

# *The New Zealand Beekeeper*

FEBRUARY 1959



**An Apiary in Hawkes Bay**

# The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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Number 1

## Visit of Dr. Dyce

During October and November New Zealand was favoured by a visit from one of the world's foremost authorities on bees and honey in Dr. E. J. Dyce, Professor of Apiculture at Cornell University, U.S.A. Dr. and Mrs. Dyce visited most of the tourist resorts and places of interest in the Dominion, their itinerary being arranged with the help of the Department of Agriculture. The visitors were assisted by the Apiary Instructors in the different districts and were able to meet many beekeepers as well as attending organised meetings at Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin and Gore. In Hawke's Bay they saw lemon, apple and peach orchards, fruit-packing factories, and fields of asparagus and peas for the canneries, and as an item of special interest they were shown a real live kiwi.

In addressing the meetings Dr. Dyce showed colour slides featuring various aspects of honey production in America, and discussed the latest developments in beekeeping practice. He was particularly interested in labour-saving methods of which he found some new and useful instances in New Zealand apiaries. Possessing a tremendous fund of knowledge in apiculture, he has an easy and genial manner and the meetings were a treat for all who were able to attend.

Dr. Dyce is on sabbatical leave and will visit Australia and countries in the East and in Europe before returning to the United States.



Dr. Dyce handed New Zealand beekeepers a bouquet when he told an "Otago Daily Times" reporter that the Dominion's honey was second to none. "New Zealand is one of the top honey-producing countries of the world. Not only is the quality high, but production is good, and there is a very good



organisation for marketing, especially overseas."

He attributed the quality of honey in New Zealand to clover—the predominant source of pollen and nectar.

There were some things New Zealand could learn from the United States, but he had been shown labour-saving devices here he had never seen before.

"The main thing about beekeeping is not the honey and not the beeswax, but pollination," he explained. "Pollination is the basis of the whole of agriculture, and that is why beekeeping is being fostered.

"With the greater use of insecticides today the wild bee population is being hit, and most countries have been smart enough to keep the industry going."

And as for the use of honey, he asserted flatly: "The average person does not eat enough."

The fact that eating honey could make people immune to hay fever of various types was mentioned by Dr. Dyce in a press interview at Invercargill. He said that each gram of honey contained 1,700 pollen grains. Normal treatment for hay fever was to inject pollen to build up a resistance to allergies. By eating honey the counter was taken to many kinds of pollen which produced hay fever.

★ ★ ★

Dr. Dyce does not favour the use of sulfa drugs in the treatment of foul brood. These drugs do not stamp out the disease but keep it below the surface as long as the treatment continues. Thus it is possible for the spores of the disease to be spread through the apiary equipment and the trouble then recurs, perhaps on a wider scale, when the treatment is stopped.

★ ★ ★

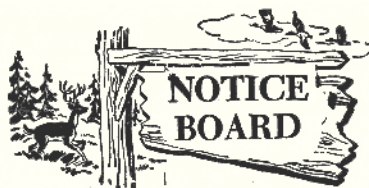
One of the things which impressed Dr. Dyce in New Zealand was the extensive use of electrical appliances, especially heating units, by honey producers. In America the cost of electricity is much higher and beekeepers have to rely more on steam boilers operated by fuel.

★ ★ ★

"I hope New Zealand beekeepers will never filter their honey," said Dr. Dyce at the Gore meeting. In America much honey is filtered by using filter aids and pressure equipment, the result being a very clear product which is sold as liquid honey in glass. No doubt it has a fine appearance but unfortunately the food value and natural qualities of the honey are impaired in the process. When one packer installs the expensive plant others are obliged to do likewise and the result is a net loss to everyone, especially the consumer.

★ ★ ★

Dr. and Mrs. Dyce will spend the best part of a year in the course of their world tour. We wish them a pleasant and interesting journey and a safe return to their home in the United States.



#### 1959 Conference

The Annual Dominion Conference will be held this year in Timaru, probably in July.

#### HONEY MARKET IN U.K.

(Reprinted from the Bank of New Zealand Produce Department Report, 3/2/59).

The honey market in the United Kingdom continues to be very quiet, with prices tending to ease, reports the London office of the Bank of New Zealand in its monthly trade survey. New Zealand white clover honey is in demand, but there is not sufficient to meet requirements. Quotations are (per cwt c.i.f.):

New Zealand:	
Light amber	127/6
Extra light amber	147/6
White clover	170/-
Australian:	
Light amber	92/6
Medium amber	85/- to 87/6
Argentine: Light amber	106/-
Jamaican: F.a.q.	116/-
Mexican: Light amber	85/-
U.S.A.: White clover	135/-

#### United States Honey Crop

The 1958 honey crop is estimated at 252,134,000 pounds, 4 per cent more than last year. Total colonies for this year in production were 5,401,000 compared with 5,396,000 last year.

—"Gleanings."

#### Executive Meeting

The Dominion Executive was to meet in Wellington on February 25 and 26.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



## AID FOR BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

Following the exchange of correspondence between the Association and the Minister of Agriculture, as published in our November issue, the Executive and the Honey Marketing Authority considered the proposed widening of the incidence of the seal levy. It is contended, however, that no important quantity of honey escapes the levy and the difficult matter of introducing and enforcing any extension could not be justified. Both bodies are therefore opposed to an increase in either the rate or the scope of the levy and the Minister has been advised that this scheme is unacceptable. The Executive is now awaiting a further reply from the Minister to the original request for an annual grant to the Honey Marketing Authority sufficient to bring the payout to suppliers in any year up to the Cost-of-Production figure.

### Cost-of-Production Figures

The Director-General of Agriculture has advised on the re-casting of the 1952 Cost-of-Production Survey which was completed on January 14, 1959. The only major variation in costs is that for motor vehicle expenses resulting from the petrol price rise.

The final figures show an increase of 0.3 pence per lb on the 1957 revision, bringing the production cost per lb to 14.2 pence. This figure is reduced 0.5 pence per lb by estimated wax recovery so that the net cost of production per lb of honey is now shown as 13.7 pence.

### Survey of Producers' Accounts

The Price Control Division of the Department of Industries and Commerce is conducting a survey of producers' accounts in order to obtain statistical records of value to the Division when considering future price changes. Negotiations have taken place between the Executive and the Division, as already intimated to Branches, so as to ensure that the range of producers selected, and the nature of the information requested, will give a fair representation of the state of the industry. Producers who are approached by the Division are asked to co-operate fully in the survey.

## Farmers Support Chemicals Bill

At a meeting of the Council of the Dominion Agriculture Produce Section of Federated Farmers, held in Christchurch on November 26, consideration was given to the control of chemicals and the following resolution was passed: "That the Agricultural Chemicals Bill be approved and that urgency be asked for."

### Air Work Symposium

An "Air Work Symposium" is planned for April, May or June by the Civil Aviation Administration, with participation by Aerial Operators, Chemical Manufacturers, Government Departments and interested organisations. Speakers will be invited from Commonwealth organisations which are able to make useful contributions.

Steps are being taken to have the beekeeping industry suitably represented and it is hoped to arrange an address and films on "Agricultural Chemicals and the Honeybee."

### Agricultural Chemicals

The final draft of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill has been referred to the Executive and other interested organisations and it appears that this measure will at last be introduced to Parliament in the next session. Meantime certain weaknesses in the Apiaries Protection Regulations (which were a stop-gap measure pending the passage of the Bill) have become apparent with proposals to spray certain non-cruciferous or leguminous crops in which there is an abundant undergrowth of flowering clover. During the past summer deep anxiety was aroused in South Canterbury when it was proposed to spray cocksfoot with metasystox in spite of the presence of clover flowers, while in North Canterbury cases of dust drift from treated crops to adjacent pastures threatened to cause serious bee losses. In these instances urgent steps were taken through the Department of Agriculture to prevent bee mortality.

