

The New Zealand Beekeeper

NOVEMBER 1958

MR. E. SMAELLIE

**The New Superintendent
Beekeeping Industry**



The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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Christmas Greetings

As the Season of Christmas draws near The New Zealand Beekeeper extends cordial greetings to readers, with good wishes for Yuletide and the New Year.

Editorial

THE HONEY MARKET

Although the Honey Marketing Authority has been set up under difficult circumstances, there are at present some encouraging features in the prospect before it. The Authority now occupies its new premises in Auckland, thus starting a new era in honey marketing, and at the same time reports from overseas indicate that New Zealand honey is selling at prices which must be setting an all-time record for this country. Inside the Dominion stocks are becoming scarce in some districts and the market is therefore promising as the new production season approaches.

It is important to the industry that a sound market should be maintained and beekeepers can help towards this objective by aiming at a reliable and consistent quality in their honey and by adhering to the recognised price level. It would be unfortunate, particularly, if the general price level suffered as a result of price cutting in areas where producers are carrying a few tons of honey above their immediate requirements.

In this connection it is relevant to note the attitude of the Master Grocers' Federation as expressed in "The N.Z. Grocers' Review" of June 1958:

There is nothing new in the saying 'Competition is the life blood of trade.' But this statement, if analysed carefully, will be found to be poles removed from the truth. A quarter of a century back this so-called competition rather than being the life blood of the grocery trade in New Zealand was in fact a sort of creeping paralysis which in the ultimate crippled many businesses. There is in all forms of trade a place for competition, but it must be healthy competition calculated to benefit the consumer without destroying the manufacturer or the distributor as the case may be. If competition is going to descend to "jungle warfare" where only the biggest or the most financial survive, then it has little if anything to commend it. Generally speaking, the grocery trade by relative standards is competitive, but it is a form of competition which challenges a man rather than destroys him. It is a form of competition which makes the grocer a more efficient operator and makes his store a better place in which to shop.

... the measure of success attending the Federation's activities will finally be determined by the desire of the grocer individually, and perhaps to a larger extent collectively, to maintain the trade at a level of healthy competition unmarred by ruthless price-cutting, unorthodox stunts and unethical gimmicks.

In the case of honey we have the Price Order as an accepted standard which is fair to the consumer. The capital costs and operating costs in honey production are high and beekeepers should maintain this recognised level of prices if they wish to uphold the status of the industry.



Marketing Authority Election

The result of the 1958 election is given in the Honey Marketing Authority notes in this issue.

Pollination Pamphlets

The four-page pamphlets entitled "Pollination of Plants" are now available from the Editor, price 10/- per 100, or 2/- per dozen, cash with order. Reprinted from the article in the August Journal the pamphlets explain the function of honey bees in the fertilisation of plants and their value to the farming community. Beekeepers will find these pamphlets a useful form of publicity and an easy method of giving authoritative answers to inquiries about the work of honey bees. Keep a few in the honeyhouse and hand them to interested farmers.

American Visitor

At present visiting New Zealand is Dr. E. J. Dyce of the United States, the noted authority on honey and beekeeping. Dr. Dyce has been Professor of Apiculture at Cornell University since 1946 and is travelling on leave.

Prior to 1946 Dr. Dyce was in turn Lecturer and Professor of Apiculture at Ontario Agricultural College, Manager of the Finger Lakes Honey Producers Co-operative, and Associate Professor with Dr. Phillips at Cornell. For many years he has been widely known for his work in developing the Dyce process of creaming honey.

Arriving here about October 21, Dr. Dyce has journeyed south visiting the main places of interest in the Dominion and has been able to meet officers of the Apiary Section and beekeepers in some of the centres.

It is a pleasure to have Dr. and Mrs. Dyce in this country and we hope they have enjoyed their stay here.



Mr. G. E. Gumbrell
New member of the
Honey Marketing
Authority

New Director-General

The appointment of Mr. P. W. Smallfield as Director-General of Agriculture was announced recently. He has been Assistant Director-General since April 1957, and succeeds Mr. R. B. Tennent, who retired at the end of August.

Mr. Smallfield joined the department as Assistant Instructor in Agriculture, Auckland, in 1921. He was appointed Fields Superintendent, Auckland, in 1923, became Superintendent of the Services Vegetable Production in 1942. The following year he became Director of the Extension Division.

Mr. Smallfield has served on many bodies associated with the farming industry in New Zealand and is an acknowledged authority on agricultural research and extension.

New Beekeeping Superintendent

Mr. E. Smaellie has been appointed Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry, following the retirement of Mr. T. S. Winter at the end of June. Mr. Smaellie has been continuously employed within the beekeeping industry for 30 years—over 14 years as a practical beekeeper and some 16 years as Apiary Instructor with the Department of Agriculture.

In the early 1930's, following a period of training in commercial beekeeping in Southland, he operated on his own account in Otago. At that time he was active in the National Beekeepers' Association and was Secretary of the Milton-Taieri Branch.

During 1940 he was appointed to the staff of the Department of Agriculture as Apiary Instructor for the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast district, with headquarters at Greymouth. Later

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in 1942 he was transferred to the Canterbury district with headquarters at Christchurch.

Mr. Smaellie resigned this position in 1949, and in conjunction with a partner, established a commercial holding in the Mid and North Canterbury areas. While thus employed he renewed his interest with the National Beekeepers' Association and was President of the Canterbury Branch until his re-appointment to the Apiary Section of the Department in 1951. Since that time he has been Apiary Instructor in charge of the Auckland district.

From his experience as an active beekeeper and Apiary Instructor in both the North and South Islands, Mr. Smaellie has gained a good understanding of the varying production factors as they exist throughout the Dominion and of the beekeepers' problems associated with them. As he takes up his important duties we wish him every success in the new appointment.

Mr. E. A. Field

The result of the recent election leaves the Honey Marketing Authority without the services of Mr E. A. Field, who has an outstanding record in administrative work in the bee-keeping industry. Mr Field has been chairman of the Marketing Authority since its inception in 1953 and prior to that he was Dominion president of the National Beekeepers' Association for 11 years. A noteworthy feature of his work is that it has been done during the difficult years of the war and post-war periods and the first few years of the Marketing Authority's operations when, as a leader of the industry, he bore the brunt of the troubles and criticisms which were inevitable at those times. His efforts are reflected in the present position and high standing of the bee-keeping industry.

No October Meeting Of Executive

After consideration of the amount of business requiring attention and in view of the expenditure involved it was decided not to hold the usual October meeting of the Dominion Executive. The next meeting will probably be held in February.

Meeting of Authority

A meeting of the Honey Marketing Authority was held in Auckland at the end of October.

Owing to urgent private business the National Beekeepers' Association representative (Mr. J. W. Fraser), was absent from the meeting. When it became apparent that he would be unable to attend Mr. Fraser took immediate steps to appoint a deputy, and after failing to locate the Dominion Vice-President (Mr. J. R. Barber), he finally appointed Mr. E. D. Williams who lives in Auckland. However it was brought to notice that although the Regulations provide that a deputy may be appointed by either the Government representative or the producer representatives no such provision is made for the N.B.A. representative, and accordingly Mr. Williams was unable to take the place of Mr. Fraser. He was however allowed to be present at the meeting.

Agricultural Chemicals Bill

The final draft of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill is now being prepared with the object of introducing the measure at the next sitting of Parliament. The Bill provides for the control of agricultural chemicals in order to promote the safety and welfare of those directly concerned with their application, and of the public generally.

Conference Resolutions

In a reply to Conference resolutions the Marketing Authority has now advised that it cannot agree to the publication of the Manager's analysis of operations since its inception, as recommended by the Conference.

It is also considered that it would not be in the best interests of the Authority or its London agents for information regarding sales to be published and it is unable to agree to this proposal. Periodically the Bank of New Zealand publishes a market report on primary products and there is usually a section dealing with overseas honey prices. These reports are considered fairly reliable and it is suggested that they could be published by the Association.

Gin Production

Following the previous indication that gin was to be manufactured in New Zealand to meet the Dominion's requirements it has recently been announced by the Government that a company representing three major overseas producers and New Zealand interests has been granted the sole right to operate a distillery for this purpose. New Zealand barley, of which there is a surplus at present, is to be used for the distillation process.

It appears, therefore, that the proposal to use honey for gin production has been rejected in view of its comparatively high cost. The possible manufacture of honey-mead, however, is still being investigated.

UNITED KINGDOM MARKET

A report published in "The Australasian Beekeeper" of October 15, 1958, says that although there has been a slight easing in prices generally trade sources believe that the demand will firm shortly. The prices quoted for Australian honey range from 102/- to 115/-, and for New Zealand honey from 125/- to 175/- per cwt.

According to the British Bee Journal of September 13, 1958, the honey crop in England is very poor, following the deplorable weather during the past summer. "Everyone has been badly hit," says the Journal, "in a year which can now be written off as one of the worst in British beekeeping."

UNITED STATES MARKET

Although an exporter of honey, the United States also imports it from many parts of the world. Imports from most countries are confined to special qualities of table honey in pound or similar-sized jars which retail at up to \$2 (14s 4d). New Zealand has a share of this trade but the value of our exports is negligible.

