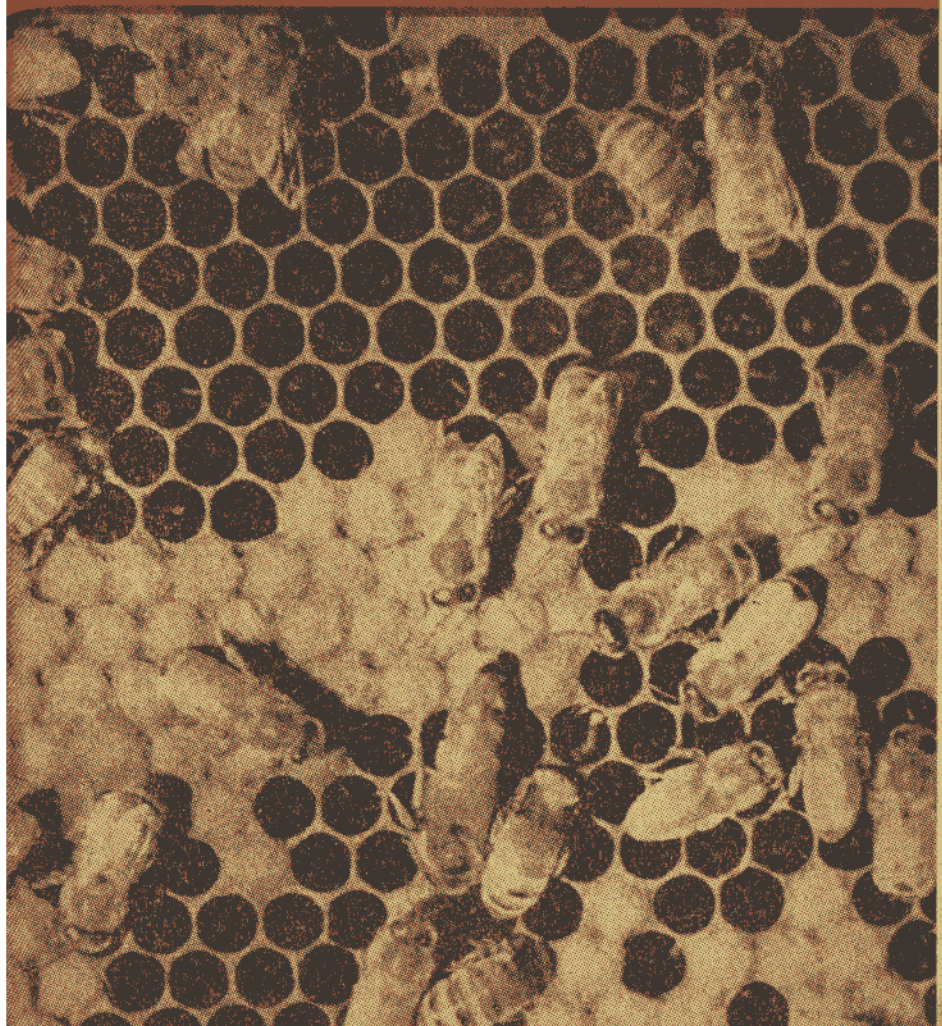


The New Zealand Beekeeper

FEBRUARY 1960



The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November, by
the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated)

J. McFadzien, Editor

Subscription,
8/- per annum, post free

Registered for transmission by post
as a Magazine

Volume 22

February, 1960

Number 1

A Word About the Journal

As has been evident in the last two balance sheets, the finances of the Association are not in good shape. Two matters which placed a heavy strain on our finances were the effort made to stabilise prices during the period of de-control, and the lengthy — and successful — representations to have agricultural chemicals placed under legislative control.

The Executive would be reluctant to increase subscriptions, which are already high by comparison with similar organisations, and it has been decided to produce the "Beekeeper" in its present restricted form in an effort to meet the position.

We hope that it will thus be possible to provide a vehicle for the dissemination of essential news, and at the same time keep faith with our advertisers.

J. W. FRASER, President.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1960 Dominion Conference will be held in Auckland, probably in July.

CROP SURVEY

The 1959 honey crop survey conducted through our November issue resulted in a total of only 92 Crop Returns being received by the General Secretary up till December 24. The number of forms issued to producers was about 600.

Personal

Mr T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer at Wallaceville, returned to New Zealand recently after a period of leave spent overseas. In the course of his trip he visited places in Australia, Europe and America.

The Honey Grader, Mr. R. Walsh, has been granted a year's absence from

all duties for health reasons. We hope he will derive benefit from the change and soon be restored to good health.

We regret to record that Mr. A. Ecroyd has been laid aside through illness in the course of his overseas tour and for a period he was confined to hospital in London. As a result his visit to the United States and some other places has been cancelled. He is now making a steady recovery and he and Mrs. Ecroyd expect to return to New Zealand in May or June.