A further cause for concern in recent months has been the use of jam baits containing 1080 and the assistance of the Director of Horticulture has been sought in preventing the use of jam for this purpose, especially during the summer period when bee losses are more likely to occur.

## Exemption From Petrol Tax

As a result of the Executive's representations to Government, beekeepers will now be afforded the same privilege as other farmers in exemption from Petrol Tax. It should be noted however that the exemption does not apply to vehicles used on the road but does cover the following: Tractors and unlicensed trucks not running on the road; stationary petrol motors; petrol driven implements; loaders; saw-benches, etc.

The procedure adopted is that the full price is paid for the petrol at the time of purchase and application is made for refund quarterly through local Post Offices on forms supplied at such offices. Claims must be supported by invoices or a declaration from the petrol reseller showing the number of gallons purchased during the quarter for use in the above-mentioned machines.

## Petrol Booking Fee

The legality of the booking fee for petrol was tested during the last session of Parliament when a question was asked in the House of the Minister of Industries and Commerce (the Hon. P. N. Holloway), as to whether the booking fee of 5/- per month proposed by petrol resellers contravenes the Price Order which fixes the retail price of petrol. The booking fee of 5/- would mean that a person using 20 gallons per month would pay 3d a gallon extra.

The Minister replied that the Motor Spirits Prices Regulations do not fix a maximum price for motor spirits sold on credit. However, any person who objects to an extra charge can obtain the protection of a fixed maximum price by paying cash for his motor spirit.

## Tins For Honey Packaging

A recent amendment to the Health Regulations covering food packaging requires all soldered containers to be lacquered in any case where the food-stuff or part thereof comes into contact with the container. The effect of this is that tins used for honey packaging if soldered must be lacquered in an approved manner and some beekeepers have already been served with requisitions by the Health Department in this connection. The regulation appears to be of recent origin and as most bee-

keepers will be holding substantial stocks of the old type unlacquered tins representations have been made to the Health Department for permission to utilise existing stocks before enforcement action is taken.

The Department have now advised that it is prepared to take no action for twelve months, that is until November 30, 1959, in order that existing stock may be used.

When re-ordering stocks of such tins producers must be careful however to specify that the tins and lids are suitably lacquered.

## Heavy Traffic Licensing

In 1955 Transport Licensing Regulations came into being to control the issue of licences for vehicles in the "Heavy Traffic" category. Under the provisions of these regulations beekeepers and other farmers already operating vehicles of 6½ tons or more gross laden weight were given automatic licences to operate their vehicles up to December 1, 1958, the intention being that after this date the use of these vehicles would be prohibited unless a special licence was applied for and granted by local Licensing Authorities. The licensing provisions apply in all instances beyond 30 miles if rail is available for the carriage of goods.

In the case of trucks either under 6½ tons laden weight, or over that weight but keeping within the 30 mile restriction, a transport licence is not required by beekeepers carrying goods owned by them in connection with their business as beekeepers.

Beekeepers operating heavy vehicles at present are reminded that their automatic licences have now expired and that application for renewal must be made to the local Transport Licensing Authority. The Association is giving strong support for the renewal of licences which have thus expired.

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## AFRICAN BEEKEEPING

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The Editor,

P.O. Box 201, PORT SHEPSTONE,  
Natal, South Africa.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



## CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

### REPLY FROM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 1500, WELLINGTON, C.I.

November 26, 1958.

Mr. R. A. Fraser,  
General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers Association,  
P.O. Box 19, FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I have received your letter of September 22 forwarding resolutions passed at your last Annual Conference.

1. "That investigation be made to ascertain the extent to which Hormones are harmful to bees."

The effect of the main types of hormone weedkillers on honey bees will be investigated this season by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer at Wallaceville Animal Research Station. This investigation was planned some time ago and preliminary work has already been done.

2. "That in view of the weakness in the regulations which permit Toxic Pesticides to be applied to flowering pastures and crops other than legumes and brassicas this Conference requests that the present regulations be extended to cover all other possible exigencies."

The Apiaries Protection Regulation, 1957, were gazetted as an interim measure because the draft Agricultural Chemicals Bill was not ready for introduction. Now that the proposed legislation has reached an advanced stage it would appear unsound to initiate discussions on amendments to the Apiaries Protection Regulations.

3. "That Conference request the Department of Agriculture to conduct experiments in pollination with the aim of determining statistically the value of bees and other pollinating insects."

Large scale pollination experiments which will cover the main seed crops have been planned for the next two years by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer at Wallaceville Animal Research Station.

Preliminary work has been carried out, and next December the pollination of white clover will be fully investigated. The work includes determining statistically the value of bees and other pollinating insects in setting white clover seed.

Apiary Officers will participate in such experimental projects as are undertaken in their districts.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. W. GREIG,

Director, Horticulture Division.

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## REPLY FROM HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 2615, AUCKLAND, C.1.  
November 7, 1958.

The General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.)  
P.O. Box 19, FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

With reference to my letter of October 31, I now forward to you the Authority's comments on the other resolutions mentioned in your letter of September 22.

### Building Finance:

The Authority has already made representations regarding building finance and Government's decision is awaited.

### Management Control:

- (a) The question of reconditioning honey for export is under constant review.
- (b) The clause in last year's Information Circular providing for a penalty on honey which does not keep in good condition for 12 months will not appear in this year's circular, but at the same time the Authority reserves the right to take action against suppliers of honey that develops fermentation or sourness subsequent to grading if such deterioration is found to be the fault of the producer.

### Voters' Meeting — Ref. your letter October 15, 1958:

Consideration of this letter was deferred until the next meeting of the Authority.

### Case for Government Assistance — Ref. your letter September 22, 1958:

- (a) The Authority is not satisfied that there is any sizeable quantity of honey being sold on which payment of the seals levy is being evaded or which is exempt under the present regulations.
- (b) The Authority is not in favour of an increase in the seals levy or the incidence thereof.

Yours faithfully,  
W. H. CHUDLEY, Manager.

## HONEY CONTRACTS — 1958-59 SEASON

- (a) Contracts to supply fixed quantities (with 20% tolerance)
- (b) Contracts to supply total production (less consumer sales at apiaries)

	(a)		(b)		Total	
	Tons	cwt.	Tons	cwt.	Tons	cwt.
AUCKLAND	2	10	65	10	68	-
HAMILTON	91	5	244	13	335	18
TAURANGA	33	10	27	-	60	10
HAWERA	-	-	29	-	29	-
HAWKES BAY AND WAIRARAPA	8	-	-	-	8	-
PALMERSTON NORTH	5	15	-	18	6	13
<b>NORTH ISLAND</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WEST COAST</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1</b>
CHRISTCHURCH	20	-	10	10	30	10
OAMARU	30	4	28	-	58	4
INVERCARGILL	100	11	65	4	165	15
<b>SOUTH ISLAND</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>11</b>

No. OF CONTRACTS — 158

W. H. CHUDLEY  
(Manager, Honey Marketing Authority)  
N. Z. BEEKEEPER



# HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

## STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN

The reply from the Honourable Mr. Ray Boord, the Acting Minister of Agriculture, to the submissions of the Honey Marketing Authority on the subject of the Authority's debt obligations to Treasury was very fully discussed by the Authority at its recent meeting.

The concessions mentioned in the Minister's letter were appreciated, but it was the unanimous opinion of the Authority that these concessions fell far short of what was required to place the Authority in a position of security and to encourage producers to support it with honey.

The Authority felt that the Minister may not have had a full appraisal of the position confronting the Authority. It was therefore delegated to the Chairman to request a further interview with the Minister and to submit any evidence that might prove helpful to the case that had already been drafted out by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority some seven months ago.