The Senior Trade Commissioner in Washington has noted on the shelves of one Washington store a choice of jars of honey from no less than ten foreign countries. All were displayed and labelled attractively. He remarks that there is now a large segment of American purchasing power devoted to the buying of goods which are different and expensive.

—N.Z. Export News, July, 1958.

ITALIAN QUEENS

1958-59

Quantity	Untested	Tested	Select Tested
1	9/-	13/-	16/-
2	17/6	25/-	30/-
3	25/6	36/-	
4	33/-	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
10	77/6	110/-	
20 and over	— 150/- per 20.		

SELECTED UNTESTED: Add 1/- extra per Queen.

BREEDERS: £3/3/- each (when available).

DELIVERY: November to April.

TERMS: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added
Telegrams 1/- extra

Orders over 20 Airmailed free on request

Orders under 20, 2/2 extra

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

Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.

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F. D. WHITE

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P.O. Box 32,

KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND.

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ASSISTANCE FOR BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MINISTER

Hon. C. F. Skinner,
Minister of Agriculture

September 5, 1958

Dear Mr. Skinner,

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE INDUSTRY

I write in reference to our submissions to you on June 24 last. The Association has been expecting your advice of Government's proposal for assistance along the lines of our request but I now understand from your Private Secretary that the matter has been dropped following a press report of our recent Conference to the effect that the Industry would not accept a Guaranteed Price.

It is true that Conference was opposed to a Guaranteed Price as defined by you when opening the Conference for it was realised that Government's conception of such a scheme was nothing more than an Industry Equalisation Pool which in no way guaranteed the producer a return sufficient to meet his cost-of-production as at present established. As such, I would respectfully submit that the Government's Guaranteed Price Scheme is valueless to the Industry.

In our submissions on June 24 it was clearly pointed out that the Industry could not continue to function as an effective link in this country's agricultural economy unless the producer who supplied the Honey Marketing Authority received his costs-of-production and it was also clearly demonstrated that he is certainly not receiving a return sufficient to meet costs-of-production at the present time, despite the fact that overseas realisations for New Zealand honey have been at an all-time high level.

I would draw your attention to the fact that the Industry in the submissions presented to you on June 24 did not seek a Guaranteed Price as envisaged by Government but rather a guaranteed return to the Honey Marketing Authority supplier of his established costs of production by means of a yearly grant from Government sufficient to meet the deficiency. To date we have received no advice from you of Government's proposals to meet this request.

The inability of the Authority to pay its suppliers the cost-of-production has been indisputably established in the financial statements which were presented to you with our application. The economic justification, in fact necessity, for Government to assist the industry financially has also been established in the treatises by world authorities on the value of pollination which accompanied our submissions. Now that the apparent confusion over the nature of our request has been clarified I trust that you will give most close consideration to the matter once again and I look forward to your favourable advices in this connection at an early date.

Thanking you —

Your faithfully,

R. A. FRASER, General Secretary

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.
Dear Mr. Fraser,

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, N.Z.
September 25, 1958

I have your letter of September 5 clarifying the industry's request for a guaranteed price, and have studied the notes of the discussion which took place between your President and the Director-General of Agriculture on September 10 when I was unfortunately unable to meet Mr. J. W. Fraser and yourself.

It is now quite clear that what the industry seeks is an annual grant from the Government to make up the payout of the Honey Marketing Authority to the amount assessed by the Department of Agriculture as the cost of production. In this connection I shall await with interest the outcome of the industry's consideration of Mr. Smallfield's suggestion that it should study an extension of the scope of the seals levy so that it applies to all sales of honey other than to the Authority.

An examination of the financial data submitted by the Authority some weeks ago indicated that more than half of the honey marketed by producers otherwise than through the Authority is exempt from the seals levy. There seems to be no good reason why the levy should not apply to most if not all of this honey.

Another prominent factor in a review of the Authority's finances and the industry's marketing policies was that with a maximum authorised price to producers of 15d. per pound for the greater part of the industry's production and an average payout by the Authority of 11.98d. per pound for a minor share of the honey produced the average return to the industry for all honey should approach, if it does not already exceed, the cost of production figure. If this is so, what is needed appears to be some form of price equalisation scheme for the industry. The extension of the seals levy to classes of sales now exempt, in the manner suggested by Mr. Smallfield, might go a long way towards achieving an equalisation of prices between producers who supply the Authority and those who do not.

I am ready to do all I can to assist the industry to solve its problems but it would require very strong reasons to justify the payment of what would amount to a subsidy to one section of producers if the Association's request were granted. I shall look forward to the Association's views in due course on the proposal that the field of the seals levy should be widened and should be pleased to have any comments the Association cares to make upon any other relevant aspect of honey marketing.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. SKINNER, Minister of Agriculture

Kangaroo Island Bees

During his recent visit to Australia Professor J. E. Eckert studied the Ligurian strain of bees on Kangaroo Island where the South Australian Department of Agriculture maintains a bee breeding project. Professor Eckert's paper giving his detailed findings and recommendations on the Kangaroo Island bees has now been published in "The Australasian Beekeeper" of October 15, 1958.

Professor Eckert found that the bees on Kangaroo Island are a pure race with great genetic value and he stated that "they should be preserved for the benefit of beekeepers throughout the world."

Certain changes in the set-up of the Government Apiaries on Kangaroo Island are suggested to enable a revised breeding programme, which Professor Eckert has set out in detail, to be put into operation.

It may take several years to develop the best from the Kangaroo Island Ligurians and beekeepers throughout Australia, in fact possibly the world, will be watching progress of the bee breeding project there with great interest.

Considerable success in scientifically breeding hybrid bees with heavy honey

producing capabilities has been achieved in U.S.A.

There appears to be excellent opportunities of achieving similar success on isolated Kangaroo Island by putting Professor Eckert's revised bee breeding programme into operation.

Obituary

MRS. A. W. MAWHINNEY

It is with regret that we record the death, on September 13, of Mrs. A. W. Mawhinney of Te Awamutu, formerly Miss Dalgliesh of Hastings. As Miss Dalgliesh she kept bees on her own account and was secretary of the Hawkes Bay Branch for ten years. At that time she was a reporter for the Daily Mail and was prominent in the Girl Guide movement.

Following her marriage thirteen years ago Mrs. Mawhinney was engaged in beekeeping and sheepfarming in partnership with her husband, also well known in beekeeping circles.

Mrs. Mawhinney will be remembered for her active interest in the work of the association, her enthusiasm in the beekeeping craft, and for her friendly and generous nature. We extend to Mr. Mawhinney our sympathy in his bereavement.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

RESULT OF ELECTION

An election of two producer representatives for the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority was held during September and the voting was as follows:

Mr. W. T. Herron	1478 votes
Mr. G. E. Gumbrell	1278 votes
Mr. E. D. Williams	1146 votes
Mr. E. A. Field	934 votes

His Excellency the Governor-General appointed the two successful candidates to the vacancies on October 9, 1958.

At the first meeting of the Authority following the election Mr. W. W. Nelson was appointed as Chairman and Mr. W. T. Herron as Deputy Chairman.

W. H. CHUDLEY,
Manager.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Final Payment for 1957/58 Season

The final payment for all honey purchased during the 1957/58 season, other than honey bought on a straight purchase basis, has been fixed at 3¼d per lb, this being the same as for the previous season.

It is anticipated that cheques for the final payment will be posted by the middle of November.

Contracts

The Authority has decided to call for contracts for the coming season. The annual Information Circular should be in the hands of producers by the end of November. Any producer who does not receive a copy should write for one to the Manager, N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

The Authority has also decided that those contractors who failed to supply their contract quantities during previous seasons may contract again this year without any further penalty so far as past years are concerned.

Date for Receipt of Contracts

The Last Day for sending in contracts is Friday, January 16, 1959. Late contracts cannot be considered. Producers

are recommended to forward contracts by registered post. Acknowledgements will be forwarded by the end of January, and any contractor who does not receive one by the first week in February should make an enquiry from the Manager.

Conditions of Supply

A number of the conditions of supply and packing instructions have been amended this year and suppliers are urged in their own interests to have the Information Circular tacked up in their offices or honey houses so that it will always be under notice and serve as a reminder of the conditions which must be complied with. This relates specially to the closing date for sending in contracts, namely January 16, 1959.

The clause in last year's circular provided for a penalty on honey which does not keep in good condition for 12 months has not been included in this year's circular, but the Authority reserves the right to take action against suppliers of honey that develops fermentation or sourness subsequent to grading if such deterioration is proved to be the fault of the producer.

Manuka Honey

In consequence of market reports recently to hand advising a substantial drop in the price offering for manuka honey the Authority regrets that it has been necessary to reduce the advance payment on this class of honey to 6d per lb.

Seasonal Greetings

As this is the last issue of the "Beekeeper" this year I take the opportunity on behalf of members of the Authority and the management of sending greetings to all beekeepers for the festive season and wishing them health and prosperity in the New Year.

W. W. NELSON,
Chairman.

3/11/58.

SPEAKING OF CARTONS
Remember Cinderella!

A

ll of you have heard the story of Cinderella, when you were a youngster. Her two flash sisters used to leave her to sit at home knitting by the radiator, while they took in all the night clubs. Never let her have silk stockings, lingerie or lipstick. Poor Cindy never had a chance to go places.

