high dry tussock clad hills.

It flowers from November to March and is particularly valuable in late summer and autumn when it is capable of supplying the bees with much surplus nectar and pollen.

CAPE-WEED (*Cryptostemma calendulacium*).

Much lobed club shaped leaves. A heavy angled stem about one foot high carries stem leaves and flowers on its several branches.

The flowers have a black centre surrounded by a ring of yellow petals which are fairly large; but not numerous.

While cap-weed grows freely in many North Island districts, it is seldom seen in the South. Flowering from late October to late January, cap-weed can supply worthwhile quantities of honey and pollen in those localities where it abounds.

DANDELION (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Leaves smooth and sharply serrated. Each flower on a single unbranched hollow flower stalk six to eight inches long.

This perennial weed, although common in all parts of New Zealand, is not generally abundant. It prefers fairly rich soil and moist conditions, will not survive if closely grazed and thrives mainly in waste corners.

Dandelions main flowering period is from October to December, but plants in favoured positions will sometimes

continue blooming until early March. Bees work dandelion freely and it provides valuable nectar and pollen for the build-up period.

HAWKSBEARD (*Crepis capillaris*)

Leaves smooth and deeply lobed. The flower stalks grow up to eighteen inches high, are heavier than the dandelion, are branched and have stem leaves.

Hawksbeard is an annual that appears throughout New Zealand, mainly in gardens and waste places.

It flowers from early November to early February when it is worked by the bees, but is not generally considered to be of major importance as a honey plant.

HAWKBIT (*Leontodon hispidus*)

Leaves hairy and only slightly lobed. Flowers carried singly on unbranched flower stalks.

A biennial distributed throughout New Zealand. Hawkbit flowers from November to January, supplying some nectar and pollen but is of only limited value to apiculture.

HAWKWEED (*Hieracium boreale*)

A tall upright plant often growing over three feet high. It has a branched flower stalk with stem leaves. It favours waste places and although widely distributed is not plentiful.

Flowering from early November to late January when it supplies some nectar and pollen, Hawkweed is of only minor importance to the beekeeping industry.

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N. Z. BEEKEEPER

APPLICATION FORM

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Total £ : :

Signed.....

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* *Strike out line which does not apply.*

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 1. 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.

Hope Springs Eternal

By BUCK SPINIFEX

The current season's honey now all sold, I sat at my desk and viewed the credit account with a glow of satisfaction. I am, I think, a modest man; but I could not suppress that feeling of pride of achievement. For more years than I care to remember my wife and I had denied ourselves quite a lot. Our friends would come back from the races with eyes sparkling, or recount their holidays and tell of old friends they had seen. We had congratulated them on their luck and looked at the glorious views their cameras had recorded.

How lovely, we thought, to go too and enjoy ourselves. I could now buy that wristlet watch I had wanted for so long, books, a dinky camera, a better pair of binoculars, oh, lots of things. And my wife could get that lovely teaset she had coveted, new dress materials, new hats. Now we could splash and forget Mr. Nash, well, for the time being anyway. How lovely to have oodles of money.

Then the feeling crept in that perhaps the bees needed a new truck. You know it pays to have a new truck, otherwise one is always dipping into one's pocket. Then it occurred to me that we should increase the apiary a bit, say a hundred hives, to forestall some chap putting hives up that valley that was crying out for bees. We could do with another extractor, too, more tanks, an automatic honey pump, more foundation comb. We could go for the holiday later. A list of the most outstanding requirements was made out.

So here we are again. No wristlet watch, no camera, no books, no binoculars, no dresses, no hats. Down in the dumps? Not a bit of it! They say hope deferred maketh the heart sad, but we must also remember that hope springs eternal in the human breast. The bees have it!

MAY 1958

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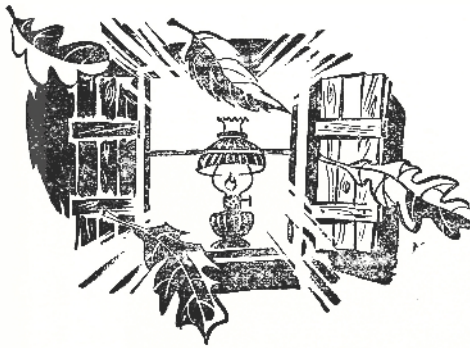
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Mrs. E. O. Ball, of Hook, and her son Robin on their arrival at London Airport. Mrs. Ball won a return air trip to London for herself and Robin in a radio quiz. Mr. E. O. Ball is a commercial beekeeper and a well-known member of the South Canterbury Branch.



