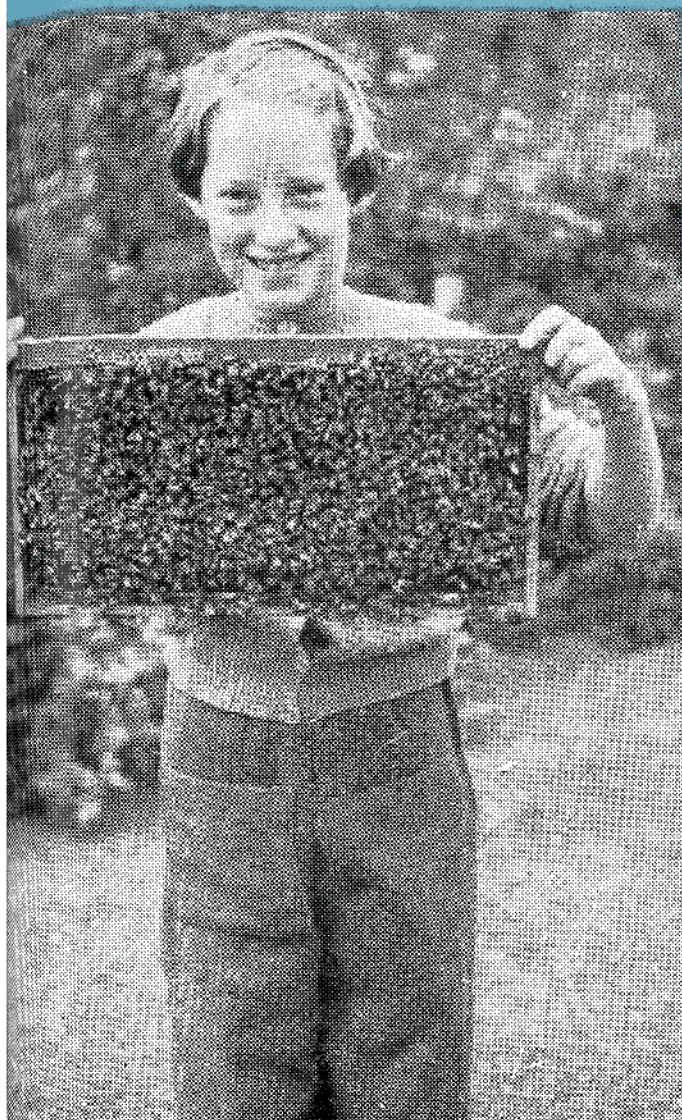


# The New Zealand Beekeeper



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# The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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# THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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## ANNUAL REPORT, 1959



Mr. J. W. Fraser

The Beekeeping Industry today stands at the Economic Crossroads. In one direction lies a sound future on which the whole Dominion may rest secure in a flourishing agricultural economy, based on an adequate pollination service; on the other an impoverished industry with a decline in essential pollinating insects which must reflect detrimentally on agricultural production and consequently upon the high level of prosperity which New Zealanders have come to enjoy and accept.

Facts cannot be ignored. Let me quote some.

- Fact 1: In the past year New Zealand has suffered one of the severest economic recessions in its history through a decline in its export income from primary produce.
- Fact 2: World authorities on agriculture have proved by research that pollination by bees is an essential pre-requisite to successful agriculture, a fact supported by New Zealand authorities and recognised by informed Government officials.
- Fact 3: In the past six years departmental records show a decline of over 14,000 beehives in production. Multiply this by an average of 30,000 field bees per hive and an average of 40,000 seed flowers visited by each bee and you arrive at astronomical figures related to pasture regeneration and production.
- Fact 4: For the past five years the Honey Marketing Authority has been forced to return to producers less than the cost-of-production as established by the Department of Agriculture.
- Fact 5: In the past year the Dominion production of honey amounted to only a little more than one quarter of the average, a position which has severely tested even the most established beekeeper and must surely have demonstrated the precarious nature of the beekeeper's existence. It is inevitable that a large number of the smaller producers in poor areas will be forced out of production because of these conditions.

During the past 15 months your Executive has persistently represented the economic insecurity of the beekeeping industry to the Government; has established the above facts without refutation; has demonstrated the solidarity of the industry behind its claims; has asked for assistance by way of a guaranteed return to producers sufficient to meet their cost-of-production; has consistently been refused.

Certainly the Beekeeping Industry stands at a crossroads.

The Industry, like the Executive, must be disappointed and concerned that the Government, while acknowledging the serious predicament of the industry, has failed to produce any worthwhile proposals for assistance. The Honey Marketing Authority is to be applauded for the endeavours which it has made for similar assistance both in concert with the Executive and on its own behalf and it is no reflection on that body that its efforts have produced no more worthwhile results than our own. The Minister of Agriculture has now agreed to appoint a small committee to investigate the Authority's position and the Executive has promised its assistance. Its terms of reference are sufficiently wide as to allow some constructive approach to the real problem of low returns. To our minds

this can only be met by direct Government aid to what must be classed as an essential industry. We can only hope that the Government's future attitude to the Industry is sufficiently enlightened to face the real issues and to provide a workable and adequate formula upon which the industry may build its strength and economic security in the best interests of primary production as a whole.

### **AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS**

In addition to the natural hazards of unpredictable weather and nectar sources coupled with market insecurity, the beekeeping industry has had to face over recent years the additional hazards resulting from the introduction of agricultural chemicals highly toxic to honey-bees. Fortunately the Government has recognised the dangers in this regard and the representations of the Executive, supported by Federated Farmers, have produced legislative safeguards in the form of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill, shortly to be introduced to Parliament, through which the application of toxic agricultural chemicals will be carefully controlled. The efforts of your Executive have procured a promise of beekeeper representation on the proposed Board of Control to be established after the passage of the Act for the purpose of administering its provisions, and in this at least the Industry can feel well pleased.

A unique opportunity recently occurred for the presentation of beekeepers' views on the subject of Agricultural Chemicals with the holding of the second Airwork Symposium in New Zealand. Organised by the Civil Aviation Department and addressed by health and agricultural authorities, the Symposium, held in Wanganui, provided a medium for acquainting airwork operators, chemical manufacturers and interested Government departments with the wider implications of the use of agricultural chemicals. An excellent presentation of the beekeepers' viewpoint was put forward by Mr. G. E. Gumbrell and Mr. I. W. Forster.

### **POLLINATION**

Beekeepers in this country have long attached importance to the need for re-inforcing overseas research on pollination with studies of the work of bees under New Zealand conditions both in pastoral seed cropping and in fruit production. It is pleasing to note that a start has been made in pollination trials in New Zealand through the Department of Agriculture and it is to be hoped that this work will be extended so as to provide the farming community with a real appreciation of the value of honey-bees and other pollinating agents in farm production. This work is of sufficient importance to warrant the utmost expedition both in the completion of tests and in the publication of findings.

The Association has endeavoured to assist in the task of enlightenment on the value of bees as pollinators, by the preparation of printed material for farmers showing the results of overseas experimentation and generally it may be said that the farming community has a fair appreciation of the value of the honey-bee and of the need for intensive beekeeping as an aid to successful production.

### **RESEARCH**

The importance of research cannot be overstressed; and while considerable sums are made available by the Government for research into other facets of primary production, it is to be regretted that the Beekeeping Industry has largely been neglected over recent years in this respect. The Industry, in common with many others, is faced with many problems on the production side in which additional research would be invaluable. A major problem which must receive urgent investigation is the serious decline in white honey sources over practically the whole of the North Island. With white honey the only completely payable crop, this factor assumes prime importance when it is realised that the North Island produces almost two-thirds of the Dominion crop. We have already witnessed major agricultural areas such as Taranaki evacuated by beekeepers because of loss of white honey production and with similar conditions appearing in Waikato, attention to the causes cannot afford to be delayed. The Association has also long maintained that the establishment of research facilities in the South Island is justified. Periodic checks, too, of overseas developments are essential for a healthy industry and a practical appreciation of this factor by the Government

is long overdue. The recent visit by Dr. E. J. Dyce, Professor of Apiculture at Cornell University, U.S.A., was a stimulating experience for New Zealand beekeepers and demonstrated the importance attached to beekeeping research in overseas agricultural countries. The Executive must continue to keep these matters constantly before the appropriate authorities.

#### LOCAL CONSUMPTION

The ever-growing popularity of honey as a natural sweet of high nutritional value has been evidenced by the growing local demand over the past year. A substantial boost occurred during the war years due to the shortage of sugar and there is evidence to support the view that there has been a continuous upward trend since, after allowing for population increases. The public is undoubtedly becoming more selective in its tastes, however, not only as regards colour and flavour but also in the consistency or spreadability of the product. Fortunately the modern packing plants in existence today have enabled these tastes to be met and honey can be supplied either in liquid, crystallised or 'creamed' form without addition to or subtraction from the natural product, simply by controlled use of heat and mechanical agitation at the time of packing. The change in texture is a physical one only, however, and the public should not be deluded into believing that the honey they buy in various packs is other than the natural, unique and unadulterated product of the bee.

#### PRICE CONTROL SURVEY

Last year the Price Control Division commenced an economic survey of the industry for the purpose of obtaining background statistics for use in evaluating any future claim by the industry for price adjustments. The Executive has been pleased to co-operate fully with the Division and has assisted it in obtaining the information it desires, realising that such an evaluation can only be beneficial to the industry in the proper appreciation of its position. The Division has been made aware of the substantial drop in this season's Dominion crop and has expressed a willingness to extend the period of its survey to take this factor into account.

#### COST - OF - PRODUCTION

The Department of Agriculture undertook a review of production cost schedules during the year and after making allowance for increased petrol and transport charges and all other factors, established net increased cost per lb. of honey amounting to .37d. The matter of rising production costs will be kept constantly under review.

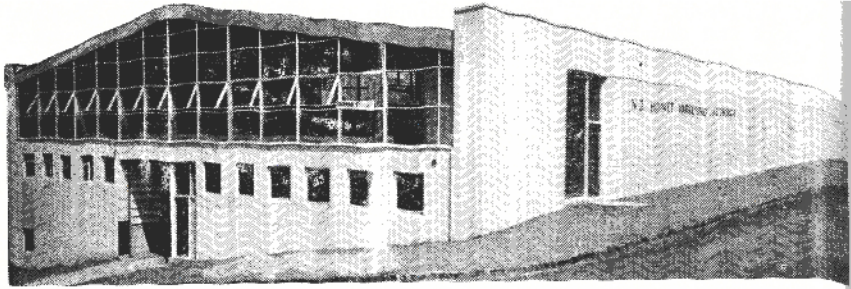
#### GENERAL

Amongst many other matters which have received Executive attention during the year some worthwhile progress can be reported with the proposed Diploma in Apiculture and in the matter of Heavy Traffic Licences.

During the year Mr. G. E. Gumbrell resigned from the Executive to take up his position as an elected producer-representative on the Honey Marketing Authority. Mr. S. P. Graham was invited to fill the vacancy thus created.

I wish once again to record the Association's appreciation for the advice and assistance given by Officers of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture. I would also like to express my personal thanks for the help and support so readily given by my colleagues on the Executive, our Editor, Mr. McFadzien, and express on behalf of the Executive our appreciation of the manner in which the General Secretary has carried out his duties.

In conclusion I should say that whether or not Government assistance in any form is forthcoming, bees will continue to be kept in New Zealand and honey will continue to appear on our tables. But it is certain that failing any such assistance the keeping of bees will be confined solely to those areas from which profitable crops of honey can be secured. The responsibility for maintaining an adequate universal pollination service can no longer rest with the beekeeper.



Marketing Authority Building at Auckland

## HONEY MARKET IN UNITED KINGDOM

(Reprinted from the Bank of New Zealand Produce Department Report, 5/6/59)

**HONEY:** The Board of Trade have announced that, with effect from June 8, honey may be imported on Open General Licence from all origins. The full repercussions of this have not yet been felt on the market, but it is fully expected that prices will become considerably lower.

It is reported that the crop just collected in New Zealand is the smallest for thirty-five years. Supplies available for the United Kingdom will be very small indeed and bottlers and manufacturers are using honey from other countries.

### QUOTATIONS:

New Zealand	per cwt.,	c.i.f.
Light Amber	125s. 0d. —	130s.
Extra Lt. Amber	147s. 6d. —	150s.
White Clover	165s. 0d.	
Australian		
Light Amber	92s. 6d. —	97s. 6d.
Medium Amber	90s. 0d. —	95s.
Jamaican		
F.A.Q.	100s. 0d. —	110s.
Mexican		
Light Amber	80s. 0d. —	82s.
U.S.A.		
Light Amber	82s. 0d.	

## Death from Wasp Sting

A pathologist told the Hamilton Coroner's Court recently that people receiving increasingly severe reactions from bee stings should seek medical attention.

The pathologist, Dr. W. A. Russell, of the Waikato Hospital, was giving evidence in the inquest into the death of Mrs. Manu Wilson (about 40), cook, who died at the hospital from anaphylactic shock as the result of a wasp sting.

In his opinion, Dr. Russell said the shock resulting from the sting caused her death.

Anaphylactic shock occurred when a person became hypersensitive to a substance. Bee or wasp stings could cause it, usually if there had been earlier stings.

Anaphylactic shock was a peculiar constitutional reaction of the person concerned, he said, and was commonly known.

The coroner, Mr. A. G. Ward: Could nothing have been done in this case?

Dr. Russell: Most people would not know it would be possible to desensitise the person by a course of treatment.

'People who get increasingly severe reactions from wasp or bee stings should take it as a warning that they should be desensitised,' he added.

Angeline Kathleen Wilson, second cook employed at the Waikato Hospital, said she was in the pantry when Wilson came in, put her hand up to the back of her neck, and said, 'There it goes.'

Witness said she saw a wasp fly away, and caught and killed it. Later,

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

the deceased complained about the swelling on her neck, and she advised her to have something put on it. She did not see the deceased again, witness added.

That morning she was peeling pears, and there were several wasps flying about.

Mr. Ward found that Wilson died of anaphylactic shock, resulting from a wasp sting received at the hospital. He found also that oedema resulting from the sting could have been a contributing factor.

—Press Association.

## Agricultural Aviation Symposium

All aspects of agricultural air-work were discussed at the Symposium conducted by the Civil Aviation Administration at Wanganui on May 26-28. The function was well attended, about 200 people being present on the opening day, and many very interesting papers were given by chemists, pilots, officers of the Department of Agriculture, and others. Some of the papers were of a technical nature dealing with such matters as Health Hazards,



Mr. I. W. Forster Spatial Disorientation, Corrosion of Alloys, etc., and the whole field of aerial work was thoroughly covered.

The interests of the beekeeping industry were represented by Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, of the National Beekeepers' Association, and Mr. I. W. Forster, of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Gumbrell delivered a paper entitled 'Agricultural Chemicals and Their Effect on Beekeeping' and Mr. Forster dealt with the regulations, methods of laboratory testing, and field work done with pesticides. Coloured slides were used to illustrate the addresses.

Mr. Gumbrell and Mr. Forster were impressed by the responsible outlook of those engaged in aerial work and the beekeeping viewpoint received an attentive hearing. The pollination aspect of agriculture was given proper emphasis and it was felt also that the

personal contact with others interested in the various departments of air work was helpful and informative to all concerned.

## Awards for Sir Edmund Hillary

Among the honours recently conferred upon Sir Edmund Hillary has been the 'Giants of Adventure' award made by the Argosy Magazine of America. This yearly award is made 'to the man whose outstanding force of personality and vision has brought new glory to man's quest for adventure.'