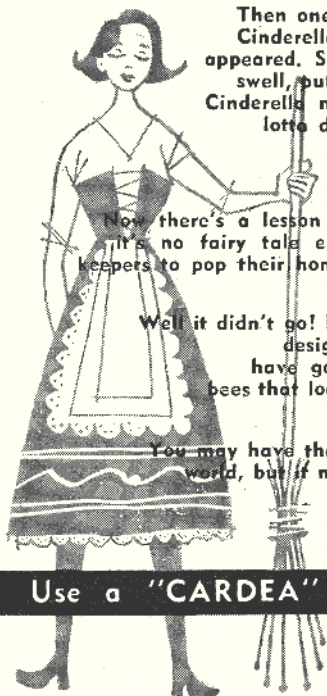
Then one night while the sisters were out at a cabaret and Cinderella was all alone at home, her Fairy Godmother appeared. She gave Cinderella a hair do and dressed her up swell, put her in a Rolls Royce and sent her to a posh party. Cinderella made the hit of the evening and a Prince with a lotto dough fell for her hard, and offered her everything.

Why? Because Cinderella was all dressed up.

Now there's a lesson about Honey Cartons in that old time story and it's no fairy tale either. For years it was the habit of many bee-keepers to pop their honey in any old kind of jar or carton and let it go.

Well it didn't go! Not in competition with that packed in attractively designed and printed "CARDEA" Honey cartons. You have got to have more than a poorly printed picture of bees that look like a lot of flies, to sell honey the modern way.

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Christchurch.

Report on Auckland Depot

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following Report was presented by Mr. Wallace Nelson on behalf of the Honey Marketing Authority at the 1958 Dominion Conference. It was prompted by a remit on the order paper asking for a report on the suitability of the Honey Marketing Authority's new premises. After this report had been read to the Conference the remit was withdrawn.)

The questions raised at the meeting, which was responsible for this remit, were as follows:—

- (a) Why did we not erect a two-storey building and rent the top floor?
- (b) The building is in the wrong location because the entrances to it are on a very steep slope on narrow streets that make it exceedingly difficult for trucks to enter the building loaded three cases high.
- (c) The floor strength is quite inadequate and can only support three cases high. Why did we not have the floor strength at least equal to the floor of the building we are vacating which can support cases eight high.

Two Floors:

The replies to these questions are as follows: At the request of our Chairman, the architect submitted a design of a two-storey building, but the estimated cost of such a structure put it quite out of the question. Moreover, a two-storey structure would have denied its natural light in the centre of the bottom floor where we would of course operate. In the one-storey building with the 17ft. stud rising to a ridge of 21ft. we have good light all over the building. We also have in the building a mezzanine floor on which the offices are located. Even if we had favoured a two-storey building it would have been unreasonable to expect the State to advance us money to provide the additional floor space for sub-letting.

Floor Strength:

Far from being of lesser strength than the old building our new building is actually nearly 50% greater in strength on the main floor. The actual figures are:

- Old Building 560lb. per sq. ft.
- New building 740lb. per sq. ft.
- Small extended floor 600lb. per sq. ft.

Furthermore, the weight-carrying capacity of a given floor space supporting a pile of cases can be doubled if a corresponding area is free of weight. Another point is that the architect always allows for a mix of concrete to support four times the weight specified. This is done as a precaution against low quality material or a poor mix. The architect advises that our piles of cases could be built 14 high (six higher than the old floor) but it would be obviously dangerous to pile them that height.

Grade of Street:

Auckland is not a flat city. It is quite the opposite. Here are a few of the grades in several of the principle business streets in the heart of the city:—

Upper Queen St	1 in 10
Wyndham St	1 in 8
Wakefield St	1 in 8½
Rutland St	1 in 8½
Fanshawe St (where the old building is located)	1 in 8

Our new location is one in seven. That is greater than we like it to be but the entrance to it from the two streets on each side of the building have been greatly improved to facilitate the entry of the trucks. The Town Planning Act calls for the streets to be considerably widened as the old buildings are being replaced. That's being done now on one street. No less than 18,000 cases of honey have been delivered by our carrier in to the new building and the cases were stacked three high on the truck carrying a total load of 103 cases. The carrier did not lose one case from the load when entering the building. Beekeepers delivering their own honey will be assisted by a fork lift.

Whatever may be the disadvantage of the present steep location it is well outweighed by the fact that we are only about half a mile from the rail and wharf and in being right in the heart of the business area deliveries to merchants will be at the lowest possible cost level. It took a year of searching Auckland by Mr. Chudley and myself ere we found this section and we were exceedingly lucky in securing it. The successful negotiations that obtained it for us at a figure the quarter of the present day market value stands to the credit of Mr. Chudley.



DEPARTMENT
of
AGRICULTURE

Horticulture Division

IDENTIFICATION MARKS ON APIARIES

The Apiaries Registration Regulations, 1953, Amendment No. 1, were gazetted on July 30, 1958. All beekeepers with apiaries situated more than 10 chains from the usual place of residence are now required to identify these apiaries with a letter and number allotted to them by the Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of this amendment is to remove the difficulty which Apiary Instructors frequently experienced in establishing ownership of apiaries, particularly in districts where commercial beekeepers are operating out apiaries in sparsely populated areas at considerable distances from their headquarters.

The following is an outline of the new procedure for identification of apiaries:

1. The code letters for each Apiary Registration District are:

District	Code
North Auckland	A
Auckland	B
Hamilton	C
Tauranga	D
Hastings	E
Hawera	H
Palmerston North	J
Greymouth	K
Christchurch	L
Oamaru	N
Invercargill	P

2. The Registrar for each registration district will allot the appropriate code letter and a number to each beekeeper with a registered apiary, or apiaries, more than 10 chains from his usual place of residence.

3. The number allotted to each beekeeper shall remain and be used by him until all registrations in his name

are cancelled from the Apiary Register.

4. Within one month after the date on which he is informed that the code and number has been allocated, the beekeeper is required to mark the code letter and number allocated to him clearly and conspicuously on the outside of the brood chamber of at least one hive in each apiary or, alternatively, on a white marker post placed vertically in a conspicuous position in the apiary. The marker post is to be a wooden or metal stake not less than 2in x 2in in dimensions and not less than 2ft in length when fixed firmly into the ground. The code letter and number must be clearly branded on the hive brood chamber or marker post. The letters are to be black in colour, which together, shall be not less than 1½ in. in width and not less than 1½ in. in height.

5. Any beekeeper with apiaries situated in two or more apiary registration districts shall register his apiaries with the appropriate Registrar as usual, but for all his registered outyards he shall use the code letter and number allotted to him by the Registrar for the district in which he resides.

Any further information regarding the identification of apiaries should be obtained from the local Registrar of Apiaries.

A. M. W. GREIG,
Director, Horticulture Division.

AFRICAN BEEKEEPING

Successor to the S.A. Bee Journal.
Monthly.

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

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



An Apiary at Macraes, Otago

This apiary, the property of Mr. S. H. Wilson, is at an altitude of 1200ft. The clover growth at left followed a topdressing of superphosphate at the rate of 2cwt per acre.

TO WHITE CLOVER

School children growing up in the luxury of New Zealand's high standard of living should, in all humility, raise their hats each time they passed a white clover plant, Professor T. W. Walker told 250 senior pupils from Christchurch secondary schools. "I am deadly serious," he said, when his audience laughed at the hat-raising suggestion. "The wealth of New Zealand has grown and depends on white clover." White clover was the most important plant in New Zealand.

BEEES AND SPEED

A hive of bees on a truck with a laden weight of six tons was the excuse given by the driver, Trevor James Hamilton, when stopped for exceeding 30 miles an hour in a heavy motor-vehicle near Waikuku on June 21. Hamilton was in a hurry to get the bees to their destination before they became disturbed, said Traffic Officer Wilson in the Rangiora Magistrate's Court. "I didn't waste much time myself," said Traffic Officer Wilson to the Magistrate. Hamilton was fined £3. —Christchurch Press

Waikato News

The season here has been marvellous (says a recent letter from the Waikato), the willow flowering over a long period because there was no rain to mature the catkins, now the barberry is flowering and the hives are full of bees, I would not say full of honey. The clover is beginning to flower, everything points to an early season, or at least we hope for an early start because once it starts to rain after a dry spring it is not likely to stop for some considerable time.

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BRANCH NOTES



SOUTH AUCKLAND

Hives wintered in average condition and are now becoming strong. Although there was an unusually heavy yield of pussy willow in September and this followed an above average yield from the heather there has been nothing in October. Since pussy willow and heather are very local flows those apiaries that missed on both are now needing to be fed again and three weeks of wind and rain have held up the barberry, if not ruined it. All round the year is very similar to last year—a perfect September and bad October—with resulting mixture of apiaries either swarming or starving. Beekeepers will be busy during November this year.

On September 3 the Department of Agriculture arranged a demonstration of the use of methane gas to kill wax moth in supers of combs with particular reference to use on combs stored away during the winter, and comb honey.

Mr. Roberts, Apiary Instructor from Auckland, had done a tremendous amount of research into the subject and he explained in detail the whole process and a member of the chemical firm then gave a practical demonstration. There will be an article in the Journal of Agriculture so there is no need for a description here. The thing that most impressed the beekeepers present was the penetration and speed of kill which the gas possesses. For any beekeeper who can extract in a few weeks and then give his combs one treatment the methane gas and polythene sheet sound like the perfect answer. The unsolved problem so far is how to use it on a large stack of supers which is being continually added to over a period of months as is the case with the average commercial producer.