Reflections . .

from the
Editor's Desk

XVII International Beekeeping Congress

The Congress at Rome in September is to be held, appropriately, in the fine modern building of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. It is to be preceded by a preliminary meeting at Bologna where the attendance will be limited to those with special qualifications and where the emphasis will be on the scientific aspect of apiculture.

The Congress itself is devoted mainly to the study of bees and their natural history and matters of academic interest in beekeeping. As usual a comprehensive programme of social functions and sightseeing tours has been arranged for visitors.

At the Vienna Congress two years ago there was an attendance of about 750, principally from European countries. However, most parts of the world had at least some representation, New Zealand and Canada being two notable exceptions.

Royal Jelly

The royal jelly market in U.S.A. has reached considerable proportions and a recent official market report which quoted prices for honey and beeswax concluded with these lines: Royal Jelly, early December, 15 dollars an ounce; late December, 13½ to 14½ dollars an ounce.

It is estimated that 1000 pounds of royal jelly were produced in 1956

and 2000 in 1957. The prevailing prices now range from 9 to 17 dollars an ounce. There is still little definite information on the therapeutic value of the product and the general opinion seems to be that unwarranted claims for royal jelly are not good for the country.

The Australian Bee Journal of April, 1958, makes the following reference to the royal jelly market:

Due solely to price cutting by producers, the market for royal jelly is reaching a low level of returns; after allowing for costs, and calculated on a year round basis, an apiarist would earn from £8 to £35 per week.

Why must apiarists be so weak-minded in marketing their products? There is the chap who sells say £10 worth of produce and thinks he has £10 to spend, when, quite likely, his real running costs exceed £10. Then there is the mighty go-getter who says he can produce umpteen pounds per day — seeing is believing in these cases.

Twenty-five pounds per ounce is a reasonable price; £15 is the absolute bed-rock for efficient producers under ideal conditions both as to situation of apiaries and cost. We do not think regular production can be maintained at £15, but because of statements made to us, we are prepared to concede that it may be possible. Those selling for less than £15 must be prepared to live on less than the basic wage.



A HAMILTON GROUP

Some of New Zealand's veteran beekeepers are included in this group taken at the Hamilton Conference in July, 1958. From left: Messrs. W. B. Bray (Leeston), A. Bates ((Matamata), C. Horner (Te Arona), A. Pearson (Hamilton), T. H. Pearson (Auckland), H. C. Wedde (Raurimu), H. Geddes (Rotorua), and E. Sage (Ohaupo). — Photo by J. E. Puffin.

Correspondence

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—The activities of the H.M.A. are being watched with more interest than ever before and producers generally are not a little apprehensive as to the future. It is always easy to be critical of other people's actions but I, for one, am disappointed with the net results of the Authority's activities.

Mr Nelson is very critical of Mr. Williams' suggestions regarding marketing but I must respectfully remind Mr. Nelson that the present unsatisfactory position is the result of the administration in which he has played a prominent part.

Mr Williams is worthy of support in his contentions and Mr. Nelson's efforts to draw a simile between our humble honey exports and our huge dairy industry are too ludicrous for words.

Yours faithfully,

G. E. GUMBRELL.

Geraldine, 21/4/58.

To the Editor

Sir,—It may be that "Supplier," whose letter appeared in your last issue, will feel less sanguine over his security as a supplier after reading my letter which you published beside his. It would be interesting to know what percentage of "Suppliers" honey crop is sent into the Authority.

"Slumgum Jim's" letter is the slummy sort of letter one invariably encounters under the cloak of anonymity. The alleged position he quotes of some two years ago is less than half the truth. At that period of temporary shortage in certain southern areas the Authority had practically no surplus stocks to suit packers over and above what was fairly estimated to be the volume required to meet the Authority's own anticipated local and export business. Moreover, under the ridiculous restrictions of the price order the packer was not allowed a profitable margin in the price he was expected to pay for bulk to the Authority and in his subsequent sales to the trade in retail containers. Apart from that "Slumgum Jim" must know that the packer buys direct from the producer the grade and volume of honey he requires. The Authority gets the surplus. The Authority is expected to dispose of this surplus somewhere overseas at a figure that will return

to the supplier a pay-out comparable with that of those operating as producer packers or suppliers to packers. The position of suppliers to the Authority has become simply ludicrous, a fact now well recognised by both the Authority and the N.B.A. Executive. These two bodies will meet shortly for the express purpose of considering representations to the Government designed to secure some form of assistance to the supplier.

