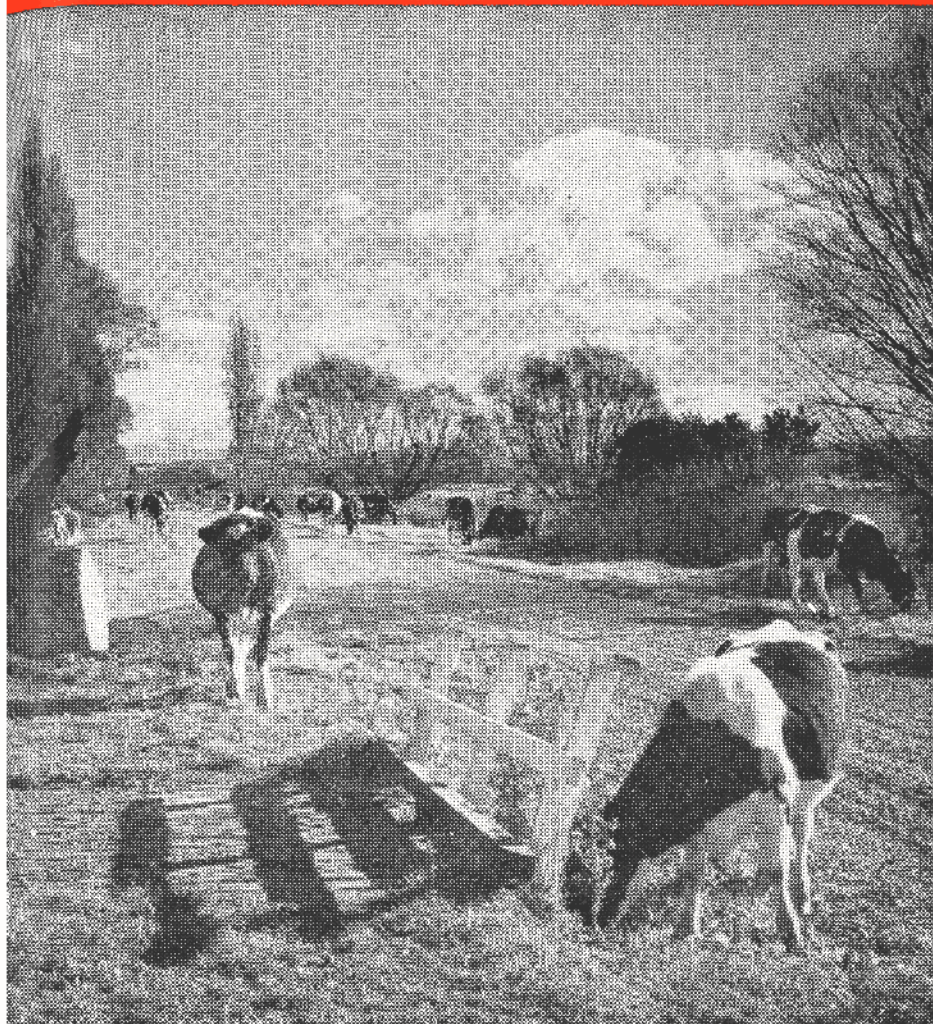


The New Zealand Beekeeper

NOVEMBER 1959



The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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Editorial

CHEMICALS UNDER CONTROL

The passing of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill should give general satisfaction because it will keep our agricultural economy in step with the march of science and it will enable the new chemicals to be used in serving, instead of dominating, our primary industries. The measure is of special value to the beekeeping community because the honeybees in any area could be actually wiped out by the careless or ignorant use of modern insecticides. The pollination function of bees is now widely appreciated and it is gratifying to know that the beekeeping industry is to have representation on the Agricultural Chemicals Board.

The nominee of the National Beekeepers' Association for this position, Mr. T. E. Pearson, is one of our best-known beekeepers and is held in esteem both as a producer and through his work on administrative bodies. Living in Canterbury, he is familiar with the problems of pollination and spray poisoning and he understands the dangers to beekeepers from hard personal experience. With his sound judgement and his responsible approach he will bring a valuable contribution to the deliberations of the Board.

NOTICE BOARD

Agricultural Chemicals Board

At the Executive Meeting held on October 20 and 21, Mr. T. E. Pearson, of Darfield, was nominated as the beekeepers' representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board.

Honey Crop Survey

Beekeepers with 30 hives and over will receive in this issue a form with which to furnish a crop return for the season 1958-59. Please regard this as important and help your marketing administration by completing the form and posting it promptly. Full support is required to make the survey successful.

1960 Conference

The 1960 Dominion Conference is to be held in Auckland.

Regulations Amended

Under the Primary Products Marketing Regulations Confirmation Bill, passed during the recent session of Parliament, a regulation is included permitting the National Beekeepers' Association to appoint a deputy to its representative on the Honey Marketing Authority.

