

# *The New Zealand Beekeeper*



MAY 1959

# The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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J. McFadzien, Editor

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## *Editorial*

### THE OUTLOOK FOR BEEKEEPING

After about two years of negotiations the Government has rejected the request from the National Beekeepers' Association for assistance to the beekeeping industry. In submitting its case the Executive hoped that producers would be given the assurance of a return sufficient to cover their reasonable costs of production. The failure of the negotiations means that beekeepers must depend for their livelihood solely on what their produce will fetch on the market, and unless some substantial relief can be given to the Honey Marketing Authority it is possible that retrenchment in beekeeping activity may now be necessary in the less favoured areas.

Such retrenchment is to be regretted in a country like New Zealand which relies upon farm production as its main source of income. The attitude to beekeeping here is in contrast with that found overseas. Recently we had a visit from Dr. E. J. Dyce, Professor of Apiculture at Cornell University in the United States, who emphasised that pollination is the basis of the whole of agriculture and it is for this reason that beekeeping is being fostered in America. Even in the countries of Europe where agriculture is of less comparative importance extensive research in apiculture is being carried out, and chemicals which are dangerous to bees are under strict control.

The industry in New Zealand is fighting hard for its existence. It has already had a taste of modern pesticides and with new preparations coming into use all the time there is a mounting threat to beekeeping from that quarter. Another difficulty to be faced is that the Honey Marketing Authority, confronted with the necessity of providing its own premises, has been involved in capital commitments which represent a heavy burden to producers.

The time is coming when beekeeping will be called up as an essential factor in the Dominion's primary production. In recent years the leaders of the industry have endeavoured with balanced vision and a sense of responsibility to be prepared for the call, and they have deserved more encouragement than they have received in their efforts to build a thriving industry.

### THE AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BILL

The national importance of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill is borne out by the support and the request for urgency from Federated Farmers who are naturally perturbed at the threat to pollinating agents. The Bill, of course, has a special significance for honey producers because their future is directly at stake. This was demonstrated in no uncertain terms by the Canterbury disaster in 1956 when a beekeeper suffered damage to the extent of £1000 from a single application of spray, and now that even more powerful pesticides are available a few careless or ignorant operators could cause havoc in the industry. Even apart from this danger to themselves, honey producers have a particular interest in the Bill because they have, by reason of their occupation, an understanding of the work of beneficial insects and of their vulnerability to poisonous pesticides.

However, although the National Beekeepers' Association has been persistently urging legislative action to control the use of dangerous chemicals its objective has not been to obstruct the march of science. On the contrary, the main value of the apiary and pesticide trials which have been undertaken so far has been

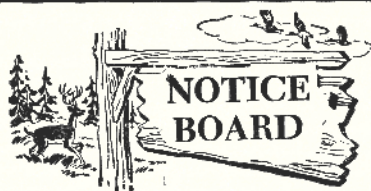
in discovering how the modern treatments can be applied to the greatest advantage. In many cases it has been shown that poisonous chemicals can be used safely and effectively by taking certain reasonable precautions, and when restrictions are unavoidable it has been found that satisfactory alternative treatments can often be recommended.

It is to be hoped that the Bill will be passed during the coming session of Parliament in the interests of both public safety and agricultural progress, and it is important that the beekeeping industry, in consideration of its unique position, should be adequately represented in the administration of the Act.

## NO H.M.A. ELECTORS' MEETING

When the resolution suggesting a meeting of Marketing Authority electors was passed last year the Conference was going out of its way to help the few who are not in the Association. The Minister's response, given elsewhere in this issue, is a timely reminder to producers that the function of the Association is to serve, and to represent, the whole industry.

Beekeepers should remember that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Honey Marketing Authority are published in 'The N.Z. Beekeeper' prior to Conference, and the Journal goes to every beekeeper with thirty or more hives. Producer representatives are regularly invited to attend and address Branch meetings of the Association where the opportunity is given to discuss matters of local and general importance, while the Authority Chairman customarily addresses Conference and those present are invited to ask questions. The Association, in fact, seeks to give producers both enlightenment and a voice to speak with, and it is up to beekeepers to take the opportunity which is afforded them.



### 1959 Conference

The Annual Dominion Conference is to be held this year in Timaru on July 14, 15 and 16. Details of the Conference arrangements are given elsewhere in this issue.

### N.Z. Beekeeping Film

At the recent Executive meeting it was suggested that a meeting of movie-camera fans be held during the Conference with a view to combining in the production of a film on New Zealand beekeeping. Those interested are therefore asked to come prepared to discuss this matter.

### No H.M.A. Election in 1959

Under the provisions of the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations there will be no election of producer representatives this year.

### Conference Remits

Sometimes remits submitted to Conference cause confusion through being expressed in involved or ambiguous terms. Branches are therefore asked to take care in framing remits so that they state their purpose as clearly and simply as possible. This makes for logical discussion during the debates and leaves the decisions of Conference clearly defined.

### Dunedin Convention

The Annual Convention of Otago and Southland beekeepers will be held in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Building, Moray Place, Dunedin, on Tuesday, June 2. 1.30 p.m.—Commercial Beekeepers. 7.30 p.m.—Beekeeping Topics and Social Evening.

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

### Erratum

Under the heading 'Honey Contracts—1958-59 Season', on Page 8 of our February issue there is a reference to 'Contracts to supply fixed quantities (with 20% tolerance)'. Will readers please note that this should read 'with 10% tolerance'.

## STOP PRESS

### PROPOSED MEETING NOT APPROVED

The Dominion President, as the Association's representative on the H.M.A., has been advised that the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. C. F. Skinner, does not favour an annual meeting of Marketing Authority electors. The proposal of such a meeting was made to the Minister by the Authority in compliance with a resolution from the 1958 Conference.

In stating his attitude, the Minister suggested that a more suitable way of meeting the wishes of beekeepers who would like to discuss the Authority's operations would be for the Association to allocate time for this purpose during its Annual Conference and to invite members of the Authority to be present. The Association would then be at liberty to make recommendations to the Authority if it wished to do so.

### New Executive Member

The appointment of Mr. Stephen Graham in the place of Mr. Gumbrell (now a member of the Honey Marketing Authority) brings a new member to the Dominion Executive.

Mr. Graham keeps bees in the Franz Josef district on the West Coast and as one of the younger generation of producers has shown commendable enthusiasm in Association activities. In the office of President of the West Coast Branch he is well known at local meetings and Field Days and for some years he has regularly taken part in the Dominion Conference. Last year he was one of the three members who accepted nomination for the two South Island seats.

### HONEY MARKET IN U.K.

(Reprinted from the Bank of New Zealand Produce Department Report, 13/3/1959).

HONEY.—New Zealand remains in very short supply. Prices have firmed considerably for Australian and offers are scarce. Argentine of good colour is offering cheaply owing to the depreciated Argentine exchange.

Quotations (per cwt., c.i.f.) :—  
New Zealand:

Light Amber	125/- — 127/6
Extra Light Amber	147/6
White Clover	170/-

Australian:

Light Amber	100/- — 102/6
Medium Amber	91/6 — 92/6

Argentine:

Light Amber	90/- — 92/6
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Jamaican: F.A.Q.

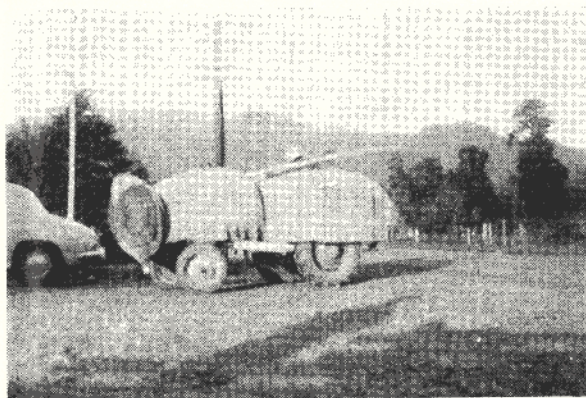
116/-

Mexican: Light Amber

85/-

U.S.A.: White Clover

135/- — 140/-



#### Ferdinand the Bee!

This float in the likeness of a honeybee was made by Mr. P. Lucas, a well known beekeeper of Hari Hari in South Westland. He gained first prize with it in the procession at the Golden Jubilee of the Inter-Wanganui Co-op. Dairy Co.

## Royal Jelly Organisation

At a meeting held on January 17, the Victorian Royal Jelly Association was launched by those interested in production and distribution of the product and research into all of its aspects. Mr. Rex Peacock was elected the first President of the Association.

—Australian Bee Journal

## Trade Agreement With West Germany

The signing of a new trade agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and New Zealand was announced on April 21. New Zealand was represented by the Acting High Commissioner in London, Mr. G. R. Laking, who had taken part in the discussions leading up to the agreement.

In announcing the agreement, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. W. Nash, said that New Zealand had been granted the right to tender for specified

quantities of certain major exports. No fixed quotas have been established for full and skimmed milk powder, butter, cheese or honey, but New Zealand has been granted the right to compete for whatever volume of these commodities the German Government decides to import.

## Weed Control

The New Zealand Weed Control Conference is to be held at Tauranga in July. According to a notice in the Otago Daily Times of 5/4/1959 there will be sixteen papers on chemical weedkillers.

## Wasps on the Coast

Apiary Instructor R. H. Hobbs mentions in a recent letter that the wasps have hit the West Coast in full force this year. At times Mr. Hobbs was kept busy destroying their nests and giving advice on their destruction.

## EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the Dominion Executive was held in Wellington on February 25 and 26, 1959. The President (Mr. J. W. Fraser) was in the chair and all members were present. The Editor (Mr. J. McFadzien) was also in attendance.