Sir Edmund has also received two gold medals in Australia from the Royal Geographic Society of South Australia and the Royal Society in Hobart. On June 14, accompanied by Lady Hillary, he travelled to Australia for a one month visit during which he received the medals and gave a number of lectures, both on Everest and Antarctica.

## Nectar Sources

By Buck Spinifex

In the August issue of our Journal "Skep" made allusion to the need of planting nectar-secreting trees, to which I heartily concur.

Although there are many nectar-yielding trees, I think we must give first place to the eucalyptus trees, chief of which I think should be *Euc. Longifolia* and *Euc. Mellidora*, which, south of Auckland, flower from early September onwards, and give our bees a great lift when they most need it. Those who happen to have apiaries near boulder-strewn rivers have a golden opportunity of adding to the nectar yielding plants. At the Manawatu Gorge I have observed lucerne growing wild. If I could grow it here I would grow wild—with joy!

I have experimented with broad-casting Chinese cabbage seed in waste places, also the bright blue forget-me-not, with marked success and am of the opinion that this plant alone has a big future as a honey plant.

I believe beekeepers individually and collectively could do a lot to improve their businesses in this respect.

## Comment On Nectar Sources

By C. BIRD

I note in the July Souvenir Edition of the Journal an article under the title 'Nectar Sources' which mentions lucerne growing wild in the Manawatu Gorge area. This is not correct as it is actually a shrub called Goats-Rue which looks the same as lucerne from a distance. It yields very little nectar, only in a drought, and it has a very unpleasant flavour, just enough to ruin good honey.

### Personal

The Dominion President, Mr. Jack Fraser, was recently accorded the honour of being elected to the Southland Boys' and Girls' High Schools Board of Governors, as a parents' representative.

Mr. and Mrs. Fraser have five children of whom the eldest, Barbara, is now attending the Southland Girls' High School. Jack is himself an ex-pupil of the Boys' High School.

### Obituary

MR. J. J. MORRIN

We announce with regret the death of Mr. J. J. Morrin, late of Omakau, at Dunedin on July 4. Mr. Morrin was a commercial honey producer for many years until he recently gave up active beekeeping work on account of failing health. A member of the National Beekeepers' Association over a long period, he was well known and respected among his fellow beekeepers in Central Otago. He is survived by his wife and two sons to whom we express our sincere sympathy.

MR. A. LOWE

A well known and highly respected Hawkes Bay beekeeper passed on in July. He was Mr. Arch Lowe, Sunnybank, Hastings. A foundation member of the Hawkes Bay Branch, and for several years its president, Mr. Lowe gave up commercial beekeeping some time ago but maintained his interest in beekeeping affairs. To his widow and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

—G.D.

## SOUVENIR EDITION

With the Dominion Conference taking place this year in Timaru, the hospitality of our Printer, delegates were given the opportunity of visiting the Herald Printing Works and seeing a demonstration of the various stages of newspaper and magazine printing. An 16-page Souvenir Edition of 'The N.Z. Beekeeper,' which had been partially prepared in advance, was printed, folded, stapled and trimmed, and handed round to those present, each visitor having his name published in the issue.

Great interest was shown by all and the highlight of the evening came when the giant two-colour newspaper press was turned on and worked up to its full speed of 40,000 copies per hour—a thrilling spectacle.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr. J. W. Fraser moved a warm vote of thanks to the manager of the Printing Works, Mr. Chris Dawson (himself a hobbyist beekeeper), and the staff, and to the Timaru Herald Company for their courtesy in arranging the demonstration and providing the supper.

By publishing matter which mostly reappears in this issue, and through the generosity of the Printers, the Souvenir Edition was produced without cost to the Association.

### Representation on H.M.A.

At a meeting of the Executive held after the Timaru Conference, Mr. J. W. Fraser was re-appointed as the National Beekeepers' Association representative on the Honey Marketing Authority.

### Agricultural Chemicals Bill

The Agricultural Chemicals Bill is set down for the present session of Parliament and it is possible that the Act will come into force on January 1. Until that time the Apiaries Protection Regulations will continue to be observed.

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*Experience is not what happens to a man. It is what a man does with what happens to him.*

—Aldous Huxley

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



# MARKETING INVESTIGATION

The following is a copy of the letter received from the Director-General of Agriculture during the course of the Conference at Timaru:—

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
P.O. Box 2298,  
Wellington C.1.

July 13, 1959.

The Secretary,  
National Association of  
Beekeepers Incorporated,  
P.O. Box 19,  
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

The Minister of Agriculture has notified the Association that he has appointed a committee to report to him on the present honey marketing scheme.

In order to obtain at first hand the views of the Association on the scheme and on marketing questions generally, the Committee would like to be able to meet the Executive of the Association, or representatives of the Executive, at some convenient time to discuss honey marketing and any changes or improvements the Association may wish to propose. I hope that this can be arranged. The Committee will get into touch with you about a suitable time and date.

The Committee would also like to give the Association's branches, its members, and beekeepers generally the opportunity to submit any views or comments to the Committee on any subject within its order of reference. I should be glad if you could arrange to make this known among your Branches, possibly at the forthcoming Annual Conference, and to circulate among producers the information that the Committee would welcome written submissions on honey marketing affairs from any branch, group or individual which wishes to make them.

In order to assist in the preparation of data it is suggested that the material in any submissions that may be made should be classified roughly under the following headings:—

1. Honey Marketing Regulations and statutory powers.
2. Constitution of and representation upon Honey Marketing Authority.
3. Functions of the Authority and its operations to date.

4. Marketing policy:
  - Local market.
  - Export market.
5. Seals levy.
6. Grading and pricing.
7. Other topics.

Submissions may be sent to the Committee by mailing them to this office.

Yours faithfully,

P. W. SMALLFIELD,  
Director-General.

On July 17, the day after Conference concluded, the Vice-President (Mr. J. R. Barber) and the General Secretary (Mr. R. A. Fraser) visited Wellington and endeavoured to see the Minister of Agriculture. In this they were unsuccessful but they were able to interview Mr. P. W. Smallfield, Director-General of Agriculture, and Mr. Purser (a member of the Government Investigating Committee) with whom they discussed the position and made the following statement:—

P.O. Box 19,  
FOXTON.

July 16, 1959.

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

Sir,

## INVESTIGATION OF HONEY MARKETING IN N.Z.

Yesterday the letter from your Director-General, Mr. Smallfield, was received by my Executive during the course of the Annual Conference of this Association, currently being held at Timaru.

It was decided to immediately acquaint Conference with its contents. Within five minutes Conference had unanimously expressed its confidence in the ability of the Executive to adequately express the views of the Association with regard to the matters raised by the Director under headings 1 to 7 being the terms of reference of the Committee.

My Executive desires to bring the following points to your attention:—

- (1) On April 8, 1959, you advised my Executive of your intention to appoint a Committee to investigate the marketing position generally



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**HIGHWAYS CORNER, PANMURE, AUCKLAND.**

- and the affairs of the Authority, in answer to such a request from the Authority and with a view to strengthening the marketing system. You sought an assurance of co-operation from my Executive in the Committee's investigations.
- (2) On April 16, 1959, I advised in reply that my Executive would be most willing 'to assist any positive steps which Government may propose for the betterment of the Industry.'
- (3) My Executive has examined the proposals set out by Mr. Smallfield and can only express amazement at the suggested 'modus operandi' of your Committee. Certainly we cannot consider the proposed investigations constitute a positive step towards the betterment of the industry, since it is proposed to cover substantially the same ground that was covered immediately prior to the establishment of the Honey Marketing Authority seven years ago. While we do not wish to throw doubt upon the integrity of the Government's intentions in the setting up of this Committee we are reluctantly forced to the view that with the investigations now proposed, the Committee's functions will constitute nothing more than an unnecessary delay to the consideration of the real issues at stake and the formulation of realistic plans for remedying the position.
- (4) The real issue is the factual financial weakness of the Honey Marketing Authority, which prohibits it from meeting its commitments both to honey suppliers by way of payout and to the Government by way of reduction of the stock debt. **This position was established in the fully documented submissions of the joint deputation by the Authority and the Executive which you received in July of last year.** Further, the Authority's affairs were investigated subsequently by experts of your Department who succeeded in establishing only that our representation of the position was **irrefutably correct.**
- (5) With the real issue established we must submit that the only constructive avenue of investigation open to your committee is into ways and means of remedying the weakness of the Authority's financial position by the provision of sufficient funds from outside sources to enable the Authority to balance its Budget. There are only two other alternatives, neither of which are acceptable to the Industry:—
- (a) A cessation of beekeeping in major producing areas which supply the Authority and this would mean virtual bankruptcy for producer-suppliers. OR
- (b) A cessation of supply to the Authority with a resultant oversupply to the local market and a severe increase in the incidence of price-cutting which would ruin the whole industry.
- (6) You are aware that the extremely poor crop last season has placed the majority of beekeepers in a state of extreme insecurity. You will also be aware from your Department's own records that over 14,000 hives have gone out of production in the past 5 years. The Chairman of the Authority in his address to Conference indicated that the prospects of the export market were such that producer-suppliers of darker grade honies could be given no guarantee of returns sufficient to meet costs next year even in the event of an average or better crop. Producer-suppliers in this category will have to know within the next month whether they can expect from Government the necessary guarantees of proper returns to justify the outlay of their remaining capital in the preparation for the new season's spring and summer crop.
- The investigations proposed by the Committee could well take a year or more to complete, but suppliers to the Authority must have some guarantee NOW, even if of a temporary nature to cover the approaching season's production only, pending a decision on the Committee's findings.
- We have no option, in the interests of suppliers, but to ask for a direct answer now, and we do ask for a straight Yes or No to our request for a guaranteed return to suppliers in this season, sufficient to cover their costs of production. We feel that we have a right in demanding your reply no later than August 31, 1959, and know that you sufficiently

appreciate the position to regard this as a fair request and we accordingly look forward to your early advices.

With reference to the proposed investigations of your Committee and to the headings under which they intend to consider the marketing position, we would comment as follows:—

#### Headings 1 and 2

'Honey Marketing Authority Regulations and Statutory Powers.'

'Constitution of and representation upon Honey Marketing Authority.'

At successive Conferences of the Association since the establishment of the Authority, no serious suggestion has ever been made that the Regulations should be altered or extended in any material regard.

#### Heading 3

'Functions of the Authority and its operations to date.'

We contend that this is a point to which the Committee should confine its own attentions, as individuals or bodies outside the Authority have little real knowledge of the Authority's affairs.

#### Heading 4

'Marketing Policy—  
Local and Export.'

As regards the operations of the Authority this is a matter which can only be clarified by the Authority. As far as the Industry generally is concerned, however, the attitude, on local marketing is that there should be no restriction of private enterprise.

#### Heading 5

'Seals Levy.'

The industry, through both the Authority and the Association, has consistently opposed any increase in the Seals Levy even as recently as this Conference.

#### Heading 6

'Grading and Prices.'

The present system of honey grading for export is accepted as the best possible and has enabled our exported honey to maintain a premium price overseas at all times. With regard to pricing it is considered that the Authority should have the power to fix local prices (a power at present vested in the Price Tribunal).

We would be pleased if you would convey these submissions to your Committee and assure the Committee

of the Executive's willingness to meet and confer with it, on the points raised or any other which might be considered relevant.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER,  
General Secretary.

## Diploma in Apiculture

The syllabus for the proposed Diploma in Apiculture was approved by the Executive subject to minor amendments at its meeting prior to Conference. The Diploma is to be under the administration of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture.

## Departmental Officers Address Conference

An important part of the Timaru Conference was that devoted to the addresses by Mr. I. W. Forster and Mr. C. R. Paterson, featuring work which has been done recently by officers of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Forster in a memorable address, suitably illustrated with colour slides, surveyed the past year's work in the control of agricultural chemicals and research in pollination of farm crops. Delegates were given a clear picture of the present position and were left in no doubt that the whole future of beekeeping depends upon an understanding of these two vital aspects of agriculture.

The subject of Mr. Paterson's demonstration was a twin-bladed uncapping unit which he has developed for the uncapping of combs and disposal of cappings. Both Mr. Paterson and Mr. Forster discussed a number of questions which were raised, and they were accorded an enthusiastic expression of thanks from the Conference.

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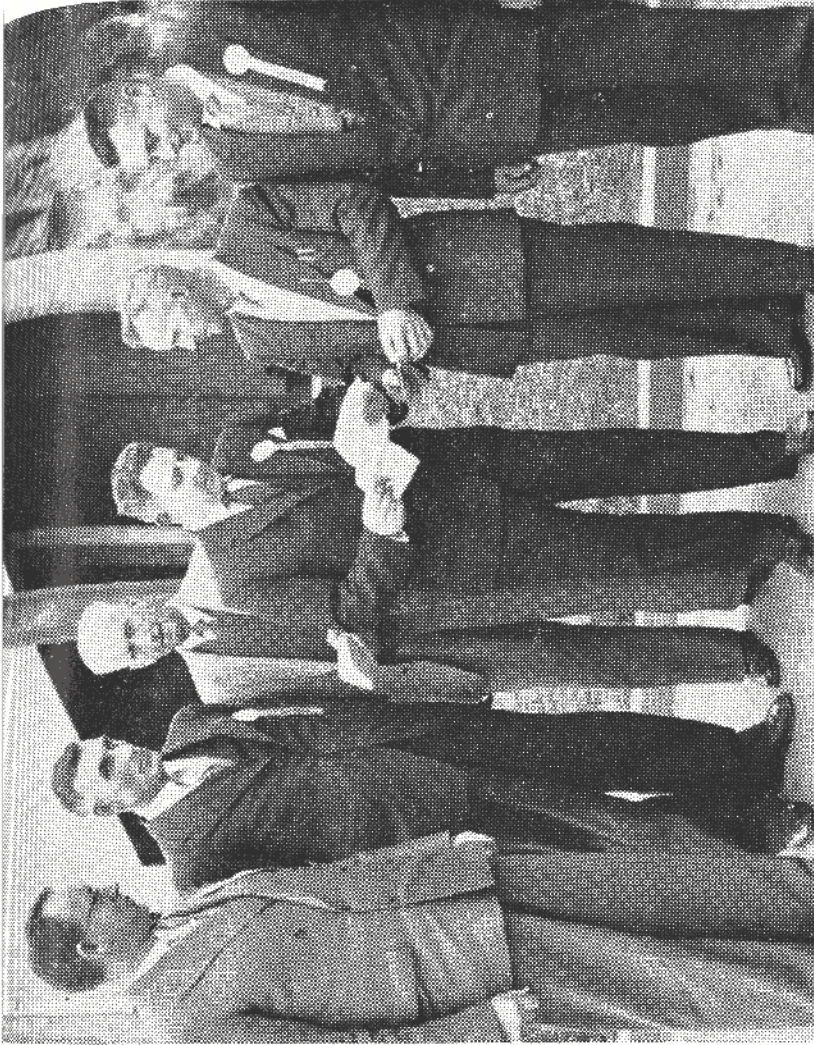
## AFRICAN BEEKEEPING

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N. Z. BEEKEEPER



A GROUP AT CONFERENCE  
C. Dawson, Timaru (conference local secretary), H. Cloako, Fairview (conference local committee), L. Robins, Pleasant Point (South Canterbury branch secretary), R. Fraser, Foxton (Dominion secretary), J. W. Fraser, Invercargill (Dominion president), L. G. Lytle, Gleniti (president, South Canterbury branch).

## CONFERENCE REPORT

The Annual Dominion Conference was held in the Bay Tea Rooms, Timaru, on July 14, 15 and 16, 1959. There was an attendance of over 100 and the President (Mr. J. W. Fraser) was in the chair.