### The Marketing Position

In recent months there has been a heavy fall in the price we have been offered for our lower grade honey. Our agents have put forward an excellent effort but the fact has to be faced that we have to meet keen competitive selling from other countries who are prepared to accept a much lower price than we are willing to quote. Even with the advantage of the premium price which our agents have succeeded in establishing for New Zealand honey over other honeies, the overall return for a very large percentage of our exportable honey is well below local parity. Every effort is being made by our agents to increase the premium in our favour.

WALLACE NELSON, Chairman,  
New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority.

## SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

June 23, 1958.

The Hon. C. F. Skinner,  
Minister of Agriculture,  
WELLINGTON.

Sir,

Our first representation is in connection with the debt to the Marketing Department which was incurred at the time the Honey Marketing Authority took over marketing responsibility from the Department of Agriculture following on the liquidation of the Marketing Department.

We also request consideration of our financial obligations in connection with our new building.

I feel it may be helpful to you to have the facts elucidated as to how our present position developed.

As my colleague, Mr. W. Nelson, the deputy chairman of the Authority, was chairman of two of the former producer marketing organisations referred to in the submissions, and is well acquainted with the various developments leading to the establishment of the Authority, I will ask him to present our case to you.

May I say that any submissions made by us in no sense imply reflection of your predecessor, the Right Hon. Mr. Holyoake.

Our Authority always received from Mr. Holyoake the maximum assistance within the limits of the policy he was required to administer. In this connection we are appreciative of his action in securing for us the annual subsidy of approximately £1800 to assist us in meeting our increased rent to the New Zealand Packing Corporation Ltd.

E. A. FIELD,  
New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority.

June 24, 1958.

**Submissions to The Honourable Minister of Agriculture  
from the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of The  
Honey Marketing Authority.**

Sir,

**THE £100,000 DEBT**

The purpose of requesting this interview is to place before you for consideration the circumstances under which the debt of £100,000 was created and the impossibility of the Honey Marketing Authority complying with the demand for its liquidation. This sum represents £70,000 now owing to Marketing Account and £30,000 which was paid off the debt in 1956 and is merged in our overdraft at the Reserve Bank.

When the Labour Government of some twenty years ago brought into existence the Internal Marketing Division, the honey producers' own marketing company, New Zealand Honey Ltd., supported the general desire of the Industry to avail itself of the services of the Internal Marketing Division. New Zealand Honey Ltd. accordingly went into voluntary liquidation and the assets of the company were taken over by the Internal Marketing Division on mutually satisfactory terms. The Internal Marketing Division also took over marketing responsibility from the Honey Export Control Board and thereafter the payout to suppliers of honey to the Internal Marketing Division was from the pooled returns from export and local sales.

**Interest Free Finance**

The all-compelling factor that influenced the honey producers to liquidate their own established structure in favour of the Internal Marketing Division administration was the offer of a prompt payment to suppliers of approximately two-thirds of the market value of their honey and a payout of the balance within twelve months of acceptance. Further the Industry would no longer have to comply with terms dictated by overseas commercial marketing agencies for advances on our export honey.

Under Internal Marketing Division administration funds required to make payments to suppliers were made available to the Internal Marketing Division on an interest free basis. These arrangements were in sharp contrast to what had been the experience of the producers under their own company. The best the company could offer to suppliers was 1½d per lb first advance on the honey supplied and a lapse of anything up to eighteen months ere the balance could be paid.

**The Liquidation of the Internal Marketing  
Division and the Consequences**

The liquidation of the Internal Marketing Division under a changed political regime was a Government policy decision over which the Honey Industry could exercise no voice. However, the anxiety of the Industry concerning its future was allayed by the assurance of your predecessor, The Right Hon. Mr Holyoake, that the Industry would suffer no hardship as a result of liquidation of the Marketing Department. It was on this basis of assurance that the producers proceeded under Government guidance to establish their own marketing organisation and to take over marketing responsibility from the Marketing Department.

**The Debt of £100,000**

At the time of the transfer of responsibility to the present Honey Marketing Authority, the debt owing to Marketing Department for unsold stocks and packing materials was approximately £100,000. The Marketing Authority has been constantly called upon by Treasury and by your predecessor to arrange for the liquidation of this debt. We have repeatedly pointed out that there is no way by which this can be done other than to withhold from suppliers part of the payout due to them on their honey. There would be strenuous opposition to this course being adopted as the amount paid to suppliers ever since the Authority came into existence is not only below the estimated cost of production but is also much lower than non-suppliers can net from the local market. It is obvious that if suppliers are further discouraged from supplying their marketing organisation then the organisation will collapse. In



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.

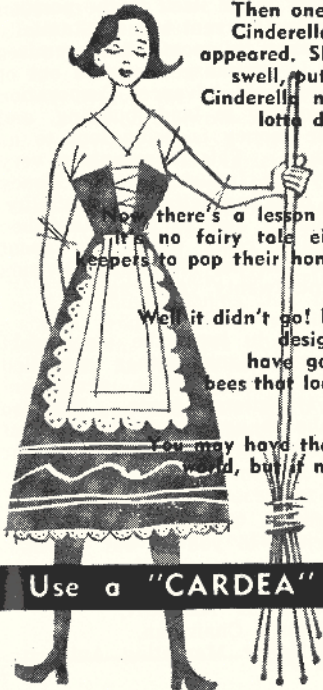
Then one night while the sisters were out at a cabaret and Cinderella was all alone at home, her Fairy Godmother appeared. She gave Cinderella a hair do and dressed her up swell, put her in a Rolls Royce and sent her to a posh party. Cinderella made the hit of the evening and a Prince with a lotta dough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

Why? Because Cinderella was all dressed up.

Well, 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.

You may have the best honey in the world, but it must be dressed up!



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this connection the following record of yearly supplies to the Honey Marketing Authority carries its own significance:—

1953-4	1954-5	1955-6	1956-7	1957-8
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1,125	2,206	1,669	1,571	1,060 (estimated)

The payment of £30,000 which reduced our debt to £70,000 resulted in a subsequent increase in our overdraft by £30,000, and the present authorised limit is £78,000. The interest on this overdraft is 1%. If the Reserve Bank had been empowered to grant the whole of the £100,000 by way of overdraft on the same terms as finance was made available to the Honey Section of the Internal Marketing Division during its term of existence then the problem now confronting us would not have arisen.

#### **Our New Building**

As you know, Sir, the decision of the former Government to delegate control of the Government Marketing Building in Fanshawe Street, Auckland (where the Honey Section operated) and the subsequent sale of this building to the New Zealand Packing Corporation Ltd., was another matter of Government policy. The Honey Marketing Authority found itself in the position of a tenant answerable to the Corporation as landlords. Our rent was substantially increased and we were advised by your predecessor to vacate the premises as soon as possible. We had no alternative but to purchase a section out of suppliers' money and borrow further funds from the State Advances Corporation to meet our minimum requirements. Our total outlay in land, building, and plant, etc., will be approximately £100,000. The money is being lent to us on a 5% interest basis on a 30 year table mortgage. This represents a very much higher capital cost than was envisaged by the Industry or the Honey Marketing Authority at the time the Authority took over marketing responsibility.

Government policy of the day gave us no choice but to get established in a building of our own at present high capital costs which are about four times higher than they were at the time the Internal Marketing Division acquired the assets of the producer company some twenty years ago.

#### **Financial Assistance Required**

The plea of the Honey Marketing Authority is to have the stock debt (£70,000 to Treasury and £30,000 to the Reserve Bank) either cancelled altogether or arrangements made for it to be included in a permanent fluctuating overdraft at the Reserve Bank on a 1% interest basis. We also request some measure of financial assistance in the shape of a financial grant or subsidy to assist us to discharge our obligations in connection with our building and plant.