Mr. A. Deadman, of Okoroire, kindly threw open his honey house for the afternoon and demonstrated an old combs reducer. Mrs. Deadman presented an afternoon tea which will be talked about for years to come and was generally agreed at the time to excel the average wedding breakfast. It was a very happy and instructive afternoon and very well attended. Once again our thanks to the Apiary Instructors for the interest they take in their work. —R.R.C.

HAWKE'S BAY

The Editor acknowledges the following notice of a Field Day to be held at Hastings: On Saturday, November 8, at Mr George Gordon's out-apiary, "Shangri-la," situated about four miles down Raukawa Road — south from Bridge Pa. We hope to start about 10.30 a.m. so bring some lunch and enjoy the shade of the ornamental trees while the bees are busy about their work. If you like to bring an idea or gadget we will be very interested and we hope to give you a pleasant day. Hot water, tea, sugar and milk provided. Signed, Sefton Line, Apiary Instructor.

We thank you for the implied invitation, Syd, and regret that we were unable to attend. The site sounds very attractive with no doubt plenty of snowgrass around to make a bee brush with. Readers will hear more about this romantic apiary in a later issue of the Journal.

WEST COAST

Many West Coast beekeepers report that their stock came through the winter well and there is an optimistic feeling about the coming season. Nearly all the native spring sources have flowered early this year and those who did their own queen raising report good mating percentages.

The branch held a Field Day on October 18 at Mr. W. Buchanan's Paroa apiary, the weather being fine and warm. There was a small but enthusiastic muster of local folk and a good number of visitors from Canterbury. The topics discussed included Seasonal Work (Mr. R. Glasson), Feeding, When and How (Mr. R. Hobbs), Native Nectar Sources (Mr. S. Graham), Equipment (Mr. K. Ecroyd), and Executive and Marketing affairs (Mr. Jasper Bray). All that plus a good afternoon tea left barely sufficient time for private chin wags and an inspection of our hosts honey house and equipment and the afternoon was one to remember. — T. Holland.

CANTERBURY

Under perfect weather conditions, what was probably the best attended Canterbury field day for some years, was held at the Ashburton Domain on Saturday, October 4.

Mr. Ron Newton introduced a member of the Ashburton Borough Council who formally opened the Field Day. Mr. L. Griffin, our local Apiary Instructor followed with comments and information on the methods used by and the purposes for which the Department of Agriculture secures information for crop estimates, published annually in the N.Z. Beekeeper. This address was followed by a demonstration by Mr. Griffin on the production of Section

Comb Honey, which has been gaining in popularity with some commercial producers in Canterbury over the last few years.

The several hives of bees used in these demonstrations, which were supplied by Mr. Eric Hight, proved to be of a very docile strain, and were working particularly hard on what promised to be a heavy willow flow.

Lunch was then taken by the 150 or so people (men, women and children) present.

After lunch Mr. Tom Pearson of Darfield gave an inspiring address about which beekeepers are still talking. The subject of "Easier Ways to Beekeeping" gave him the scope to trace beekeepers' progress over the years he has been beekeeping, and to prove that in spite of our apparent difficulties a beekeeper should feel a satisfied and contented individual.

Mr. Harry Cloake, of Timaru, followed with a talk on his methods of preserving hive equipment, which included the use of paraffin wax, paint, metalex, etc. From his experience he finds that when paraffin is used very hot, the equipment, although fully preserved, can be painted afterwards for appearance purposes.

After afternoon tea there was a general display of gadgets, etc., including a motorised hive barrow, which should prove of great value to large beekeepers.

Free ice creams were supplied to the children, and the day later closed on a very satisfied happy note.—K. Ecroyd.

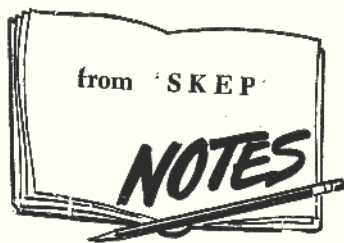
NICHOLAS'

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for *Beginners*

The Editor has written to remind me that it will soon be November so I thought I would get to work without further delay. The winter is over, bees wintered well, the willow flow was good and today the four month drought has broken. After months of frosts, winds and clear skies it is pleasant indeed to listen to the rain, a nice warm rain too —just what the doctor ordered!

When writing these notes it has often occurred to me that they cannot help but be rather parochial. After all I have to live "somewhere" and not "everywhere." Readers therefore will have to adapt certain manipulations to suit their districts, the fundamentals are the same, it is just the timing, sources of nectar, supplies of pollen and the all important climate that vary. You will note that I have purposely kept off such contentious matters as marketing as I feel that these are not within the scope of "Notes for Beginners." Remember also that I can only write of beekeeping as I have found and practised it: that there is room for improvement in my methods is beyond all doubt. We must all strive constantly to increase efficiency and aim to get maximum returns from our efforts.

I have often listened to vivid descriptions of "short cut" methods of beekeeping. They sound grand and occasionally work, but I always subscribe to the view that while senseless toil is stupid there is a certain amount of irreducible and inevitable work without which your beekeeping venture is doomed, if not to failure, to only mediocre success.

The Social Side

Last week I went to a Field Day. It was an excellent function, perfect conditions, and I could not help remembering what a fund of knowledge I gleaned

from these Field Days when I was a Beginner with an unquenchable thirst for information. I strongly urge all beekeepers to attend these functions and take part in the exchange of ideas that are typical among apiarists. There was a formidable display of gadgets to help the beekeepers in his work. Some of them very simple in design but unquestionably labour savers. Others were costly and complicated and I could not help thinking that an able bodied man could have the job done by the time he had got the gadget fixed up and in working order. Apiaries are not always level and free from obstructions and this gadget business must be kept in its right perspective.

Those Bees

I always think that November is a very critical month. If the weather is hot and dry it usually means an early flow and little or no surplus honey, whereas if it is wet, while the prospects for a crop are good, feed disappears at an alarming rate. At no time should a hive be allowed to become short of stores; 15lbs of honey in the hive is the minimum and every effort should be made to ensure that this condition is met. The hives will now be getting fairly full of bees; about 12 to 14 frames of brood. This is the danger time for swarming. By now the third super should be on and the brood put down. It is at this time that Queen Excluders could come into use. Place them under the third super and bring any combs with honey in them up into this third super, replacing them with empty combs. Unless there is a flow on or feeding is resorted to it is not usual practice to use foundation at this stage. However I have put a couple of frames of foundation in the middle

of the second super when hives are very strong. It seems to give the nurse bees something to do and relieves congestion in the brood nest.

If the weather remains broken in December and no flow is on, the main task will be to hold the bees together until such time as there is a crop to be gathered. Swarm cells appear as if by magic and action must be taken. When using excluders the modified system of Demaree swam control is usually practiced in this district. That means confining the queen to the bottom super on one frame of unsealed brood, and apart from the outside pollen combs, filling out the super with drawn comb. The rest of the brood and honey is placed above the excluder and the queen, having a completely new brood nest, usually settles down to work again without further ado. It is necessary however to examine the brood raised above the excluder for cells in about six or seven days time. These must ALL be broken down. Do not believe the theory that the bees will not raise cells. They may not in some districts but until you can prove that they don't, take my advice and look. I have found as many as twenty large cells in hives that have been treated as suggested.

Introducing Queens

I have mentioned the introduction of young queens to hives that need them. I think a word of advice is called for here as a number of young queens are lost every year when trying to introduce them in spring and early summer to strong hives. Late autumn introduction is 100% efficient; early spring is quite satisfactory but after about Labour Day in this district it is quite customary to have only about 50% success. Folks will tell you of all sorts of ways of introducing queens that always give 100% success: try them if you wish but my advice is to introduce the purchased queens to nucleus colonies of young bees and when these colonies have built up to some strength, united them with the hives to be re-queened by the newspaper method. This is the surest way and provided care is taken to ensure that the bees do not eat through the paper till nightfall, is usually 100% successful.

The Crop

Having coped with the swarming trouble and got your bees in a settled state it is now just a matter of adding supers as required. Once the flow starts the desire to swarm usually disappears. Make sure that the brood nest is not honey bound. Sometimes a light early flow precedes the main flow; hives are not very strong and the bees are disinclined to take this honey through the excluders. The queen is restricted for laying room and consequently the field force is not available at the vital time. Just raise the frames of honey above the excluders and put empty combs in their place.

Danger — Bacilli Working !

I feel that I must once again stress the importance of always keeping a watchful eye open for A.F.B. This disease is the scourge of beekeeping and a little carelessness can lead to disaster. Although the disease usually shows up in spring or autumn there is no hard and fast rule. I have found it in spring, in summer, and in Autumn and once found a whole yard of twenty-five hives with a few cells in every hive during early December. This shows how important it is to maintain a perpetual vigilance. You hope you will not find any trouble but also hope that you will find it if it is there !