At the opening ceremony delegates were welcomed by the Mayor of Timaru (Mr. R. E. White) and the official opening was performed by Mr. A. D. Talbot, South Canterbury Provincial President of Federated Farmers.

In his address, Mr. Talbot referred to the long history of beekeeping and the benefits it has given to society through honey as a food and to a lesser extent through beeswax, a widely used commodity, and the age old beverage honey mead. Today the industry was important chiefly for pollination and he welcomed the opportunity of saying 'Thank you' to the beekeepers of this country for their service to New Zealand farming. 'Long may the beekeepers prosper,' he said, 'we can't do without them.'

Mr. Talbot mentioned the development of modern pesticides involving techniques which are of untold benefit to the farming industry and are obviously here to stay. 'We have a good appreciation of the problems of beekeepers and the dangers to bees, and in this connection the presence of your beekeeping representative on our Provincial Executive helps towards that good understanding which is necessary for the control of ravaging insects without harm to bees. In South Canterbury, farmers are ready to co-operate with beekeepers and we welcome an exchange of views to the advantage of all.'

Speaking of research, Mr. Talbot suggested the possibility of developing bees with resistance to modern treatments, and he quoted instances of highly selective pest-controlling agents which could perhaps give a useful approach in the matter of protecting beneficial insects.

Mr. Talbot mentioned the organisation of the bee colony and the example of co-operation, unselfishness and single-mindedness of purpose which could be studied to advantage by the human society. 'But man has the divine gift of freedom of choice,' he concluded, 'and that is something which must be guarded as a pearl of great price.' In

declaring the proceedings open he wished delegates a successful Conference and an enjoyable stay in South Canterbury.

The President, in thanking Mr. Talbot, asked him to convey the greetings of beekeepers to the Conference of Federated Farmers which was to commence in Wellington the following day. (At a later stage in the programme he was able to read out a reciprocal message of goodwill from Federated Farmers assembled in the Capital City).

Messages of apology and good wishes to Conference were received from Mr. T. S. Winter and Miss Shepherd.

### MARKETING AUTHORITY ADDRESS

Mr. W. W. Nelson, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, addressed the meeting giving a review of the activities of the Authority during the past year. Following this the Conference went into committee and Mr. Nelson answered questions from those present dealing with the operations and present position of the Authority.

At the conclusion of the discussion the meeting resumed in open session. The President then mentioned that within the next few days Mr. Nelson, accompanied by Mrs. Nelson, would be leaving by air for Britain and expected to be abroad for some months. He moved 'that this Conference extends its good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson on their trip overseas. We also request Mr. Nelson to convey the greetings of New Zealand beekeepers to Messrs. Kimpton Brothers Ltd., and assure him of our confidence in any negotiations he may make on behalf of the H.M.A.' The motion was carried with acclamation.

### ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was presented by the President, and the Secretary read the Statement of Accounts for the year ending May 31, 1959. The General Account showed a debit balance of £128 3s. 1d. compared with a debit of £179 5s. 7d. at the commencement of the year. The credit in the Trust Account stands at £426 9s. 4d.

Questions were answered and after a discussion had taken place on means by which the financial position of the Association could be improved the Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

## DEPARTMENTAL ADDRESS

An address was given by Mr. E. Smaellie, Superintendent Beekeeping Industry. Mr. Smaellie also answered a number of questions relating to the work of the Apiary Section.

### REMITTS

#### Association Policy

(Gore Remit): 'That the previous policy regarding the venue of Conference be reviewed and that it be a recommendation to the in-coming Executive that Conference be held alternately in each Island.' (Moved by Mr. J. Glynn, seconded by Mr. N. E. Glass).

A number of speakers favoured a system of having every third Conference (or even every second Conference) in Wellington and the others alternatively North and South; but the remit was carried.

(South Auckland): 'That "The N.Z. Beekeeper" be made self supporting.' (R. R. Chandler/J. I. Jay).

Mr. Chandler emphasised the need for substantial savings in order to establish the Association's finances and advocated a Journal charge to cover this service.

Mr. J. R. Barber said that the Journal as at present was a credit to the industry and if it were allowed to deteriorate it would affect the work and standing of the Association.

Mr. S. Graham stated that the real value of the Journal lay in its full circulation, because if beekeepers are uninformed it is detrimental to the welfare of the industry. Further, the main cost is the initial cost and the expense of producing extra copies is only nominal.

Also speaking against the remit, Mr. H. Cloake warned that if subscriptions were charged the circulation would decrease, advertising revenue fall, and the H.M.A. would lose an effective means of disseminating information to all producers.

An amendment (R. Gregory/F. Bartrum) suggesting that a Journal charge be made to non-members of the Association was lost, and a second amendment asking the Executive to investigate the possibility of the H.M.A. publishing the Journal was ruled out of order.

The remit was then put and declared lost.

(Canterbury and Gore): 'That the Honey Marketing Regulations, 1953 (No. 28) be amended to allow the National Beekeepers' Association to draw up to £1500 from the Seal Levy Fund.' (T. E. Pearson/J. Glynn).

Mr. Pearson referred to the increased scope and complexity of the Association's work since its early days when it acted as a social and educational club. The setting up of the H.M.A., the need for protective legislation, price order negotiations, and the publication of the Journal were all matters which involved extra work and expense. 'Must we ignore these matters for the want of funds,' he asked. Seals revenue had risen to £20,000 a year and if the small extra amount of £500 were paid to the Association it would give the greatest possible benefit to the industry as a whole.

Mr. Glynn drew attention to the fact that the Balance Sheet was still in debit and urged that a reserve should be available for work whenever the need might arise. Executive members received no honorarium for their services.

Mr. E. W. Sage referred to the grant as a system of legalised robbery—an attempt to appropriate moneys owned by an organised body—and he queried the legality of the payment.

Mr. C. Hill: The payment is provided for in the Regulations. The Association was used by a certain section to have the seal imposed, and later to have it increased, so the Association is entitled to a proportion of this self-imposed levy.

Mr. E. D. Williams said that he appreciated the need for the Association to have adequate finance but felt that the proposal, if applied to the existing levy, would impose an unfair penalty on suppliers, through the lower payout.

Mr. C. Bird: According to the H.M.A. statement in the Journal only half the seal revenue goes into the payout. The remainder is paid into reserves, so the £500 would be put to much better use than that if it were available to the Association.

Mr. J. D. Lorimer advised members to be wary of the proposal. He deprecated the tendency to go to outside sources for help and as an alternative he advocated an increase in the subscription rate so as to maintain the independence of the Association.

Mr. R. Gregory: The remit appals me—it is like spending your neighbour's

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money. The money should be paid out to the suppliers.

Mr. R. Davidson moved, and Mr. W. J. Ashcroft seconded, that the remit be amended by adding the words 'or one-twentieth of the seal levy paid, whichever is the smaller.' Mr. Davidson referred to the suggestion that tax evasion is prevalent and claimed that his amendment would give the Association some incentive to see it paid. It was pointed out, however, that this qualification could mean a reduction in the present grant, and the amendment was lost.

Mr. W. T. Herron opposed the remit on the grounds that it would be taking more from the returns to suppliers, who were already on an uneconomic basis.

Mr. Chandler: In the past there has been some confusion over who pays the seal levy, but it is apparent that the consumer pays it—therefore it does not belong to the National as of right.

Mr. Penrose: It does belong to the National as of right because the Association made that provision in the Regulations. The Association has been used again and again for the implementation of the seal, and the increase in the seal, and has incurred heavy expenditure for the benefit of the marketing administration. We are all one industry and the Association works for the benefit of all.

Mr. Nelson acknowledged the work of the Association, of which he had the honour to be a Life Member, but felt his first duty towards the welfare of the suppliers. The Government had given financial concessions in recognition of the difficulties of the Authority and in order to justify that assistance the Authority must use all its resources in the interests of suppliers.

Mr. Pearson, in replying to the debate, stated that the Association must not be forced to curtail its activities if it wished to maintain the present position and future progress of the industry.

The remit was decided on a delegates' vote, and was declared lost by 811 votes to 870.

(Auckland Central): 'That the Branches receiving less than £30 per year in subscriptions retain 60 per cent.—instead of 40 per cent. as at present—to allow for sufficient funds to operate successfully and be independent of other means of financial assistance.' This remit was moved by Mr. Nelson

on behalf of the Auckland Central Branch, but lapsed for want of a seconder.

### Marketing

(South Canterbury): 'That the Seal Levy be discontinued.' (R. Davidson/W. B. Bray). Mr. Davidson claimed that the seal levy is a menace to the efficiency and stability of the industry. Government assistance can never be obtained so long as we have the seal levy. In addition, it encourages inefficiency—the N.B.A. when in difficulties turns to the seal fund, and the Auckland plant, which would never be run efficiently anyway, was propped up by means of the seal levy and became a burden to producers. The levy should be abolished.

Mr. Bray: I moved the seal levy in 1938—for advertising. As administered now the levy is a dangerous thing because it might be increased to two-pence or threepence. It is a tax on the consumer, whereas in the case of other commodities the consumer receives assistance.

Opposing the remit, Mr. G. E. Gumbrell said it would be harmful to everyone, including the consumer, as an uneconomic industry leads to inefficiency and poor service. The H.M.A. payout would fall, supplies would decrease, and the market would deteriorate through unregulated supplies.

Mr. Pearson moved that the remit be amended by adding the words 'should the Government support for pollination services be granted.' The amendment, seconded by Mr. Penrose, was lost.

Mr. Nelson: The loss of £20,000 per year would be damaging to the Authority. The situation is unsatisfactory if the levy is used to subsidise exports to Germany, but to abolish the levy would be virtually to abolish the Authority.

Mr. R. W. Gregory: The abolition of the seal would mean a direct loss to the supplier and producers would be forced to go on the local market, at a cut price if necessary. The price level would come down.

A further amendment 'that the seal levy be replaced by a Government subsidy' (T. F. Penrose/D. Penrose) was lost.

Speaking to the remit, Mr. Williams emphasised that advertising and honey promotion may be necessary from time

to time. It was important to have an industry fund and if the levy were abolished nothing would be available for a united effort.

The remit was decided on a delegates' vote and was declared lost by 283 to 1449.

The Bay of Plenty remit 'that this Conference request that the Seal Levy be increased so as to increase the payout to suppliers to the H.M.A.' was withdrawn after Mr. Nelson explained that the Authority had already expressed firm opposition to an increased levy.

(Gore): 'That the attention of the H.M.A. be drawn to the sales of honey not bearing seals and that they be requested to take court proceedings in all cases.' (J. Glynn/F. J. Glass).

Mr. Nelson stated that in every single case of evasion so far reported action had been taken forthwith. But it was futile for anyone to make accusations without supporting evidence.

Mr. Herron: It is the obligation of every producer to tell the Authority of cases of evasion so that action can be taken.

Mr. Hill: I object to the implication that beekeepers should be informers. Why not speak to the evader himself before reporting the matter?

Mr. D. G. King: On one occasion I saw about two handfuls of seals in a rubbish tin outside a retail store. The seals fall from the tins on the shelves.

Mr. A. J. Harris: Let us take a good look at ourselves—is this action to apply to 5lb. and 10lb. tins at the apiary? (Silence).

The remit was carried.

(Gore): 'That the H.M.A. add exchange to cheques when making payment for honey outside the Auckland area.' (J. Glynn/N. E. Glass).

Mr. W. B. Bray: Let the Government abolish internal exchange altogether, through the public ownership of the Bank of New Zealand. That's a big thing to ask for, but we could be the little mouse that chewed the rope that set the lion free!

Mr. L. Holt: Exchange on cheques is accepted business practice. In any case the supplier will pay the exchange either direct or through the pool, so the method used is immaterial.

The remit was lost.

In view of the setting up of a Committee to investigate the honey marketing system the following two remits were withdrawn: (West Coast)

'That the Executive go into the possibility and report on the advisability to setting up an Industry Co-operative, similar to the organisation of the dairy industry, for the marketing of honey.' (Auckland Central) 'That the Government re-organise the marketing of honey, along similar lines to those operating with the apple and pear and poultry industries, to enable a continuity of supply to the H.M.A. for the economic operation of the depot and to ensure a payable price to suppliers.'

The following remit from Otago was also withdrawn following the statement by the Marketing Authority Chairman that the contract system was to be altered this year: 'That the H.M.A. be urged to abandon the contract system in favour of advance estimates from suppliers.'

(Gore): 'That the Honey Marketing Authority consider: (1) The purchase of honey in lots against sample supplied; (2) A preferential payment to be made on all honeys undertaken to be supplied on a given date to be determined by the Authority; (3) The payout to be based on realisation within a suggested five grading groups (on a pro rata basis); (4) The final payment to be on a pro rata basis.' (F. J. Glass/Gumbrell).

Several speakers supported different aspects of this remit but it was emphasised that the proposals were being submitted to the Authority for consideration, in an endeavour to remove certain anomalies now existing. The remit was carried.

## Containers

(Southland): 'That the Authority continue to seek a satisfactory alternative to the use of 60lb. tins in export cases.' (C. Cunningham/Holt).

Mr. Holt quoted the advantages of drums as containers and stated that information was available on experience with drums overseas. Carried.

The remit 'That representation be made to the Railways Department to have "honey cases in shooks" carried at the same freight rates as "fruit cases in shooks" are carried for orchardists,' was moved by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. J. K. Bray.

Mr. Harris quoted comparative freight rates for fruit, cheese and honey cases, which showed that beekeepers were working at a distinct disadvantage. The amount involved in any one

instance might seem trifling but if savings were possible, and reasonable, they should be made.

Commending the remit, Mr. J. K. Bray suggested that it be altered to include cases nailed up as beekeepers suffered a penalty there also. Conference agreed to this alteration and the remit was then carried.

Two remits expressing opposition to the proposed lacquering of honey tins were withdrawn after the President had explained that the Regulation was to be deferred for one year as from November 30, and would perhaps be dropped altogether.

### Wine and Mead

(South Auckland): 'That this Conference request that urgent moves be made to support those who are interested in the sale of honey wines and have found themselves hindered by regulations in the manufacture and sale of their product.' (J. I. Jay/K. N. Gregory).

Mr. Jay urged that something be done to remove the legal restrictions which prohibit the development of the mead and honey wine industry.

Seconding the remit, Mr. K. N. Gregory stated that the less popular honeys were suitable for mead and wine. If the trade developed it would help in the disposal of up to 1000 tons of honey which otherwise caused marketing difficulties.

Mr. Williams quoted some of the legal technicalities which stood in the way. 'About the only way to get around them,' he said, 'is to put blank labels on the bottles!'

Mr. Penrose: Why consider wines and meads at all? We stand for better beekeeping—better marketing; let the wine interests apply if they like and we will supply the honey if they want it.

Mr. W. B. Bray: We are being used by the liquor interests; they are the people who will benefit eventually. Who is going to clean up the social wreckage resulting from the liquor trade? In any case the reference to honey is only a bait, the amount is insignificant.

President: The purpose of the move is to obtain a market for otherwise unsaleable honey.

The remit was carried, Messrs. W. B. Bray, E. Hight and J. M. Marshall asking that their votes be recorded against it.

'That the Minister of Justice be asked to clarify the position with regard

to the issue of wine licences for the production and sale of honey mead or honey wine as it is understood that such licences have been granted in some cases but declined in others on purely legal grounds.' (Gumbrell/E. O. Ball). Carried.

### Research

(South Canterbury): 'That the Apiary Section of the Department of Agriculture establish an experimental apiary in the South Island.' (Ball/Cloake).

Mr. Ball referred to the experimental work being done in pollination and pesticides and stated that bees should be available at the proper time and in the proper condition to facilitate this work.