U.K. HONEY MARKET

The market for honey in the United Kingdom continues very quiet. Supplies of New Zealand honey for spot requirements are practically non-existent, advises the London office of the Bank of New Zealand, September 25, 1959. The only exception is medium amber, which is offering at 95/- a cwt., landed terms. Australian prices are lower, with light amber quoted at 87/- a cwt., c.i.f., London.

HONEY MARKETING INVESTIGATION

The present honey marketing system has recently been the subject of a detailed investigation by the Committee set up by the Minister of Agriculture (the Hon. C. F. Skinner). The members of the Committee, Mr. L. G. Purser of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. S. Greenberg of the Treasury, have visited beekeepers in the main producing areas and received written submissions from interested parties. The views of Branches of the Association were submitted to the Committee through the Executive and these views, together with other points brought forward, were discussed fully when the Committee met the Executive in Wellington on October 20 and 21. Later the Committee had discussions with the Honey Marketing Authority at its meeting in Auckland on November 3 and 4.

The Committee will report its findings to the Minister to assist him in considering the industry's request for assistance.

Liaison with Federated Farmers



On September 3 the General Secretary, Mr. R. A. Fraser, attended a meeting of the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers of New Zealand held in Wellington,

as the representative of the National Beekeepers' Association. In the course of his reply to the official welcome extended to him by the Dominion President of Federated Farmers (Mr. S. D. Reeves) Mr. Fraser commented that the interests of beekeepers and farmers generally lie in a common direction and there have been times in the past, as there will doubtless be many more in the future, when a close understanding between the respective organisations will be beneficial to both farmer and beekeeper alike.

'Today I bring greetings from the beekeepers of New Zealand to their farmer friends,' said Mr. Fraser, 'and also congratulations and admiration for the very fine and effective organisation that you have built up for the management of your affairs through Federated Farmers. My Dominion Executive would also wish me to convey to you its sincere appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which you have demonstrated in providing for beekeeping representation on this your governing body, and while there will be

many occasions when the subject matter of your deliberations would render my attendance superfluous I can assure you that I will be pleased to attend your meetings at any time when our mutual interest will enable me to make some worthwhile contribution to your discussions.'

Mr. Fraser was appointed by the Executive last February as the official representative of the National Beekeepers' Association on the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers.

Sir Edmund Hillary

Sir Edmund Hillary is still planning to lead a scientific expedition to the Himalayas. He returned to Auckland recently after a rushed three-week overseas trip to report "quite a lot of interest among United States institutions in helping to back such an expedition."

While away, Sir Edmund sounded out several comrades — including Sir John Hunt and George Lowe — on the prospects of such a trip.

"I have a lot of ideas," he said. "Since the Chinese Government has blocked my plans for an assault on the north side of Everest, I would like to make a Himalayan expedition with a strong accent on the scientific aspects of physiology and acclimatisation. Any such trip would include George Lowe.

"I intend to go overseas again in January to try to arrange something like this for the next 18 months. First, we must get backing, then choose our area and then get permission to enter."

— Press Association.

Payment for Pollination

ATTITUDE OF MINISTER

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, 19th October, 1959.

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

I have received your letter of 25 September conveying the text of two resolutions carried at your recent Dominion Conference.

As indicated in your letter Government has always been well aware of the importance of bees to agriculture through pollination but the question of payment for pollination services should be a matter for the negotiation by the beekeeping industry with the other

primary industries concerned. Any payment for pollination services should be made by those directly benefiting and not by the State. I understand that in certain fruitgrowing areas orchardists pay beekeepers to bring in hives during the blossom season and this arrangement could probably be extended by negotiation. A similar arrangement applies in some seed growing areas and I understand that the practice is common overseas.

I would suggest, therefore, that your industry should discuss proposals for payment for pollination services with Federated Farmers and other primary producers' organisations.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. Skinner,
Minister of Agriculture.

HONEY PRICES

Beekeepers are advised to maintain the present current level of honey prices by adhering to the figures set out in the current Order (Price Order No. 1718, issued on August 22, 1957). The prices listed are as follows:—

	Maximum Price Per Pound at the Rate of
	s. d.
Honey Sold Otherwise Than In Retail Containers:	
(a) For honey, cut and wrapped	1 7
(b) For other honey —	
(i) Sold by a producer to a consumer —	
(a) In lots of over 60lb	1 3
(b) In lots of 60lb or less but more than 20lb	1 4
(c) In lots of 20lb or less	1 6
(ii) Sold by a producer to a packer, wholesaler, to retailer	1 3
(iii) Sold by any person whomsoever to a wholesaler	1 3
(iv) Sold by a wholesaler (not including a producer) to a retailer	1 4
(v) Sold by a retailer	1 6

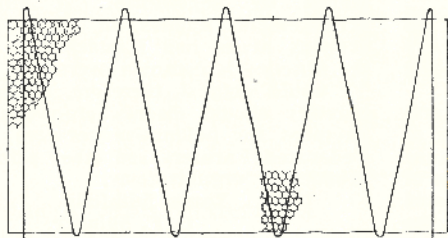
Honey Packed In Retail Containers:

Size and Kind of Container	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Packer to a Wholesaler (per dozen)	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Wholesaler (including a Packer) to a Retailer (per dozen)	Maximum Charge that may be charged by a Retailer (including a Packer) to a Consumer
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½lb Carton	12 3	13 5	1 4 per carton
12oz. Glass Jars	21 6	23 6	2 4 per jar
1lb Glass Jars	25 6	28 0	2 9 per jar
1lb Cartons	21 6	23 6	2 4 per carton
1¼lb Glass Jars	29 0	31 9	3 2 per jar
1½lb Glass Jars	35 0	38 6	3 10 per jar
2lb Glass Jars	45 3	49 9	4 11 per jar
2lb Cartons	41 9	45 10	4 7 per carton
2lb Tins	46 3	50 10	5 1 per tin
2½lb Glass Jars	56 6	62 0	6 2 per jar
2¾lb Glass Jars	62 3	68 4	6 10 per jar
5lb Tins	104 9	115 0	11 6 per tin
10lb Tins	194 0	213 4	21 4 per tin

FIRST to refine all beeswax by filtration

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CROP RETURNS FROM BEEKEEPERS

In accordance with the resolution passed at the 1959 Conference in Timaru all beekeepers with over 30 hives are asked to take part in a honey crop survey by completing the attached form and posting it promptly to the head office of the Association. The purpose of the survey is to obtain a reliable assessment of the Dominion's production which will provide a sound basis for a well-planned marketing system. For many years the Department of Agriculture estimates have been the subject of criticism and the questionnaire is designed to answer any doubts that may exist.

The survey is being undertaken by the National Beekeepers' Association as an independent body, and the statistics collected will be handled by the General Secretary alone, in strict confidence. The totals will be available for the benefit of the industry and each producer who supplies his name and address on the form will receive a summary of the returns.

If this effort is successful it is intended to invite similar reports from producers at the close of each extracting season. The information will give both the Honey Marketing Authority and individual producers a clear picture of the stock position and enable them to follow an intelligent marketing policy.

In order to make the scheme a success it is essential that all the forms be returned, including "nil" returns in cases where there has been a total crop failure. Producers are urged to give this scheme their full co-operation. By doing so they will show their willingness to support the Association and the Marketing Authority in their work.

(Fold here and seal at top)

HONEY CROP REPORT

The General Secretary,

Date

National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. (Inc.),

P.O. Box 19,

FOXTON

**My total marketable honey crop for
the season 1958-59 was**

..... **tons**..... **cwt.**

**The number of hives operated by me
for honey production was**

..... **hives**

Name and Address

(Optional)

BUSINESS REPLY CARD

Authority No. 4
FOXTON, N.Z.

Postage will be paid by

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



Rail Freight on Cases

LETTER IN REPLY

N.Z. Government Railways,
Wellington.

October 7, 1959.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association,
Foxton.

Dear Sir,

I have considered the request of your Association contained in your letter of September 24 that honey cases in shooks be carried at the same freight rates as fruit cases in shooks, which when full, will be forwarded by rail.

The concession rate for fruit case shooks was introduced many years ago to assist the fruit growing industry and although the need for this assistance has now largely disappeared, we have, in accordance with our usual practice, refrained from removing one of the privileges on which it may be said the industry was founded. The same may equally be said of the concessions already enjoyed by the honey industry to which the Railways Department for

many years has granted substantially reduced rates for empty cartons, made-up cases and tins which will also be carried by rail when filled with honey.

While it is not the Department's present policy to abolish existing concessions, our revenue position definitely precludes any further reductions being granted and I must therefore decline your request.

Yours faithfully,

A. T. GANDELL,
General Manager.

Provisions of Agricultural Chemicals Bill

The views of the Association on the provisions of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill were strongly affirmed by the General Secretary (Mr. R. A. Fraser) when he made submissions to the Agricultural and Pastoral Committee of the House of Representatives in Wellington on October 7. The Bill had been referred to the Committee after the second reading in the House.

Executive Meeting

A meeting of the Dominion Executive was held in Wellington on October 20 and 21. All members were present and the President (Mr. J. W. Fraser) was in the chair. The Editor (Mr. J. McFadzién) was also in attendance.

Marketing Investigation

In introducing this subject, the President mentioned that an invitation had been extended to the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority (Mr. Wallace Nelson) to take part in the discussions, but as he had not yet arrived home from overseas he was unable to be present.

The meeting, in reviewing the position, considered both the resolutions passed at the 1959 Conference and the submissions received from Branches, and later met the Committee of Investigation to discuss these matters and other points which were raised. The Executive's views were finally presented to the Committee in a statement which is published elsewhere in this issue.

Matters relating to the work of the Horticulture Division were then con-

sidered and at this stage Messrs. A. M. W. Greig (Director) and E. Smaellie (Beekeeping Superintendent) were welcomed to the meeting.