Extraction Without Tears

After last years initial effort in harvesting the crop you will no doubt have planned to make some alterations and improvements to your extracting plant. Make sure everything is in working order before you actually make a start. While minor adjustments are to be expected, it is most annoying to have to make major alterations when all the supers are full and the bees idle for want of room. You may have decided to try a few sections. These are not so easy to produce and a good flow is necessary to ensure a satisfactory article.

And so the culmination of another year's work looms into view. We all say "next year we will be wiser and do differently," and that is as it should be for we are always learning. Profit by your mistakes and have a Happy Christmas.

The Manuka

By J. H. Watson, Geraldine

In reply to Mr. F. A. Skinner's request in the August issue I would like to tell the little I know of the Manuka species.

Leptospermum Scoparium. Maori name:—Manuka. English name:—Tea-Tree. Flowers white or rosy and scentless. This is the most abundant of New Zealand shrubs and belongs to the Myrtle family. The name Tea Tree was acquired from the early settlers who used the leaves in place of tea, they contain a very aromatic oil which makes the wood so durable. There are many old Manuka drains still working in Southland. A crimson variety named *Nicholsii* was found at Kaiapoi and was selected as the novelty of the year by the Royal Horticulture Society of London some time just prior to the First World War. There are now many forms which are most exquisite in colour and size of bloom. So much for the commonly called Red Manuka.

Leptospermum ericoides. Maori name:—Manuka-rauriki but often called Kanuka. Flowers are white and very fragrant. This grows to a much greater height in suitable positions, sometimes attaining a height of over fifty feet and about three feet through the trunk.

Both trees have a wide distribution in both islands and are rated very high for fire wood, fence posts and white-bait net handles, the last being the main use as far as I am concerned.

As regards the Manuka blight I do not know a great deal about it, but in 1944 all the Red Manuka was wiped out in the Geraldine County. Last season was the first noticeable appearance of any blooming again.

We have never had any quantity of honey from the Kanuka and my opinion is that it blooms when the bees can get more easily accessible nectar supplies.

Pesticides Under Test

The N.Z. Journal of Agricultural Research of June, 1953, contains an article by T. Palmer-Jones on "Laboratory Methods for measuring the Toxicity of Pesticides to Honey Bees." The article gives a description of laboratory tests designed to study the effect upon

honey bees of pesticides acting as stomach and dry contact poisons. Methods are also given for measuring direct spray and fumigant action.

The ascending order of toxicity to bees of field application of the pesticides tested is considered to be toxaphene, strobane, thiodan, Primin, and diazinon.

Field applications of toxaphene and strobane would be expected to cause little mortality if made after bee activity has ceased, but applications of thiodan, Primin, and diazinon would be expected to cause heavy mortality.

Referring to Sodium Fluoracetate (Compound 1080) Mr. Palmer-Jones mentions that this potent rat- and mouse-killing agent is used in New Zealand for the destruction of rabbits and opossums. It was first applied in jam baits which are attractive to honey bees. When it was found at Wallaceville that the baits were highly toxic to bees, the lethal dose of 1080 as a stomach poison to bees was determined. Because of the co-operation of those applying the baits these are not now laid near apiaries at a time when bees are actively foraging and no losses have occurred. The use of jam baits is declining in favour of pellets and carrots impregnated with 1080, which do not attract bees.

A WARNING

Tests carried out at Wallaceville have shown that wood preservatives containing arsenic are toxic to bees and timber treated with them should on no account be used in hive construction. (D. L. Harrison, T. Palmer-Jones, R. G. Nairn.)

An article on this subject will appear shortly in the N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

Satisfied Customer

A customer was annoyed with the grocer because he was out of honey. So he said very solemnly: "It's hard to get honey just now, madam. You see, the bees are moulting."

She seemed quite satisfied with this excuse, and bought a jar of jam instead.—Quoted in "English Woman," August, 1958.

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Pesticide Tests in North Otago

Specially flown from England, a new insecticide was included among those used by the Department of Agriculture in recent tests in North Otago in an effort to find materials which would control pests without injuring beneficial insects such as honey bees and bumble bees.

The problem of finding materials to control pests is still receiving considerable attention and over the past three weeks some of the latest insecticides have been tested in the Oamaru district.

These tests have been carried out by officers of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, principal scientific officer, Wallaceville Animal Research Station, Mr. I. W. Forster, apiary instructor, Oamaru, and Mr. G. Jeffery, instructor in apiculture, Oamaru.

The newly-developed chemicals tested were thiodan and two systemics, rogor and endothian. Thiodan and rogor were found to be poisonous to bees visiting the plants, and they should not be used on flowering crops. Although tests are not yet completed, endothian shows considerable promise of being safe to bees.

While the keynote of the work has been to keep completely up to date by using the most newly developed insecticides, the old-established ones were not overlooked. In line with this, one of the main materials tested was D.D.T. It was found that D.D.T. emulsion, if applied before bees visited the crop, caused only slight mortality and should be valuable for use when a crop must be treated urgently to save it from destruction by pests.

Mr. Palmer-Jones, who has carried out much work of this nature in various parts of New Zealand, has found North Otago very suitable for the experiments. Excellent crops have been available. Farmers and beekeepers have given valuable co-operation and the aerial operator splendid service in putting the chemicals down exactly when and where required.

Permits to apply the sprays to flowering crops for experimental purposes were granted on the understanding that compensation would be paid for any damage done to honey bees.

— "Otago Daily Times," 30/10/58

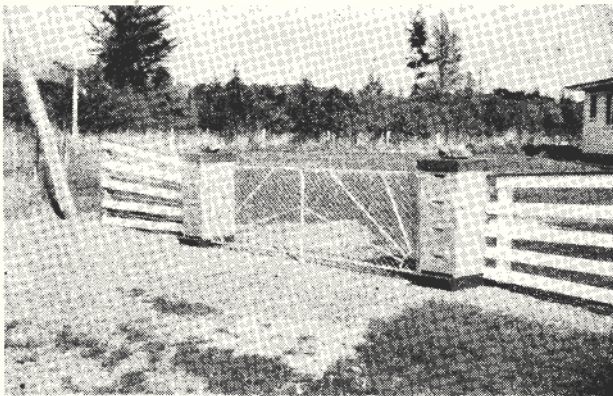


Photo by Sefton Line.

GATEPOST HIVES

These "hives" act as gateposts at the home of Ean Berry in Havlock North. The impression of supers was achieved by selecting wide boards for the boxing, while the lid is a single concrete slab so realistic that the overlap of the "tin" can be seen at the corners. The postman pops the mail in the top right "handgrip." The stone on top of each hive gives a final touch to these concrete monoliths.

Tour Winner Returns

Back from the flying trip around the world which she won in a radio quiz is Mrs. E. O. Ball, of Hook. With her son Robin, who is a student at the Lincoln Agricultural College, Mrs. Ball visited Sydney, Colombo, Italy, France, England and Scotland, the United States, Honolulu and Fiji in the course of five months, and now that she has returned she is wondering if the whole trip was a dream.

Some of the highlights of the trip were a week's stay with a French family near Bordeaux; a visit to "My Fair Lady" in London; several days' stay in Paris; the Chelsea Flower Show and the sight of an English spring.

"We did some youth-hostelling in the Lake Districts of England, and from Edinburgh to Oban," Mrs. Ball said. "We enjoyed the company from overseas. We listened to all sorts of languages, and saw their different customs and food. At some of the

hostels we cooked our own food. It was all a lot of fun."

She was surprised that dialects had not been more evened out in England. "In Devon and Cornwall some of the speech was thick and unintelligible," she said, "and in Yorkshire, it was just as broad as it was in my childhood in York. But I noticed a difference in the health of the children who appeared much more sturdy."

Mrs. Ball found unmistakable signs of racial tension in England, Ceylon (where she stayed with her brother and his wife) and in Fiji. "In Ceylon, street names are in English, Tamil and Singhalese," she said. "There is a lot of feeling between the Tamils and the Singhalese as well as between white and dark people.

"It's good to be back home for the spring," she said, "and to be able to breathe the sweet open air of New Zealand. That was one of the reasons why I took such a liking to Dartmoor. It had the feeling of the wide open spaces."—Timaru Herald.

Mr. F. D. Holt Retires

With the retirement of Mr. Frank Holt of Te Kauwhata from active bee-keeping comes an opportunity to pay tribute to one of the leaders of our industry who has helped it through difficult times to the relative stability that it knows today.

Frank Holt gave unselfish service to his fellow beekeepers. He was President of the South Auckland Branch from 1940-45 and 1954-56, a member of National Executive 1940-41, a Chairman of the Honey Suppliers Association and a member of the Honey Marketing Committee and later the Authority.

Frank's appeal to beekeepers lay in his ability to compel attention with a quiet voice and to command respect with unemotional statements of cool logic.

Those who have served with him on official bodies speak highly of his ability around a table when he usually

had less to say than anyone else, but was always listened to for his keen judgement.

Now that Frank is retiring, all who have known him for a long time will be looking back themselves to the earlier days. Frank tells how his introduction to beehives was around 1907 when he helped to take honey from 40 box-hives by using paper strips dipped in melted sulphur and saltpetre. By lighting the strips and pushing them in the entrance the bees were killed and the honey (and dead bees!) removed.

It is also interesting to hear him say that during his commercial bee-keeping over the past forty years two subjects have always been prominent.