### GOVERNMENT AID

Following the reports to members on the latest discussions conducted by the Chairman and Secretary with the Minister from which had arisen the Government proposal to increase the incidence of the Seals Levy as a means of bolstering the payout to H.M.A. Suppliers, later correspondence with the Minister was reviewed and a reply from the Minister dated February 25 was considered. The Minister advised that he could not agree with the objections to the proposal which the Executive had raised and intimated that Government was not prepared to go further in the matter of financial aid.

It was thereupon resolved, on the motion of Mr. J. W. Fraser seconded by Mr. Gumbrell:

'That the Minister be informed that, following receipt of his letter dated February 25, 1959, in reply to our fair representations on behalf of a significant section of New Zealand honey producers, we now feel we have no option but to advise beekeepers in the darker honey producing areas that the future holds no better prospects for recouping their costs of production and that their continued production is a matter for their individual decision.'

### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BILL

In referring to the draft Bill which had been submitted to the Executive for comment the Secretary reviewed the steps which had been taken to have certain amendments included. He stated that he had not yet had any reply to his representations and as the matter was considered by the Executive to be of vital importance, members felt bound to withhold their support for the Bill in the meantime. It was decided to advise the Minister accordingly.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

## HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

Mr. J. W. Fraser, as the Association's representative, reported upon the work of the Authority and the report was discussed by members.

Mr. W. W. Nelson, the new chairman of the Authority, was later welcomed to the meeting. In addressing members he emphasised that his visit was primarily a goodwill one and that one of his foremost concerns was the promotion of harmony and understanding between the Authority and the Executive. Mr. Nelson dealt briefly with a number of matters at present receiving attention. A helpful discussion followed and Mr. Nelson was thanked by the President for his attendance.

## PRICE CONTROL DIVISION SURVEY

Correspondence between the Association and the Division preparatory to the carrying out of the survey of honey-producers' accounts was reviewed in conjunction with the circulars from the Secretary relating to discussions which he had had with the Division. As the survey was still in progress there was little to be discussed but endorsement was given to the Secretary's representations to the Division on behalf of the Executive.

## HONEY AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS

Correspondence was read from the Minister of Customs in reply to representations for a licence to produce gin from a distilled honey mead and indicating that the Government had granted a sole licence for gin production from a grain base. On the question of mead production, Mr. Fraser advised that Mr. E. D. Williams was still endeavouring to interest brewery holdings in Auckland and had made some progress. Mr. J. R. Barber said that he had sold some heather honey to a Mr. Parowski, of Lower Hutt, for mead making and believed that his client was already producing and selling mead in fair quantities. The Secretary doubted this report as his latest approaches to the Minister of Justice had drawn a firm refusal to grant licences for the sale of mead.

Later Mr. Parowski attend the meeting at the request of Mr. Barber and it transpired that he had been successful in obtaining a licence to produce and sell 'Honey Wine.' From this it was deduced that the Ministry of Justice was drawing a distinction between 'mead' and 'wine', all wines having to conform to a certain low specification of alcoholic content. After Mr. Parowski had departed Mr. Chandler suggested that the Secretary write to Mr. Roger Morse at the Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, who had carried out some highly successful experiments in mead making and who had reputedly developed a very fine yeast for the purpose. It was considered that Mr. Morse may be willing to pass on some useful information regarding his experiments.

## AIR WORK SYMPOSIUM

Arrangements were made for beekeeping interests to be represented at the Symposium to be held in Wanganui. Mr. Gumbrell agreed to deliver an address on 'Agricultural Chemicals and Their Effect on Beekeeping in New Zealand' and it was hoped that Mr. I. W. Forster would be available to give a paper, and show colour slides on behalf of the Horticulture Division.

## HEAVY TRAFFIC LICENCES

Correspondence and circular advices to members in this matter were reviewed. It was agreed that individual beekeepers who wished to operate vehicles of over 6½ tons gross laden weight in areas served by rail should undertake their own applications to the licensing authorities and that the Executive should not actively interfere unless the decisions of the authorities were manifestly unjust and prejudicial to the best interests of the industry.

## BEEKEEPING FILMS

Replies from U.S.A. and England on the availability of new beekeeping films were tabled. It was decided to forward these to the Superintendent of Beekeeping with a request that further suitable films be obtained for use at instructional and educational gatherings.

## ADVERTISING MATERIAL

In response to an earlier inquiry a letter was received from the American Honey Institute forwarding copies of two booklets of honey recipes, and these were favourably received as examples of publicity work for the honey industry.

## EXECUTIVE VACANCY

Mr. G. E. Gumbrell tendered his resignation from the Executive following his election to the Honey Marketing Authority at the recent election. In accepting the resignation the Chairman and fellow Executive members paid tribute to the interest and devotion which Mr. Gumbrell had shown during his tenure of office, and in thanking him for his past services to the industry wished him well in his new sphere of activity. Mr. Gumbrell suitably replied.

It was resolved that Mr. S. Graham, of West Coast, be appointed to the Executive to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Gumbrell's resignation.

## FEDERATED FARMERS

The Association's representation on the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers was given consideration in view of the fact that Mr. E. A. Field, who acted in this capacity in the past, has not held office in the Association for some years. Members mentioned the difficulty of knowing when matters of concern to beekeepers were to be discussed and of being in attendance at the appropriate time and eventually it was resolved on the motion of Mr. J. W. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Bray, that the General Secretary, Mr. R. A. Fraser, be appointed as the Association's representative in lieu of Mr. Field.

## VISIT TO U.S.A.

Mr. Chandler brought forward the suggestion that a visit to the U.S.A. by a beekeeping specialist from New Zealand would be valuable in obtaining up-to-date knowledge on American beekeeping and honey-house management. It was proposed that the Association might sponsor the tour and that the cost (estimated at £1200 for

a four-month itinerary), or a sufficient part of it, could be raised by subscription. Mr. Chandler emphasised that in view of our beekeeping conditions it was only in the U.S.A. that the most beneficial results could be obtained.

After discussion it was decided that the matter could best be brought forward as a remit at Conference when the probable financial support could be assessed.

## ASSOCIATION FINANCE

Consideration was given to the depleted state of the Association's finances and a discussion took place on possible economies which might be introduced. In this connection the Editor, in the course of his report, estimated the savings which could be made by reducing the size and style of the Journal.

Decisions on this matter were held over until the next Executive meeting when the results of the full year's working would be available.

## CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

Mr. Gumbrell and the Secretary reported on the preliminary arrangements made by the South Canterbury Branch for the holding of the 1959 Conference in Timaru on July 14, 15 and 16. Questionnaires from the last conference were analysed with a view to improving Conference planning and the final details of the Conference programme were left in the hands of the General Secretary.

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N. Z. BEEKEEPER



# THE REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT AID

## Correspondence with Minister

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,  
WELLINGTON.  
February 25, 1959.

The General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association of  
New Zealand Incorporated,  
P.O. Box 19,  
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of January 30 on the Association's request for reconsideration of its proposal that the Government should make an annual grant to the Honey Marketing Authority of the difference between the Authority's payout and the cost of production, and have now had an opportunity to study the Association's analysis of the suggestion made last year that the application of the seals levy should be extended to sales of honey now exempt.

It is helpful to have the Association's appraisal of this suggestion but I think its estimates of the honey sold which is free of seals levy is unduly low. Honey for bee feeding purposes is already excluded from the over-all production estimates, and the Association's assessment overstates the production of domestic beekeepers and overlooks the fact that a good deal of this honey is normally sold on the local market.

The important issue, however, is the manner in which present marketing methods can be improved to the advantage of honey producers as a whole. The Association's statement that producers seldom, if ever, recover the maximum authorised price for honey sold on the local market, and the reports that I have had that price cutting is rife among producers, suggests to me that there may be serious weaknesses in the marketing of honey at the present time.

I do not consider that the payment of substantial sums by the Government to subsidise the Authority's payout would be justified, or that this would be the solution to the industry's marketing problems.

The Government has now made certain financial concessions to the Authority which it hopes will be of

assistance in the immediate future and I propose to discuss the Authority's affairs shortly with its Chairman. I may then be in a better position to reach final conclusions on the Authority's request.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. SKINNER,  
Minister of Agriculture.

March 20, 1959.

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

Dear Mr. Skinner,

re FINANCIAL AID

I have to advise that your letter in reply dated February 25, 1959, has been received and carefully considered by my Executive.

You may imagine that my Executive has been extremely disappointed at this final response to its claims for assistance especially in view of the fact that you have previously tacitly acknowledged that Bulk Suppliers to the H.M.A. do not and can not receive their cost-of-production from the existing payout of the Authority and bearing in mind also the Government's election promise that all primary producers would be guaranteed their costs-of-production. The only inference which we can take from your letter is that Government is prepared to do nothing except suggest that one section of the honey industry tax itself still further through the Seals Levy to assist the industry as a whole.

It is noted that you have disagreed with rather than refuted our submissions on the suggestion that the application of the Seals Levy should be widened. It is pertinent, I think, to point out that the Association conceded the point that some additional revenue would be gained by the Authority in following your suggestion. Our disagreement on the matter was only in regard to the amount of additional revenue which would reasonably be produced. Even if we conceded that your estimate was correct that an additional 2000 tons annually could bear

seals (which we cannot agree with in all honesty) the additional revenue would barely go half-way towards meeting the deficiency in the Authority's payout. The Industry does not want a palliative. It wants a solution.

You have alluded to widespread price-cutting on the local market but this is really irrelevant in considering the plight of those producers affected by the low payout of the Authority, for their honey generally is of a darker grade which is not readily saleable in New Zealand and finds an outlet mainly on overseas markets. The intrinsic quality of this honey is nevertheless high and the loss of production from our darker honey sources can only result in an irreparable loss to agriculture of essential pollination. This is the only conceivable result of Government's refusal to grant a subsidy.