Agricultural Chemicals Bill

Members expressed their pleasure at the passing of the Bill with beekeeper representation on the Agricultural Chemicals Board. The Act makes provisions regulating the sale and use of agricultural chemicals, and the Board of 11 members will deal with applications for the registration of such chemicals under the Act.

Mr. Greig outlined the minor amendments which had been made in the Bill and indicated the general procedure that would be followed in its administration. The Act comes into force on January 1, 1960.

Nectar Secretion

In response to the request for an investigation into the factors affecting nectar secretion, especially in the Waikato, Mr. Smaellie stated that he was about to visit Rukuhia and also

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discuss the matter with Mr. C. R. Paterson, and he hoped to initiate further work on this problem. No definite conclusions could be drawn from the data which had been collected so far.

Crop Reports

Mr. Smaellie outlined the system which was to be used in future to give monthly crop forecasts during the season, concluding with an estimate of the crop at the close of the season. The President mentioned the steps which were being taken by the Association to obtain an assessment of honey yields direct from producers and it was agreed that this would be of value as a complementary survey and as a confirmation of the Department's forecast.

Diploma in Apiculture

The prospectus for the Diploma in Apiculture was approved subject to minor alterations suggested by Mr. Smaellie. The Diploma, which is to be administered by the N.Z. Institute of Horticulture, will probably come into effect next year.

In thanking Mr. Greig and Mr. Smaellie for their attendance, the President expressed the Executive's appreciation of their assistance, and of the helpful attitude of the Division in its relations with the beekeeping industry.

Honey Production Survey

In line with the resolution passed at the 1959 Conference it was decided to conduct a survey of the 1958-59 crop by means of a questionnaire circulated through the Journal to beekeepers with over 30 hives. If the initial survey is successful it is intended to repeat it at the close of each extracting season.

Members commended the project as a means of resolving the arguments on Dominion production in relation to the scal revenue and registration statistics. It was emphasised that all producers should furnish returns in order to make the survey of some value to the industry.

Representation on H.M.A.

The President, Mr. J. W. Fraser, mentioned that it had recently come to light that the appointment of the Association's representative on the Authority was, under the Regulations, effective for a term of three years, not one year as had been understood. As Mr. Williams and he had served for three years each, the point had not previously been brought to notice. He suggested that steps be taken to have the appointment made annually by the incoming Executive.

It was generally agreed that although no difficulties had been apparent so far it was preferable in principle that that appointment should be confirmed by the Executive each year, and it was decided that the Minister be asked to clarify the position with the object of having the term reduced to one year.

Films

A list of beekeeping films which are available at present was tabled and will shortly be circulated to Branches. The Superintendent has indicated that suitable additions to the list are being investigated.

Journal Costs

In order to reduce expenditure, the Executive considered suggestions for reducing the size and style of the Journal, and after discussion this matter was left in the hands of the President, Secretary and Editor.

HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements
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P.O. BOX 14, PETONE

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EXECUTIVE VIEWS ON MARKETING

COPY OF STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 19,
Foxton.
October 23, 1959.

The Members,
Honey Marketing Investigation Committee,
Department of Agriculture,
Wellington.

Dear Sirs,

Further to the discussions between your Committee and the Dominion Executive in Wellington on October 20 and 21, I wish to confirm the official views of the Executive (already advised to you verbally on 21/10/1959) relating to the specific points on which you sought comment.

You have already received copies of the Association's Branch submissions and have discussed these with the Executive.

The Executive's views are as follows:—

1. That the whole of the operations of the Honey Marketing Authority be fully investigated by properly qualified Industrial Efficiency Consultants in order that the operational and administrative efficiency of the Authority may be definitely established.
2. That the present constitution of the Authority and the method under which elections of members are held meet the requirements of the Industry but it is recommended that some procedure be laid down by the Authority for dealing effectively with the possibility of deadlock in the election of Authority Chairman. Direct representation of the National Beekeepers' Association on the Honey Marketing Authority is important for an effective and harmonious relationship between the two bodies and accordingly must be retained.
3. That it is the decided opinion of the industry as a whole that the Authority should sell honey entrusted to it to the best advantage making the fullest possible use of the local market where considered desirable or necessary but without undue restriction of private enterprise.
4. That the present grading system be reaffirmed.
5. That the seals levy as at present established be retained AND that the fund so created be subsidised by Government. Provided, however, that the Industry would desire the levy to be abolished in the interest of reducing consumer prices and increasing consumption so long as sufficient funds are made available from other sources to enable the Honey Marketing Authority to operate in the proper fulfilment of its objects.
6. That any increase in the seals levy is strongly opposed.
7. That any levy such as the seals levy should be enforced by arranging to have containers suitably imprinted at source of manufacture.
8. That the Honey Marketing Authority be relieved of its Stock Debt by having it transferred to a permanent fluctuating Reserve Bank overdraft at not more than 1 per cent interest.

I would re-iterate the Executive's earnest request that your investigation be completed and report furnished to the Minister as soon as possible so that the Industry may know what assistance, if any, it can expect before the new season's honey crop is harvested.