1. The desire to maintain some form of co-operative marketing.
2. The effort to produce and market dark honeys and manuka.

If we can continue to give these problems the same quiet, philosophical objective consideration that was the hall-mark of Frank Holt's thinking, then they and many others will surely be solved. We extend to him the thanks and good wishes of New Zealand beekeepers.



Beekeeping in Canada

BY GEO. F. TOOGOOD

Beekeeping management in Canada and the U.S.A. differs from that in New Zealand in many ways. The hives themselves are of varying sizes, from the 8-framed standard hive to the jumbo 12-inch-deep hive. These latter hives are mostly one storey high and all the honey supers are $\frac{3}{4}$ -depth and they are a very popular hive; some of the highest yields of honey I ever handled were off these hives. Most North American frames are split-bottom frames and the sheets of foundation are pushed through the split bottom bar and fixed into the top bar by a side wedge which is nailed into place with several small nails and the sheet of wax has rows of fine beewire embedded in it. When the four frame wires are finally embedded there is a perfectly straight and tight sheet of wax and the combs are the best I have handled.

Apiary Management

When the hives are ready the beekeeper will look out a suitable site with good shelter and place the hives in two rows with the entrance facing outward so that they can be handled without hindering the bees. There may be one hundred hives and the nucleus hives in a yard. In Canada there are large beekeepers like the Peace River Honey Coy who ran 2000 hives of bees for extracted honey and put another 200 nucleus hives out with their yards. These small hives were put on top of standard hives to replace poor units—we never tolerated a weak or a queenless colony. In America, the breeders are doing a very good thing by improving the honey bees, using several races, and the special hybrids which we had brought in 40lbs more honey than did the pure Italians. The hybrid bees, however, can be a bit cross to handle if the weather is cool.

In Canada a large number of beekeepers, large and small, get package

bees from the States, especially California. You can get all the different races of bees in 2, 3, 4 or 5lb. packages. The package bees build up very quickly as the weather is really fine and of course the package bees go into supers which have been heated in the hot room. The bees are shaken into the hives at night and the queen released with the bees and the mat put on quickly along with the lid. The hive has only a small entrance for a month or so. The brood combs are all inspected beforehand and are put in the hive this way: Two frames of honey against the side of the hive and then a good frame of pollen, then four good dark combs, then another good comb of pollen and finally two more combs of the best honey. One thing New Zealand beekeepers should note, the bees go into a hive which has the combs warm and the queen will lay as soon as the bees have the cells cleaned for her.

Canada and the States in parts have a huge growth of dandelions and I have seen thousands of acres of golden yellow and the two brood chambers stocked full of dandelion honey. When this honey was coming in we put on the supers of foundations. With drawn comb we put on supers of eight frames spaced by a frame spacer. All hives are on good stands made of the best of timber and all have excluders on, and the second brood chamber is pushed about an inch to give the hive more ventilation.

Disease

All Canadians are on the lookout for both American and European foul-brood. European foul-brood can be cured by using the proper methods.

New Zealand is well ahead of Canada and the U.S.A. in the control of AFB. They have been using sulfathiazole and once you use it the hives must be fed all the time with this drug. It will halt the disease, but stop feeding and you will have a hundred per cent diseased yard again. In parts of Canada and the States AFB has a tremendous hold and the beekeepers have a big job on their hands getting the hives cleaned and starting off fresh again.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Toogood is a well known Southland beekeeper who returned to New Zealand recently after spending several years in Canada. During his stay there he worked as foreman for the Peace River Honey Company at Dawson Creek, British Columbia.

When we found hives with AFB we marked them from top to bottom. The diseased honey was brought in at the end of the season and extracted, combs melted, frames sterilised, supers, lids and roofs put in a steam boiler—so hot that the paint came off—and we never had any disease from any equipment we had treated.

The Apiary Inspectors had very big districts and they are doing a good job. All yards of bees must be registered and there is a fine of 100 dollars if this is not carried out.

Nectar Sources

Canada and the States have an abundance of honey plants such as sweet clover, red clover, white clover, lucerne, fire-weed, buck-wheat and a host of other plants which all yield large crops in some areas. We in Canada had the dandelion to boost the hives in the spring and then came the sweet clover, a beautiful sight to look at and a heavy yielder. It grows three to four feet high and lasts for many weeks, and then there are the huge lucerne fields and the red clover fields and finally the alsike clover fields which made one of the main crops for honey and seed in the rich land of the Peace River. Farmers in Canada and the States are keen to have bees and will do all they can to help the beekeeper.

In Canada the summer weather is hot—not like some of our fickle weather in New Zealand. I have handled hives ten and eleven supers high and full of honey and the honeys in the Peace River district are all white and as good as any New Zealand can produce. In the States there is white, amber and dark honey. I have tried buck-wheat—have a look at a drum of molasses and you can get an idea of that honey.

Honey Harvest

Americans and Canadians can show New Zealanders how to take off, extract, handle, and pack honey and leave us in the dark. The large beekeepers send out to their yards the latest honey loader on a truck—the Don loader—and it is worked on the truck at the back of the cab by a couple of batteries. A fellow gets the loader and swings out the boom, working the device by a button, and it will grip four supers of honey at

a time. With a press of the button and a swing of the boom a fellow can place four supers on the truck at once, and they are put on pallets for easy handling and unloading.

The bee escape they used was one of the best I have seen. This escape takes the hard work out of getting the bees from the supers. We also had a super-lifter and two of us used to lift up four or five supers while another man put this escape under them. The bees were out of those supers in no time and we had about 800 of these escapes. We would haul a couple of loads of honey into the honey house, about 7½ tons at a time, and put more escapes on the next days, and haul honey the next day again. I brought this escape back with me and I tried it out in Southland in both summer and winter. The hives used were full of bees from top to bottom and when I put on this escape every bee went through it.

I hope to see this escape described soon in the Journal of Agriculture. Its success is in the placing of the two holes in the centre, as proved when we tried it out in Canada. If placed at the end, the bees in cool weather, may cluster over the escape board. We took off in 1954 with this escape 100 tons of extracted honey, in 1955 150 tons, and in 1956 about 160 tons, and they told me in a letter they took another 161 tons in 1957. If a person had to brush or use the New Zealand escapes it would never be handled. I have brought this bee escape here for New Zealand and, I hope, Australian beekeepers.

I have a lifter and other gadgets which I brought back and I know how the fellows in other parts of the world do things with bees and honey and equipment. Carbolic is used in Canada and the States but has to be handled with great care as a lot of honey becomes tainted through careless handling.

Honeyhouse Equipment

The Peace River Honey Co. extracting room was about 40ft. by 30ft., with a beautiful varnished hard-wood floor, walls and roof packed with rock wool to hold the heat, the walls painted with aluminium paint and the ceiling covered with tin foil rolled paper. With a large electric and gas heater and a

blower the room was a good place to work in and this was a boon to the one who handled the supers of honey for extracting. 400 full supers were held all the time for extracting, on top of non-leak pallets, and when the supers were extracted they were put on pallets for wheeling right on to the truck. If the supers were not going out to the field they were put down the chute to the concrete floor where the 10,000 supers were stacked in rows thirty high and covered with excluders to keep out mice.

This honeyhouse was one of the most up to date in Canada and was made of aluminium with steel beams and girders. The three 50-frame extractors were of stainless steel and were steam heated and there was an electric motor on top of each of them. The extractors had lids which could be raised on hinges. The honey was extracted by several girls using steam heated knives with the steam tubes going through the handles. All the latest uncapping gadgets were tried out and the steam heated knife was the best. This outfit had two Brand capping melters which were of stainless steel with a copper grid, and steam heated. All the honey ran into a four foot square honey strainer which was heated with steam in the bottom, and the honey went through a coarse screen, a medium screen and a fine screen into a heated tank below. About four uncapping knives were used and the girls put the uncapped frames into two long boxes ready for the extractor.

The hot wax was run through strainers into 3-gallon milk pails which are ideal to put wax into and to get the blocks out again. Nice clean wax came off the melters, over two tons each season, and it brought the highest market price in Canada.

The honey which was extracted above in the honey room was held in a steam heated one-ton tank below and was piped to any of six tanks in the warm room. These tanks were of stainless steel and were covered, holding 13 tons of honey at a time. The gas-heated steam boiler and water heater were next to the warm room and the steam and hot water were piped and broken down where needed. In this honeyhouse hot and cold water and showers were available to the men and women in different rooms.

Marketing

The honey from the tanks was run into 70lb. drums and this is where the New Zealand beekeepers are years and years behind. The drums can be bought or hired from any of the large honey companies in Canada at a small charge and they can be emptied and returned. We used to have 1000 70lb. drums always on hand. These drums are well made and the lids are made with a rubber band to be leak proof, and the liquid honey can be sent safely.

We had the honey hauled by truck to Edmonton 350 miles away, ten and a half tons per load, and the haulage was paid by the buying company. In New Zealand a beekeeper puts his two 60lb. tins in a case, cost 15/-, and they are never seen again. In a modern beekeeping country like Canada and the States you get your drums back again and there is no need for cases. All the beekeepers are very clean in the handling of honey and the supers on the trucks are well covered from dust and rain. I once saved a load of five tons of honey by having it well covered and tied down. A front wheel came off the truck and I finished upside down in a gully, but the load was still intact.