If your correspondent is aware of "Many a wolf in sheep's clothing sailing under the suppliers' flag" then he probably is also aware of quite a few wolves sailing under the non-suppliers' flag. It strikes me "Slumgum Jim" is in the latter category. —

WALLACE NELSON.

To the Editor

Dear Sir, — In the last issue of the "N.Z. Beekeeper" Mr Nelson, deputy chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, replied to my letter to you in the November, 1957, issue, and I trust that you will give me the opportunity of correcting some of his assumptions and commenting on the misleading figures he uses to illustrate his points.

Mr Nelson assumes that I was trying to prove that if the H.M.A. confined its efforts to the export market our problems would be solved. My endeavour was to show the small, if any, benefit to suppliers by the mere fact of the H.M.A. increasing its sales on the local market by 500 tons, and to illustrate the position if an extra 500 tons was sold by packers.

I am not opposed to the H.M.A. improving and advertising its pack and endeavouring to increase sales; it could do nothing else. The producers asked for it at conference and at the H.M.A. election, and had I been elected I would have supported such a policy.

However, as a supplier, I have supplied 15 tons this year and shall be supplying a minimum of that amount continuously in the future. I like to take a look at the probable effect on the H.M.A. payout and stability of the local market and I did so in last November's issue.

Mr. Nelson says the figures I used were hypothetical and my deductions illogical and fallacious. In that the figures I used were not mathematically

accurate; they were hypothetical, but not illogical. In view of the probable intake of honey by the H.M.A. this year and the amount of the seal levy I expect the position to be very close to that which I stated though the figures will be different.

Now let us take a look at the misleading figures Mr. Nelson uses to prove my deductions fallacious. In 1956, H.M.A. report stated that the payout was 2d per lb below the cost of production, the 1957 report that the overseas price had fallen £20 per ton, so one would expect the payout to be at least 4d per lb below the cost of production. In addition, Mr. Nelson states there was a loss of nearly £9000 in reconditioning honey, at least another ½d. What have we to bridge the gap? The seals levy, which Mr. Nelson says is a negligible factor, and magically we get a pay-out as high as ever before and very close to the cost of production. The fallacy in the reasoning of the H.M.A. is their assumption that if they sell an extra 500 tons on the local market they will have 500 tons less for export. My analysis of the position is that if the H.M.A. sales increase by 500 tons packers' sales will decrease by the same amount and the H.M.A. will get the 500 tons the packers would have sold, so that the H.M.A. will have the same amount for export and the same problem of carry-over and stale honey.

The only solution to the problem is to increase the total sales of honey in New Zealand, an object which will hardly be achieved by advertising Imperial Bee on the Auckland market. As regards the other proposal of the H.M.A. to put out a second pack, which will be a top quality pack, at 1½d per lb below Price Order prices, I could not be more opposed. Such a proposal can only lead to disastrous price cutting from one end of New Zealand to the other and virtual bankruptcy to the industry.

Surely when we have a Government committed to the policy of guaranteed prices to cover the cost of production of primary producers, a Government which has indicated to the N.B.A. that they are prepared to implement such a policy on behalf of the beekeeping industry, the proper course is to join the N.B.A. in an approach to the Government and see if a formula

acceptable to the industry can be arrived at.

In conclusion, let me state that I have a sincere admiration for what Mr. Nelson has done for the beekeepers in the past and I am sure that the friendship and amicable relations we have enjoyed in the past will not be impaired by the divergence of my views and those of the H.M.A.

I have been asked to contest the forthcoming H.M.A. election and have consented to do so.

Yours faithfully,

E. D. WILLIAMS.

To the Editor

Sir,—The National Executive are just wasting their time if they think a guaranteed price from the Government will get them anywhere, if, indeed it can be got. The dairy industry is back to where it was in 1935. It now faces demand backed by too little money. In the intervening years it was content to pool its costs of marketing and allow the selling to be done on a Government to Government basis. This was a period of demand backed by ever-increasing incomes due to armament and war expenditure, a condition which breeds higher prices. All that the Government did was to withhold some of the increase and put it into a pooling (I nearly said fooling) fund to be drawn on when realisations fell below the current payout. That time has arrived hence the political merry-go-round.