In the face of your reply my Executive feels that it must now advise the Industry along the lines of the following resolution which I am directed to convey to you:—

**'That the Minister of Agriculture be informed that, following receipt of his letter dated February 25, 1959, in reply to our fair representations on behalf of a significant section of New Zealand honey producers, we now feel we have no option but to advise beekeepers in the darker honey-producing areas that the future holds no better prospects for recouping their costs of production and that their continued production is a matter for their individual decision.'**

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER,  
General Secretary.

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,  
WELLINGTON.

April 8, 1959.

The General Secretary,  
National Association of Beekeepers of  
New Zealand (Inc.),  
P.O. Box 19,  
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of March 20 on the financial aid the Association requested for the New Zealand Marketing Authority.

Since I wrote to you on February 25 I have met the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, with the Government representative, and have discussed the Authority's operations in the light of the Chairman's report and the accounts of the Authority for the year ended August 31, 1958.

The financial concessions the Government made to the Authority last year were intended to give assistance while the industry reviewed its marketing policies. In view of the trend in the Authority's affairs, however, I should like to have a study made of the developments which have occurred in the marketing of honey since the Authority was established in order to see how the marketing system can be strengthened.

I propose to appoint a small committee to consider these matters and to report its findings to me. I will inform you shortly of the composition of the proposed committee but in the meantime I should be glad to know that the committee would have the full co-operation of your Association in its review.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. SKINNER,  
Minister of Agriculture.

April 16, 1959.

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

Dear Sir,

I have for acknowledgment your letter in reply dated April 8.

It is noted that you propose to set up a small committee to investigate developments in the marketing of honey since the establishment of the Honey Marketing Authority and that you are seeking the full co-operation of my Association in this review.

I can assure you that my Executive are more than willing to assist any positive steps which Government may propose for the betterment of the Industry.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER,  
General Secretary.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

# HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

Further representations have recently been made to the Honourable C. F. Skinner, Minister of Agriculture, in connection with the debt obligations and on other matters that adversely affect the successful functioning of the Honey Marketing Authority.

Copies of the submissions and subsequent correspondence are set out below.

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

March 19, 1959  
Auckland.

Representation in connection with the debt of £70,000 to Treasury, and the £90,000 building and plant mortgage to the State Advances Corporation.

Sir,

On behalf of the Honey Marketing Authority I have to thank you for this opportunity to place before you our further representation in connection with the subject raised in my submissions to you in June of last year.

These were acknowledged, and decisions relating to them were conveyed to our manager, during your recent overseas absence, by your colleague, the Hon. R. Boord, on December 24, 1958.

The communication from the Hon. R. Boord was very fully discussed by the Honey Marketing Authority and the unanimous view of the Authority was, that if the Authority is required to comply with the terms as outlined by Mr. Boord then the Authority, constituted as it is, will be labouring under conditions that preclude any possibility of it providing the industry with a marketing service that will either satisfy you as Minister or retain the support of suppliers.

Allow me, Sir, to quote from the communication of the Hon. R. Boord —

- “(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 on buildings and plant.”

These decisions are apparently based on the assumption that the position of the Authority will progressively improve and that the Authority will be able to meet its obligations within the specified period. I regret to say, Sir, the Authority does not share this optimistic outlook for the following reasons:—

- (a) The £70,000 Treasury debt and our normal overdraft to the Reserve Bank represents our working capital and its repayment can only be made possible by reducing the payout to suppliers.
- (b) In view of the fact that the payout to suppliers is already well below cost of production and compares most unfavourably with returns of beekeepers operating solely on the local market the Authority fails to see how suppliers can be expected to bear the obligation to find the sum of £70,000. This amount, as you know, Sir, is the residue of what had been granted by a previous administration on an interest-free basis for advances to suppliers.
- (c) Approximately 75% of the honey received by the Authority is marketed overseas. Export returns have always averaged well below local parity and the seals revenue is inadequate to bridge the gap.

## BEESWAX

We urgently require large quantities of beeswax at top market prices. An extra premium can now be paid for clean cappings wax of a light lemon colour. Write for our current quotation immediately your wax is ready.

## OLD COMBS RENDERED

We purchase or convert to foundation your share of recovered wax. Beekeepers from all over New Zealand take advantage of this efficient service. Prepare yours now and write for forwarding instructions.

## COMB FOUNDATION

Beeswax is now being received for conversion for next season's use. When advising us of despatch, state when delivery is required.

*A Full Range of Beekeepers' Supplies and  
Equipment Available.*

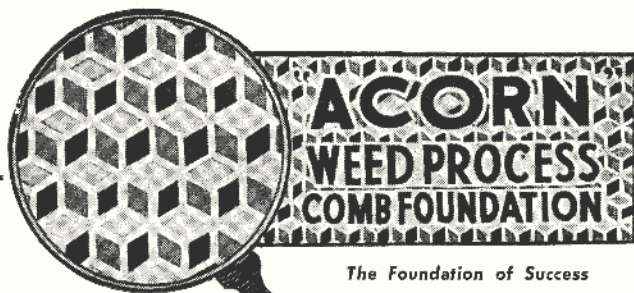
## A. Ecroyd & Son Ltd.

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

Telephone 49-841

Telegrams: "ACORN," Christchurch.

Papanui, Christchurch, N.W.4.



### Honey supplied to the Authority since its inception:

1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1,125	2,206	1,669	1,571	1,104	500 (estimate only)

These figures surely display a growing lack of confidence of producers in the position of the Authority to provide a satisfactory payout. Even assuming the volume of honey handled by the Authority could in some way be stabilised at 1,000 tons the repayment terms of £70,000 plus 1% interest spread over seven years (averaging over £10,000 per year) would be a tax on the suppliers of over £10 per ton extending over the seven-year period.

#### Effect of a Reduced Payout to Suppliers

Any reduction of the payout that may be necessary to meet these financial obligations would have the effect of still further accentuating the trend by beekeepers withdrawing their support from the Marketing Authority in favour of a more remunerative return by selling direct to the local market.

If this trend continues then competitive selling by producers on a disorganised and over-supplied local market would ere long reduce their returns to the yardstick of export parity. The apparent existing local stability has been due to a very poor honey crop in many of the principal honey-producing areas, thus reducing the supply to within the limit of demand.

#### Concern of the Industry

There is no doubt that the industry as a whole is deeply concerned over the weakness in the position of the Honey Marketing Authority. The industry is well alive to the fact that if the Marketing Authority fails to function successfully then the handling and control of its products will pass into the hands of outside commercial interests who are infinitely more actuated by the profit margin in a "turn-over" than in the welfare of the producer.

I respectfully suggest to you, Sir, that the question of the Authority's debt obligations cannot be disassociated from the problems inherited by the Authority following on the liquidation of the Internal Marketing Department.

No primary industry was more deeply affected by this liquidation than the honey industry but unlike certain other marketing boards the Honey Marketing Authority has received nothing in the shape of a financial grant or subsidy notwithstanding the reported existence of several hundred thousand pounds reserves in the accounts of the Marketing Department at the time of its liquidation. It is the general feeling of the industry that in view of the circumstances under which the Honey Marketing Authority was established it was deserving of substantial financial assistance from these reserves.

#### Investigation Recommended

May I recommend, Sir, that you appoint a senior officer (or officers) to investigate thoroughly the problems confronting the Authority and the circumstances under which the Authority is required to operate.

Any action taken by you in this direction would be very greatly appreciated by the Authority. I need hardly add that your investigating officers would receive every co-operation and assistance from myself and from our manager.

(Sgd.) WALLACE NELSON  
Chairman, Honey Marketing Authority

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,  
Wellington.  
April 8, 1959

The Chairman,  
New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority,  
P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

Dear Sir,

I have given some thought to the representations you made to me on March 19 and I propose to adopt the suggestion that a committee should review the

Authority's affairs and report to me on its progress and prospects. I enclose a copy of a letter I have written to the National Beekeepers' Association and will get into touch with you again a little later when I have decided what form the review will take.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) C. F. SKINNER  
Minister of Agriculture

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

P.O. Box 2615,  
Auckland, New Zealand.  
April 13, 1959

Dear Mr. Skinner,

I thank you for your letter of April 8 and for your courtesy in sending me a copy of the communication addressed to the General Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association on the subject of appointing a committee to review the affairs of the Honey Marketing Authority.

Your decision is in accordance with the recent recommendation I made to you on behalf of the Authority and you may be assured of my full co-operation with your committee.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) WALLACE NELSON  
Chairman, Honey Marketing Authority

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

P.O. Box 2615,  
Auckland, New Zealand.  
April 29, 1959

Dear Mr. Skinner,

Your letter dated April 8 advising your decision to appoint a committee to review the Authority's affairs was placed before members at a recent meeting of the Authority. The members agreed with the submissions made by me and carried a resolution confirming my action in approaching you.

The Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association will be held at Timaru on July 13, 14 and 15, and the Authority would welcome the early appointment of the committee so that you may study the report and consider any recommendations it may make before the conference takes place.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) WALLACE NELSON  
Chairman, Honey Marketing Authority

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### POOR HONEY SEASON

The past season has proved to be one of the worst on record in the matter of production and this has very seriously affected the volume of supply to the Authority.

It is too early to estimate with any degree of accuracy what our final intake will be. It is obvious, however, that the Authority will be short of supplies and in consequence of this we may lose much of the goodwill that

has been fostered by our agents in new avenues of trade in our export market.

Beekeepers with honey intended for the Authority are therefore urged to send it forward as soon as possible in order that our Manager may be in a position to give agents a reliable estimate of quantity and quality available.

WALLACE NELSON,  
Chairman,  
New Zealand Honey Marketing  
Authority.

# NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

## ANNUAL REPORT

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

P.O. Box 2615,  
Auckland, C.I.  
March 4, 1959

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting to you, in accordance with Section 11 of the Primary Products Marketing Act, 1953, the fifth annual report of the proceedings and operations of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority. This report covers the transactions for the year ended August 31, 1958.