An amendment that the words 'in the South Island' be deleted (Jay/Chandler), and a further amendment that the words 'at Invermay' be added (McFadzien/Marshall) were both lost.

The remit was carried.

(South Canterbury): 'That Animal Research Division be asked to carry out research in the South Island into strains of bees, in order to produce a strain with a greater gathering capacity.' (Ball/Gumbrell).

Mr. F. A. Bartrum mentioned the limited opportunities available to individuals, and the tendency of beekeepers to select for colour and quietness only. Striking results had been obtained by organised research in the U.S.A. but import restrictions prevented New Zealand beekeepers from getting the benefits. He suggested that the Ashburton district would be a suitable site for such work.

Mr. C. Bird referred to the variations in strains and the necessity for work to be done in developing and improving them. Carried.

(South Auckland): 'That this Conference request that the Department of Agriculture explore with all urgency the reasons why the clover flower is not secreting nectar as it did in the past, and publish the results of previous experiments.' (Jay/Chandler).

There has been a distinct deterioration in honey grades in the North Island in recent seasons, said Mr. Jay. Some work was done on this problem a few years ago by the Department and D.S.I.R. but the results were never published.

Mr. Chandler quoted the case of Taranaki, once an important white

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honey area but now insignificant. Then the Waikato began to decline and producers moved to the new farmlands around Taupo. Even here the first blocks to be settled were now beginning to yield darker honeys. The trend appeared to be so far-reaching that the whole industry should be concerned about it. Carried.

(South Auckland): 'That we request that the Department of Agriculture conduct further experiments into the effects on yields of honey caused by the application of weed controls and DDT sprays.' (Jay/Lorimer). Carried.

(Southland): 'That the Executive explore the possibilities of establishing a fund, raised by subscriptions, for the purpose of sending a responsible officer on a tour of the U.S.A. to acquire first-hand knowledge of beekeeping methods.' (Cunningham/J. K. Bray). Carried.

### Economics

(Gore): 'That Government be asked to give practical recognition to the beekeeping industry as an integral factor in the important task of increasing this country's primary production.' (F. J. Glass/J. Glynn).

It was pointed out that successive Ministers of Agriculture have acknowledged at Association Conferences their awareness of the importance of honeybees to agriculture through pollination (no bees—no agriculture) yet Government has consistently refused to help the industry in any significant manner even though financial hardship to a substantial section of producers has been proved, and a decline in registered apiaries shown in official records. Carried.

(Bay of Plenty): 'That this Conference ask the Government to consider some form of payment for pollination services to this country by the beekeeping industry.' (R. Gregory/K. Gregory). Carried.

A South Auckland remit requesting that the Price Control Division be asked to extend their survey to a four-year period and to admit returns for the current year in order that the results may be more fairly indicative of the true economic position of the industry, was withdrawn when it was announced that this action was already being taken.

(Canterbury): 'That a recommendation be made to the Executive that

they investigate the incidence of taxation in the beekeeping industry, with particular reference to the spreading of taxation over seasonal fluctuations.' (Pearson/Hill). Carried.

### Administration

(Gore): 'That voluntary part-time apiary inspection be abolished and Government asked to assume its full responsibility to the industry in the detection and eradication of bee diseases, without any lessening of instructional and advisory services as at present rendered.' (F. J. Glass/J. Glynn).

This remit was fully considered under the group discussion system, giving delegates the opportunity of a free exchange of views on apiary inspection and disease control generally. Conference then resumed in open session. The remit was lost.

(Auckland Central): 'That the part-time inspection system be pursued with sufficient activity to help to offset the incidence of disease and given a maximum amount of coverage.' (Gumbrell/A. H. Simpson). Carried.

(Canterbury): 'That the part-time apiary inspection allocation of funds be increased.' (Pearson/T. F. Penrose). Carried.

(Canterbury): 'That the Apiaries Act be amended so that selected commercial beekeepers could be appointed honorary apiary instructors.' (Pearson/T. F. Penrose). Lost.

(Canterbury): 'That in the event of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill not being implemented in time for the forthcoming spraying season, the existing Regulations be extended to cover all other exigencies.' (Pearson/J. K. Bray). Carried.

(Gore): 'That the Apiaries Act be enforced in respect of unregistered apiaries, and when these are located the owners be prosecuted.' (Glynn/N. E. Glass). Carried.

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## MARKETING INVESTIGATION

The President at this stage announced that he had received, during the course of Conference, a letter from the Director-General (Mr. P. W. Smallfield) asking him to make it known that the Committee which has been set up to report on the present honey marketing system, wished to meet the Executive and was prepared to receive submissions from the Association's Branches, its members, and beekeepers generally.

The President then moved 'That with a view to expediting the deliberations of the Committee set up to investigate the honey marketing system this Conference expresses its confidence in the incoming Executive to make representations on behalf of the Association.'

Mr. R. Davidson seconded the motion.

Mr. T. E. Pearson commended the motion as being necessary to obtain early action, and Mr. R. R. Chandler also supported it as the unanimous recommendation of the retiring Executive.

The motion was carried unanimously.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

'That Conference recommends to the incoming Executive the desirability of obtaining crop reports direct from producers, commencing with the past season.' (W. B. Bray/T. F. Penrose).

Mr. Bray: This is the proposal I outlined in the Journal recently. It might be argued that some beekeepers would not disclose the amount produced, but the matter would be confidential and we would send the resulting information only to those who furnished returns. At least let us go as far as we can and if we are successful the information will be invaluable.

Mr. Cloake: What about the H.M.A. doing it? Is this yet another instance of the N.B.A. having to accept marketing duties?

Mr. Bray: Seals buyers might not give their production figures to the H.M.A., but they would give them to the National.

The motion was carried.

'That in view of the statement of the Marketing Authority Chairman that the Authority cannot pay out from export market returns a payable price equal to local parity, Conference presses the Government to bring in a system of subsidising local sales of honey as at

present applied to four other breakfast foods, namely bread, butter, milk and eggs.' (W. B. Bray/T. F. Penrose).

Mr. Bray reviewed the events leading up to the present marketing situation and fixed upon the Government the responsibility for the Marketing Authority's difficulties. If the present inquiry failed to produce an answer, producers must take the initiative in seeking the form of assistance which has been given to similar industries.

The motion was carried.

'That this Conference give due consideration to charging a sitting-in fee at Annual Conferences to help defray Conference expenses.' (T. F. Penrose/W. B. Bray).

Mr. Penrose stated that other conferences charged a sitting-in fee and as the Association is having financial difficulties it must look for sources of revenue. Perhaps a charge of 10/- could be made and the lapel badge used as a receipt.

Members questioned the legality of making a charge at an annual meeting and it was considered wrong in principle that those travelling to Conference, perhaps a long distance, should be asked to pay a fee.

The motion was lost.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President: Mr. J. W. Fraser. Re-elected unopposed.

Vice-President: Mr. J. R. Barber. Re-elected unopposed.

Executive: Nominations for the two North Island seats were Messrs. J. I. Jay, R. Gregory and L. Holt; and for the South Island, Messrs. J. K. Bray, R. Davidson, F. J. Glass, S. Graham and T. E. Pearson. Mr. R. R. Chandler declined nomination.

On a ballot being taken, those elected were: North Island—Messrs. J. I. Jay and L. Holt; South Island—Messrs. J. K. Bray and T. E. Pearson.

Messrs. Moir, Campion and Mason were re-elected auditors.

The President moved a cordial vote of thanks to the committee of the South Canterbury Branch for the arrangements made to entertain visiting beekeepers, to Mr. A. M. W. Greig and officers in the Department of Agriculture for their assistance at Conference and during the year, and to all who had helped to make the Conference a great success. This was carried with acclamation and the Conference was declared closed.

# HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

to the Annual Conference at Timaru, July 14, 1959

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I greatly appreciate this opportunity of addressing your Conference on the operations of the Honey Marketing Authority over the past twelve months.

As the Annual Report and financial statements of the Authority for the year ended August, 1958, appeared in the May issue of the 'New Zealand Beekeeper' I need hardly deal with them at any great length on this occasion. I shall however be glad to answer any questions relating to them on the conclusion of my address.

### Change in the Personnel of the Authority

In the election for two producer representatives to the Authority, Mr. G. E. Gumbrell succeeded Mr. E. A. Field. During his term on the Authority Mr. Field gave of his best and at all times displayed great patience and consideration for the attitude of mind of those, who on occasion, disagreed with him. The Authority has recorded its appreciation of Mr. Field's services. In Mr. Gumbrell the Authority welcomes one of wide experience in the production and marketing of honey. Since his appointment to this Authority his contributions to our problems have been most constructive and I am happy to have Mr. Gumbrell as a colleague.

### Honey Supplied to the Authority and the Payout

It will be noted from our official statement that the total volume of honey received by the Authority for the year ended August, 1958, was 1,104 tons compared with 1,571 tons for the previous season thus showing a decline of 467 tons in supply. The overall average payout was 11.65d. per lb. Of the £20,226 seals levy received £10,638 was used to subsidise the payout to suppliers. After making the final payout, there was a surplus of £6,420. This was added to our Accumulated Fund which now stands at £17,752. During the year a total of 1,329 tons was sold overseas. The total volume sold on the local market was 259 tons consisting of 130 tons under our 'Imperial Bee' brand and 129 tons in bulk. It is encouraging to note that whilst the average payout was not up to the recognised cost of production it was only .28d. less per lb. than that of the previous season and our reserves were not called upon. On the contrary as I have already indicated they benefitted to the extent of an additional £6,420. Our trading position may therefore be regarded as fairly satisfactory.

### Production of Season Ending August, 1958

As everyone now knows production of the Dominion last season was down very far below that of an average season and in consequence of this, supplies to the Authority were very seriously affected. Our intake to June 30, 1959, dropped to 477 tons. This low intake has caused the Authority much concern. It has particularly affected our position on the Export Market.

### Export Market

In a normal year the Authority disposes of over 75 per cent. of its intake overseas. The short supply this season has caused considerable embarrassment to our London agents in a high class trade where they have succeeded in creating a demand at very satisfactory prices for a substantial portion of our honey. Unfortunately much of the ground gained by our agents in this profitable outlet is now lost to our competitors and we have been advised that it will be very difficult to regain. While the loss of this business is to be greatly deplored, the fact has to be borne in mind that the export market cannot absorb (and never has been able to do so) all that is available for export and return a figure comparable with local net returns. It must be recognised, however, that it is the export of this surplus that creates a fair measure of price stability on the local market where well over two-thirds of New Zealand production is sold.

We have been advised of honey—described as beautiful clover alfalfa—sold at the ridiculous price of 68/- per cwt. C. & F., London. A figure of 68/- per cwt. less all costs, including freight to London, would leave us with approximately 3½d. per lb. to offer the beekeeper. From this 3½d. the beekeeper would have to deduct from 2d. to 3d. per lb. to cover the cost of tins and cases and freight to his nearest grade store, thus netting him around 1d. per lb. for the best quality honey produced in New Zealand.

We are also advised to expect greater competition from U.S.A. honey in Europe and this advice is supported by a statement appearing in the June issue of the 'Australian Bee Journal,' which reads:—

'The American Beekeeping Federation has requested the United States Government to reintroduce export subsidies at the rate of 2½ cents per lb. on honey exported (1 cent equals 1 penny approx.). The reason given is that there is a large surplus of honey in beekeepers' hands and no satisfactory export market. Communist countries are dumping honey on foreign markets and there is a constant increase in production in Central and South American countries.'

We also have competitive selling from Australian honey which has the trading advantage of a 25 per cent. exchange depreciation.

Our agents, Messrs. Kimpton Brothers, have never suggested that we drop to the level quoted by our overseas competitors and they have consistently obtained for us a substantial premium over the price level quoted by other countries.

#### **Our Overseas Representatives**

Our overseas representatives, Messrs. Kimpton Brothers, have done everything—and frequently more—than could be reasonably expected from them.

I have no hesitation in saying that the Industry has never had a better agency service, but, as I have remarked on a previous occasion, Messrs. Kimptons are not magicians and there is a limit to the premium they can obtain for our honey.

#### **Case for Financial Assistance from the Government**

The fact is well recognised by your Association that the Authority is operating under circumstances that preclude the possibility of it making a satisfactory return to our suppliers. Your Executive, assisted by evidence from the Authority, has made a great effort to obtain something in the shape of an annual subsidy to assist the payout but the reply of the Minister indicates that the Government is not prepared to grant assistance along these lines.

#### **The Capital Indebtedness of the Authority to the State**

You will have noted from the reports in the 'New Zealand Beekeeper' the efforts made by the Authority from time to time for either the cancellation of this indebtedness or for it to be placed on a permanent fluctuating overdraft basis, similar to that under which the Honey Section of the Marketing Department operated. The fact has been stressed many times that this indebtedness was the consequence of Government policy in the matter of liquidating the Marketing Department some six years ago. This Authority exercised no voice in making that decision, but the consequence of it was that we had no alternative but to

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assume capital repayment liabilities that cannot be honoured without causing serious consequences and possibly disaster to the Authority. In this connection the steady annual dwindling of supplies to the Authority carry their own significance. If this trend is not arrested then in a season of plenty competitive selling under conditions of oversupply on the local market will seriously affect the returns of all beekeepers.

#### **The New Building and Honey Packing Plant**

Our new building more than measures up to expectations. Our new plant is complete and available to operate at full capacity. In the designing of it we have had the helpful advice of several visiting authorities from overseas. Our most recent visitor was Dr. Dyce, Professor of Apiculture at Cornell University, U.S.A. Dr. Dyce displayed the keenest interest in our marketing structure and the Authority is greatly indebted to him for his helpful advice in the construction of our honey blending and packing plant.

#### **Quality of Honey Supplied to the Authority**

The Authority is glad to accept any grade of honey that measures up to certain standards of condition, but unfortunately there are those who find it profitable to supply the Authority with their lowest grades and retain their top grades for their own local business. I must say plainly that under existing marketing conditions I can see no prospects of a payable price for a class of honey in the vicinity of medium amber unless the producer of such honey can outweigh a low price return with a well above average hive production.

#### **Contract System for Supply of Honey to Authority**

The Authority has decided that the contract system as operating previously will not be continued this coming season but other alternatives are under consideration.

#### **The Honourable C. F. Skinner, Minister of Agriculture**

In the representations I have made to the Minister I have at all times received a most attentive and, I believe, a sympathetic hearing. The Minister has always provided me with ample time in which to present my case on behalf of the Authority and to submit any verbal submissions in support of it. The Minister has already granted us appreciable concessions on the terms of debt repayments and I am encouraged with his decisions in complying with our request to set up an investigating committee of senior officers who will report to him on the problems confronting the Authority with recommendations for remedial measures.

#### **The Change Over to New Premises**

It was in our interest to move into our new premises at the earliest possible date and thus be free of the heavy rent of the old building formerly occupied by us. The move was not a simple matter. We had to accept the disadvantage of carrying on for many months deprived of much needed equipment and the services of a plant. All this involved the Manager and his staff in many unforeseen problems and it says much for their efforts that, in spite of the difficulties that came their way, the business of the Authority proceeded smoothly and without interruption to either local or overseas deliveries.

## **HONEY TINS**

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

**J. GADSDEN & Co. Ltd.**

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P.O. BOX 14, PETONE

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### Appreciation of Assistance from the Director of Horticulture

I have to thank Mr. Greig, Director of Horticulture, for a very prompt response to our request for the assistance of certain of his senior officers during a period of great anxiety to the Authority. The Authority has recorded its appreciation to Mr. Greig for the valuable help his Department has rendered us.