So, we might as well forget about a guaranteed price on those lines. But suppose it is subsidy on exports as some of our bright boys would vainly hope. It would be barefaced dumping, the very thing the Government is complaining about as being the cause of the low prices at which other butter is being sold in Britain. If they wanted to give a subsidy, could they do it in face of the facts? Would we as taxpayers and would all other taxpayers relish providing other countries with cheap honey? Without realising it we would be chasing our own tails. Our own people would buy the honey gladly at the lower price.

There are two main factors which have brought our industry to its present difficulties. For too long we have played round with controls of various degrees without having any clear idea of principles and objectives. And we

have no goodwill in any asset we have created. If it can be called a goodwill we have one in a claim on the Government for redress in regard to the financial position which the industry's marketing authority finds itself in as a result of action and non-action at Governmental levels. When the Internal Marketing Division was closed down the Government acquired a surplus of three-quarters of a million of profits. At the present time, according to a statement made at the Invercargill conference, it should be a quarter of a million. It would be interesting to know what other Boards got the missing half million out of kitty. Here is a fund which could be used to put our industry on a sound financial basis. The Nationalist Government sold the industry a pup when it set up control from within the industry. It handed over the remains of the Internal Marketing Division to a quasi-Government caretaker Board to wind up the Division and one of the first things that Board did was to raise the rent of the premises occupied by the H.M.A. to four or five times what it was. After a while the Authority was told that it would have to get its own premises and no sooner was the Authority committed to its present programme for new premises — at a terrific capital cost — than the Board disposed of the building in which the Authority was renting only a part. The Authority was never again given a chance to buy at the price or any price. Even by financing under the same terms by which it is acquiring the new building, it could have acquired the old — not so old — building and lived rent free by letting the floors not required. The Government of the day had no excuse for the neglect of its primary industry for the benefit of big business, for one of the caretaker Board was the Minister's right-hand man and adviser.

The Invercargill conference supported a demand for finance for the new premises at 1 per cent after rejecting a proposal that the demand should be for 1 per cent commission only and no interest, seeing that the honey business under the I.M.D. had been financed without interest. To make matters worse the Executive did nothing to press the demand. If memory serves me right the Hamilton conference followed up with another demand but again nothing has been done.

The weaknesses of the Authority are first in its financial set-up. It is living from hand to mouth with no assured working capital. Secondly, there is no equivalent to an annual meeting at which action can be taken to amend or control policy and elect directors. Thirdly, the composition of representation is out of balance. Four members represent suppliers and packers jointly. Suppliers represent 1000 to 1500 tons while packers represent 2000 tons. Quite a number vote under either qualification. The packers quota is equal to two pounds per head of consumption which is away below the estimated consumption. The total membership of the National includes many who never supply or buy seals, and yet the total is below the roll for the Authority election. If I am wrong I will be glad to be corrected. In any case the National representative on the Authority is redundant for the people he represents are already represented. I cannot find any evidence that the Government appointee is useful either to the Authority or to the Government. Next to him is the Chairman, who is the logical go-between on matters at Government level, but matters are complicated when the Government looks to the National to represent the industry. Buck passing is an ancient game.

In Ontario, Canada, the beekeepers have a co-operative marketing organisation which survived the slump of the thirties. They concentrated on packing for the local market and practically ignored the export. The bigger producers bought out the smaller ones who were more of a nuisance value. Today they sell between 80 and 90 per cent of their turnover in retail packs within 20 miles of Toronto. They advance six cents and a further cent at intervals until the whole crop is sold. They buy honey outright when it suits them and some of this may be imported. Their policy is to maintain a standard quality under their proprietary brands. Our H.P.A. once packed 500 tons a year for the local market. Where is that market now? It is true that the Toronto market is in the centre of a big producing area in contrast to the scattered production and population areas in New Zealand, but in the northern half of the North Island there is nearly half the population while nearly half the honey is handy to Auckland as the

packing centre. The room and the opportunity is there for the development of a local market which could be an asset instead of the liability the surplus is at present when it has to be exported.

Yours faithfully,
W. B. BRAY.

[Editor's Note: Mr. Bray complains that "the National representative on the Authority is redundant for the people he represents are already represented". We could quote the many beekeepers who supply up to half a ton of honey and/or sell under seals up to half a ton and/or

produce comb honey in any quantity—they have no representation on the Authority except through the national nominee.

In any case the principal functions of the Authority are "to promote and organise the marketing of honey and to assist in the orderly development of the honey producing industry". As the National Beekeepers' Association works for the advancement of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand, and has done so for 50 years, surely the Authority can assist to better advantage through the presence of the N.B.A. representative.]



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