### Members of Authority

In September 1957 an election took place for two members whose terms of office had expired. Mr. W. W. Nelson was re-elected and Mr. T. E. Pearson was replaced by Mr. W. B. Bray. The other members comprised Mr. E. A. Field (Chairman), Mr. W. T. Herron, Mr. J. W. Fraser and Mr. K. B. Longmore. Since the end of the financial year a further election has taken place and the Chairman, Mr. Field, was defeated. Mr. W. W. Nelson was then elected as Chairman.

### Contracts with Suppliers

Contracts were again called for the supply of honey to the Authority. The comparative figures since the Authority commenced operations were as follows:—

	1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
North Island	349	737	1,088	697	702
South Island	449	452	770	542	304
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
	798	1,189	1,858	1,239	1,006

### Honey Supplied to Authority

Since 1955 there has been a decrease each year in the quantity of honey supplied to the Authority and this trend continued during the year under review. The annual receipts since 1953/54 were as follows:—

1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1,125	2,206	1,669	1,571	1,104

### Marketing

At the beginning of the year market conditions overseas recorded a considerable fall in prices and our position was made more difficult by reason of the heavy stocks we carried over from the previous year. We had to dispose of these stocks at the lower price level ruling.

Shortly after the new season's stocks came to hand a good demand developed overseas for our best clover honey at improved prices but unfortunately this grade was in short supply. Overseas prices for our other lines remained fairly steady but the demand was not sufficient to clear stocks and we closed our year's operations with a considerable surplus.

Approximately 75% of the honey handled by the Authority is exported and as the overseas returns are below local parity it follows that the payout to suppliers continues, as in past years, to compare unfavourably with that of non-suppliers operating solely on the local market.

During the year 1,304 tons of honey were sold in the United Kingdom and Europe and 25 tons in other overseas markets.

The total quantity sold on the local market by the Authority was 259 tons, consisting of 130 tons under our "Imperial Bee" retail brand and 129 tons in bulk.

### Honey Levy

The revenue derived from the levy on honey sold by beekeepers and honey packers was maintained at the previous year's high level. The comparative figures for the last five years were:—

1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58
£ 15,893	£ 15,377	£ 15,883	£ 20,718	£ 20,226

From last year's levy of £20,226 the sum of £10,638 was used to subsidise the payout to suppliers.

### Depots

The arrangements for the receipt and storage of honey at various points throughout the country operated satisfactorily during the year, and it was found practicable in most cases to ship overseas consignments direct from the depots. These are established at Auckland, New Plymouth, Greymouth, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill.

### Payments to Suppliers

Advance payments to suppliers were made on the same rates as for the previous season, i.e., 9d. per lb. pro rata for the graded lines and 7d. per lb. for manuka and birch honey. The final payment for each class of honey was fixed at 3¼d. per lb., this being the same as the previous year's final payment. The following table shows the payments for graded honey, other than manuka and special lines, for the last five seasons:—

#### Payments for Graded Honey excluding Manuka and Special Lines

1953/54	2,156,913	89.75	8d.	£ 64,533	¾d.	£ 4,333	3½d.	£ 31,455	11.16d.
1954/55	4,425,505	85.22	9d.	£ 141,268	¾d.	£ 7,550	3¼d.	£ 59,928	11.32d.
1955/56	3,442,262	88.70	9d.	£ 115,502	¾d.	£ 8,964	3d.	£ 43,028	11.60d.
1956/57	3,252,935	89.93	9d.	£ 109,707	¾d.	£ 8,024	3¼d.	£ 44,050	11.93d.
1957/58	2,323,404	86.33	9d.	£ 75,219	¾d.	£ 6,136	3¼d.	£ 31,463	11.65d.

### Annual Accounts

Copies of the financial statements are attached. Honey stocks on hand at balance date were reduced from the previous exceptionally high figure of £185,894 to £136,224, and as a result the Reserve Bank overdraft of £52,632 was replaced by a credit balance of £1,894. Substantial progress was made with our new building and packing plant and these two assets now stand in the books at £67,644 and £5,581 respectively. There was a corresponding increase in the State Advances loan which at balance date amounted to £67,634.

The surplus in the General Revenue Account after providing for the final payment to suppliers was £6,420. This surplus has been added to the Accumulated Fund which now totals £17,752. The Stock Fluctuation Account remains at £40,000. This reserve is necessary to provide for unpredicted falls and fluctuations in our overseas returns.

The balance owing to the Department of Agriculture for honey stocks is unaltered at £71,187. The value of honey stocks and packing materials taken over from the Government when the Authority was formed in 1953 was £101,759, but the debt was reduced to its present figure by payments totalling £30,572 in 1955 and 1956. The Authority has had discussions with you regarding the debt and I hope that some satisfactory settlement can be arranged. Unfortunately the Authority has no liquid resources of its own out of which payment can be made.

### Acknowledgments

On behalf of the Authority I wish to express our appreciation of your continued interest in our affairs and I acknowledge also the advice and assistance given to us so willingly by the Director of Horticulture and all officers of the Apiary Section of the Department of Agriculture.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.)

WALLACE NELSON,  
Chairman, New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority



## Financial Statements

## General Revenue Account for the Year Ended August 31, 1958

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
<b>Honey Stocks on hand, 1/9/57:</b>											
New Zealand .. .. .	154,791	11	7				42,633	19	3		
Overseas .. .. .	31,103	5	7				179,255	3	6		
				185,894	17	2					
<b>Payments to Suppliers:</b>											
Advance Payments .. .. .	79,601	0	1								
Contract Premiums .. .. .	6,136	12	4								
Final Payments .. .. .	33,069	17	10								
				118,807	10	3					
<b>Freight and Cartage Inward</b> .. .. .				2,673	5	9					
<b>Store Costs:</b>											
Rent, Refrigeration and Factory Expenses .. .. .	5,230	0	5								
Storage and other Depot Exps. .. .. .	1,534	9	2								
Packing Materials .. .. .	5,376	18	2								
Wages .. .. .	6,018	12	9								
Depreciation on Plant and Tools .. .. .	128	2	8								
				18,888	3	2					
<b>New Premises and Plant:</b>											
State Advances Interest .. .. .	2,388	17	9								
Rates .. .. .	196	0	8								
				2,584	18	5					
<b>Local Sales Expenses:</b>											
Commission .. .. .	495	3	9								
Freight and Cartage Outward .. .. .	747	15	5								
				1,242	19	2					
<b>Sales of Honey:</b>											
Local Sales .. .. .							42,633	19	3		
Export Sales .. .. .							179,255	3	6		
							221,889	2	9		
<b>Proceeds of Used Cases and Tins</b>									746	14	6
<b>Honey Levy Account:</b>											
Balance of Account transferred									17,058	17	5
<b>Honey Stocks on hand, 31/8/58:</b>											
New Zealand .. .. .							101,642	5	5		
Overseas .. .. .							34,582	2	10		
							136,224	8	3		

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>Export Expenses:</b>						
Freight, Landing Charges and Cartage	19,856	10	1			
Commission and Incentive Payments	7,559	17	3			
Insurance	607	1	7			
General	684	0	9			
Warehousing	1,090	2	8			
Advertising Expenses Overseas	80	10	2			
				29,878	2	0
<b>Administration:</b>						
Advertising	9	14	6			
Office Rent and Services	810	7	9			
Printing and Stationery	248	16	3			
Salaries and Superannuation Contribution	5,063	1	9			
General Expenses	485	1	10			
Postages, Telegrams, Tolls and Cables	311	1	10			
Insurance	337	13	8			
Bank Interest	296	5	2			
Depreciation on Office Equipment	42	7	11			
				7,534	10	8
<b>Marketing Authority:</b>						
Members' Honoraria	1,400	0	0			
Members' Travelling Expenses	577	19	1			
Election Expenses	16	2	3			
				1,994	1	4
Surplus transferred to Accumulated Fund				6,420	14	6
				£375,919	2	11

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£375,919 2 11

## Balance Sheet as at August 31, 1958

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Printing and General Expenses	1,670	12	5	20,226	3	1
Grant to National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.)	1,000	0	0			
Industry Publicity Expenses (N.Z.)	496	13	3			
Balance transferred to General Revenue Acc.	17,058	17	5			
	£20,226	3	1	£20,226	3	1
Revenue from Honey Levy						

## HONEY LEVY ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1958

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Mortgage:</b>				<b>Land and Buildings:</b>		
State Advances Corporation	67,634	9	7	Freehold Land, at cost	3,800	0
<b>Sundry Creditors:</b>				Premises, expend're to 31/8/58	63,844	5
Department of Agriculture	71,187	5	11	<b>Bank:</b>		
Trade Creditors and Accrued Expenses	2,341	1	8	Bank of N.Z., Auckland	2,140	17
Honey Suppliers	33,237	6	9	Reserve Bank of N.Z., Wgln.	1,894	4
	106,765	14	4	<b>Honey Stocks, at cost or market valuation</b>	4,035	2
<b>Stock Fluctuation Account</b>	40,000	0	0	Packing Materials, at cost	136,224	8
<b>Accumulated Fund:</b>				Plant and Tools, at cost less depreciation	3,289	15
As at 31/8/58	11,331	18	2	Office Furniture and Appliances, at cost less depreciation	5,581	17
Add Surplus from General Revenue Account for year ended August 31, 1958	6,420	14	6	Stationery	842	6
	17,752	12	8	Sundry Debtors:	190	18
				Overseas Accounts	2,610	19
				Current Accounts	11,680	19
				<b>Air Travel Deposit Account</b>	14,291	18
					52	3
	£232,152	16	7		£232,152	16

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

(Sgd.) C. R. J. AITKEN,

Controller and Auditor-General  
W. H. CHUDLEY, A.R.A.N.Z., Manager  
8/12/58

# Dominion Conference 1959

TIMARU, JULY 14, 15, 16

Sessions will be held in the Caroline Bay Tearooms, located in the beautiful beach playground of South Canterbury

## Book your own accommodation immediately

Those coming to conference MUST make their own arrangements for accommodation. Bookings will be available as listed below until June 16, and applications for accommodation must be accompanied by a deposit of £1 for each guest requiring accommodation. Mention of the Beekeepers' Conference must be made in the application if you do not use the attached form.