My Executive desires me to record its appreciation of the thorough manner in which your investigation has been carried out and to thank you for the courtesy and consideration shown at all times.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FRASER,
General Secretary.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

FINAL PAYMENTS FOR 1958-59

The Authority has decided to make final payments for the 1958-59 season as follows:

Graded pro rata honey: 4¾d per lb pro rata. (With the original advance of 9d pro rata this makes a total of 1/1¾ per lb pro rata. In addition those suppliers who qualified for the contract premium received an extra benefit of ¾d per lb).

Manuka honey: 4d per lb. (With the original advance of 6d per lb this brings the total payout for manuka honey to 10d per lb).

Birch honey: 4¼d per lb. (With the original advance of 7d per lb this brings the total payout for birch honey to 11¼d per lb).

Cheques should reach suppliers before the end of November.

1959-60 SEASON

As announced at the Dominion Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association at Timaru the Authority has decided to discontinue the contract system as it existed in the past.

As an alternative to the contract system advance payments on all honey accepted on a pro rata basis will be increased to 10d per lb pro rata for the forthcoming season.

The advance payments on North Island manuka honey and any other honey with a manuka flavour grading 85 points or under for flavour (either North Island or South Island production) or any other honey with thixotropic characteristics will be 6d per lb.

The advance payments on honey with a birch flavour grading 85 points or under for flavour will be 7d per lb.

Marking of Tins

Overseas buyers have on occasion complained about finding foreign matter in honey and in order to identify

the suppliers of such honey our agents have recommended that tins as well as cases be marked with the supplier's number.

The Authority considers that it would be to the benefit of all concerned to adopt this recommendation and asks all suppliers in future to mark tins with their registered number in 1" figures. If it is not convenient for suppliers to obtain locally suitable rubber stamps for this purpose the Authority will, on request, arrange to have them made in Auckland.

Early Advice of Supplies

The business of the Authority has suffered grievously in consequence of the very short supply last season. This applies particularly to our top grade honey. It is obviously in our interests to send forward supplies from the incoming crop as speedily as possible. Intending suppliers, therefore, would greatly assist the Authority by advising the Manager as early as practicable the quantity of honey they propose to send forward and the dates on which their consignments may be expected. This early information would be greatly appreciated by our overseas representatives in their efforts to regain lost business.

Annual Information Circular

This is in course of preparation and will be in the hands of producers by the end of November.

WALLACE NELSON,
Chairman.

Personal

A brief spell in hospital was the lot of Mr. G. E. Gumbrell when he was laid up through illness recently. We are pleased to report that he has returned to duty once more and we join with his many friends in wishing him the best of health in the future.

SPEAKING OF CARTONS
Remember Cinderella!

All 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.

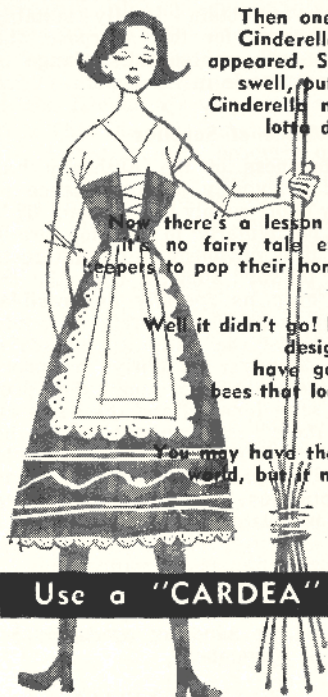
Then one night while the sisters were out at a cabaret and Cinderella was all alone at home, her Fairy Godmother appeared. She gave Cinderella a hair do and dressed her up swell, put her in a Rolls Royce and sent her to a posh party. Cinderella made the hit of the evening and a Prince with a lot of dough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

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



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Department
of
Agriculture

Horticulture Division

STAFF TRAINING COURSE

The Apiary Section staff spent a week at Christchurch during August, 1959, attending a staff training course. The course was convened and presided over by Mr. E. Smaellie, Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry.

These courses are held at intervals of approximately two years with the object of reviewing recent problems and developments in the beekeeping industry; and for discussions on matters concerning the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division. The previous training course was held at Wellington in September, 1956.

This course was opened by the Horticultural Superintendent, Christchurch, Mr A. R. Grainger. A meeting of Horticultural Superintendents and Apiary Instructors followed. Proposals concerning reorganisation within the Horticulture Division were outlined by me and points raised on staff matters generally were explained. Other matters included in this agenda pertained to disease control, instructional activities and official trials and experimental projects. Honey crop reports were reviewed and agreement was reached on a formula by which the most accurate estimate of honey produced in districts could be established.

A highlight of the course was the field day, when visits were made to some of the up-to-date apiary establishments in the Christchurch, Ellesmere and Ashburton districts. At each of the places visited the utilisation of the apiary and honey house equipment in use was demonstrated by the proprietors.