### The Future

I greatly regret that the facts of the position confronting the Authority do not allow me to portray a more cheerful picture. I am sure, however, that the value of the Beekeeping Industry to the economy of the country is such that no Government can afford chaos to develop in the marketing of our product. Everyone will surely agree with me when I say that an efficient marketing organisation operating under conditions that will allow it to function successfully is essential to the economic security of every beekeeper.

In conclusion let me say that whatever measure of success I may have met with as Chairman of this Authority is due to the support and helpful counsel I have had from my colleagues.

WALLACE NELSON,  
Chairman,  
New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority

### Lucerne at Galatea

An enterprising project is being started this year by Ray and Keith Gregory of Galatea, Bay of Plenty. In this district a large area is devoted to lucerne growing and they have arranged a share-agreement with some

of the local farmers whereby the farmers will close certain paddocks on a stipulated date and 'the Gregory boys' will undertake to provide the bees for pollination and harvest the seed crop. Our best wishes to all concerned in this progressive move.

## PACKAGE BEES

*Packages with young Italian Queen from disease-free apiaries can be supplied from late September onwards.*

### **Replace winter losses, or start new colonies**

Approximate build-up time, 10 weeks

Orders forwarded air freight and advised

### **PLACE ORDERS NOW FOR 1959 SEASON**

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

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

Queenless packages less 6/-

All Prices Plus Freight.

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# DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

## Horticulture Division

### CONFERENCE ADDRESS

by Mr. E. Smaellie, Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate very much the opportunity given me to address this Conference—and I would like to thank Mr Greig, Director of the Horticulture Division, for his gesture in asking me to speak in his stead on this occasion.

This past year has been a difficult one for the beekeeping industry, and many beekeepers, particularly in northern areas, have experienced complete, or near complete, crop failures. The overall production of honey is the lowest recorded for very many years. The better yields were secured in the Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, North Otago, Southland and West Coast districts.

#### Honey Crops, 1958-59

Honey produced for the year ending March 31, 1959, was estimated at:—

Honey: 3786 tons—2099 tons less than in the 1957-58 season.

Beeswax: 132,570lb.—73,490lb. less than 1957-58

For the year ended February 28, 1959, the Departmental Honey Grader, Mr. R. S. Walsh, graded 20,333 cases of bulk honey, each case being 120lb. net. A total of 1,089 tons. This honey was received at depots at Auckland, New Plymouth, Christchurch, Greymouth, Dunedin and Invercargill and was 10,058 cases, or 538 tons less than in the previous year. A total of 180 cases of bulk honey could not be exported in its original condition because of low specific gravity and these were rejected. The quantity of honey which failed to reach the minimum grading standard and found to be unsuitable for any purpose was 9 tons. This honey was also rejected by the Honey Grader.

The Division continued to provide technical advice on honey handled by the New Zealand Marketing Authority. Producers who submitted honey below the acceptable standard have also received helpful advice from Apiary Instructors with their honey packing problems.

#### Apiary Statistics

The previous trend toward a decrease in the number of domestic beekeepers and a consolidation of the larger commercial holdings has continued.

Statistics for the year ended June 30, 1959, show that a total of 4,974 beekeepers owning 11,526 registered apiaries containing 176,350 colonies of bees.

A break down of these figures between the North and South Island shows:—

In the North Island—3,711 beekeepers, 6,683 apiaries and 107,061 hives.

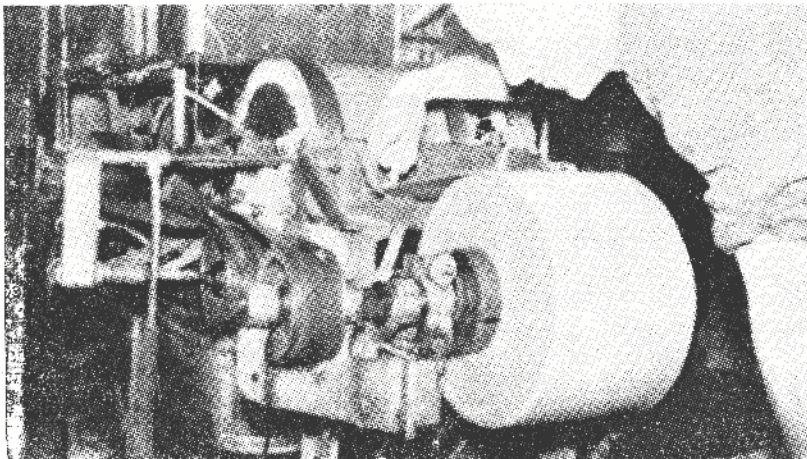
In the South Island—1,263 beekeepers, 4,843 apiaries and 69,289 hives.

When the domestic and commercial groups are subdivided we find—4,365 beekeepers with 18,477 hives in the domestic group, and 609 beekeepers with 157,873 hives in the 30 hives and over group.

An analysis of the June, 1959, statistics made for comparison with the last statistics compiled two years ago, reveals in the 251 hives and over group a .8 per cent. increase in beekeepers and 1.2 per cent decrease in the number of hives in the North Island and in the South Island an increase of 5 per cent. of beekeepers and 9.2 per cent. increase in hives.

In the 30 to 250 hive group there has been a very significant decrease in the number of beekeepers and hives. In the North Island there has been a 12.7 per cent. and 14.4 per cent. decrease in both beekeepers and hives, while in the South Island the decrease in beekeepers and hives is 8.2 per cent. and 14.2 per cent. respectively.

The domestic group with under 30 hives also shows a decrease in both the number of registered beekeepers and hives. In the North Island there are 4.1



Sheeting Beeswax and checking thickness (Weed Process).

## 'SUPERIOR' COMB FOUNDATION

### IMPROVED WEED PROCESS

We are now able to offer to the Beekeepers of New Zealand a very high grade comb foundation at the following rates:—

MEDIUM BROOD (approximately 8 sheets per lb.)			
28lb. cases	5/6 per lb.	7lb. packets	6/- per lb.
8lb. to 27lb.	5/9 per lb.	2lb packets	6/3 per lb.
THIN SUPER			
28lb. cases	7/6 per lb.	7lb. packets	8/- per lb.
8lb. to 27lb.	7/9 per lb.	2lb. packets	8/3 per lb.
BEEKEEPERS' WAX CONVERTED			
Medium Brood :	28lb. or more, 1/- per lb.;		under 28lb., 1/3 per lb.
Thin Super :	28lb. or more, 2/- per lb.;		under 28lb., 2/3 per lb.

A deduction is made on all wax for conversion of 2½ per cent to cover loss of weight in manufacture.

Before converting into foundation, all wax is run through a filter press which completely removes all pollen and foreign matter from the wax. We use the Weed Process to sheet our wax which produces the strongest and toughest sheets known. The milling is done with the very latest mills that we have just imported from Germany, especially designed to suit our New Zealand beekeeping conditions.

————— We Buy Good Clean Beeswax —————

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per cent. fewer beekeepers and 7.5 per cent. less hives, and in the South Island the decrease is 8.3 per cent. beekeepers and 4.6 per cent. hives.

### **Advisory Work**

Turning now to the work of the Division.

At present the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division has its full complement of Apiary Instructors.

Mr. Colin Rope was appointed to the position of Apiary Instructor at Auckland in January, 1959. Mr. Rope has had a good experience as a commercial beekeeper and for several years has been an active member of both the Auckland and Far North Branches of the National Beekeepers' Association.

I am also pleased to say that Mr. B. J. Donovan, who has been active with beekeeping in the Taumarunui district, has commenced studies at the Auckland University as an apicultural cadet.

The advisory service to beekeepers was maintained during the year. Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiculturist at Hamilton, concentrated with the development of labour saving apiary and honey house equipment that will assist beekeepers in keeping down overhead costs and in the improvement in condition of the honey for market. In collaboration with Mr. Walsh, Honey Grader at Auckland, much time was devoted by Mr. Paterson to giving technical advice and supervision of the Honey Marketing Authority's new plant installation.

One hundred and ten lectures and demonstrations covering a wide range of subjects related to commercial beekeeping were given by Apiary Instructors. Lectures were given by way of radio talks, visits to apiaries and organised meetings of producers.

Twenty well illustrated articles were also published in the Journal of Agriculture.

### **Inspection of Apiaries**

A total of 5,778 apiaries were inspected by Apiary Instructors and part-time inspectors, and I wish to express my appreciation of the assistance the Department receives from beekeepers who undertake this work.

The overall incidence of American Foul Brood found ranged from .05 per cent. to 1.9 per cent. of the hives inspected in five of the main honey producing districts and from 2.49 per cent. to 4.10 per cent. in the remaining six districts.

A total of 372 diseased hives were destroyed by burning; also 171 colonics that were not in regulation hives were burned, making a total of 543 hives destroyed by Instructors during the year.

### **Insecticides**

The possibility of poisoning honey bees by the use of insecticides applied to crops and pastures which are outside the scope of the Apiaries Protection Regulations, 1957, has again worried beekeepers. Several cases of mortality were reported by beekeepers who attributed the cause of their loss to the use of insecticides on adjacent pasturage. These were investigated by Departmental officers, but in the absence of any service to make chemical analysis, it was not possible to diagnose the actual cause of the mortality. In most cases, however, opinion was that the use of insecticides were unlikely to have been the cause of the mortality.

Considerable work was involved in dealing with applications for permits to apply insecticidal sprays to brassica and leguminous crops. Farmers, aerial operators and commercial firms co-operated generally with the requirements of the Apiaries Protection Regulations, 1957, and no serious bee mortality occurred during the season in seed producing areas as a result of the use of insecticides on these particular crops.

Orchardists in the main fruit growing areas are co-operating well with the regulations which prohibit the application of sprays toxic to honey bees at times when fruit trees are in blossom and attractive to honey bees.

In the Hawkes Bay area, fruitgrowers have become thoroughly aware of the need to comply with these regulations, and in recent years have arranged their spraying programmes accordingly.

Because of these circumstances, the Hawkes' Bay Bee Protection Committee is for the present in recess. This Committee comprises Departmental officers,

orchardists and beekeepers and is constituted for the purpose of preventing orchardists from applying toxic sprays to fruit trees that are in blossom prior to 75 per cent. petal fall. Should circumstances so require, this Committee can be called into immediate action.

### **Experiments and Trials**

Trials and experiments covering technical problems of importance to beekeeping were carried out during the year by Apiary Officers.

Experimental work undertaken at Auckland by Mr. Roberts has resulted in the development of standard packages and a system of packaging section comb honey for export which provides satisfactory transport of both light and heavy bodied section comb honey during shipment.

Apiary officers in the South Canterbury District assisted Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Research Officer at Wallaceville, with trials to determine the toxicity to honey bees of several therapeutants when applied to flowering crops for the control of insect pests. A request for this work to be undertaken was the subject of remits at your last Conference.

The effects of DDT emulsion when sprayed aerially to flowering chou moellier were observed. DDT emulsion repelled bees for six days following the application and caused only slight field bee mortality. It was considered that where flowering brassica crops must be sprayed to save them from destruction by insect pests, DDT emulsion would be suitable for use, provided applications were made prior to field bees commencing foraging flights.

The effects of Thodian was also observed. Thodian applied to flowering chou moellier exerted no repellency and was found to be more lethal to field bees than DDT. Trials demonstrated that Thodian applied to flowering brassica crops would cause serious bee mortality to occur.

Rogor, Endothian, and MGK repellent 874 were also tested.

Rogor, in combination with MGK repellent 874, was applied from the air to a crop of flowering turnips. Endothian was applied to a flowering crop of rape. No repellency was exhibited by the Rogor-MGK repellent 874 mixture or by the Endothian.

Rogor proved highly toxic to field bees, although brood was unaffected. The test indicated that Rogor should on no account be applied to flowering crops attractive to honey bees.

Endothian caused no bee mortality and is safe to apply to flowering brassica crops.

A project was commenced in the North Otago district by Mr. I. W. Forster, Apiary Instructor, and Mr. Palmer-Jones, in collaboration with officers of the extension division, with the aim of ascertaining the pollination of white clover. The need for this work was also a subject of one of your remits last year. This work will take several seasons to complete. Activity this season was confined to working out, in collaboration with statisticians of the Extension Division, suitable methods and techniques for the conduct of the experiment.

### **Beekeeping in the Chatham Islands**

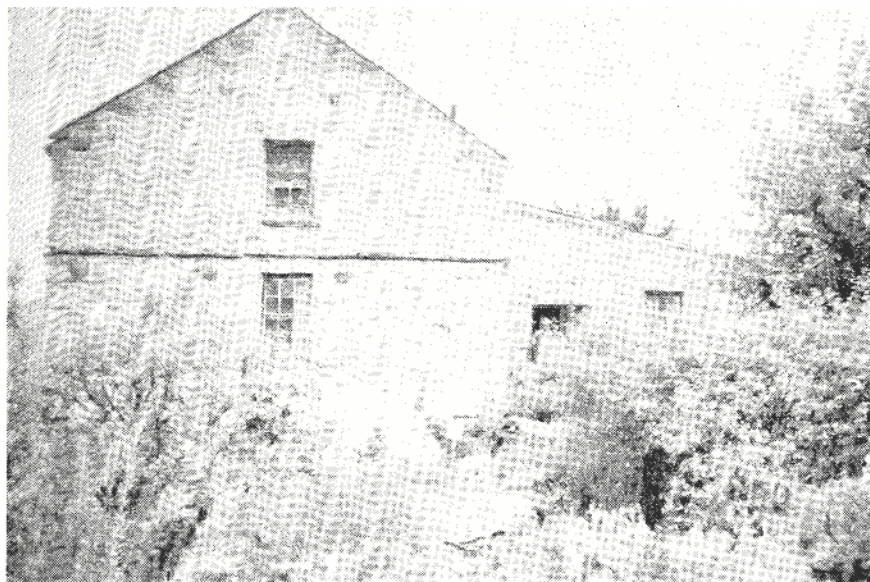
In February, 1959, thirteen queen bees and eight 3lb. packages of bees were forwarded to the Chatham Islands by air freight at the request of the Federated Farmers (Inc.). The colonics were purchased to increase the number of hives on the island for the purpose of pollinating agricultural crops, particularly clovers.

Mr. L. A. Griffin, Apiary Instructor at Christchurch, made a further visit to the Island to give assistance and instruction on apiary management to the farmer-beekeepers.

Other work undertaken by Mr. Griffin was an investigation into the causes for the inability of bees to rear brood produced from queens reared on the Island.

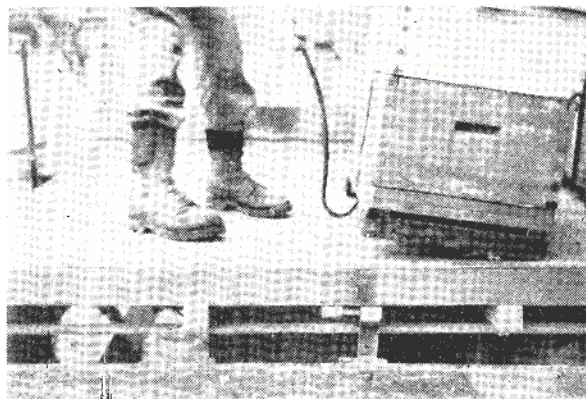
This unusual condition is of importance to Chatham Island farmers as it prevents the natural perpetuation of the species and necessitates the purchase annually of replacement stocks in order that the existing bee population is maintained.

Specimen colonies containing honey and pollen, larvae and both queen and worker bees produced on the Chatham Island have been dispatched to Christchurch where they are being subject to further investigation and observation.