Licensed Hotels	Grading	Tariff	Address
Hydro Grand Hotel	3 star plus	36/- & 41/-	360 Stafford Street
Dominion Hotel	4 star	45/-	Box 181
Royal Hotel	3 star	31/6	Cains Terrace
Private Accommodation			
Hotel Seaview	3 star	30/6	Stafford Street
Beach Lodge		27/6	12 Sarah Street

All above are within two minutes' walking distance of Conference.

## Visit to Mount Cook

An overnight visit to Mount Cook's new Hermitage has been arranged for Sunday and Monday, July 12 and 13. There will be an opportunity to visit the Ball Hut and Tasman Glacier, and the tour will return via the new Benmore Hydro Project. This is a unique opportunity to visit this popular resort at a special concession rate of approximately £6 per person which includes all fares and hotel accommodation. Buses will leave Timaru at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday, and arrive back at about 6 p.m. on Monday. Firm bookings must be made on the form attached and payment forwarded.

**TRADE DISPLAY:** Space has been made available for the display of items of interest to Beekeepers. Firms or other wishing to make use of this facility are requested to write to the Local Conference Secretary, Timaru, immediately.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** For those arriving prior to Conference and not going on the Mount Cook tour, the local Branch is arranging visits of interest. **LADIES:** Visits to places of particular local interest have been arranged for wives and friends and they are assured of warm hospitality in true South Canterbury style. Wives of local Beekeepers are looking forward to the opportunity to entertain Beekeepers' wives from other parts of New Zealand.

**SOCIAL:** A Social Function for all those attending Conference and their wives has been arranged for Tuesday evening in the Bay Tearooms. An Afternoon Social Function has been arranged for wives on Wednesday.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** If the local Branch can be of any special assistance to you or your family, we invite you to write and ask.

**TRANSPORT:** On Sunday buses leave N.Z. Road Services bus depot, Victoria Street, Christchurch, at 8 a.m., and Christchurch Railway Station at 8.15 a.m. for Timaru, arriving at 11.15 a.m. Breakfast can be obtained at Christchurch Railway Station, and dinner can be obtained at Dominion Hotel, the Hydro Grand, Hotel Seaview and other places near Timaru bus depot. Mount Cook bus leaves from nearly opposite these places. You are advised to book your seat on the Christchurch-Timaru bus.

# Registration Form

To be sent to the  
Conference Local Secretary  
11 Cain Street, Timaru

- ★ I/We will be attending the Beekeepers' Annual Conference at Timaru  
Name .....
- Address .....
- Wife attending: Yes/No      Friend or Children coming: ..... (number)
- ★ I have applied for accommodation for ..... persons from July.....  
to July ..... at the ..... Hotel.
- ★ I expect to arrive at ..... on .....  
and I will be travelling by      plane / train      bus / car.

## MOUNT COOK TOUR

- ★ Please reserve for ..... persons on the Mount Cook Tour for which  
I enclose cheque/money order for £ ..... being £6 per person.  
(This will be refunded if tour is cancelled for unforeseen reasons.)
- ★ Please arrange Dinner at ..... Hotel for  
..... persons on Sunday, July 12.

**P L E A S E   P O S T   T H I S   F O R M**  
when you send your Hotel Reservations  
to the Conference Local Secretary,  
Mr. CHRIS DAWSON 11 Cain Street, Timaru

*We wish to know NOW if you are coming!*

---

# Hotel Booking

To be sent to the Hotel Proprietor  
with your deposits

*For Beekeepers' Conference, Timaru, July 14, 15, 16*  
To the Proprietor

- ..... Hotel
- Please reserve ..... double/single room for ..... guests  
from ..... July ..... to ..... July .....  
(day of arrival)      (date)      (day of departure)      (date)
- I enclose deposit of £1 for each person. Amount enclosed: £      :      :

Name .....

Address .....

.....

## A Tropical Visitor

By BILL HAINES

The Far North had a tropical visitor on March 14 in the form of a cyclone. It departed as quickly as it arrived and left a trail of damage which had to be seen to be believed.

Accompanied by a neighbouring beekeeper, I set out to survey the damage to hives, etc., and what a scene of destruction! Our town of Kaitaia was a sorry sight with wires hanging in tangled masses and shop verandahs ripped off, garages blown over and distributed some distance away in pieces; roofs were torn off, gardens destroyed and ornamental trees were broken. Shelter trees met a similar fate and they will be a great loss to stock this winter.

Our first visit to a bee yard revealed a scene of destruction which was to be experienced many times that day. Hive roofs were off and hives blown down. It was a case of standing them up and on to the next yard.

Trees were down over hives and did considerable damage. Rain had damaged honey on the hives and this was a disastrous loss as the season was already the worst experienced in the district, being below half the normal crop.

This did not make us feel very happy but when we saw the damage done to other property we felt that it could have been worse.

The scene of destruction continued and we had to cut our way past trees which had fallen across the roads. In one fifteen mile stretch of main road we encountered about fifty trees. On sides roads it was quicker to walk through paddocks as roads were completely blocked and will remain so for some time. Telephone and power lines were down every where and farmers were in difficulty with milking, etc.

Halls and churches suffered heavy loss, many being completely destroyed. Coastal areas suffered as a result of very high tides which invaded low lying areas and some houses. One house had waves breaking through the windows.

Such was our lot and as we set to repairing the damage we all agreed that if we never saw another it would be ever so much too soon.

P.S.: An aftermath of the cyclone has presented itself in the fruit trees that were denuded of their leaves; they have now made fresh growth and are in heavy bloom.

### Arsenic-treated Timber

An article by D. L. Harrison, T. Palmer-Jones and R. G. Nairn, of the Animal Research Station at Wallaceville, which appears in the April issue of the Journal of Agriculture, deals with the use of arsenic-treated timber for beehives. Tests were carried out with three preservatives containing arsenic, Tanalith U, Tanalith C, and Boliden S 25, and it was shown that all three are poisonous to bees and even if the timber is machine dressed after treatment its use may lead to serious reduction of the honey crop.

#### Safe Preservatives for Beehives

Pentachlorophenol is safe for use in beehives according to Dyce (1951) provided the bottom boards and other hive parts with which the bees come into contact are piled outdoors and adequately ventilated for at least a week or two. This allows the volatile

solvents to evaporate. Another writer (1954) states that pentachlorophenol is satisfactory for treatment of live timber provided the timber is thoroughly aired before use; otherwise there is a danger of injuring the bees.

Copper naphthenate, copper chromate and boric acid should also be satisfactory provided the hives are thoroughly dried and ventilated before use. Creosote should not be used, as it causes honey taint.

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### THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

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

Subscriptions 15/- per year posted  
Sample copy free on application to—

The Editor, P.O. Box 20,  
West Maitland N.S.W., Australia.

# The National Beekeepers' Association

## A N I N V I T A T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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

**APPLICATION FORM**

(Please read information overleaf)

Date.....

The Secretary,

Branch,

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

\* Please enrol me as a Member of your Association.

\* Please renew my Membership in your Association.

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

£ : : being Annual Subscription and  
£ : : being premium for Apiary Insurance.

Total £ : :

Signed.....

Name and Full Address (block letters):

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

\* *Strike out line which does not apply*



# DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

## Horticulture Division

### Honey Crops, 1958-59 Season

Most of the major honey-producing districts experienced weather conditions at critical periods in the summer months which were unfavourable for normal nectar secretion, particularly in northern districts, and apiary management generally was very difficult.

In Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty districts, heavy rain and persistent wind with high humidity prevailed throughout the summer and yields from pasture sources ranged from very poor to practically a complete failure. The honey produced tends to be darker than usual and much of the present surplus will be required for feeding purposes.

As a result of severe drought conditions, the crop in Marlborough was a complete failure. In North Canterbury and in all the light soil areas, except in the irrigated areas, crops were affected by drought conditions and yields were very poor. On the heavy soil areas, clover bloomed well and bees gathered average crops. The overall crop in Canterbury is below average. In Westland the weather throughout the summer was very dry and warm. These conditions favoured honey production in this district and above average yields were secured.

Production for the year ended March 31, 1959, is the lowest recorded over the past 10 years and is estimated at 3,786 tons of honey and 132,510lb. of commercial beeswax, approximately 2,099 tons of honey and 7,349lb. of beeswax less than the previous season.

### Honey Grading

In the year ended February 25, 1959, covering part of two seasons' production, 20,333 cases, each 120lb. of bulk honey, sent to receiving depots established by the Honey Marketing Authority at Auckland, New Plymouth, Christchurch, Greymouth, Dunedin and Invercargill, were graded 10,058 less than the previous year. A total of 180

cases of bulk honey could not be exported, in the original condition, because of low specific gravity. Nine tons of honey submitted for grading were found to be unsuitable for marketing, and were rejected.

### Mucosal Disease in Stock — Wairarapa District

The emergency measures being implemented by the Department to prevent the transmission of Mucosal Disease across the boundaries of the present stock control areas in the Wairarapa, also between farms by accidental contacts with the disease in the areas affected, include the prohibition on shifting hives and apiary equipment from an affected area without the prior permission of the Live Stock Instructor or other authority in charge of the district.

This prohibition is necessary as mucosal virus, which falls into the grass around apiaries, or on to hives from affected stock, could be transmitted by shifting hive material to other areas.