#### **Government Investigating Officer**

The Authority greatly appreciated your prompt action in having an Investigating Officer from your Department to report to you on our position. Any further investigation of this nature which you may consider desirable will be welcomed.

WALLACE NELSON,  
Deputy Chairman,  
New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority.

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Office of the Minister of Agriculture,  
WELLINGTON,  
December 24, 1958.

The Manager,  
New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority,  
P.O. Box 2615,  
AUCKLAND.  
Dear Sir,

The Government has been considering the request made by the Authority to the Minister of Agriculture earlier this year that the amount owing to the Government by the Authority for honey stocks taken over in 1953 should be cancelled (or permanent Reserve Bank overdraft accommodation arranged) and that the Government should assist with a grant or subsidy to help the Authority to discharge its obligations in respect of the State Advances Corporation's loan on its buildings and plant.

While the Government has not been able to accede entirely to the requests which were made, it has decided, in order to assist the Authority, to—

- (1) Extend for seven years, that is until November, 1965, the period within which the debt is to be paid. Interest at 1% will be charged on outstanding balances as from December 1, 1958.
- (2) Waive the interest which was payable on £30,000 of the debt for the period December 1, 1957, to November 30, 1958, under the arrangements covered by the letter to the Authority dated November 14, 1957, from the Minister of Agriculture.
- (3) Authorise the State Advances Corporation to defer for two years instalments of principal on the loan the Authority has raised from the Corporation for buildings and plant.

In giving this assistance the Government has requested that these arrangements should be reviewed at the end of two years. By that time the Government hopes that the Authority will have strengthened its financial position and attained stability as a fully developed industry marketing organisation. Within this period it is expected that the Authority will submit proposals for the reduction of the debt by periodical instalments.

The State Advances Corporation has been notified of the Government's decision and will make its own arrangements with the Authority in adjustment of the terms of the loan.

The Department of Agriculture will be in touch with you on arrangements for the payment of interest and the progressive liquidation of the debt.

I trust these concessions will prove to be of value to the Authority and will be of assistance while the Authority is becoming established as an effective marketing organisation for the industry as a whole.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) RAY BOORD,  
for Minister of Agriculture.

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HIGHWAYS CORNER, PARNURE, AUCKLAND:**





## DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

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### Horticulture Division

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#### Bees for the Chatham Islands

Early in February ten packages of bees, and thirteen Italian queens will be flown to the Chatham Islands. The packages will be flown from Kaitaia to Wellington and transhipped to a flying boat by officers of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. L. A. Griffin, Apiary Instructor at Christchurch, will precede this consignment on an earlier flight to observe the condition of the bees at present on the Island and make preparation for the distribution of the new bee arrivals.

The bees have been ordered by Chatham's farmers to replace the bee population which have died during the past season. A large quantity is being sent so that as many bees as possible can begin gathering nectar and building brood as soon as they arrive.

This consignment of bees is a continuation of the work begun by the Department some two years ago at the request of the Chatham Islands branch of Federated Farmers. For many years the islands' farmers tried, at considerable expense but with little success, to establish and maintain hives of honey bees solely to provide a pollination service.

Bees are vitally important to farmers in the Chatham Islands. Without bees the clovers do not set seed and there is no spread or replacement of plants. However, despite frequent importations of bees from New Zealand, bee colonies generally die out within a year or two. The difficulty lies in getting bees reared on the islands to perpetuate themselves. Eggs from queens reared on the islands either fail to hatch or the larvae do not develop properly. The nurse bees cannot produce sufficient food for the larvae, and the fertility of the drones reared on the islands is also affected.

As a result of visits by Apiary Instructors during the two past seasons, the science of beekeeping is now reasonably well understood in the islands. There are now some 25 hives established and the Department hopes that the present consignment of bees will have a better chance of surviving than previous consignments. The Department has instigated a development programme for the islands and with the better quality clovers that are being sown it is possible that much of the trouble with bees may lessen, as the bees will have a new source of nectar and pollen.

The Department hopes to bring some hives back to New Zealand for further observation and experiments, and to investigate its theory that high humidity and salt-laden winds in the islands are the cause of the weakness in the Chatham Islands hives.

#### Appointment of Apiary Instructor

Mr. C. G. Rope was appointed on December 9 last, as Apiary Instructor with headquarters at Auckland.

Mr. Rope has been associated with commercial beekeeping for the past thirteen years in both the Auckland and North Auckland districts. At the time of his appointment Mr. Rope was employed in the South Auckland area by one of New Zealand's largest beekeepers. He has also been an active member of the National Beekeepers Association, having served on the executive of both the Auckland and Far North Branches. Through his part-time inspection work Mr. Rope already has a knowledge of the work of the Apiary Section and it is confidently expected that his services will be of great value to beekeepers in that district.

## HONEY CROP PROSPECTS

Though it is too early to make a firm estimate of the total crops likely to be harvested this year, indications are that the overall yield will be much less than is usual. The following is a summary of reports received from Apiary Instructors as at January 24.

### Northland:

Most areas show an extreme overgrowth of Paspalam. Clovers and related plants are present but are showing little bloom. It is unlikely that any surplus will be gathered from those sources. Towai and White Rata are blooming heavily and should yield well in bush areas.

Crops are generally very light and are much below average for the area, mostly being derived from manuka and other tree-top sources. Future prospects are for a very light late flow only.

### Auckland:

Pastures are showing heavy growth. Clovers are present in quantity but the extreme growth of grasses has tended to restrict yields. Pennyroyal is commencing to bloom and shows good promise.

Crops generally are nil to very light. The further prospect is for a light late flow, particularly from Pennyroyal, but at best the yield will be much below average.

### Hamilton:

Pastures are showing an abundance of clover bloom and Catsear is also flowering freely, but little nectar has been secreted from these sources to date. Hive strength has been greatly reduced during the last few weeks.

With a continuation of the present excessively humid weather conditions, crop prospects appear to be for a complete failure throughout the district.

### Tauranga:

In the Bay of Plenty area practically all nectar producing flora is past. Manuka yielded moderately in most places. In the Rotorua area clovers are still flowering and a little honey is being stored from this source.

It is expected that the overall yield will be not more than 25 per cent of an average crop.

### Hawera:

Weather conditions during January have been humid and warm with odd days of high winds. Clover bloom in some areas has been poor, but in

others it was prolific. Catsear, Hawkweed and Lotus major are in abundance.

Average crops will be harvested in the southern areas of the district, but in the northern areas crops will be poor. The overall average will be down.

### Hastings:

Recent rains have maintained pasture growth and clover is in steady flower.

Except in the Wairarapa, warm weather with little excessive wind has allowed the bees to work all nectar sources. To date the yield has been satisfactory.

Present indications are for average crops.

### Palmerston North:

Until January, clover bloom was patchy and weather conditions were not ideal for nectar secretion. During January the weather conditions improved and at the present time honey is still being gathered.

Indications are that crops may be above average for the district.

### Greymouth:

On the Coast climatic conditions have been very settled with little rain and high temperatures. All nectar sources, rata, clover, lotus major and catsear are producing the heaviest crop in several years. In Nelson, nectar sources are going off because of dry conditions, but yields will be average. Severe drought conditions prevailed throughout Marlborough and crops are very light.

### Christchurch:

Pastures in inland North Canterbury and the light soil areas on the plains have been adversely affected by drought conditions. Crops vary considerably throughout the district. Good crops have been gathered around the foothills, also in other areas where it has been possible to close clover fields for seed. In many areas the yield has not been sufficient to provide winter stores.

It is expected that the season's crop will be much below average.