During the course a total of 23 lectures were delivered. The subjects dealt with included: Definition of Units

of Power and other Technical Formulae as used for honey-house installations, Foundation Comb Manufacture — Weed Process, Mechanical Aids in out-apiaries and Designs of Pallets and Bottomboards. Subjects on other aspects of Apiary Management were: Commercial Queen Breeding and Improved Strains of Bees, Use of Package Bees, Observations on Bee Diseases and Wax Moth Control in Stored Combs with Methyl Bromide. Subjects relating to Granulation and Fermentation of Honey, Use of Warming Rooms for Softening Packed Honey and Packages for Export of Section Comb Honey were also dealt with. Papers on recent experimental work included: Pollination of Lucerne and Clovers, Aspects of Pollen Identification, Pollination Estimation in Clovers and Experiments with Honey.

These lectures were supported with various visual aids. Each Instructor present contributed and the range of questions asked at the conclusion of every lecture made this course a most successful one.

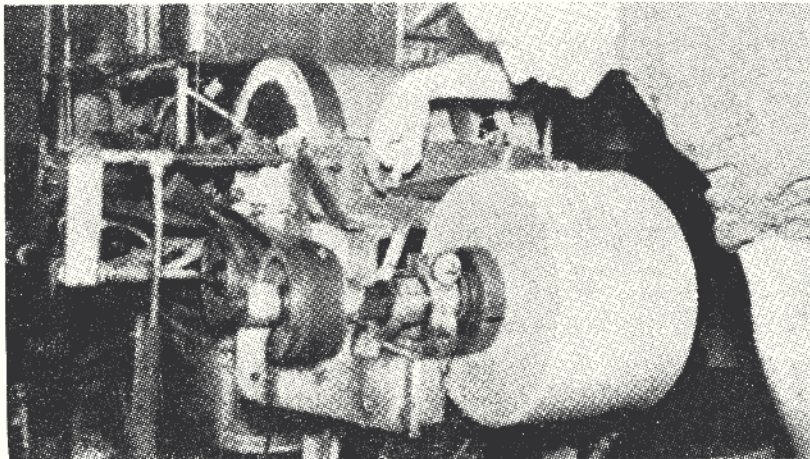
A. M. W. GREIG,
Director, Horticulture Division.

THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

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BRANCH NOTES

SOUTH AUCKLAND

The season is nearly a month early up here (states a letter from Mr. R. R. Chandler, dated September 28). Everything is blooming at the moment—heather, fruit trees, willow and barberry—never seen it before. All hives are getting a flow and if the weather holds for a fortnight there will be little feeding this year. But, of course, we are now due for a bad spell after so much sunshine.

WEST COAST

The winter was not a bad one and there are now many signs that spring—or as is often the way here, a false start—has commenced.

This year I wintered several autumn queen nuclei in four-frame boxes. The results are very promising. All colonies in small boxes have more brood than queens of the same age in double box hives. The question is: Will the build-up be too early, or will the extra attention and feeding be worthwhile?

We on the Coast have had a reasonably good year, with good quality honey, yet there have been no reports of price cutting. Most, if not all, shops charge the same price for all packs.

I am pleased that the Forestry and Wildlife people are continuing with their experiments and investigations on the destruction of opossums. I have trapped many a few yards from the house and could have shot many more but with the Borough boundary only a 100 yards from here rifle shooting is not quite in order. The opossum is a destructive *—*!

—Tom Holland, 3/8/1959.

OTAGO

A meeting for the beekeepers of Dunedin and surrounding districts was arranged on October 16 by Mr. D. W. A. Seal, Apiary Instructor at Invercargill, and a good attendance resulted. The

programme was of an instructional nature, the principal feature being a series of excellent colour slides. These dealt with bee diseases, the wax moth, and beekeeping equipment, Mr. Seal giving the commentary and enlarging on the topics illustrated. Later a question panel, composed by Messrs. Seal, Marshall and McFadzien, answered questions and a helpful discussion ensued.

The Otago Branch provided a light supper for the occasion and Mr. E. Shepherd assisted as projectionist.

At the close of the meeting, Mr. C. W. Foote moved a vote of thanks on behalf of local beekeepers and acknowledged the helpful attitude shown by Mr. Seal in the work of the Otago Branch.

Bees are in good condition following the dry winter and spring. Some districts were in dire need of rain and this came about the middle of October, interspersed with hail and snow—not the best for apiary work. Apparently we can't have it both ways.

Clover Nectar Diminishing

HAMILTON.

Because clover flowers are apparently not secreting nectar honey producers are in a serious plight, and there may be an indirect effect on a number of agricultural crops.

Waikato honey producers have been forced to shift thousands of hives away to the newly developed blocks in the pumice country, and in many other districts there has been a serious decline in the quantity and quality of honey produced.

Mr. R. R. Chandler, a commercial beekeeper of Matangi, told a meeting of Waikato Federated Farmers that clovers had been secreting less and less nectar for 10 years.