In line with other measures being adopted to control the spread of this disease, the Department has requested beekeepers owning out-apiaries within the Wairarapa "restricted area" to co-operate during the period of the emergency by observing the following precautions:—

To disinfect all supers and other hive material recently removed from areas now under quarantine before the outbreak was diagnosed.

To wear gumboots so that trouser ends can be tucked in and kept away from the grass.

On leaving a paddock near a danger area, to wash the boots and all else that was in contact with the grass with a disinfectant, using a brush to ensure a thorough scrubbing.

E. SMAELLIE,  
Superintendent Beekeeping

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.

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 beekeepers 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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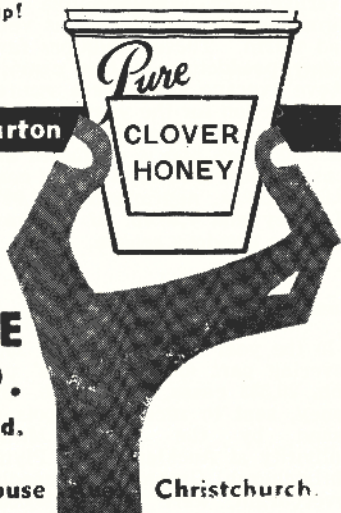
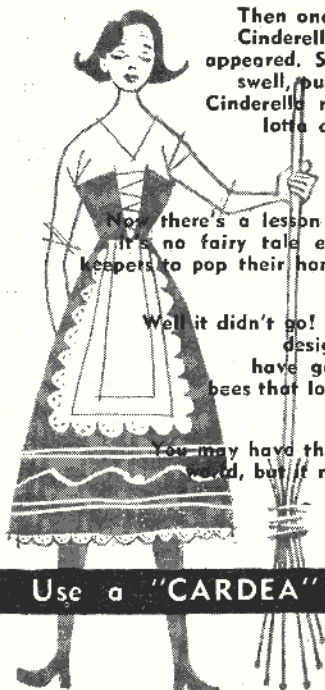
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# BRANCH NOTES

## GORE

About sixty people from as far afield as Rangiora attended the combined Gore and Southland Field Day held at Mr. R. Hume's home apiary at Roxburgh on February 7. The day was fine and the setting perfect for a pleasant afternoon.

After lunch Mr. Hume welcomed the visitors and Mr. J. Glynn, President of the Gore Branch, in opening the proceedings expressed the hope that all present would enjoy themselves.

Mr. Hume gave a demonstration of extracting and creaming honey and an observation hive at the apiary was also a source of much interest.

Mr. Bruce Bennie, of Ranfurly, gave a talk on the formation of nuclei, and Mr. R. Woods, of Rangiora, told how they produce queen bees in large

numbers. A good type of bee escape was described by Mr. Toogood, and the Apiary Instructor, Mr. Des. Seal, talked on the processing of honey and its preparation for the market.

The latest information on honey marketing and the plant at Auckland was then given by the local Authority member, Mr. W. T. Herron, and later the Dominion President, Mr. J. W. Fraser, spoke on Association matters and on measures taken to deal with lethal sprays. A most enjoyable afternoon tea brought the function to a close.

The general opinion was that most beekeepers were satisfied with their crops this season, but those on the lighter soils experienced conditions somewhat on the dry side.

—J. R. Simpson

## HAWKES BAY

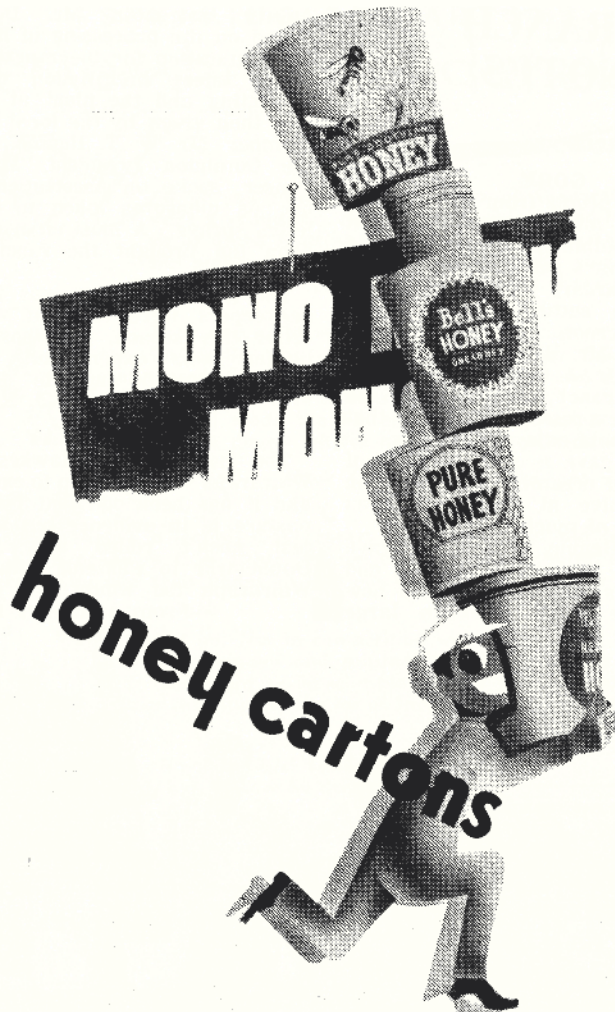
The honey crop: Hawkes Bay to Wairarapa will not be up to expectations and it has been odd that fairly green pasture is in evidence but the nectar just hasn't rolled in. Norswood, Dannevirke to Pahiatua rather better. Wairarapa too windy.

—From a Hawkes Bay letter



Group at Nelson Field Day, November, 1958

From left to right: Messrs. A. V. Hewlett (Secretary), R. H. Hobbs (Apiary Instructor) and L. T. Cropp (President). In the background is the well-kept apiary of the Nelson Branch on the property of Mr. V. F. Gunnion, at Stoke.



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## Mr. T. Palmer-Jones on Tour

The following extract is from a letter to Mr. J. W. Fraser from Mr. Palmer-Jones, dated April 16, 1959. At the time of writing he was staying in a house on the outskirts of Berlin, the grounds running down to a small lake, on the other side of which lies Soviet-occupied Germany. Mr. Palmer-Jones is on leave from his work at Wallaceville.

I had a very interesting busman's holiday in Sydney and N.S.W. Alec Clemson met me and drove me about 200 miles to Orange, through the Blue Mountains and Bathurst. We stayed two night at Orange and drove all over the place meeting beekeepers and seeing apiaries. During the return journey we stopped at Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

All beekeepers in N.S.W. are migratory ones, depending almost entirely upon the various types of gum trees for their honey crop. There is a constant movement of apiaries to areas where it is thought that a particular species of gum is likely to flower. Much skill is required in having one's bees in the right spot at the right time. As the gum trees are cut down there will probably be a change in agricultural practice with the growth of

more clovers and seed crops which will allow some beekeepers to have fixed apiaries like ours. But much of N.S.W. is probably unsuitable for the growth of clovers. I shall be able to show coloured slides of scenes in Australia on my return.

We spent over a fortnight in Greece, where beekeeping seems well developed and all the hives I saw were modern Langstroths. There is an incredibly varied and dense growth of spring flowers in Greece, on any waste ground, and these provide very good nectar sources. We drove to Delphi past Mt. Parnassus, and saw many large apiaries, which probably depend on spring flowers and various flowering shrubs and bushes. The ruins at Delphi, Mycenae, Corinth, etc., are all covered with beautiful flowers which are visited by bees. The bees are dark in colour. We spent a few days on Myknos and visited Delos, an island in the Cyclades, and again there were flowers and many black bees.

On leaving Berlin, Mr. Palmer-Jones plans to visit the research station at Celle, near Hanover, where a good deal of work is done on agricultural chemicals and their effect on bees.

## Cancer Treatment Using 'Royal Jelly'

Two Canadian scientists had discovered that the 'royal jelly'—the substance produced by worker bees to fatten the queen—would protect mice against the growth of four kinds of cancer, the 'Evening Standard' science report said.

The reporter had telephoned one of the two scientists, Dr. Gordon Townsend (44), a biologist at the Ontario Agricultural College. Dr. Townsend has made tests on 2000 mice in experiments carried out with the help of Dr. F. H. Morgan (42), a biochemist in the Department of Health in Ottawa.

Some of the mice were injected with cancer cells and died within two months. Mice injected with a mixture of cancer cells and 'royal jelly' were still alive a year later.

Dr. Townsend said they were trying to discover if the jelly had any effect on mice that already had cancer.

There was 'real hope' that the jelly would work in people with cancer, he said. Tests on human cancer victims might begin this year.

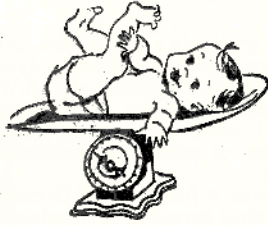
The Canadians thought that the secret of the action of the jelly against cancer—which included leukemia—was its fatty acid, the reporter said.

When the 'pure' acid was extracted and used, far less was needed to give 100 per cent protection to the mice.

Dr. Townsend was 'confident' that it could be produced synthetically in a laboratory.

Dr. W. M. Court Brown, of the Medical Research Council group studying leukemia at Edinburgh, was quoted by the newspaper saying: "The important question is, will the acid kill cancers already established in the body? If it will, then this is indeed a major step forward."

—'Otago Daily Times', 4/5/1959



# Notes for Beginners

by 'SKEP'

By now all hives will be closed down for the winter and field work will be at a standstill. There is nothing that I can add to the advice I gave last year regarding getting on with the preparation for next year, attending to fences and other maintenance work. This is the one time of the year that beekeepers can relax and take life in a quieter manner. The beginner with a few hives will not be feeling the strain but I have yet to meet a commercial apiarist who is not glad to see that last load of honey in the shed.