Honey is well advertised in Canada and the States and is put up in very nice 1lb. tubs, and 2lb. 4lb. and 8lb. tins, and special liquid honey is put up with chunk honey in bottles.

Not all the bees are killed in Canada and the northern United States; there are tens of thousands of colonies successfully brought through the hard winters. There are very good bee journals which are full of everything relating to bees and honey. Canada and the States have their experimental bee farms and their findings are passed on to the beekeeper.

Finally I will say the American and Canadian beekeepers are very fine fellows to know and to work for, and they readily help one another. When I had the accident with the truck a small beekeeper came to our help and hauled in the honey for us to be extracted while the truck was being repaired. We also were able to help him at other times. I am hoping for the day when I will be back again with my Canadian and American beekeeper friends.

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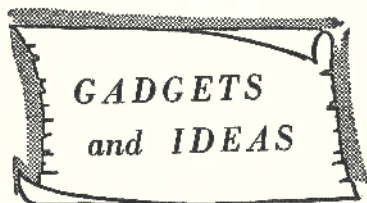
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Reprinted from American Bee Journal

To Prevent Wire from Unrolling

In wiring frames, when the wire on the spool is cut it always unwinds. To avoid this, use a piece of copper tubing about four inches long, curved slightly and fastened to the wiring board between the wire spool and the frame. Pass the wire through the tubing when the wire is cut and it not allow the wire to unroll.

To Prevent Honey Overrunning

Every one knows how annoying it is to have honey overrun the top of the cans when they are being heated in a hot water bath. I went to my auto supply dealer and bought a sump gun. It is used by mechanics to remove oil. Now when the crystallised honey begins to melt, the gun removes a pint of honey at a time without having to lift the can to drain the overflow.

Tyres for Hive Stands

Do not throw away those worn out automobile tyres. They make good hive stands and will last for years. To keep water from collecting in them cut two or three holes in the side of each tyre next to the ground.

Bringing the Colonies Up to Strength In Spring

I take nurse bees from my strongest colonies and shake them in front of the weakest ones, without bothering those of medium strength. (Just shake all the bees of the comb in front. The field bees will return to the hive from which they came. The young bees will go into the new hive). With a spring dwindler I start with a shake from one comb, increasing the number later. Never disturb it beforehand to look for the queen. With normal weak colonies, try three combs on the first shaking, repeat in two days until all hives reach equal strength before the flow. Early swarming is eliminated and all colonies are about alike during the flow.

Rope for Smoker Fuel

I had been using burlap bags and sometimes sumac bobs for smoker fuel, but one day last summer I ran out of both and cut up some old rope into short pieces to fit into the smoker. It worked so well that I have used rope ever since and find that it is superior to other fuel and lasts longer.

Ease in Nailing Frames

To prevent frames from splitting when they are nailed together, soak all parts to be nailed in water about two to five minutes. This way, you will seldom find any frames to be repaired, and the nails are driven twice as fast and straight in the wet wood.

Commonsense bows to the inevitable and makes use of it. It does not ask an impossible chessboard, but takes the one before it, and plays the best game.

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The Gin Makers

A Prominent Beekeeper recently received the following letter from an apiary instructor who shall be nameless:—

I have been asked by some beekeepers to obtain from you some information on what the August issue of the "Beekeeper" refers to as a "nefarious trade" (Page 42).

Having made mead, more or less successfully, they now wish to experiment further: is juniper to be obtained in essence, oil, or what? What length of pipe is usual for a coil?

These people are awaiting an early reply, as their town is remote from the variety of entertainment or interests of larger places, and anything calculated to make the place lit up and lively will be very welcome.

In an effort to assist the Cause he has replied as follows:—

"This gin business, together with current prices and scarcity of other liquor, has aroused a lot of interest, and the problems of the H.M.A. are likely to be lightened thereby, judging from the number of enquiries I have received, mostly from people with some previous experience in the art of laying down a Home Brew.

"But no one I have been able to reach is willing to confess to having played with a WORM, which is a nefarious instrument, whose use has been discouraged by legislatures in the past, and prone to confiscation by the constabulary, after having been shown in the courts as EXHIBIT A.

"Times change, and now, an expert distiller, far from being a felon, is a Person to Know and Get In Touch With.

"So while I appreciate the desire of your friends in — to brighten the place up a bit, I am not of much practical help, save in the sampling line, when I would be glad to Give An Expert Opinion. Incidentally, I was in — once many years ago, and, like your friends, consider it a place badly in need of Distillation.

"The effectiveness or otherwise of the Worm as Finally Decided On could perhaps be gauged effectively by a Well-timed Sniff at the discharge, or unloading, end. Should the inhalation

be pure ozone, then you would know She Was Working O.K. On the other hand, if she was wasting her sweetness on the desert air, then the Sniffing would be accompanied, or followed, by a Spinning Sensation. Then you would know she was Not Doing The Job, and you would have to Lengthen Her a Bit.

"As for flavouring material, well, some prefers Juniper, and some adds Oleander, but what could be simpler than a good dash of turpentine? Should this not appeal, I would strongly urge that some consideration be given to using berries of the tutu plant. Results from these are certain, sure and swift, though not necessarily pleasurable. But then, you can't Have Everything, can you? This is probably the Maori alternative to juniper which you mention, because the phrase 'He was well Tutued' comes down in folklore from time immemorial to describe the condition of one who has Imbibed Well But Not Wisely.

"Do let me know how they get on: I shall watch the obituary columns carefully meantime."



"I'm keeping the bees on shares—the owner gets the honey and I get the work."

— From Gleanings.

Bees and Architecture

HEXAGONAL SYSTEM ADOPTED FOR STORAGE BINS

The honey bee has to be lauded as much for his great engineering skill as for his famed industry. In the contiguous hexagonal storage cells of the honey-comb, he has combined economy of materials with high strength, the goal of all structural engineers.

From the bee has developed the building in concrete of storage cells for barley in the new grain cleaning department of the modernised and greatly extended works of the Canterbury (N.Z.) Malting Co. Ltd. at Heathcote where most of New Zealand's brewing malt is produced. Although the principle of the cells is not new the methods and details of construction in the design of the works by Campbell, Hamann and Partners are novel. The firm has designed all the new extensive buildings.

A battery of 16 concrete bins is in the new building, measuring 90 feet by 60 feet, and 56 feet high, now being constructed by the contractors, the Fletcher Construction Company.

Only three regular geometric shapes — the triangle, rectangle, and hexagon — can be nested in contact with each other to cover completely the area on which they stand, and of these the hexagon is the most efficient because it uses only some 90 per cent of the walling required by a rectangle affording the same storage volume and about 80 per cent of that required by the triangle.

"Whether the bee arrived at the honeycomb by way of the calculus or by countless generations of trial and error is less interesting than that he produced in the end the almost perfect structure, and certainly the practical ideal," said Mr. Hamann.

Outward Pressure

Bulk stored goods, dry or wet, exert outward "hydrostatic" pressures on the surfaces that hold them. If the surface is flat it must be stiffened with ribs, buttresses and such like. If it is circular and the material of which it is made has intrinsic tensile strength it will stand by itself as a canvas paddling pool does; but even if the con-

tainer itself lacks internal strength, it can still be held together by tie rods just as the staves of barrels are held by thin hoops.

The hexagon approaches this circular shape sufficiently for hoop action to develop and so lead in the saving of those materials which would otherwise be needed if the pressures had to be resisted solely by bending action in flat planes.

A battery of bins, each about 12 feet wide across the corners, is under construction. The bins are vertical and the tops of the parallel sides are about 40ft above the floor. At the lower end each bin will have a pyramidal steel hopper and a controlled outlet port feeding mechanical conveyors below. Grain will be fed in through the roof slabs. — Christchurch "Press," 18/3/58.

Honey on Porridge

Just try putting a big blob of honey on your breakfast porridge. Let it melt a bit and then pour creamy milk on. Good!

It is not doing the thing we like to do, but liking the thing we have to do, that makes life blessed.

Not all women are guilty of repeating gossip. One of them has to start it.

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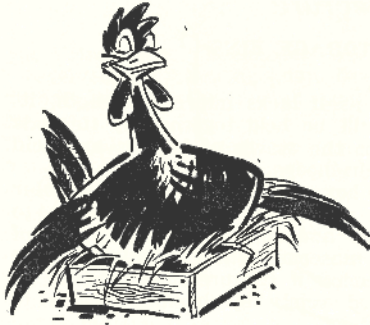
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Reflections . . .

from the
Editor's Desk

Twenty Years

With this issue "The New Zealand Beekeeper" completes its twentieth year of publication. There were some earlier periodicals devoted wholly or partly to beekeeping and although the way was not always plain sailing they gave an excellent service to the honey producers of those days. The place which has been attained by the present Journal is perhaps an indication that a further stage in the progress and unity of the beekeeping industry has now been reached.

The "Beekeeper" is indebted to those who have supported it and contributed to its pages during the past twenty years. It was Mr. L. F. Robins, at that time Dominion President of the National Beekeepers Association (now Secretary of the South Canterbury Branch), who played the leading part in founding the official organ and who coined the slogan "Better Beekeeping—Better Marketing." In January, 1939, the Journal was launched and put safely into orbit, and under the diligent Editorial care of the late Mr. G. S. Kirker, followed by Mr. W. J. Lennon, it became firmly established as the beekeepers' magazine. Another name which should be mentioned specifically is that of Mr. E. A. Field who has been associated with the Journal during almost the whole of its existence, first as Dominion President and later as Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority. He was one who realised the importance of an industry publication and he guarded it carefully along the way.