#### CENTRAL OTAGO HONEY-HOUSE

Down by the old mill stream stands this stone flour mill in a picturesque setting of low hills and surrounded by trees. Located at Omakau, the building was erected in 1878 from local stone and red beech timber obtained at the head of Lake Wanaka and rafted down the Clutha River. It is still in an excellent state of repair. The granite mill-stone, formerly used to grind the flour, now rests outside the front door, while the inside has been transformed into an excellent honey-house. The property was formerly owned by Mr. W. J. Lennon (for some years Editor of 'The N.Z. Beekeeper.' The present owner is Mr. R. W. Rowley.



#### A Useful Tool

An elongated sack hook as used by Mr. W. J. C. Ashcroft, Havelock North, for grappling the under surface of a bottom board to drag the hive around on a truck deck. With half the weight taken by the hook it can be pulled around quite easily.

- Photo. by Sefton Line

# BRANCH NOTES

## CANTERBURY

### President's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my report for the past year, a year I am sure we may remember for some time as individual beekeepers, but one full of interest and activity as a Branch.

Since our last annual meeting we have had five meetings including this present one.

The first, on June 30, 1958, was to consider remits to Conference.

At our next meeting, on August 22, 1958, we met to hear our delegates' report on the Wellington conference, given by Mr. T. Pearson. This report was splendidly given, and one almost lived the days of Conference over again listening to him.

On October 4, 1958, many members of this and South Canterbury Branch journeyed to Ashburton Domain for our Spring Field Day. This was thoroughly enjoyable, our efforts being blessed with a perfect sunny day. The bees, kindly lent by Eric Hight, made the most of it on the willows down there.

March 20, 1959, saw us meeting again in Christchurch, at a special general meeting to hear an address by our executive member, Jasper Bray, and Mr. W. B. Bray, speaking on H.M.A. affairs.

I think members will agree we are fortunate in having two members in this Branch filling those positions, and giving ably their knowledge to us first-hand.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, we have our fifth meeting here today, May 16, 1959.

During the year, the Committee was active. On September 16, it met to consider establishment of Beekeepers' Club. As there were many problems involved, the matter was carried no further.

### Roll of Members

As at April 30, 1959, we had eighty-one members in this Branch. There were five new members for the year. One member resigned, having sold up. There was one death, namely Mr. Tadge, a member of this association for many years.

### Honey Crop

Due to prolonged drought in most parts of Canterbury, we have experienced one of the poorest seasons for many years. In some districts, no surplus honey was obtained at all, in fact, some of us must have been pushed to obtain stores for the bees. Some good yields were obtained closer to the hills and in patches elsewhere. Reports from various apiarists would give the impression that yields ranged from practically nothing to 1cwt. from north to south of our Branch district.

Very brisk sales, both at the door and to wholesale and retail trade, may be caused by buyers' awareness of the poor crop. I think, also, the steadily improving quality of our product turned out by our packer members is paying a dividend, with the public being honey conscious. Few, if any, will have enough honey to feed the market until next season.

### Social Gatherings

If we include our Field Day, we had at least as busy a year, if not more so, than in past years.

One, which was a grand turn out of our members, was the Social Evening held at the Takahē in honour of Dr. and Mrs. Dyce, of Cornell University, U.S.A. Most of us had all too little time with this world authority on bees and honey.

Another occasion was Mr. Winter's social evening and dinner given by the South Canterbury Branch, at which five of our members were present.

Those of our members who journeyed to Greymouth in Jasper Bray's car for the West Coast Beekeepers' Field Day had a very pleasant day with the Coasters' hospitality turned on.

### Prospects

The four months of 1959 just passed have been wonderful for the recovery of pasture following the long dry spell. Over a wide area, clover is to be seen in a very vigorous condition.

Bees in the writer's area seem in good condition for wintering, and it is



hoped areas further north obtained adequate stores.

The recent soaking rains have ensured a wet subsoil, something which was sadly lacking last winter.

#### Bees by Air

The past season saw the first large airlift of bees from the North Island to Canterbury. Mr. Saunders, now of Ashburton, was unfortunate to strike such poor conditions following such an immense undertaking.

#### Toxic Sprays

During the summer especially, a tremendous amount of aerial spraying of all kinds of crops was carried out in Canterbury, and although I think the position of beekeepers is better in this field than in previous years, we should not relax our efforts to see 100 per cent. safety to bees.

#### Taxation

Last season's big crop in 1957-58, followed by this year's (1958-59) failure, coupled with the present tough taxation rates, must cause most of us some worrying moments. It has long been my opinion that beekeepers should have spread taxation or even tax relief in some cases this year.

#### American Foul Brood

I stand to be corrected, but in Mid-Canterbury alone, i.e. within 15-20 miles of Ashburton, something like 100 hives have been destroyed. One case was of several apiaries robbing diseased swarms in a house. Another of bees brought in from elsewhere completely destroyed. My congratulations to our apiary instructor for a prompt clean up vigorously applied in this instance.

I strongly recommend that part time inspection be increased, irrespective of the funds available, with perhaps an authority being issued to competent commercial men to check on small part time men with little knowledge of bees or their disease.

My job as your President has been made easy by the support of you all. I sincerely thank my committee, Des. King, our Secretary, and Kevin Ecroyd, who have helped me with various arrangements.

I have enjoyed the past year more than I thought possible when I took the chair, and I would ask you, one and all, to support this Branch with your continued membership and regular

attendance at our meetings, without which, we, as beekeepers, must surely be poorer.

In conclusion, I wish you all health and happiness, with good beekeeping in the coming year.

RON NEWTON, President

#### WEST COAST

An address by Mr. R. H. Hobbs, of the Department of Agriculture, illustrated by slides, was the highlight of the annual meeting of the Branch on June 5. The method of transporting packages of bees and restocking apiaries may be of advantage to folks in the cold winter areas but has yet to be proved financially worthwhile here on the Coast with our mild winter and fickle spring weather.

A passing thought was: It is no wonder that picture-story books are so popular with young people—and some not-so-young. A series of well got up drawings or photos does convey much to a reader for a minimum of effort on his part.

Mr. R. Glasson stated that he would not accept nomination as Secretary of the Branch this year. During his fourteen years in this office, Ralph has been a willing worker in the cause of beekeeping on the Coast and all will agree that he has been a guiding influence in keeping the West Coast Branch together. —Tom Holland

#### OTAGO

Beekeepers in Otago and Southland had an excellent opportunity of hearing about all phases of the industry at the Annual Convention held in Dunedin on June 2. Speakers included the Dominion President of the Association, no less than four members of the Honey Marketing Authority (probably a record for the Convention), and two apiary instructors. The gathering of about fifty in all made good use of the occasion to meet their fellow beekeepers and discuss current topics.

An apology was received from the Branch President (Mr. C. W. Foote) who was unable to be present and Mr. J. McFadzien welcomed the visitors, including several from Canterbury. For the commercial session in the afternoon, Mr. J. Glass was elected chairman and the meeting was

addressed by Messrs. W. T. Herron, G. E. Gumbrell, J. W. Fraser and W. B. Bray. The speakers were given an attentive hearing, and their addresses provoked a lively discussion in which the majority of those present took part. At the conclusion of the session they were accorded an enthusiastic vote of thanks.

In discussion on the Winter Show it was mentioned that the Department of Agriculture display did not include an apiary section this year and the omission was noted with regret. It was decided to take steps to have this matter brought to the attention of the Horticulture Division.

At the evening session, Mr. I. W. Forster gave an interesting and informative address on diseases of the adult bee. He explained clearly the facilities available to beekeepers for diagnosis by experts in the Department, and he emphasised the necessity for prompt identification of all suspicious cases of disease on account of the danger of acarine appearing in this country.

Mr. G. E. Gumbrell then gave a short report of the Wanganui Air-work Symposium, followed by a screening of coloured slides dealing with the new building and plant of the Honey Marketing Authority. Another series of pictures illustrated the construction of concrete bases for hives, and to conclude there were several slides to show a system of queen rearing.

A number of slides featuring apiary equipment were then shown by the Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. Seal. He also appealed to beekeepers for better support in the competitive honey section at the Winter Show. At the current Show there were thirty-nine entries which made a reasonably good display, but the number of actual competitors was extremely small.

The remainder of the evening was spent informally. Supper was served and concluded a very successful Convention.

—A. J. Shaw

day school which supports and supplements our homes.

Let's stop worrying or being over-anxious all the time. Most of the things we worry about never happen. Possibly the answer to all our problems would be to eat royal jelly and honey.



## Migratory Beekeeping

(Editor's Note: The problems of a migratory beekeeper's wife are discussed in this article by Mrs. J. D. Beals in "American Bee Journal." Her advice is fairly good for stationary beekeepers as well).

First I will say that a migratory beekeeper's wife must have good mental and physical health, she must have the ability to do the best she can with what she has and get a bang out of it.

One must be satisfied to live in rented houses and apartments in any part of the country, especially the first few years of married life.

I always made it a point to be happy and satisfied and have peace of mind wherever I hung my hat.

I found it necessary to make new acquaintances semi-annually, and that means one has to get along with people whether it be in families, at school, on the job, at play or in a community.

Schooling poses a large problem if there are children in the family. Some migratory beekeepers have their children attend school in the two states and the pupils do well.

On the trip from the starting point to destination, one needs the patience of Job, as the trip usually lasts three to four days. A little switch at father's feet is a forewarning of more severe discipline. A good plan is for mother to have many games ready; for instance, finding the alphabet from A through Z on sign boards; counting cattle, counting any four-legged animals and many more games.

Living from a suitcase surely is a problem, but thoughtful and careful packing overcomes this.

We should take advantage of the Church and Sunday School as well as

*(continued at foot of previous column)*

## BRANCH NOTES (cont.)

### SOUTH AUCKLAND

'Oh where, oh where has the white honey gone?'

'Oh where, oh where can it be?'

What used to be the lament of Taranaki before the ghost was given up has now become the lament of the Waikato beekeepers, a stubborn few of whom steadfastly refuse to let go of the apparition.

It is rather astonishing to look around the members of the Branch at a meeting now and count how many have shifted most of their hives during the past few years down onto the pumice lands, and reflect on whether the name of the branch is still accurate! No. It does not define how far south of Auckland the Branch may go, so it is still undoubtedly appropriate. Of the 'stubborn few' (representing some thousands of hives), all are severely troubled by the colour problem which has been growing so rapidly over recent years.

Of course, dark honey has always been produced in the Waikato, and in large quantities, to the embarrassment of the beekeepers and the industry. But whereas formerly the same hives produced white honey later in the season, they no longer do this. Unfortunately the change in colour has been accompanied by a reduction in quantity also, since nothing has taken the place of the white honey. There is fallacy abroad which seems quite popular in some quarters, that the darker the honey gathered—the greater the quantity collected. The very opposite is the case as far as the large honey producing areas of the Waikato are concerned.

And what of the future? It seems that it will be much easier to get sites from now on in what was once the oasis of New Zealand beekeeping.

The crop last season was by far the worst that can be remembered. The white honey producers managed about 1½ tons per hundred hives and the darker honies produced approx. ¾ ton per hundred. Perhaps the best commentary on the crop was given at our Field Day when we held an auction of beekeeping equipment which members had brought along for the purpose. The whole auction became quite humorous as item after item was passed in without a bid having been made, and it slowly dawned on us that everyone was keeping silent for the same reason! There was a very real sense of comradeship present for by some quirk of human nature, when a man finds himself in a hole there is nothing so comforting as discovering that somebody else found it first.

We welcome to our Secretaryship Trevor Wheeler, of Otorohanga, who is doing an unusually fine job in his first year in office. He is making sacrifices for the Branch and they are appreciated. —R.R.C.

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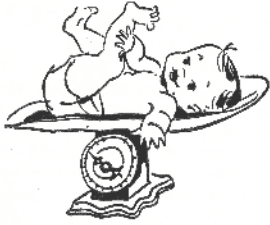
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# Notes for Beginners

by 'SKEP'

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We have pleasure in introducing as our new 'Skep' a well known and highly regarded North Island beekeeper—anonymous in the meantime).

In accepting the task of writing a series of Notes for Beginners I am reminded of the advice given to an aspirant of public speaking and it was just this: Don't apologise for your shortcomings as the audience will quickly discover that for themselves. So it is hardly necessary for me to warn readers against expecting too much from one not endowed with the gift for sweet flowing words (or should I say, honeyed words).

Enough of this, however, let us first acknowledge the services of Mr. G. E. Gumbrell as 'Skep' for the past two years and on your behalf, readers, I thank him for a very fine series of articles, full of interest and sound common sense.

## The Beginner

For this first contribution I have some thoughts for the 'budding beekeeper' and likewise the hobbyist, that merit careful consideration. If you have a desire to keep bees it is of paramount importance that first you appreciate that there are some people whose reactions to bee stings constitute a danger to their health—fortunately these cases are not common. The question is, of course, how best to test this for yourself. Might I suggest you catch a bee, cause it to sting you, and wait for any reactions(!) This may not be the approved method but I recall my own experience when I told my parents that I hoped to become a beekeeper. I was informed that the last time I was stung by a bee I was delirious for several days; so I wrapped myself up in a flour bag, boldly lifted the lid off a hive of bees, and placed both hands on the frames—believe me, I was stung with a vengeance. I distinctly recall doing a most creditable 100 yards at top speed.

Please do not be dismayed but take it easy and be content with one or two stings to make sure that you do not experience any dizziness, or anything more than minor discomfort.

## Locality

Another problem in keeping bees is the suitability of the locality. By this I mean that in 'built-up' areas in city or town there is the possibility of causing a nuisance to your immediate neighbours, and the local by-laws may prevent you from establishing a hive in your garden. What about having a chat with your local Apiary Instructor and seeking his advice? Another approach is to ask a beekeeper of some years standing what he thinks about it. If you are a young enthusiast get Mum and Dad on your side, for as you make further investigations into it you are going to find that it becomes quite a costly business to buy the necessary equipment.

Perhaps I should tell you that one can become completely fascinated with the study, operation and observation of bees—I think it best to mention this before going further in case I scare you off the whole idea before you have progressed very far. I well remember meeting a hobbyist beekeeper in Suva, one by the name of Arthur Black, whose pride and joy were three super de luxe model hives kept in the grounds of his lovely home overlooking Parliament Buildings and with a glorious view of the 'Bay.' There, readers, was a man who loved his bees, was a keen observer, and familiar with the best methods of operating them for pleasure and profit. He had obviously given careful thought to the placing of his hives, and a point of interest for me was that he was re-queening his hives in the middle of winter. The climate is so mild that the coconut palms were laden with bloom and yielding profusely at that time.

### Bees Need Attention

I could tell you a great deal more about Suva but let's get back to these important decisions of what you intend to do! Are you going to have only one hive and remain in the category of a hobbyist or have you thoughts of operating a number? Also, if you have a suitable locality in which to place your hive or hives, they demand a considerable amount of attention and you must be prepared to devote time to them. So many people have begun keeping bees with great enthusiasm and by virtue of the fact that they did not appreciate the work involved or had other interests which made full demands on their time, the hives gradually became neglected and the pleasure once derived was no longer there.

I suggest, therefore, that you consider these factors before either purchasing your first hive of bees or buying the necessary equipment with which to start a hive of your own.

In my next article I will have something to say about setting up a hive and methods of management.

### Conference Jottings

There was a splendid attendance of over 100 at Timaru and this was well maintained over the three days of Conference. Fine weather brought a cheerful note to the assembly and the hospitality of the Timaru Branch will long be remembered by the visiting delegates.

A party of seventeen took part in the organised trip to Mt. Cook prior to Conference. This proved most enjoyable and the luxury of staying at the new Hermitage, together with the inspiration gained from the grandeur of the peaks and glaciers, made a fitting prelude to the programme at Timaru.