### Oamaru:

During early January white clover bloomed profusely and bees worked it heavily. From mid-January, pastures dried up very rapidly and the honey flow fast diminished. Some white clover is still blooming as well as



Vipers bugloss, lucerne, catsear, thistles and red clover.

Crops will be average for the district.  
**Invercargill:**

Clover pastures are about average but the dry weather and high temperatures which prevailed during recent weeks have been unfavourable for local soils. Minor nectar sources are yielding to a small extent.

Rain could assist in changing the crop prospects, but at present an average to below average crop for the district is expected.

**E. SMAELLIE**  
Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry

### Mr. Palmer-Jones on Leave

Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer at Wallaceville, will shortly be taking leave for a few months and will be making a trip overseas for personal and family



reasons. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer-Jones will be flying through Australia and the East to Europe and returning via the U.S.A. about the end of October.

Mr. Palmer-Jones joined the Department of Agriculture in 1937 and has been engaged in research work on beekeeping problems as they affect the industry in New Zealand—work which has assumed major importance with the advent of modern pesticides and the growing need for controlled pollination. In the course of his trip he hopes to see something of beekeeping research at centres in Australia and Europe, some of which he has visited previously.

We wish Mr and Mrs. Palmer-Jones an interesting journey and a pleasant holiday.

### For a Ticky Cough

A lemon scraped out into a dessert dish and mixed with a big spoonful of honey is simply grand for a tickling cough, and perfectly healthy, harmless and natural. A grapefruit will do as well—use the pulp as well as the juice.

FEBRUARY 1959

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1958-59

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# BRANCH NOTES



## NELSON

Our notes are really a review of the year's happenings. At our film evening held in May, an excellent colour film on the prospecting for uranium in the Buller, was shown, with the commentary by the prospector who produced the film. The scene showing the helicopter dropping supplies, gave Nelson beekeepers ideas for transporting hives in and out of orchards, especially in the Moutere Hills district. Opportunity was taken to farewell Mr. D. H. Dahlberg and family, who were leaving the district. Miss Dahlberg had been our Branch Secretary.

The Branch also supplied exhibits for an Educational Exhibition, opened by the Minister of Education, Mr. Skoglund, in connection with the Nelson Centennial Celebrations. The exhibits were in the nature study section. Mr. Dick Hobbs, the apiary instructor, supplied a glass demonstration hive, and Mr. L. R. Taylor made up a static display of inanimate bees showing the various functions of the honey bee. The pollen carrying bees looked natural among the peach blossom set in a background of greenery. The honey bee family was also shown with a queen, drone and worker. This display was later shown at a field day held by the Waimea Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs' Association in the Richmond A. and P. Showgrounds, when over 700 children from the Nelson and Waimea County Schools were present. Mr. E. A. Fairman lectured the children on the story of the honey bee, and Mr. L. R. Taylor demonstrated a hive and equipment. Mr. T. A. Cropp supplied the marked queen and live bees for the glass demonstration hive, and explained the various samples of honey, and also explained how beeswax was produced.

During the spring build up, Messrs. T. A. and L. T. Cropp participated in a radio broadcast programme "Bees on Wheels," in conjunction with a local orchardist, and illustrated the operation and problems of placing hives in orchards for cross pollination by honey bees.

The field day, held on November 8, 1958, at the Branch's demonstration apiary at Mr. V. F. Gunnion's orchard, Stoke, was well attended, beekeepers of over 40 years' standing down to a boy with a hive of a few weeks' vintage being present. Mr. R. H. Hobbs, the apiary instructor, spoke on spring management, and demonstrated swarm control, and explained the division board method of queen rearing from the hives in the apiary. Part of the proceedings were recorded for broadcasting over 2XN Nelson in Farm Topics programme.

The number of beekeepers still continues to decline in the Nelson district. No doubt rising costs and inadequate compensation for the work involved has contributed to this decrease. However Nelson beekeepers look at the £156,000 distributed by the N.Z. Apple and Pear Board to orchardists and reckon the ancillary service of honey bees in pollination has helped towards this. A levy of a percentage of a penny on the 880,000 cases of fruit passing through the Nelson Apple and Pear Board's Depot would put Nelson beekeepers' finances right, and provide incentive for further effort. The payment of a levy would remove the anomaly of an orchardist gaining the benefit of pollination by honey bees, paid for by his neighbouring orchardist.

This season's honey crop appears to be slightly lower than the average, but an improvement on last season's.

—A.V.H.



## WEST COAST

January 1959 will probably become one of those reference months in memory; it was all that a holiday kid could wish for.

It is not often that bees work white clover here as they did this season. Lotus Major, which is usually very good, has been much too green so far but there is time enough yet if conditions hold. Rata was good for a short season.

Like all other bush trees and shrubs the rata vines—red and white—are blossoming early, perhaps a month ahead of normal.

The last two seasons have been bad, and although none will have bumper or record crops this 1959 harvest has put new heart into many beekeepers.

In the all-over picture of the Coast it seems to be not a bad place. The home gardens are good, pastures good, cattle and sheep contented. Is it possible that we won't get our usual 100 inches of rain this year? Eleven months to go.

### Beekeeping History

A suggestion was made at the last Branch meeting that as 1960 is Centennial year an effort be made to compile a record or history of beekeeping on the Coast. This will not be easy as many who could help have passed on or left the district. If any readers can supply helpful information of events, activities or humorous episodes from the past the President, Secretary or myself would be glad to hear from them.

—Tom Holland

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We warmly commend the proposal to compile a history of West Coast beekeeping. Memories of the past become dim with the passing of the years and a record made now becomes more and more valuable as time goes on.)

## SOUTH CANTERBURY

A Field Day was held at the apiary of Mr. W. Jennings at Otaio Gorge on November 29.

The weather was perfect and there was a fair attendance of beekeepers and their wives and families.

On such a hot day the shade of the bush was refreshing and a picnic spirit prevailed.

Mr L. Lyttle, our new president, made visitors welcome and opened proceedings with addresses by Mr. I. Forster, who gave us the latest on toxic spraying. All agreed we are

fortunate in having men like Mr. Forster and Mr. Palmer-Jones and others watching the position on our behalf.

Mr. H. Cloake gave a lengthy and interesting talk on the making of nucs for queen raising. Harry makes Nucs on a huge scale by leaving all the stores on certain sheltered apiaries. I think he said he gets about 10 nucs per hive.

After lunch Mr. Jennings led us up the road to the apiary where some hives were opened up. I noticed Bill had a good smoker this time but he really did not need it, the bees behaved beautifully. I don't know why one hive was marked "mad"! All hives were four-storey, and Bill had a load of supers in his van and the experts decided the hives needed another super in case the drought broke, so a chain system of supering was used and the apiary was soon another storey high.

It was unfortunate one of the hives opened had a lot of queen cells raised, but these things do happen. One or two nucs scattered around the yard were showing signs of over-population by hanging out the entrances. Bill soon fixed them up by raising the lid for more ventilation.

Dick Holland went through the day this time without mishap. Congratulations, Dick, on the arrival of a son and heir.

We missed some of the regular attenders, such as Endin Ball, Bob Davidson, Jack Watson, Arnold Simpson and others. Please, chaps, don't let other things crowd out the main event of the year.

This field day will be remembered as the turning point of a very severe drought as rain came the next day.

Afternoon tea back at the bush was followed by all the party going to the clover field where a vast scheme to do with pollination tests was set up under the control of Mr. I. Forster, who spoke briefly on some of the main points. This closed a very enjoyable day.

—J. G. McKenzie.

## OTAGO

It was a White Christmas for Otago beekeepers this year, as the showing of clover in many districts was as beautiful as we have ever seen. There was enough fine weather with it to make a very good crop and heavy loads of honey were hauled in from

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the yards—every super exactly the same weight.