With the exception of two or three localities, this has been a poor year for honey yields and the estimated crop for the Dominion is down considerably below average. These lean years come and go and we survive them. I have often heard it said that you never get two bad years in succession in beekeeping. Let us hope that this old adage is true.

## That Scale Hive.

The scale hive that I wrote about in my last article was dismantled on February 19. The graph of the crop is interesting. The hive was not a strong one so no spectacular gains were made; however it did show that the bulk of the honey was gathered over a period of fourteen days and that only on eight of these fourteen days did the scale register an increase of over 5lbs. The overnight loss in weight bore little relation to the daily gains and only once did it exceed three pounds. No doubt the dry season and the heavy concentrations of sugars in the nectar would account for this. A refractometer would have completed the picture. Perhaps next year we will be able to repeat the experiment during a better honey season.

## Definition of a 'Beginner in Beekeeping'

I have come to the conclusion that this heading can be divided into three

distinct classes. Firstly there is the beginner who never intends to graduate out of the amateur status. To him I would say that he has chosen an absorbing hobby. The years ahead will be full of interest and there is no limit to the study that can take place and the knowledge that can be gained. The amateur, I think, gets more enjoyment from his bees than any other status of Beekeeper. He is not dependent financially on the proceeds of the venture and is not caught up in the rush and tear of a commercial outfit.

Secondly there is the Beginner who never intends to venture beyond the part time status. Some years he will get considerable financial reward for his efforts and other years he will suffer set-backs through inability to attend to his bees at the right time, due to bad weather, etc. Lack of adequate plant and facilities will hamper his style and interfere with social and other activities. In districts that I am familiar with there are not many Beginners who come within this category. They usually have to revert to the Hobbyist status or revise their ideas and join the third and last group; that is, become full time commercial apiarists. It is a big decision to make and last year I pointed out some of the pros and cons to be considered. Many have taken the plunge and made good and many others have failed. It is entirely over to the individual.

## The Ethics of Beekeeping

The word ethics covers rules of conduct and moral principles and these two definitions play a very important part in our activities and govern the amount of satisfaction that we get from our efforts. I am fully aware that "Society" makes certain demands on us and that money (or lack of money) dictates our "modus operandi." Notwithstanding this, the fact remains that by adopting realistic rules of conduct in

your business you can not only get a better financial return from your efforts but can derive a satisfaction and pleasure from your work that no money can buy. Whatever status the Beginner seeks to attain, let him set himself a high standard of efficiency and keep to it. Do not on any account tolerate "slipshod" methods of management. The best is always cheapest in the long run and this applies not only to your equipment but to the quality of your work.

#### What of the Future?

He who would attempt to forecast the future of the beekeeping industry would indeed be a bold man. I am certain, however, that there will always be a beekeeping industry and that apart from unavoidable fluctuations, the efficient beekeeper will be able to make a satisfactory living. It is true that certain honeys are not now readily saleable and that certain areas are no longer profitable for apiarists to work. Just how long this state of affairs will continue is hard to estimate. However, agriculture cannot prosper without the honey bee. Time and circumstances will evolve new techniques and customs. Some, I know, will suffer hardships and disappointments but that is not patent to our industry alone. We are part and parcel of the whole economic structure.

#### Finale

And so I conclude my two years as Skep. I feel that my efforts have not been wholly orthodox and by comparison with other Skeps they have not given the help and guidance that might be expected. I have done my best and if any one of you have derived any benefit from what I have written, I am amply rewarded.

Good luck to you all!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Now that Skep has concluded his series of contributions to this column we have pleasure in revealing his identity—Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, of Geraldine. It would be true to say that nobody in New Zealand has a broader perspective of beekeeping and its place in agriculture than Mr. Gumbrell and the assistance he has given to the Journal is much appreciated. On behalf of readers we thank him for his helpful notes and thoughtful comments).

## APIMONDIA AND F.A.O.

Apimondia is the name given to the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and its aim is to promote the scientific, technical and economic development of beekeeping in all countries. Apimondia is now officially recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations as a non-governmental agricultural association and it is represented at F.A.O. meetings which are relevant to beekeeping interests. The present Secretary General is Dr. A. Zappi Recordati, 101 Corso Vittorio Emanuele, Rome.

Under the auspices of Apimondia an International Beekeeping Congress is held every three years. The 1958 Congress was held, appropriately enough, in the beautiful premises of F.A.O. in Rome. In 1961 the Congress will be in Madrid.

As yet the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand has not joined Apimondia, probably on account of the distance and expense involved, and as far as we know New Zealand has not yet been represented at an International Congress.

### *Beekeeping in Sweden*

By Bertil Schwan, Correspondent for Sweden, in 'Bee World', March, 1959.

Beekeeping in Sweden, as in many other countries, is at present decreasing, and it seems doubtful whether it is appropriate, or even possible, to try to restore beekeeping to its original state. The lack of bees does, however, have severe consequences to the seed and fruit growers, and for several years now experts on these subjects have been co-operating in all fields directly or indirectly concerned in beekeeping. Their aim is to concentrate beekeeping, bee research and education about bees on the object which is the most important to them—the efficient use of bees as pollinating agents.

A committee consisting of representatives of the Board of Agriculture, beekeeping and seed growing, bee research and plant protection, is now discussing various problems of beekeeping, in order to bring it back into the field of agriculture where it was once centred.

## The Beekeeper's Other Man

By Chris Dawson

Fifty years of beekeeping in the machine age has seen a steady procession of vehicles that have tried to take the place of the other man and endeavoured to make the handling of colonies as easy as the beekeeper would like it to be. Many of these have been ingenious but cumbersome while others have been totally impractical.

A North Otago enthusiast, Mr. Stan Wilson, of Enfield, has built a unit that lacks many of the shortcomings of those that came before it. He has long been keenly interested in previous inventions and not being able to purchase just what he wanted, he set out to make it. The result is a very practical working tool.

This "do-all" is compact and strong with no superfluous parts and is light enough for the average man to lift easily. Loading of colonies of up to four supers or two colonies each of two

supers is performed by one man. In shifting two colonies of two supers, the first colony complete with bottom board and lid is lifted on to the lid of the second colony and the two colonies are then lifted in one load.

A few turns of the handle lifts the load to truck height and smooth forks allow the load to be slid on to the deck. Four full supers can be handled at once.

Splitting a colony to insert queen excluder or bee escape board is made simple by two clamp arms which slip into position and a colony can be split at any height above the lowest super. In ten seconds the change can be made from fork lift to grab lift.

No special equipment is needed and it is necessary only to make sure that the bottom boards are constructed so that the "feet" can slide into position.

Special width fork lifts can be made to fit existing equipment.

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3. Small winch operated by turning handle lifts colony or four full supers with pallet.

4. At truck height, load is moved over deck or skidded off fork lift on to truck.

5. Split a colony to insert queen excluder or bee escape with two clamp arms and a turn of the handle (clamp arms not shown here).



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## Dr. Dyce on Marketing Methods

The following comment was given by Dr. Dyce in reply to a question at the Timaru meeting during the course of his recent visit to New Zealand:—

'I know that some of your people are not too much in favour of the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority. But I want to tell you this: Just the other day somebody was showing me where New Zealand honey was away up above Canadian honey in price, and that is due to the fact that the buyers and the consuming public over there have got used to your good quality, standard graded honey and they are willing to pay more money for it. The buyers over there do not care what they pay for New Zealand honey as long as they know that their competitor is not selling for less. That is the thing. I think that the Honey Authority with all its maybe faults and failures has put extra money into your pockets over the past twenty or thirty years in its various forms during that time.

'I am no person to speak of it but we have admired your marketing set up very much. I wish to goodness we had it in the States, and especially in Canada. To give you an example why. When I was over in England in 1934 we had about eight million pounds of honey sold. I forget the price of it but it was a good price. All of a sudden out of a blue sky a broker up in Winnipeg sent over a number of samples to every buyer in the British Isles. He quoted two cents a pound less than we had sold that honey for. We had to back down on our price and we had

to sell the rest of the honey, which was about a million and a half pounds, down to his level. We checked on this thing and it made us blistering mad because it meant thousands of dollars to our beekeepers.

'We tried for years to do exactly the same thing as you people have been doing but we failed because we had too many rugged individualists who wanted to have their little say as to where they should go. And by having that little say they, as well as the rest of the beekeepers, took a lower price.

'I may be stepping on some toes here but I want to give you the way I feel about it. I believe firmly that that is one of the reasons that is where your price is, and you can go back over the years and compare United States or Canadian prices and I will be willing to bet you that your prices have been at least a penny or two higher over those years. I give all the credit to the Marketing Authority because how else could you have done it?'

### GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE

A 64-page monthly Bee Magazine, generously illustrated, featuring timely articles on beekeeping practices in the U.S. Rates: One year, \$2.50; two years, \$4.50; three years, \$6.50. Sample copy on request.