After a well-known Canterbury member had raised a solitary dissenting voice against two or three consecutive remits a proposal was eventually declared carried unanimously.

A voice: Were you asleep that time, Bill?

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It was pleasing to see so many fathers and sons at Conference, an indication that many of our well known honey producing units are to be carried on in the same families by the rising generation. Among the sons present with their fathers (several of them attending Conference for the first time) were Mervyn Cloake—a third generation beekeeper—Warren Buchanan, Ian Spence, Ernest Adamson, Robert Davidson, Jasper Bray, Keith Herron and David Penrose.

It is seldom that a Conference goes by without Mr. Arthur Ecroyd putting in an appearance, but this time he was too far away to manage it—in Europe. Mr. and Mrs. Ecroyd left New Zealand in February on a journey through South Africa, the Continent and Britain, returning via America sometime next year. En route they are taking every opportunity of visiting people and places associated with beekeeping.

Souvenir lapel badges were issued to all delegates and guests and created much good-natured amusement, both at Conference and in the streets and hotels of Timaru, with their bold salutation 'Honey I Love You.' A closer inspection of the badge showed additional letters in very small type and the reader was suitably brought back to earth when he (or she) read the full story: 'HONEY is my business; I'd LOVE YOU to eat more!'

Full marks to Robin Hansen and Ray and Keith Gregory who, after a very disappointing season, motored down to Timaru from South Auckland, took an active and helpful part in the Conference, carried on to Dunedin to see the first test, and returned home full of enthusiasm for the coming season. 'We could hardly afford to come,' said Ray, 'but we couldn't afford to stay away either. It has been a great experience for us to come south and hear the views of producers down here.' We can surely do with a lot of young men like that in the honey industry.

Among the activities arranged for delegates were visits to the local woollen mills and the pottery works at Temuka. South Canterbury is better known as a centre of primary production and is one of our principal beekeeping areas, so the visits to these

industrial units were most enlightening. It was a surprise to many to learn that the pottery factory is a large-scale enterprise with a flourishing export trade, mostly in insulating equipment.

During a protracted debate on the seal levy the discussion ranged far and wide and several delegates delved deep into the poultry industry to draw comparisons from the egg subsidy and the levy on mash. Eventually the President decided to bring speakers back to the point. 'I am going to rule that this discussion on fowl runs is foul business,' he declared, 'and it is out of order!'

Mr. E. W. Sage, of Ohaupo, in discussing the proposed increase in the Association's grant from seal revenue, asserted that the specified amount of £590 should be credited to the suppliers.

An interjector: That would be a nice plum! (Laughter).

Mr. Sage (always looking for an opportunity): Well, I've got an even better plum than that.

Voices: No advertising!

The local Press devoted a generous amount of space to the Conference proceedings, and radio listeners also heard about the Conference through interviews recorded for the women's session (Messrs. R. R. Chandler and J. McFadzien) and the farmers' session (Messrs. J. R. Barber and G. E. Gumbrell) and a topical talk for the national network by Mr. I. W. Forster.

And so passed another gathering of the beekeeping fraternity—a small, but let us say not insignificant, industry.

---

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N. Z. BEEKEEPER

## Ladies' Conference Programme

By MRS. M. CRANSTOUN,  
Hamilton Burn, Southland.

The ladies joined with the Beekeepers on Tuesday morning for the opening of Conference in the Caroline Bay Tea-rooms and enjoyed the various speakers' addresses.

On Tuesday afternoon we were taken to the Tekau Knitwear Factory by some of the wives of the members of the Timaru Branch. We were divided into two groups and one group was shown through the underwear department and the other through the outerwear department. We were shown the cutting out of garments and then the overlocking of seams and the sewing on of pockets and flaps, buttons and facings, etc., and also the making of buttonholes and the pressing of the garments. This visit was very much appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by the visitors.

The ladies again joined with the menfolk in a social evening and enjoyed the various items and the films that were arranged for our entertainment by the host branch.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Ball gave a most interesting address on her recent trip overseas. Some beautiful slides were shown of places of interest including Colombo, Paris, Rome, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Fiji. The contrasts in the different types of homes of the various nationalities were most interesting. It was also surprising to note how bright our New Zealand landscapes are in comparison with the more subdued colours in England and Scotland. Paris is a beautifully laid out city. The beaches in some of the countries are very dirty compared with our lovely beaches here. The afternoon concluded with a delightful afternoon tea, served by the Timaru ladies.

On Wednesday evening some of the ladies were privileged to join the menfolk in a tour of inspection around 'The Timaru Herald' and watched the Souvenir Edition of the 'N.Z. Beekeeper' being printed.

We would express our thanks to the Timaru Branch members and their wives for the very enjoyable programme they provided for our entertainment while we were at Conference.

## Gadgets and Ideas

### Silicone Protection

An article in the 'Swiss Bee Journal' (quoted in the 'Scottish Beekeeper') recommends silicone barrier creams as the complete answer to dermatitis or severe inflammation of the skin caused by propolis. Before doing any work which might involve contact with propolis the beekeeper (if he is troubled in this way) should wash his hands and smear the ointment over them. The film dries quickly and is elastic, resistant, colourless, harmless, and effective.

### Making Cell Cups

Henry Shaefer, writing in 'Gleanings,' describes an outfit in France where royal jelly is produced. Here queen cells are made by a novel method at the rate of 2,000 per hour. Inflated rubber nipples are dipped in wax and then deflated, permitting the cells to drop down. Artificial wax is used as it is not so brittle and will not shatter when cold.

### Saltpetre for Fuel

'I find that a roll or cylinder of corrugated paper soaked in saltpetre solution with colouring material and then dried makes a tinder that cannot be put out. Just the touch of a match and it completely lights the smoker. Then other fuel may be added.'

— G. H. Cale in 'American Bee Journal'

### Handling Queens

A gauze muff for handling queens and attendants is pictured in 'American Bee Journal.' This is of ordinary fly gauze of suitable size made into a cylinder with cloth sleeves attached at each end. By the use of this, queens may be safely removed from mailing cages, etc., and safely handled at any time without fear of escape.

---

Can you read this puzzle?

STAND

I

HOW

CC

BBBEEE

Answer on Page 47.

## Otago Exports Manuka

Ten tons of Otago manuka were to be used in fences for this year's Grand National Steeplechase meeting at Riccarton in August. The Canterbury Jockey Club, which has the reputation of having the best cross-country fences in the Dominion, was forced to go as far south as Waitati, near Dunedin, for supplies because the manuka blight has practically cleaned out suitable scrub in Canterbury.

For the past few years the manuka has been obtained from Kaikoura, and before that at Waiau.

Mr. F. Evans, caretaker of the Riccarton Racecourse, with a team of eight men, travelled south and spent three days collecting the scrub and loading it into two large railway trucks. Waitati turned on a heavy fall of snow while the work was in progress.

At least five tons of manuka will be used for Cutts's. When trimmed and ready for the meeting, this well-known obstacle will be 5ft. high, 45ft. long and 3ft. wide at the top.

By the time the brush has been tightened up, double purchased on both sides with 500lb. on each block, the top will be strong enough to walk on.

Mr. Evans said the Waitati manuka was the best scrub his team had cut in recent years.

The blight was destroying the manuka even this far south, however, and the Canterbury Jockey Club was preparing for the time when it would not be available by planting live hedges on the course.

Some of these were already well on the way, Mr. Evans said, and it was hoped that the first live fences would be used for the 1960 Grand National Steeplechase.

In the meantime these hedges would be topped off with broom. In this manner six tons of manuka has been dispensed with this year.

Chinese honeysuckle and Japanese privet are the two hedges being grown at Riccarton.

They are quick growing and are not brittle. By their rate of growth it is expected that when they have been trimmed down after a National meeting they will be back to the correct height for the next season.

— From 'Otago Daily Times'

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# Control of Wax Moth in Stored Comb Honey and Bee Combs

by

**D. ROBERTS**

Apiary Instructor Auckland

Each year the two species of wax moth, *Galleria Melonella* (the larger wax moth) and *Achroia Grissella* (the lesser wax moth), are responsible for a great deal of financial loss among beekeepers who find it necessary to store honey in the comb and/or empty bee combs for any period of more than a few days. In the North Island and in the northern parts of the South Island, the larger wax moth is especially troublesome.

The habits of the moths in depositing their eggs in the crevices and corners of frames and the interiors of hive supers while on the hives, coupled with the variable period of incubation which, dependent upon temperature, may take anything from one to five weeks and more, makes the use of poisonous fumigants essential if moth infestation of stored material is to be controlled. Past methods of control have been based on the practice of fumigating the stored material every two to three weeks with hydrocyanic gas given off by the well-known Cyanogas crystals, or the use of carbon bisulphide or sulphur fumes. These gases, while effective destroyers of adult moths and free larvae, do not destroy the eggs or all of the pupating larvae. Consequently, to ensure effective control with these materials, fumigations must be repeated at intervals of not more than

three weeks until there is no further possibility of the hatching of eggs, the emergence of pupating larvae or infestation from outside sources.

The hydrocyanic gas given off by "Cyanogas" is highly poisonous to humans and extreme care in its application is essential if danger to life is to be avoided. Carbon bisulphide is poisonous to humans and is highly inflammable and explosive. Sulphur fumes, while not so dangerous, are irritating and unpleasant, and their generation also involves the additional risk of fire, particularly where the fumigation is carried out in enclosed buildings.

Repelling agents such as **Para-di-Chloro-Benzene** crystals act as repellents only and do not effect a kill. On account of odour, repellents generally are not suitable for use with stored comb honey but can be used with dry combs if the combs are well aired before being replaced on the hives.

While the foregoing materials can provide a reasonable measure of control, the amount of time and work involved with their use is considerable. In consequence, beekeepers have been continually seeking more efficient fumigants and better and safer methods of application.

For many years, it has been known that one of the Bromine derivatives,

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**Methyl Bromide**, is a most effective fumigating agent for wax moth control. Because it is a gaseous fumigant with great penetrating ability and a very high rate of diffusion into the atmosphere, its use for this purpose was, until recently, impractical unless the operator had a permanently gas-tight room at his disposal. Modern research in the plastic industry has now provided readily available materials which are entirely impervious to this gas.

The writer initiated an extensive series of field trials at Auckland using this fumigant for the control of wax moth in stored comb honey, stored bee combs and section comb honey intended for export overseas. The experience gained in these trials led to the development of a safe and highly effective technique for the application of Methyl Bromide using polythene sheeting for gas retention. See article "Control of Wax Moth on Comb Honey and Stored Bee Combs" in the November 1953 issue of the N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

Although with the development of this technique, a safe, economical and highly efficient method of wax moth control was available, the use of a related fumigant **Ethylene-di-Bromide**, as reported in articles and advertisements in overseas beekeeping journals seemed to offer yet a simpler and equally effective method.

To determine the relative effectiveness of the two methods, a further field trial utilising **Ethylene-di-Bromide** as a fumigant was initiated at Auckland during the period May to July, 1958. For the purpose of the trial, bee combs and comb honey heavily infested with both species of wax moth in all stages of development from the egg to the adult moth were obtained, and set up in stacks in the comb storage room of a local commercial beekeeper. Initial dosages, the arrangement of the stacks of infested material, and the method of application used were all as recommended in the original overseas writings on the subject. The infested material was contained in two stacks of hive supers, each eight supers high. The two stacks were stood on soft sacking to prevent undue escape of the gas at floor level. The material was checked for mortality of moths and larvae at daily intervals. The initial dosage being found to be completely ineffective at the first application, the dosage was then repeated at the same

rate. When this application was also found to be ineffective further daily applications were made, each time increasing the dosage until the amount given was increased four times. When this greatly increased application still proved ineffective a fresh supply of Ethylene-di-Bromide was secured from a different source as it was thought that the lot originally used may either have deteriorated in storage, or not been of the correct formulation in the first place. The trial was then repeated in detail using the fresh supply of Ethylene-di-Bromide. Very little improvement in effectiveness was visible from this replication and it was not until the stacks of supers were made almost completely airtight by standing them on thick layers of newspaper and thoroughly sealing all joints with gummed paper tape and covering the tops with soft sacking and tight-fitting lids that a partially effective kill was obtained. The dosage necessary to secure this partial kill was approximately four times that recommended in the original overseas writings. A further application with the dosage increased to five times that recommended secured a kill of all free larvae and adult moth. Pupating larvae were not all destroyed, only some 50% being affected. The trial was abandoned at this stage as it was felt that even if heavier dosages would ensure a complete and thorough kill of all stages of wax moth from the egg through to the adult, the cost as compared with other methods would be uneconomic.

The Ethylene-di-Bromide used in the trials was submitted to the Government Analyst for analysis. The analysis showed all samples to be pure Ethylene-di-Bromide and that the potency of all samples was unaffected.

Conclusions drawn from experience gained in this trial in which very heavily infested material was used are:—

1. **Effectiveness:** Ethylene-di-Bromide is fully effective only when the fumes can be contained in stacks of material being fumigated. As with all other fumigants it will not prevent further infestation if the treated material is again exposed.
2. **Dosage Needed:** Not less than three quarts of liquid Ethylene-di-Bromide to every 1,000 cubic feet of space to be fumigated.

3. **Danger to human life:** Ethylene-di-Bromide is a heavy liquid which on exposure to the atmosphere gives off a heavier-than-air gas. The gas is colourless, has a distinctive odour when present in quantity and is highly poisonous to humans. Being much heavier than air, it normally tends to sink to the bottom of any space being fumigated. On account of this characteristic it has been quoted as offering little risk to the operator when introduced to the top of stacks of supers. In practice it was found that, while rapid sinking of the gas normally occurs, on occasion it rose above the fumigated material, indicating that despite its greater weight random air currents can cause it to rise sufficiently rapidly to become a danger to the operator. Ethylene-di-Bromide in liquid form has a high mammalian toxicity and rapid systemic action and is quickly absorbed through the skin. It must not be allowed to come into contact with either skin or clothing. Available information indicates that any concentration of Ethylene-di-Bromide gas in the atmosphere greater than two parts per million is dangerous.
4. **Cost:** While Ethylene-di-Bromide is not at present readily available in New Zealand, quotes received at the time of the trial indicated a New Zealand price of between £8 and £9 per gallon. At the dosage found necessary to ensure effective kills, it seems probable that the cost for fumigant would be not less than £2 10s. to £2 15s. per 100 cubic feet of material for each fumigation.
5. **Effect of Ethylene-di-Bromide on Honey in the Comb:** Included in the treatment of the infected combs

were 12 lb. sections of fully capped comb honey, all derived from the one nectar source. These were tested by the Honey Grader for retention of odour and determination of flavour. The grader's report indicated that the honey of several of the fumigated sections left a persistent burn and dryness in the mouth for up to half an hour after sampling. This material, when used in concentrations sufficient to give effective control of wax moth, appears likely to cause off-flavour and the development of undesirable odour in honey.

### *Experiments on the Sense of Smell in Honeybees*

(This abstract by G. Goetze of an article by W. Fischer is reprinted from 'Bee World' of March, 1959).

Bees were trained to natural and synthetic scents, and the threshold of perception was determined. It was shown that the bee's sense of smell corresponds roughly to that of a normal human. The greatest differences were found with rosemary oil (five times better detected by humans) and with beeswax and the scent gland of the honeybee (bees several times superior to humans). Bees could differentiate between jasmine and bromostyrene right down to the threshold value; the threshold found is therefore a specific one. Amputation of an antenna or of several segments (13 or 15 out of 16) showed that the sense of smell depends closely on the number of antennal segments; bees with no antennae could no longer recognise even a strong smell.