He said that 15 years ago Taranaki was one of the largest honey producing areas in New Zealand, but because of the clover problem, also experienced there, there were few commercial beekeepers left in Taranaki.

The Federation agreed to give its support for the Department of Agriculture to carry out intensive research into the reasons why clovers were not secreting nectar.

—Press Association, 30/10/1959.

Manuka Blight Failing In North Island

Manuka blight, hailed by farmers 10 years ago as the answer to the worst weed on hill country, is losing its effectiveness in the North Island. The mealy bug which causes manuka blight is itself being attacked by a parasitic fungus and is no longer able to kill red manuka completely.

Although the parasite has upset the hopes of North Island hill country farmers the blight is likely to continue to help by killing at least some plants and definitely slowing up growth.

Manuka blight had been introduced to most districts of the North Island by the late 1940s. By 1955 it had been as effective in controlling red manuka on the east coast and in parts of Northland as it had been in Canterbury. It also killed large areas of manuka in other low-rainfall areas of the North Island.

In all the higher rainfall areas and on the colder central pumice lands the blight has not been very effective in controlling manuka thickets. Seedling growth is still quite strong though not as vigorous as it used to be.

Since 1956 there has been a definite resurgence of resistance to manuka blight throughout the North Island except in the drier parts of the Wairarapa and one or two places in South Auckland.

Mr C. J. Hamblyn, fields superintendent of the Department of Agriculture in Palmerston North, says farmers will again have to resort to the slasher.

He says, however, that there is some evidence that in really dry seasons the blight will continue to kill off a lot of plants and will open up established stands to let in sufficient light to warrant topdressing and oversowing with clovers on some areas.

— 'N.Z. Herald,' August, 1959.

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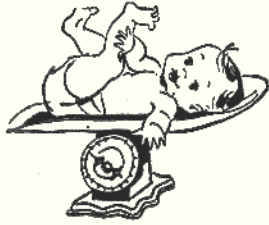
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Notes for Beginners

by 'SKEP'

In order to make a success of your venture in beekeeping ensure that your equipment is up to standard specifications. Your hives will have a resale value and be readily interchangeable.

Purchase from Manufacturers

If you can, buy your hive equipment from a manufacturer of bee-supplies. In cutting your own material be accurate in your measurements for you will rue the day if you do otherwise. A booklet entitled 'Bee-Keeping in New Zealand' is available from any apiary section of the Department of Agriculture and is a **must** for all bee-keepers.

Jargon Used

So that you may become familiar with the jargon used in the trade, a hive body or box is referred to as a super. A frame is the wooden portion only of a complete comb. Foundation, brood nest, etc. are self explanatory and you will soon become accustomed to their usage.

Best Methods of Obtaining Bees

I would strongly advise you to buy nuclei. These are of 4 frames of bees, brood, a queen and a limited amount of honey and are obtainable from queen breeders and in some cases bee-keepers, possibly in your own locality. Many bee-keepers have started by finding swarms but there are several drawbacks to this procedure. First the swarm must be a large one and hived during October or November to give you a surplus crop of honey and again the bees may have undesirable characteristics and must be requeened. Assuming that you have standard equipment correctly assembled and

the nucleus introduced to its new home, the stage is set where you can be of considerable assistance in the promotion of a strong colony.

Weather Conditions

A protracted period of inclement weather seriously retards the strength of a colony if the hive's food stores are allowed to dwindle below a point where there is no capped honey. Pollen must also be present, for the bees require a combination of pollen and honey to feed the young larvae. Cells of uncapped honey are not enough. Here is where your powers of observation and anticipation need to be developed to the maximum. Watch the hive's degree of activity but do not inspect too often for you may retard its progress.

Flora Available

If the weather is suitable November is a period when ample supplies of nectar are within flight range without recourse to supplementary feeding. When the bees start drawing out the combs of foundation and before overcrowding takes place, put further supers of drawn comb or foundation on your hives as required.

A colony headed by a vigorous queen will rapidly build up, and given the attention outlined in this article should be in a good position to take advantage of the floral sources in your area. In the next issue I will tell you about some proved methods of removing surplus honey and handling it to your best advantage. In the meantime I would like to take this opportunity of wishing readers a Happy Christmas and New Year and trust that you have a bumper crop of honey.

Rotary Address

The beekeeping industry was the subject of an address by the Dominion President, Mr. J. W. Fraser, at the Invercargill Rotary Club when it entertained visitors to a Motor Trade Conference recently.

After Mr. Fraser had outlined the work of honeybees in honey production and pollination, he referred to the dangers to bees and to the pollination of crops by the use of pesticide sprays at the wrong times or without proper investigation. The meeting murmured its approval when he suggested that the country would later be grateful to beekeepers for their efforts to have the use of these sprays brought under control.

THAT CROP REPORT

Have you posted your Honey Crop Report yet? The form is supplied in this issue to all beekeepers with 30 hives and over. Be sure to complete it promptly and post it by the first mail, postage payable on delivery.