Although the season has been satisfying from a production point of view it will be remembered in days to come as the year when Dr. Dyce came. Some beekeepers travelled a long way to hear him and everyone hankered for more. It is a pity that Dr. and Mrs. Dyce were not able to stay for a whole season to give up the maximum benefit of their visit, and we could perhaps have allowed them a little more time for fishing, etc.

The Branch held its Field Day at the property of Mr and Mrs. T. L. Jackson, of Milton, a pleasant and well-known venue. In spite of the squally day there was a good attendance with visitors from as far afield as Invercargill and Rangiora, and the programme was full of merit, highlights being the discussions on queen raising and two-queen spring management led by Messrs. Des Seal and Jack Fraser. Following afternoon tea we were enlightened on industry affairs in the traditional manner by Messrs. Fraser and W. T. Herron, to whom we express our thanks for their continued interest in the Branch.

### Poor Crop in Waikato

As a result of humid weather in the Waikato throughout January, beekeepers in the district were likely to harvest one of the poorest crops they have had for many years, said Mr J. D. Lorimer, of Hillcrest, who has been a commercial beekeeper for the past 23 years.

Mr Lorimer added that the rank pasture growth induced by the warm weather brought about a low sugar concentration and nectar secretion in the clover flowers, the main source on which the honey bees depended for their crops.

—Press Association Item.

### Good West Coast Crop

Below-average crops in the Waikato and Canterbury, two of the biggest honey-producing areas in N.Z., and unfavourable conditions in other parts of the Dominion, will see the West Coast having one of the best honey crops in New Zealand this year.

Mr R. S. Hobbs, Department of Agriculture apiary instructor for the West Coast, Nelson and Marlborough, said in Greymouth recently the Coast was having its best honey crop for several years. There was a very early

season, and all the floral sources from which bees gathered the honey crop had been extremely heavy. It was a good year for clover. Mr Hobbs expected the quality of honey to be better than for several years.

The Coast had been favoured by high temperatures and the right amount of moisture. Some of the better commercial beekeepers should realise five to six tons of honey for every 100 hives this year. In bigger honey-producing centres, it was not uncommon for beekeepers to obtain a yield of from five to 10 tons for every 100 hives.

In a really good season on the Coast, beekeepers had been known to obtain a yield of 10 tons per 100 hives.

This was a peculiar season on the Coast, said Mr Hobbs. It had begun early and looked like ending early. Bees were beginning to 'rob' the honey—swarm around honey which was being loaded and handled—a sign that the flow was easing off rapidly.

Usually, honey-gathering continued right up to about Easter, but he couldn't see much possibility of that happening this year.

However, quite a lot of honey might be collected yet if the Coast had more hot weather.

### IMPORTANT FACTOR

Referring to the sources of honey on the Coast, mainly the bush, and particularly rata and kamahi trees, Mr. Hobbs said one factor which had a bearing on crops was the dying-out of rata on the hills through the activity of opossums.

"The beekeeper on the Coast is more or less dependent upon bush sources for his honey. The demise of rata could have quite serious consequences on the honey industry here."

Rata produced the best honey on the Coast—by any standards a high-grade honey.

"If rata died out," said Mr. Hobbs, "it could be the end of the honey industry on the Coast."

—Greymouth Evening Star

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## THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

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N. Z. BEEKEEPER



## Red Clover Pollination

The effectiveness of honeybees and bumblebees in the pollination of Montgomery red clover is discussed in a comprehensive article by I. W. Forster and W. V. Hadfield in the N.Z. Journal of Agricultural Research of October, 1958. The authors describe trials which were undertaken in February 1954 and again in February 1955 when 35 hives of honeybees were placed immediately adjacent to 10 acres of Montgomery red clover (*Trifolium Pratense*) growing in an area near Timaru considered to be favourable to bumble bees.

After surveying the production of red clover seed and the need for insect pollination the article outlines the nature of the experiments and the results obtained. It was computed that honeybees provided 77 per cent of the effective pollinating agents in 1954 and 89 per cent in 1955. Spot checks made at several different points showed that to be a fair cross-section of insect activity on red clover crops in South Canterbury. The effectiveness of the available bumble bee population is greatly reduced by the large numbers of *B. terrestris* that bite through the sides of the florets. In spite of the side-biting habit of some individuals, *B. terrestris* is probably of equal value to *B. ruderatus* as a pollinator of red clover because of its superior numbers.

Further work is necessary to decide to what extent crops can be beneficially and economically stocked with honeybees.

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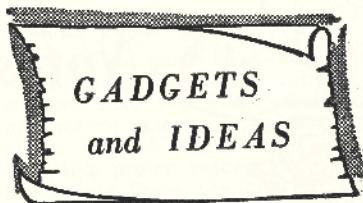
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FEBRUARY 1959



### Rubber Bands

A useful tip came to light at a recent Field Day when Mr. H. Cloake, of Timaru, used large rubber bands made from tractor tubes. The bands can be made of suitable size and thickness to hold together the lid, body and floor of hives (or nucs) for handling or transport.

### Keep your Combs Movable

One job many neglect is the cleaning of brood combs each year. Set aside definite time for this. We advise the fruit bloom period when the bees are good natured and little inclined to rob. Use the hive tool and clean the edge of each side of every end bar. A hive scraper will make quick work of cleaning the inside of the hive bodies. Cleaning the brood frames is very important when ten frames are used in each body. We suggest ten frames for comb honey production and only nine frames for extracted honey production. Keep the bottoms and inside covers clean also.

—Julius Lysne in American Bee Journal.

### Fuel for the Smoker

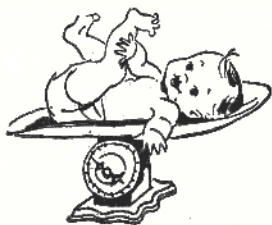
I use the fungus that grows on old logs and trees as fuel for my smoker. It is white on the under side. I dry it and chop it up into pieces that will go in the smoker, then start the fire with burlap. I use it until noon on one filling then fill it again before going to dinner and find it going when I come back, if I haven't been gone over three or four hours. Try it.

R. B. Streeter, in "Gleanings."

## Advertising!

Some people are afraid of over-production of honey. We never did have over-production. We had under-consumption. You can sell the bark from the North Pole if you advertise it rightly.

—H. J. Rodenberg, in "American Bee Journal."



# Notes for Beginners

by 'SKEP'

In my Notes for February 1958 I stated that "No two seasons are alike." How true this has proved to be this year. An exceptionally dry winter and spring was followed by a dry summer with strong winds and in many areas bees will not gather winter stores, let alone a surplus. Swarming and the usual troubles of beekeeping have been practically non-existent and management has had to be modified to meet existing conditions. However, some favoured localities had quite good rains in December and average crops may yet be harvested in these areas. Most farms are heavily stocked with sheep and cattle together with a considerable increase in wheat and other grain crops, so there is keen competition for the clover heads as they appear. Coupled with these conditions we have an ever-increasing use of poison sprays and dusts to cope with aphids, army worm and other pests and it is difficult to assess just how much all this is affecting the bees and what the losses are. Hives in some apiaries are inexplicably short of bees and whether this condition is caused by bees foraging over long distances and being buffeted by the winds or whether the lack of bees is the result of careless spraying and/or dusting of farm crops is open to conjecture. The increase in acreages treated is phenomenal and it is difficult not to attribute, to some extent, the condition of hives to modern agricultural practices.

Another aspect is that fertility has, generally speaking, been built up to a degree that mitigates against nectar secretion in highly developed agricultural areas. Some farmers have sought to remedy this state of affairs by growing wheat, only to find that soil deficiencies have been created and even the wheat fails to set seed. Truly an alarming state of affairs. With all our knowledge and scientific aids, it has never been more difficult to grow a humble cabbage.