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# BATES' APIARIES

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## How to Talk to a Bee

More than 20 years ago, Austrian-born Dr. Karl von Frisch discovered that bees communicate by dancing on the honeycomb. Last week his pupil, Dr. Wolfgang Steche, 38, of Bonn's Institute for Bee Science, explained that he had learned to speak a little of the bees' language.

By patient observation over the years, Dr. Steche learned the particular dance (really a wiggling walk) that a worker bee does when she wants to steer her worker hivemates to flowers that she has found. As she dances on the vertical comb, the divergence of her dance right or left from the vertical indicates the direction of the flowers in relation to the sun. Its duration tells how far away they are—.4 sec. for 200 yards, 1.3 sec. for 1000. The rate of wiggling is important, too. Dr. Steche attached tiny magnets to bees' bottoms and found that a rich food-find produces faster wiggling.

Dr. Steche's next step was to make an artificial bee of wood, mount it on the end of a 5in. spiral of wire attached to an oscillator. He sticks the model, faintly perfumed with lavender, through a hole in a glass-walled hive and lets the oscillator wiggle it. The bees crowd around and observe. As soon as they get the message, they swarm out and unerringly fly to the lavender-flavoured sugar water that has been placed to reward them.

Dr. Steche has succeeded in directing his bees to sugar water at various angles from the hive and as far as 1000 yards away. In an average half-hour experiment, as many as 150 bees understand his wiggled words and take advantage of them. —'Time', 9/2/1959.

## Royal Jelly and Cancer

Reports from Canada on the treatment of cancer by 'royal jelly' have caused no excitement whatsoever in the research laboratory of the Auckland division of the British Empire Cancer Campaign Society at Cornwall Hospital, in Auckland.

Of two groups of mice, one injected with cancer cells and the other with cancer cells mixed with 'royal jelly,' the first group all died within twelve

days, while the second did not develop cancer, the Canadians found. They believe the active 'anti-cancer' ingredient of 'royal jelly' is a fatty acid known as '10 hydroxydecenoic acid.'

'When cancerous cells are removed from one animal's body for transplanting into another's, they are very susceptible to any cell poison,' said Dr. Cain of the Auckland laboratory. 'If we mix such cells with any of several dozen compounds we already know of, the mouse into which the mixture is injected will not develop cancer. So far, the Canadians have only added royal jelly to that already long list.'

None of the compounds in this list kill cancer cells in an animal's living body or halt the growth of cancerous tumours—except when they kill the healthy cells, too, which, of course, means killing the animal.

So, at the cancer research laboratory at Cornwall Hospital where Dr. J. F. Burton, senior Research Fellow in experimental pathology, and his colleagues are testing the efficacy of extracts of various native plants against cancer, they no longer test them 'in vitro'—in the test tube—during the transfer of cancerous cells from one mouse to another but only 'in vivo,' that is, by injecting them into the tumour-bearing animals.

They are working largely with leukaemia—commonly called cancer of the blood—in mice inbred for over a hundred generations for susceptibility to cancer.

In this way Auckland's busy laboratory has already tested more than 2,000 plant extracts. None has yet saved the life of a mouse injected with leukaemia, but every day dried plants are brought from the store room for extraction. Who knows whether, tomorrow or the next day, a group of mice injected with one of these extracts will still be frolicking when in the ordinary course they should all be dead of leukaemia?

That would make the biggest news story of the century. And it could happen.

—'Weekly News,' 20/5/59

---

*An optimist sees an opportunity in every difficulty—*

*A pessimist sees a difficulty in every opportunity.*

# STOP PRESS :

## REPLY FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Wellington, N.Z.  
August 4, 1959.

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

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I have your letter of July 16 on honey marketing and the Director-General of Agriculture has discussed with me the conversation the Vice-President (Mr. Barber) and you had with him on this subject on July 17.

I have considered the views the Association has expressed in its letter, and the renewed request for a guaranteed return to suppliers to the Honey Marketing Authority which I take to mean the grant of a Government subsidy.

The close investigation made last year into the affairs of the Honey Marketing Authority disclosed not only the financial problems which face the Authority but also suggested that there may be weaknesses in the present system of marketing honey produced in New Zealand. As a result of last year's investigation the Government made certain financial concessions to the Authority but the Committee which I have now appointed has been asked to review the operation of the honey marketing system. You will recall that in writing to you on the Committee's Order of Reference on June 30 I made this clear. The tenor of the letter sent to you by the Director-General on July 13 should not therefore have caused any surprise. After a period of six years it is reasonable that the marketing scheme introduced in 1953 should be reviewed to see how successfully it is operating. I have had a number of letters offering comments on honey marketing questions and one of the purposes of the letter sent to you by the Director-General was to give the opportunity to anyone interested who wished to do so to place their views before the Committee.

I have noted the Association's observations on the points raised by the Committee. I have also given

some thought to the Association's request in your letter that a Government subsidy should be provided to ensure a guaranteed payout by the Honey Marketing Authority. A similar proposal was considered by the Government last year but it was decided that a subsidy of this kind could not be justified. I am not willing to recommend the Government to review this decision before I receive the report of the Committee which is looking into the whole question of honey marketing.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. SKINNER,  
Minister of Agriculture.

### Submissions to Committee

As indicated in the letter from the Director-General of Agriculture, dated 13/7/1959, the Committee is now prepared to receive submissions from those interested.

Branches of the Association have been invited to send forward to the Executive their opinions on honey marketing, under the headings listed in the Director-General's letter. Such opinions should reach the General Secretary not later than September 15. The Executive will then prepare its detailed submissions on behalf of the Association.

---

#### HIVE MATS ——— HIVE MATS PHORMIUM HIVE MATS

(16 x 20 inches), to fit standard hive boxes, are available in bales of 150 mats at £4/15/- bale, f.o.r., Foxton.

ORDERS for not less than one bale, accompanied by cash and stating railhead to which delivery is required, should be sent to:—

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P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

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SPEAKING OF CARTONS  
**Remember Cinderella!**

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

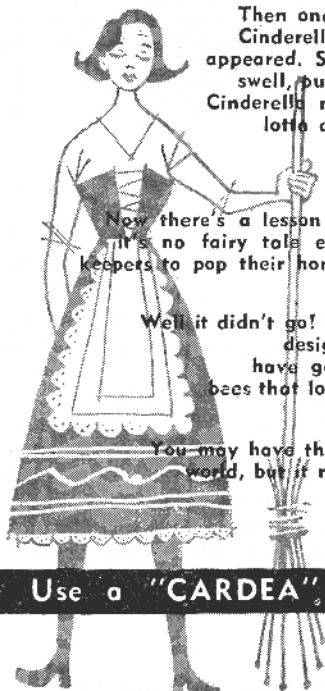
Then one night while the sisters were out at a cabaret and Cinderella was all alone at home, her Fairy Godmother appeared. She gave Cinderella a hair do and dressed her up swell, put her in a Rolls Royce and sent her to a posh party. Cinderella made the hit of the evening and a Prince with a lotto dough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

Why? Because Cinderella was all dressed up.

Now there's a lesson about Honey Cartons in that old time story and it's no fairy tale either. For years it was the habit of many 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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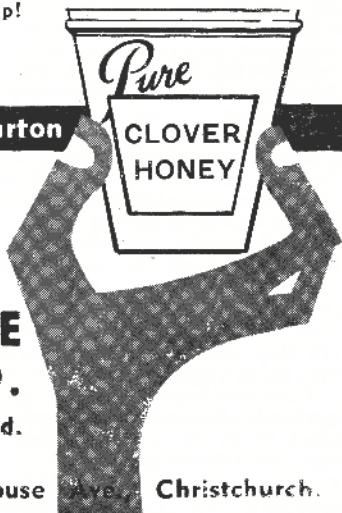
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## CORRESPONDENCE

July 20, 1959.

The Editor,  
The New Zealand Beekeeper,

Dear Sir,

I wonder if any of your readers can help us to complete the set of 'The Alighting Board' in the Bee Research Association Library; The following numbers are needed, and I shall be glad to refund the postage on any of these missing numbers which can be sent:

1929-30 Vol. 1, Nos. 7, 9, 10

1930-31 Vol. 2, Nos. 5, 10

1931-32 Vol. 3, No. 3 onwards

Publications are lent from the Bee Research Association Library to beekeepers and research workers all over the world, and the more complete we can make this Library, the more fully it will serve to advance beekeeping in

different countries. I shall, therefore, be most grateful also for donations of any beekeeping books or pamphlets which are no longer needed elsewhere, particularly those published before 1950. Readers who can send any other journals should write first to find out if they are needed.

Thanking you in advance for your help in building up this international centre of beekeeping and bee research.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Dr.) EVA CRANE,  
Bee Research Association,  
Woodside House,  
Chalfont Heights,  
Gerrards Cross, Bucks.,  
England.

### Answer to Puzzle in Souvenir Issue:

I understand how to seize bees  
with ease.

## SAGES' MAC-VERNA PLUM

The plum that is second to none. Read what four of  
New Zealand's best authorities have to say about it:—

Mr. R. D. Pick, of Sunfruit Orchards, Ltd., says: '*We, Sunfruit Orchards, Ltd., of Hamilton and Rukuhia, consider the Mac-Verna plum to be the world's best plum. Extravagant descriptive superlatives cannot do justice to this outstanding plum.*'

Mr. N. Gudex, R.N.Z.I.H., N.D.H., M.A., M.Sc., says: '*The tree is unusually vigorous and prolific and the fruit is of very good flavour and is perhaps the largest of all plums.*'

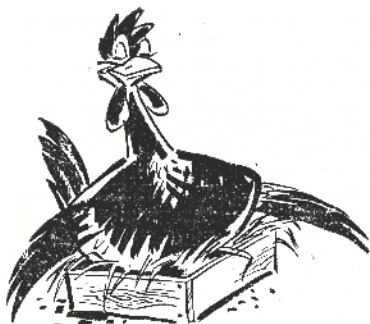
Mr. H. Fow, of Turners and Fow, says: '*I have no hesitation in recommending the Mac-Verna plum as a really excellent dessert plum.*'

Mr. A. W. Green, A.H.R.I.H. (N.Z.), N.D.H. (N.Z.), says: '*The tree inspected was carrying a tremendous crop of evenly ripening, red fleshed fruit of excellent flavour, possessing all those good qualities which commend it for commercial growing and marketing.*'

Well grown trees will again be available at 20/- per tree from Mason's Nurseries, Te Awamutu, or direct from the raiser. Orders taken for delivery in July and August in order of receipt. Freight paid except air freight.

# E. W. SAGE

— — — No. 3 R.D., OHAUPO — — —



# Reflections . . .

from the

Editor's Desk

## World Trade in Honey

Something like 40,000 tons of honey is traded between countries of the world each year, and of this quantity New Zealand supplies 1,000 tons, more or less. According to a survey published in the 'Australian Bee Journal' (based on figures prepared by the Australian Department of Primary Industry) the countries which have exported more than New Zealand during the past seven-year period are: Australia, Mexico, Argentine, United States, Cuba, Chile and Guatemala.

Mexico and China are important newcomers on the world honey market. Mexico, whose exports rose to 9,300 tons in 1956, is believed to have a very large potential in honey production. China, also, is making progress in the quantity and quality of its production and in 1956 exported 3,200 tons.

The principal honey markets are in Europe. West Germany has been easily the largest importer of honey in recent years.

## Ligurian Bees

When Dr. J. E. Eckert visited Australia recently he was so impressed with the possibilities of the Ligurian bees on Kangaroo Island that he wanted some in the United States for study and experiment. Unfortunately (says the 'Australian Bee Journal') 'the authorities in the United States will not permit the importation of bees from Australia because they are afraid of introducing some bee disease, even though no disease is known in Australia which does not already exist in the United States.'

Apparently the prohibition does not apply to bee eggs and in an endeavour to overcome the difficulty several ship-

ments of eggs have been sent over. They seemed to arrive in good order but each time the bees have refused to accept them and so far no larvae have been produced to establish the strain.

## 'Indian Bee Journal'

This year the 'Indian Bee Journal' completes twenty years of publication. As its editor says, the difficulties of bringing out a technical journal in a poor country like India are many. India is a big country but it is divided into several regions on the score of language. The 'Indian Bee Journal' is in the English language and although in some areas its readers are restricted to the better educated persons it hopes to serve as an all-India journal, and so to achieve and maintain a useful standard.

The history of the magazine has been dominated by the courageous service of Sri R. N. Muttoo who has been a tower of strength as its editor and general secretary of the All-India Beekeepers' Association for many years. We hope the 'Indian Bee Journal' and the beekeeping industry in that country will enjoy progress and prosperity in the years to come.

## Let Us Spray

The title of a recent radio talk, 'Let Us Spray,' expresses very pungently the mood of the times in agricultural circles. When anything goes wrong with our plants or animals let us reach for the nearest spray pump and a catalogue of the latest chemicals.

Where this theme song is leading us to, nobody knows, but whercas Mother Nature was at one time on our side we now seem to be taking up arms against her. The dictum 'Let Us Spray,' if followed with reckless abandon, could easily bring us to the day when we may have to amend it slightly and join our hands together in supplication.



# Wiring Frames

By W. G. Singer in 'American Bee Journal'

The thing that was most forcibly impressed on me in my first year of beekeeping was the importance of good combs, as perfect as it is possible to get them. Like all of you who had the misfortune of not having your first efforts guided by an old bee man, the first equipment I assembled by myself was, to put it mildly, a very sloppy job. Frames were not nailed properly, end bars not put in correctly, and worst of all, foundation was not centred and secured in the middle of the frames. Today I would not allow such equipment in my apiary, but at that time it seemed to me to be a very good job.

Reading and studying everything I could find on the subject of combs, it was impressed on me again and again the importance they played in an efficient operation. To you other beginners and amateurs let me add my bit to the chorus of good advice, your combs are your most valuable item in the whole hive.

This being before the days of cross-wired foundation, the best advice I could find advocated horizontal wiring of foundation, with the use of brass eyelets to keep the wire from cutting into the end bars. Now those of you who have had occasion to sit down and insert four brass eyelets into each of four hundred or more end bars know what a boring operation it can get to be, but insert them I did one by one with the little tool you buy.

One day I was watching some window trimmers working, when I noticed the staple tacker they were using, how fast and easy it seemed to be. Inspiration, why not use staples to keep the wires from cutting into the end bars instead of the brass eyelets. Fortunately I knew where I could borrow one before investing in the idea, so I hurried home to give it a try.

First, divide your end bars into two equal piles. Then you have to visualise which way your wire is going to run, that is, where it will start, which hole it will go into first, the course it will take to the next hole, where it will go in, etc. This is very important as you want the staple back to be between the wire and the wood. Using eyelets, this is of no consequence as the entire

inner surface of the hole is protected, but with staples only one edge of the hole is reinforced. I find it very helpful to actually take one frame and completely assemble it, wire and all, before starting to go into any kind of mass production set-up. This is a little bit tricky and you can get a much better idea of where to put the staples if you are actually looking at an assembled and wired frame.

Lay the first half of your end bars out flat and staple away. After they all have staples in the proper place in relation to each hole, stack them on the side being very careful to keep from getting them mixed with the other half. Now turn the sample frame so the other end bar is facing you and staple the other half of the end bars with each staple in its proper relation to the hole as best suits your method of wiring.

Use  $\frac{1}{4}$ " staples so the leg does not come through the other side of the end bar. Be very careful to get your staples in the proper place and they will do the job as well as an eyelet, and I think you will agree this very tedious but so necessary job will become a pleasure.

## 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.

— "Gleaning"

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In fair condition.

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All Spring Queens sold.

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## FRONT COVER

Miss Christine Dawson, of Timaru, holding a frame of bees in her father's apiary.

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