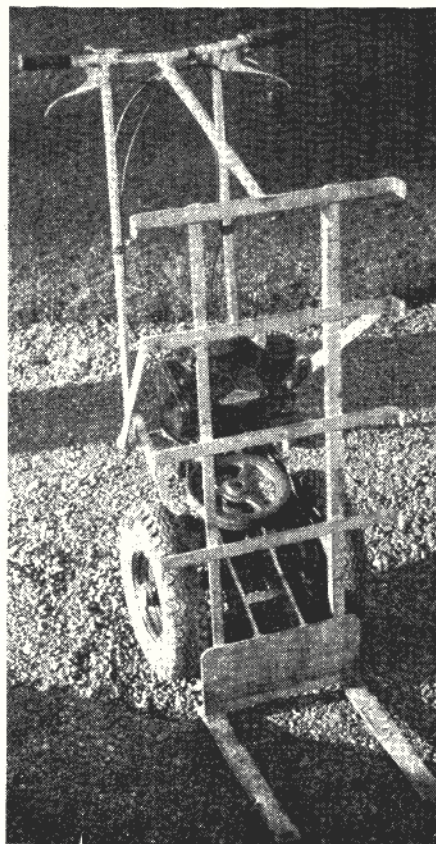
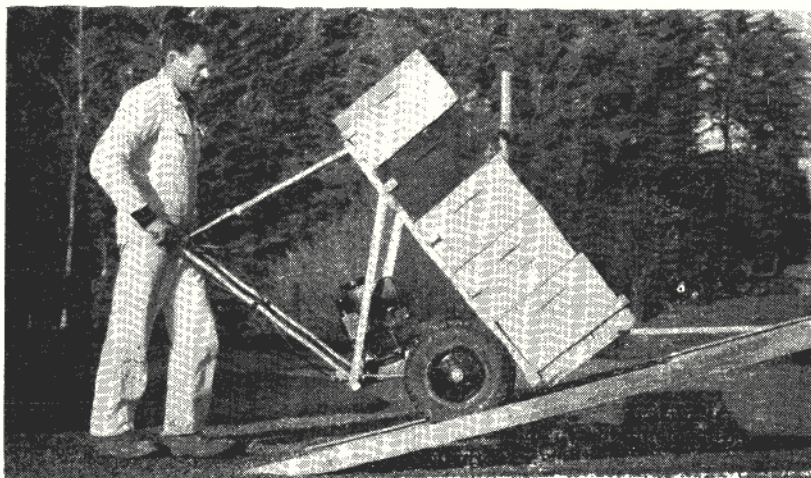
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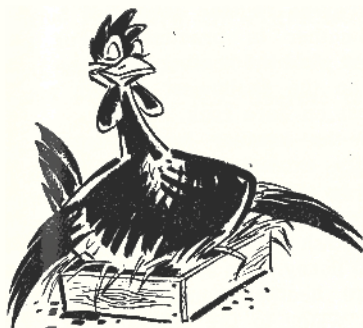
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## Motorised Wheelbarrow

The motorised wheelbarrow illustrated here has been developed by Mr. D. L. Ward, of Dannevirke. Hives can be loaded in pairs or in four or five boxes with crop on at the rate of one hive per minute. Honey lifted off hives into pallets are wheeled up and right into position on the truck four supers at a time. This machine is light and can be carried on top of the load. It can also be used as a handbarrow in the honey-house.



### BEES FOR HIRE

The January issue of the Journal of Agriculture contains a splendid illustrated article by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones entitled 'Organisation of Pollination Service for Farm Seed Industry.' The article deals with the pollination requirements of white clover and other crops and the need for research on this subject to provide a sound basis for co-operation between the farmer and the beekeeper.

This article makes welcome reading because at the present time honey producers who are asked to provide bees for special pollination work are often at a loss to know what they should charge for the service. It is about time beekeepers agreed upon a uniform fee. In a recent case an orchardist paid the beekeeper a reasonable amount only to find later that a neighbour had been charged nothing for a similar service from a different beekeeper. Naturally the first orchardist concluded that he had been 'robbed'. In this way the industry loses standing.

Shifting bees takes time, money and hard work. Pollination, however, is

# Reflections . .

from the

Editor's Desk

vital to the grower and a fair payment would make the service mutually profitable. If beekeepers were in agreement on the matter perhaps the Association could recommend a standard basic fee, and the apiarist would then have some authority for making the charge while at the same time the farmer would have grounds for confidence in the transaction. With a fair remuneration for the service rendered and the work involved the trade would be given a chance to develop along sound lines for the benefit of our general farming economy.

### Pollination in England

Even in England where there is a high population of honeybees in a large number of apiaries there has developed a substantial movement of bees for pollination work, according to an article by Lieut.-Col. H. D. Tucker in "The Field." Last year 11,000 hives of bees were hired out to farmers in Norfolk and Kent alone. One estate reported an increase of 100 per cent. in yield of kale seed when bees were used and the crop fetched over £10,000. Rape yielded 12cwt. of seed per acre against the previous figure for that district of 5cwt. to 7cwt. Black cur-

## MOTORISED WHEELBARROW

### The Answer to Shifting Hives

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**D. L. WARD**

**KINTAIL APIARIES, Guy Street, Dannevirke.**

rants gave 5 tons per acre as against the usual 2 tons. Similar spectacular increases were recorded for red and white clovers, turnips, mustard and all kinds of fruit.

A distribution of hives of from 1 to 5 per acre is recommended, according to the age and type of crop. The hire rate is £2/10/- to £3 per hive.

The matter of poison sprays is always present in the mind of the beekeeper, says the author, and his contract with the farmer prohibits their use while the bees are present. Wild insects do not survive the plough and poison spray in sufficient numbers to give a reliable pollination service and the value of honeybees has been recognised for a long time by the Ministry of Agriculture, hence the sugar ration for bees during the war.

### Honey from Heather

An interesting article by A. S. C. Deans appears in a recent issue of "Agriculture," published by the British Ministry of Agriculture. The author states that many moorland areas offer virtually inexhaustible sources of honey, but because the ling heather is a late summer flowering plant and moorland areas are remote the production of ling heather honey presents a variety of problems.

The best yield is obtained from young heather plants growing to a height of four to eight inches. Ideal conditions are realised on moors that are properly managed for grouse shooting since in

such areas regular controlled burning of heather is practised. For best nectar yield the heather should be growing on the shallowest of soil, indeed almost on bare rock.

As the heather honey cannot be readily extracted from the comb it must be either pressed from the combs, or scraped to the midrib and the resulting mash pressed, or produced as comb honey. In spite of its gelatinous nature heather honey normally contains water to the extent of 22 to 23 per cent. or more, which probably accounts for the tendency of this honey to ferment if kept under unfavourable conditions.

---

## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,—Could you give me information on beekeeping in New Zealand and the possibilities of employment with beekeepers there. I have worked for beekeepers and had bees for four years; also I have a Bee-Master Certificate from U.B.C.

Thank you,  
HOWARD L. ADCOCK,  
Armstrong, B.C.,  
Canada.

12/12/1958.

(Editor's Note: Readers who can offer employment to Mr. Adcock may write to him direct).

---

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## *Toxicity of Agricultural Chemicals to Honeybees*

(Reprinted from the article by T. Palmer-Jones and I. W. Forster in the  
N.Z. Journal of Agriculture, October, 1958)

Not harmful to bees	Should not be applied directly on bees visiting flowers, but in early morning and evening when they are not flying.	Highly toxic to bees. Must not be applied at any time to crops in flower.
DNBP plus DNAP* Endothal* MCP* PCP* 2,4-D*  Aramite Bordeaux mixture Captan Chlorfensone CMU Cuprous oxide Ferbam Maneb Nabam Nicotine sulphate PCPCBS Sulphur TCA Thiram (TMTD) Zineb Ziram	DDT dust and spray* Strobane* Toxaphene dust and spray* DDD Dipterex HETP (late evening) Methoxychlor Pyrethrum Rotenone Ryania Schradan Tedion V.18 TEPP (late evening)	Diazinon* DNOC* Metasystox* Primin* Thiodan* Aldrin* BHC  Calcium arsenate Chlordane Chlorthion Dieldrin Endrin Lead arsenate Lindane Malathion Parathion Sabadilla

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3	25/6	36/-	
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5	40/-	58/-	
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KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND.

## Acarine Disease

Though acarine disease of adult bees has not been found in New Zealand, it is prevalent in some European countries, and in the British Isles is present in about a quarter of the colonies. The cause is a small parasitic mite, *Acarapis woodi*, which breeds in the trachea or breathing tubes of the bee. The mites feed on the body fluids of their victim, taking their food from the trachea walls. The female mites lay their eggs and the young are hatched and reared within the trachea of their host. When the trachea becomes crowded the mites crawl out and search for a new host.

The disease is also transmitted by drifting infested workers from diseased to healthy colonies and by robber bees. Heavily infested bees become weak, are unable to fly, and soon die, a condition that rapidly overtakes the whole colony.

The first sign of acarine is a number of bees running about in front of the hive, some with the hind wings sticking out sideways while the forewings are folded in the usual position. This occurs usually in early spring, though it may occur at any time during the season. As the disease advances numbers of bees will be found dead in front of the hive, and large numbers will also be seen crawling in front some distance from the hive. The whole apiary will quickly become infested.

Though the importation of bees into New Zealand is governed by a strict quarantine system requiring the importer to obtain a permit under the Apiaries Regulations, 1952, and no permit is granted for importation from those countries where acarine is known to exist, there is always the possibility of an illegal importation of bees either by accident, or by ignorance, or by wilful disregard of the regulations.

Any case with the described symptoms, including mass crawling of bees, many with unjointed wings, should be reported immediately to the Apiary Instructor for the district for investigation, as acarine is the most devastating of all bee diseases.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



## FIRST FLIGHT OF YOUNG BEES

Question: Why do bees come out of their hive at a certain time and fly about with their heads toward the entrance? Does this mean swarming?

Answer: Young bees fly in this manner when taking their first flight. They turn their heads toward the hive in order to locate their home in reference to surrounding objects, so that they can return safely to their own hives. This is sometimes called the "play flight" of young bees. Usually this occurs shortly after noon. It does not indicate that the colony will swarm. When a swarm first starts to issue, some of the bees turn to look back as the young bees do in a play flight, but in the case of the issuing swarm the condition quickly changes to that of a rush of bees from the hive without turning to look back.

—"Gleanings."

## Talking Point

"Gleanings" say that a champion talker, a woman, talked for 91 hours without taking sleep. During pauses of 11 seconds she took water and honey.

This is added proof, says "Gleanings," that honey gives energy and is good for the voice!

Husbands beware, or is it a reason why most male beekeepers can go on talking long after everyone else has dried up!

---

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