## Harvest Time

If you are not situated in any of the drought areas you will have got some sort of crop and by the time this article appears in print the flow will be almost over. Last year I emphasised the dangers of over-supering and allowing a large force of bees to develop at a time when they would be a liability rather than an asset. In seasons like we are experiencing here, this is a real danger and must be carefully guarded against. It may even be prudent to confine the queen to the first super and so curtail her activities. Leave the final extraction until such time as the winter stores position can be accurately assessed but at the same time watch out for granulation. Some types of honey granulate very quickly when colder nights return and it is disappointing to uncap a heavy comb only to find that the honey in it is quite solid and cannot be extracted.

## The Shallow Super

This super is regarded by many commercial apiarists as an "old man's super" and somewhat of a nuisance in an outfit. We have approximately two shallow supers for every hive and make no apology for owning or using them. In difficult seasons such as this, they are a real boon and in any season are more than useful to use at the end of the flow when a full depth super would be too much to put on a hive. When nights are still cold and hives are not over strong, bees will not work a full depth super with the result that the brood nest becomes honey-bound and the field force of bees will not exist when they are wanted. So, if you have not already done so, make yourself a few of these supers for next season—you will not regret doing so.

## Pollen

Supplies of pollen vary considerably according to district. In some areas its absence is a problem whereas in other



areas it is gathered in excess, perfectly good combs become clogged with it and, generally speaking, it becomes a nuisance. We operate in the latter area and every year have about 1,000 combs clogged to a certain degree with surplus pollen. I mentioned before how to treat these combs but it is more work at a time when every minute of the day seems booked up. This year we have tried one small apiary with a single brood nest for each hive; that is, of course, keeping the queen in the bottom super for the entire season and not raising any brood above the excluder. We had all first-year queens and, to date, the results are encouraging. Eight to 8½ frames packed with brood from top bar to bottom bar and no swarming. Just how the final crop will compare with the control hives in the same apiary remains to be seen, but there is no surplus pollen in the brood nest and very little taken through the excluders. I claim nothing new for this idea, but it does seem that when working certain types of country this system has possibilities. It is easy to become the slave of convention. If you work out the total number of cells on a comb you will find that 8½ combs of solid brood is equal to, or even exceeds, 14 or 15 combs with the usual amount of brood in them for a two-storey hive. Anyhow, if you are troubled with surplus pollen, give the single brood nest a trial but be sure to have a control hive or two in the apiary.

### The Scale Hive

It is quite rare to find a scale hive in a commercial apiary and I have yet to see one in a "beginner's" yard. For years we have been going to operate one and this year my son has taken the matter into his own hands. The hive is set up on a set of platform scales, together with the necessary wet and dry bulb thermometers, and readings are taken night and morning. This has provided considerable interest and when the results have all been correlated and set out in graph form some useful information should be forthcoming. Perhaps the Editor may find room to print the findings. If you are really interested in bee behaviour I do seriously suggest that you set up a scale hive and keep accurate records. You will learn a lot I am sure.

### Looking Ahead

You will no doubt have hives that will require re-queening this autumn, so I suggest that you order the required number of queens from a reputable queen breeder without further delay. I always prefer autumn-raised queens but unless these are ordered in good time they are not always procurable: ask for mid-April delivery. Queens introduced much earlier than this will commence to lay in their new hives and you will find that you have hives full of bees and a shortage of stores to go into the winter with. The later you re-queen the easier it is to find the queens and the more certain the acceptance.

You may, of course, decide to raise a few queens yourself. In some areas this is prudent but in many districts you will be faced with an alarming amount of robbing and may well find that all your efforts have been wasted. Queen rearing is a highly skilled occupation and I suggest that a beginner makes his first attempt at this branch of beekeeping in the spring when there is a light honey flow on. Remember also that you need a really "super" queen to breed from. It is senseless rearing queens from mediocre stock.

When extracting has been concluded it is a wise plan to place the extracted combs on a strong hive and so get them cleaned out. They are easier to handle in a "dry" state, and there will be no risk of any ferment being introduced to the new season's honey. Put them out in the evening and leave them until the bees have done their job properly.

You can scrape the supers, sort the combs, and store the ones to carry over in a mouseproof place.

Next May will be my last contribution to these notes and I will try to sum up the two years' work and make suggestions for the future. So until May, good beekeeping!

---

### GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE

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The A. I. ROOT Co., Medina, Ohio.



## Front Cover Picture

A Short Story by "Tingle"

Once upon a time there lived a contented Hawke's Bay couple who had done well enough on a sheep farm and were young enough to dream of building a home which would be their idea of perfection. They went inland and looked for a prominence where a house would have a panoramic view; and on a certain flat-topped ridge they were able to gaze on a sunny landscape which undulated away before them.

And so they prepared by planting young trees—exotic, European and Oriental—and around the slopes they plotted the shrubs with park-like spacing. Hundreds of pounds were spent on many types of trees and an arbour'd driveway led up to the top.

But without warning there came that frightening morning—the Napier earthquake. Fissures and chasms rent the surface, the ground was broken and contorted; and this couple wondered—

could they build a permanent home on this shaken hill? They went back to their ordinary toil and turned the matter over in their minds.

Things stayed that way, but quietly the trees grew and a park took form on this forgotten height. A daughter thought of building there, but she married and left for distant parts.

Then came the beekeeper looking for a site. Today bees gyrate over a spot where tennis racquets were meant to swing; here is a grand dream and a disillusion; a place of peace, shelter and sunshine, of beauty and sadness, where the only sound is from skylarks high above.

Looking down the eastern slope one can see lemon trees and orange trees, and their fruit lies untouched in the grass. But where the house would have stood it is "Shangri-la," for here in the wilderness is a portion of Paradise.

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# THE XVII INTERNATIONAL BEEKEEPING CONGRESS

*Reported by R. B. Willson, in "American Bee Journal"*

With the magnificence of the Congress in Vienna in 1956, in mind, this reporter went to the XVII Congress in Italy wondering whether any country could possibly do so well as Austria. The Italians matched the excellence of the Austrians, and, in some respects, surpassed them. The Congress in Italy was fabulous. The pity is, so few Americans were there.

I would like to give a vivid and detailed report on what we must learn to accept as the most important event in our beekeeping world that would convey the magnitude of these modern International Beekeeping Congresses.

At the outset, tribute must be paid to the great organisation of Italians who put the programme together and who made arrangements for the care and comfort of the visitor from foreign lands, right down to the last detail. This group was headed by Dr. Antonio Zappi Recordati, an Italian nobleman of great ability and tremendous charm, chairman of the Congress, whose strong hand was seen and felt throughout. His committee, reading like a "Who's Who" of Italian Science and Agriculture, included the Minister of Agriculture and the Mayor of Rome.

What was the programme? It was divided into two parts. A scientific preliminary meeting, by invitation only, at Bologna, September 15, 16 and 17, and the Congress itself in Rome, September 18 through the 23rd. Every day's session was carefully organised by general subject: disease, antibiotics, royal jelly, and bee botany at Bologna, and at Rome: races and breeding of bees, bee history, economics, organisation, legislation, bee biology, beekeeping and agriculture (pollination, etc.), bee products in medicine, and, as we have it here at home, a grand finale, a banquet. There were more than ninety papers given. No trash! Every paper was submitted in advance and a printed summary was given to everyone who attended (and paid his small fee) along with a bulging briefcase containing a programme, a notebook, stationery, postcards, a ball-point pen, beautiful brochures of Rome and Italy. It was wonderful!