We hope that the Journal will continue to give a useful service to beekeepers.

Its success in the future, as in the past, will rest largely upon the support it receives from its readers.

New Address

When an address like 190 Otipua Road, Timaru, is altered on our mailing list it surely makes news, and in this case the incumbent thereof (inset) has



moved to Hadlow, No. 4 R.D., Timaru. The Otipua Road address seemed to absorb something of the character of its owner and like a handful of others which come to mind it helped to create the atmosphere of our honey industry.

Everyone who knew the address will remember the vigorous attitudes which emerged from it and everyone who called there will remember its friendly hospitality.

The change to a rural scene is a progressive move as the expanding business had outgrown the confines of a suburban section. At Hadlow the work will be carried on in an attractive and commodious setting and in modern premises which are a credit to the industry. We wish Bob and Mrs. Davidson a pleasant life in their new home.

Spring Song

If winter comes can spring be far behind? This year it came again with unerring certainty and the long spell of fine weather, in our locality at any rate, seemed to give emphasis to the

transformation. When the catkins are on the willows and the apiary sends forth that gentle and contented murmur and the little shoals of bees are dropping down quietly into the hive entrances it is enough to gladden the heart of any beekeeper. About the same time we had a blackbird raising a batch of youngsters in the apiary hedge and our six ewes with military precision came to light with six pairs of lambs.

For further evidence of the arrival of spring in our particular district how about the annual effort of the local drama society? There is no need to comment here on the histrionic merit of the performance but the village hall was packed to the doors for the occasion thus proving that the show was a success. Perhaps it benefited from its co-inciding with the peak of the whitebaiting season, a time when the enthusiasm of the riverside community really works itself up to concert pitch.

All in all the prospects for the coming honey crop are extremely good. They always are at this time of the year.



To the Editor

The Seal Levy

Dear Sir,—At the last Dominion conference in Wellington the Minister of Agriculture stated that the seals levy was paid by the consumer. Could you please tell me if this is correct, i.e., is the seals levy built in to the cost structure on which the Price Order is based and would the price that the beekeeper charges for packed honey be reduced by 1d per lb. if the seals levy was removed?

If the consumer is paying the seals levy then surely Honey Marketing Authority voting papers should be attached to every carton of honey so that the real seals purchasers may vote.

If the consumer is paying the seals levy by what right do the seals collectors (that is the packers) vote for H.M.A. candidates?

Similarly, what is the justification for the H.M.A. granting the N.B.A.

£1000 p.a. if the former body receives funds from only one section of producers?

This is a genuine inquiry and I am using this method of finding an answer because I have heard a number of discussions since the minister's statement and I believe that the matter should be settled once and for all. Either the seals levy is a simple cost factor such as petrol or cartons or anything else or it is not.

I look forward to your reply and an end to this discussion.

Yours faithfully,

R. R. CHANDLER.

26/10/58.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: In our opinion the seal levy is a genuine contribution from producers towards the cost of organising the market for their product, as it was originally intended to be. The purpose of the Price Order is to protect the consumer and if the levy is reckoned as part of the cost structure it is because the Tribunal recognises it as a legitimate marketing cost. The seal is a means by which producers are able to pool their resources in a co-ordinated effort.

Theoretically, if the pool suppliers had wished independently to exact a levy on consumers they could have done so by means of a surcharge on the Authority's packs. This would be impracticable, of course, because on an open market the Authority must accept the ruling price, as every other seller does. The consumer's concern is with the honey he buys and not with the seal on the container.

However, even if the seal, universally applied, were regarded as a levy on consumers we still cannot see why the revenue from it should be entrusted to one particular section of producers.]

The Need for Statistics

Sir,—For years it has been apparent that we can place no reliance on the crop estimates compiled by the Apiaries staff. With a discrepancy of 2000 tons between the estimated crop and the amount represented by the collection of seals, the hunt is now on to have the seals tax levied on all honey sold, a procedure which will bring us another step nearer the police state in the effort to enforce it. After having heard an instructor tell a beekeepers' meeting how the estimate is arrived at I would say that the 2000 tons supposed to be

sold at the apiaries would turn out to be well under 500 tons after all the policing.

The first thing that we as producers should decide is the purpose for which we require accurate information. The value of it depends first on its accuracy and secondly on the use we can make of it when it is ours alone. It is important for us as sellers to know whether honey is scarce or plentiful and to the trade as buyers it is equally important. If we decide that we want the information for ourselves alone, then we must rule out any suggestion that the Government should have a hand in collecting it. If they do, then everybody is entitled to it. If we collect the information through our own organisation the information is ours to use in organising our selling programme on an intelligent basis. If the industry wants a reliable crop report it must do the job itself.

The National is the obvious medium for collecting the statistics but it all comes back to the individual producers in the extent to which they are prepared to play ball with the National. Crop report forms should be sent out to all beekeepers with over 25 hives for information of the amount of previous seasons honey on hand, an estimate of the current crop as at January 31 to be followed at the end of March by a revised estimate plus or minus the first one and a final report when extracting is finished. The information given should be confidential and known only to the secretary of the National who would give out only the totals only to those who give the information. That would be an important aspect of the system and only those participating would benefit. They would have the sense to keep it to themselves. It might be said that the returns made would not be true. If anyone thought he could fool the others by faking his return he would really be fooling himself for he could not rely on the totals. There is no reason why the National could not make an effort in the coming season to inaugurate such a scheme.

What I have suggested is but the beginning of a much more comprehensive and useful scheme if all concerned could but see the advantage it would give them in following orderly marketing. We know the population of New Zealand and we have the figures of the export of honey and the amount

supplied to the Marketing Authority, but do we know the amount delivered to the trade month by month? If we knew that, we could keep our fingers on the pulse of the honey market and we could collectively and individually follow an intelligent policy on marketing.

If all concerned would consider carefully what I have suggested they would soon realise that a complete scheme of monthly returns from all producers and packers showing the stock position from time to time would be invaluable by enabling us to bring about orderly marketing in such a way as has never been attempted before. The information would be ours and ours alone. All our troubles in the past have been through beekeepers taking action without any knowledge of the statistical position of honey. Having exhausted the outlet for direct sales, they have unloaded their surplus on their own organisation set up for the purpose of orderly marketing (what a nice ring of sincerity that phrase has) and it has been sunk by the flood of unexpected surplus unsaleable because the price cutters have been unloading. Even now the price cutters are at work, the packers are loaded up and could take no more and a jump in production in a good season could land another 1000 tons on the Authority which is the last resource of those who think they are shrewd. The tactics of those who are cutting the prices either directly or indirectly by selling to grocers at merchant prices are bringing the honey industry into disrepute amongst the merchants who are losing interest in handling honey. Producers must close their ranks and come into line on what fair trading tactics consist of and a positive rather than a negative line of action must be agreed on if we are to catch up some of the ground which we have lost. The temporary good selling conditions for exports will not last when the surplus of the current record crop in U.S.A. arrives on the European market and a record crop here could be a disaster. The National went to the new Government for price assistance but the Government knew that the beekeepers did not need the assistance when they were cutting prices.

If you disagree with what I have said let us hear your better views and if you agree with me then do something about it before it is too late.

Leeston, 16/10/58

W. B. Bray

[**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The first paragraph in the above letter prompted us to refer it to the Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry (Mr. E. Smaellie), who writes as follows:— "While I do not wish to make any comment in reply to Mr. Bray, I am fully aware of the difficulties associated with making accurate crop forecasts and assessments of a season's crop yields. I would be pleased to discuss this subject with the Executive of your Association at a suitable opportunity in order that possible improvements can be made."]

Sir.—In your last issue "Supplier" not only refuses to reveal his identity but attempts to throw the proverbial red herring across the trail by inquiring: "If he were a candidate for election to the H.M.A. this year would he be eligible." My answer is yes. I would be eligible and I will continue to be eligible as long as I am serving on this AUTHORITY.

If "Supplier" wants any further information relevant to my status, past or present, I will be glad to supply same if he will communicate with me direct and provide me with similar information concerning himself.—
21 Seacliffe Avenue Wallace Nelson
Belmont, Takapuna
Auckland.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank those beekeepers who voted for me in the recent H.M.A. election. Provided the producers adopt a realistic attitude and face up to their responsibilities I am confident that the

Authority can, and will, fulfil the purpose for which it was instituted.

I am fully conscious of my responsibilities and promise to give a true and accurate account of my stewardship.
Geraldine, 24/10/58 G. E. Gumbrell

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QUEENS

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Hobbyist Beekeeper
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I AM 16 years of age and wish to become an assistant beekeeper. I am willing to go anywhere in the North Island. Write to Gavin Lambert, P.O. Box 87, Opotiki.

★ PERSONAL ★

I wish to thank all those who supported me in the Honey Marketing Authority election. I can assure them I have appreciated very much their support through the difficult and early years of the Authority. I will acknowledge all personal letters as soon as possible.

E. A. FIELD, Foxton.

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