Remember the old adage: If we don't all hang together we will all hang separately!

This is a chance to co-operate.

20 Years Ago

One is often asked who is responsible for the fixing of honey standards.

Honey standards are really created by the consuming public. By their purchases over a period of years, the trade is able to gauge fairly accurately the class of honey required for all markets. Commercial interests could not dictate the class of honey that shall be bought, and do not attempt to do so.

(From an article by T. S. Winter, Chief Honey Grader, in the N.Z. Beekeeper, October, 1939).

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1959-60

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Overseas News

United States

The American Beekeeping Federation urges beekeepers to support a Senate Bill which would allow the industry to have a marketing order, provided it votes in favour of one. The marketing order would enable the industry to organise, to establish regulations, and to collect funds to put its own house in order.

'Certainly our problems are critical,' states the Secretary of the Federation. 'We have tried voluntary associations and plans for over 60 years. They have never been strong enough to really solve our problems. A marketing order could give us the strength to solve these problems.'

Australia

The recent sharp decline in export prices has brought heavy supplies on to the Australian market, with a serious effect on the price level.

Beekeepers in New South Wales have been sent a questionnaire to test their feeling on the formation of a Federal Marketing Board, or a State Marketing Board, with power to collect a levy on honey for sales promotion. Similar schemes have been mooted in other States.

'Foul Brood' Eradicated

'Foul brood' will never be heard of again in Australia if the Commercial Apiarists' Association succeeds in its efforts to have the term eliminated. The reason for the move is that the word 'foul' is considered detrimental to the industry and the sale of its products.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food has agreed that in order to avoid possible adverse effects on honey sales, the term 'foul' should be omitted when referring to American Foul Brood disease in statements prepared for the Press and radio. For publicity purposes American Foul Brood disease will be referred to as 'American Brood Disease (Bacillus larvae)' and European Foul Brood disease will be referred to as 'European Brood Disease (Bacillus Pluton).'

If honey promotion is desirable this seems to be a good way of starting it.

R. E. Snodgrass

Robert E. Snodgrass, author of 'Anatomy of the Honeybee' (first published in 1925 and still the standard work on this subject) and no less than 78 other publications, is one of the world's foremost experts on insect anatomy. He retired from the United States Department of Agriculture 14 years ago and now works in a laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Snodgrass was recently presented with a book by his admirers. It was specially published in honour of his 84th birthday.

Czechoslovakia

The list of contents in a recent issue of the Czechoslovakian Bee Journal includes: Let Us Prevent Bee Diseases In Time; Bee Protection From Insecticides; The Pollination of Clover Crops By Bees; and The Optimum Bee Population In The Czech Regions.

Apparently the Czech bees are as important, and face the same dangers, as in other parts of the world.

International Beekeepers' Day

Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeeping Associations, is organising an International Beekeepers' Day, which will be celebrated on December 13, 1959, and may be repeated annually. The purpose of the "Day" is to advertise the utility of beekeeping in relation to agriculture and the use of honey and other bee products. The occasion will be observed in the participating countries by various forms of publicity through the press, magazines and radio, displays, lectures and other educational projects.

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CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

At a recent meeting of the South Auckland Branch it was stated that a Taranaki beekeeper had been sold up by the State Advances Corporation, and that others were coming up shortly. After the meeting it was being mentioned that 500 hives had been sold for £150, and as that would seem most unfair to the beekeeper concerned, if he were still held responsible for the capital involved, I, as Association vice-president, rang the State Advances manager, Mr. Dawson, to secure details and accurate information.

It appears that the man concerned had ten years of effort with no worthwhile results, and had voluntarily approached the State Advances to release him, and that they had agreed to do so. The district apiary instructor had been consulted and tenders called, without any worthwhile offer coming forward.

Mr. Dawson assured me that they had established several beekeepers, and that no one would be sold up who was in any way making a reasonable showing. The capital loss in this instance was small, and the State were not unduly concerned about it.

Should any northern producer feel he is not being treated fairly following the disastrously poor season, the writer

would certainly be willing to help make representations in cases of hardship, where a genuine effort has been made, but experienced producers, knowing how difficult it is to dispose of beekeeping outfits profitably at times, should assure themselves that the facts are verified in the right quarter before placing too much credence on hearsay reports.

Yours truly,

J. R. BARBER, Vice-President,
National Beekeepers' Association

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to see in your last journal the article on Silicone Barrier Cream 555.

I, too, have used it for some time now. When a roughness appears in the skin of the hands and there comes a tingling feeling under the skin it is time to use the cream. If its use is neglected at this stage, in my case, a burning itch develops between the fingers. This will be quickly cleared up by several applications of 'Anthisan.'

I don't find the cream so necessary at the clover apiaries but most necessary at a manuka site.

One year the skin on my left hand went black and peeled off the whole palm. It was a most painful experience and naturally I am very pleased that I have found a remedy.

I am,

Jas. M. Marshall,
No. 1 R.M.D.,
Outram.

23/10/1959.

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