The scientific sessions were held at the ancient University of Bologna, founded in the Tenth Century, making it the oldest in the world. The meetings were held in a well-filled amphitheatre-type room where each seat was equipped with earphones through which the listener could tune in to instantaneous translations in either French, German, English or Italian. Twenty-two scientists from twelve countries, in an atmosphere of great dignity and seriousness, gave papers of profound scientific import, papers which, in effect, were reporting on the outstanding work in the field of science related to beekeeping that had been completed since the previous Congress.

The visitors to Bologna were treated to a side trip to the world's most famous queen bee breeders, the Piana Apiaries, now owned and operated by Signor Gian Pietro Piana, handsome, gentlemanly and vigorous son of the founder, and for whom, it was obvious throughout the Congress, the Italian beekeepers have a great affection. Among other things, he is working on the breeding of a pure strain of bees he has discovered on a completely isolated island of the Mediterranean Sea. I suspect he may one day soon announce it as a new race of honey bees with special virtues and of great practical value.

In Rome, the 600 or so registered beekeepers were joined by perhaps 200 or 300 others to make a great throng. Our meeting place was ideal, the facilities of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, a modern building of great magnificence and practicality. Our meeting rooms of course were all equipped for instantaneous translations as well as desk space for all.

There were many important papers which cannot be listed here, let alone commented upon. I liked an expression of the Director General of F.A.O., Dr. Binay Ranjan Sen, who in an opening address said: "Beekeeping is an ancient art that has matured to a science." That makes one proud. I liked a remark of Senator Oddo Marinelli, former president of the Italian Beekeepers' Association, who



said that most of the great contributions to beekeeping over the centuries have been made by the beekeepers, not by the scientists, as if to rebuke the latter who do not want beekeepers at the scientific sessions.

The paper of Dr. H. M. Fraser (Great Britain), "The Debt Beekeeping Owes Italy and the Italians," read by Dr. R. H. Barnes, was inspiring.

Our own Jim Hambleton gave a splendid historical paper on the recognition of the value honey bees have earned to American agriculture. Every paper was fine, and we each had it translated for us instantly in a language of our choice.

Highlight of highlights was our visit on Monday morning, September 22, to the summer residence of the Holy Father Pope Pius XII, at Castel Gandolfo, for a Pontifical Audience and Special Blessing to the Congress Members. Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Moslems, Hindus, and those with no faith, all seemed equally impressed and enthralled with the excitement and joyousness of being in the presence of this holy man, world leader, and intellectual. How great was his honour to us we soon were to realise when we heard him reading, for about 20 minutes' duration, a paper on bees and honey, shortly to be published in America! Watch for it! Its value takes on new importance when we realise that this 82-year-old man who came before us seemingly in vigour and health, was dead only 16 days later.

On Tuesday, September 23, there were held the final sessions of the Congress at which summaries of all the group chairmen were presented, a meeting of Apimondia, the guiding and controlling organisation for these World Congresses of Beekeeping, at which Madrid, Spain, was selected for the XVIII Congress in 1961.

The Italians set a new high standard for excellence here. The banquet was at the Excelsior, Rome's finest hotel. The food could not have been better nor more exquisitely served had we been heads of state; the wines were of the best and speech-making and entertaining limited to an elegant degree of charm and good taste. If ever we Americans elect to be hosts for such a Congress we should look back to Austria and Italy for our criteria!

Attending a Congress alone is vigorous and exhausting. To manage one is an herculean task. As Mrs. Willson

and I returned to America on board the S.S. Cristoforo Colombo, we had a consciousness of lives greatly enriched by our visit to Italy and this Congress.

## PESTICIDES POISON US

American Mercury, in the July issue, thus titles a long article by William F. Longgood, who says that not even the deadly fallout from H-bombs exceeds the threat to human life as from DDT, clordane, aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, lindane, oxychlor, toxaphene and other chemicals. By 1956 the total production of these products reached 506,370,000 pounds. Reckless spraying and dusting not only seriously affects honey bees but its use on food crops endangers public health. According to Dr. Hargraves, blood specialist at the Mayo Clinic, DDT and its solvents cause leukemia, aplastic anemia, jaundice and other blood disorders. Long term build-up in the body may take years to become evident. The poison is stored in body fat and soon the deposit is above the levels considered safe. So the pesticide story goes. William Thompson, of the Thompson Chemical Corporation, St. Louis, warns that the use of nonselective insecticides, that attack friend and foe alike, is upsetting the balance of predator-parasite insects and may allow previously unimportant insects to assume the status of economic pests. It was his decision that his company stop the production and sale of the DDT insecticides which had been a multi-million dollar business for his firm.

—Editorial from American Bee Journal.

## Gas Mileage of Bees

Have you ever wondered how far a bee can fly on a gallon of nectar? At 7 m.p.h. bees get 4,000,000 miles per gallon of nectar. See how this compares with the following insects:—

Flies get 2,000,000 miles per gallon at 10 m.p.h.

Mosquitoes get 450,000,000 miles per gallon at 2½ m.p.h.

This information comes from the "flight mill" developed by Professor Brian Hocking of the University of Alberta, Canada.

—"Gleanings."

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

## Attitudes to Royal Jelly

### CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The claimed therapeutic qualities of Royal Jelly came under discussion in the Canadian House of Commons in Ottawa on August 22, when H. M. Herridge, C.C.F. member for Kootenay West, British Columbia, regaled the members with his comments on the current fad.

"The more I read the advertisements the more I feel the years dropping away like petals from a rose," was one of his comments which the House greeted with laughter. He pointed out that advertisements for the Jelly claim that it is a cosmetic, skin food, anti-septic for wounds and rejuvenator for ageing people.

Health Minister Monteith said no satisfactory evidence had been presented that Royal Jelly is a therapeutic or physiological help to man. The Food and Drug Division of his department had not accepted any claims made for the jelly. The Department was keeping an open mind on the subject and would continue to review the evidence.

Mr Herridge said that advertisements of such products containing the Jelly were becoming more frequent. He was not aware whether the claims had any basis in fact or scientific grounds.

—From "Canadian Bee Journal."

### N.S.W. MINISTER FOR HEALTH TO REQUEST INVESTIGATION

During "Question Time" in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly on De-

ember 10, 1958, Mr. R. J. Kelly asked the Minister for Health whether it is a fact that many aged and senile citizens, in a frantic effort to recapture their youth, are spending large sums of money purchasing capsules alleged to contain Royal Jelly. Is it a fact that the Victorian Health Commission has ruled that Royal Jelly is an un-registered medicine and has decided to prosecute some firms for selling these products? If these are facts, will the Minister investigate the claims of firms purveying Royal Jelly in this State that it produces eternal youth? If necessary, will he prosecute them and so protect our gullible citizens?

In his reply Mr. Sheahan said: "I confess that had I heard of this Royal Jelly I would have taken some of it in the past fortnight to enable me to retain my vitality when dealing with the opposition to the two bills that I piloted through the House. On occasions I have heard that commodities like Royal Jelly, made from the produce of bees, are used for various medicinal purposes. For instance, I believe that some hon. members use honey as a heart restorer. I do not know the details of the matter referred to by the hon. member, who has posed a most interesting question. I shall request my officers to investigate the matter, for I know that certain hon. members, including myself, would be most pleased to be able to obtain this kind of relief during the ensuing months."

—From "Australasian Beekeeper."

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QUEENS QUEENS

Roy Abernethy of Owaka wrote in his letter: 'I get quite a thrill going into a yard and looking at the bees from your Queens. Such good workers, too.'

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★ PERSONAL ★

H.M.A. Election

I wish to thank all those who voted for me at the recent Honey Marketing Authority Election.

I will do my best to foster and to further the interests of the beekeeping industry and the marketing of honey. I hope to be able to justify your confidence in me.

W. T. HERRON

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



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## FRONT COVER

This beautiful apiary, which has  
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