U.K. HONEY MARKET

Since our last issue the following items have appeared in Produce Reports of the Bank of New Zealand:

November 6, 1959: A little more interest is being shown in honey and a parcel of top quality New Zealand has been sold at 162s 6d per cwt. Top quality light amber Australian has sold at 85s per cwt., c.i.f., London.

December 11, 1959: The market is very quiet and prices for Australian honey continue to sag. Australian light amber is now quoted at 83s per cwt., c.i.f. Very small quantities of New Zealand are offered, but a fair business is being transacted in fine white clover Canadian at about 145s per cwt.

Chemicals Board

Announcing the steps being taken to implement the Agricultural Chemicals Act, 1959, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. C. F. Skinner, said recently that the Agricultural Chemicals Board would not be set up until April, but in the meantime its nominated members would act as a provisional committee to undertake preliminary work. This includes procedures for registration of materials, the system of licensing of commercial sprayers, and regulations for the administration of the Act.

The Minister said that the aim of the legislation and the activities of the new Board will be to assist producers to make the best use of the newly developed Agricultural Chemicals and at the same time safeguard the health and interests of the community.

Aerial Spraying

The aerial chemical application industry has grown remarkably quickly. In 1952, a total of 5273 gallons of chemicals was dropped, and last year the total had risen to almost 1,200,000 gallons.

The very nature of the chemicals handled in this field of aerial operations has involved the enforcement of strict safeguards to prevent damage to crops or danger to people.

Recently the Civil Aviation Administration in co-operation with the Departments of Health and Agriculture has introduced a pilot chemical rating course for flying experts handling the

chemicals. Many pilots have already obtained their chemical rating which qualifies them to apply chemicals under the new legislation without having to obtain a permit for every operation.

HORMONE SPRAYS

Experience of producers over the past year has led the General Secretary to write to the Director of Horticulture expressing concern at the possibility of honey being affected by applications on farmlands of hormone sprays. The department has been assured of the co-operation of the National Beekeepers' Association in any investigations being made in this matter.

Nectar Secretion

A resolution asking the Department of Agriculture to institute investigations into the decline in the nectar secretion of clovers was passed at a meeting of the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers held on November 26 and 27, 1959.

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Conference Resolution

RESPONSE FROM HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

The following resolutions passed at the Timaru Conference were referred to the Honey Marketing Authority. The reply from the Authority is printed below.

1. "That the Honey Marketing Authority consider
 - (a) The purchase of honey in lots against a sample supplied.
 - (b) A preferential payment to be made on all honies undertaken to be supplied on a given date to be determined by the Authority.
 - (c) The payout to be based on realisation within a suggested 5 grading groups.
 - (d) The final payment to be on a pro-rata basis."
 2. "That the Authority continue to seek a satisfactory alternative to the use of 60lb tins in export cases."
 3. "That the attention of the Authority be drawn to the sales of honey not bearing seals and that they be requested to take court proceedings in all cases."
- & payment on honey accepted on a pro rata basis has been
(c) fixed at 10d per lb pro rata for the coming seasons. This compares with 9d per lb pro rata last year.
(d) The Authority has adopted this recommendation for last season's honey and the final payment on graded pro rata honey for last season has been fixed at 4¾d per lb pro rata. This is a matter for review each year when the amount of the final payment is decided upon.

P.O. Box 2615,
AUCKLAND.
November 13, 1959.

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

Dear Mr. Fraser,

Your letter of September 25 conveying resolutions passed at the last Dominion Conference of your Association was considered at a recent meeting of the Authority, and I have been instructed to write to you as follows:—

1. (a) The Authority has always been prepared to purchase honey on a straight purchase basis, and a paragraph to this effect will be repeated in the next annual information circular.
- (b) The contract system has been discontinued and the advance

2. The Authority knows of no better alternative to the 60lb tins now in use. Our Chairman reported to members after his recent trip abroad that these tins are still universally preferred by overseas customers to any other container.
3. The Authority will always give serious consideration to reports of sales of honey without seals and will take proceedings in appropriate cases. To do this, however, it must have definite evidence of evasion and the persons able to give this evidence must be prepared to appear in Court.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. CHUDLEY,
Manager.

Himalayan Expedition

The abominable snowman, the "yeti," will be one of the targets of a Himalayan Expedition to be led by Sir Edmund Hillary this year. Supported by American interests, the 14-man party has permission from Nepal to commence its scientific expedition next September. In addition to its research investigations the party hopes to make the ascent of 27,790ft. Mt. Makalu.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

Chairman's Report

PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

Prospects in most districts appear to be above normal but at this date it is not possible to estimate what the final report will be covering production for the Dominion. We cannot at this date forecast the volume that will be sent to the Authority.

It would be extremely helpful to our Manager if intending suppliers would comply with the request in the circular for early information of the estimated tonnage they intend to send forward.

We wish to thank those who have already responded so promptly to this appeal.

OVERSEAS DEMAND

Reports from overseas tell us of a lowering of the price offered for honey in the light amber and lower colour class.

Competitive selling and increased supplies of this class of honey from other countries coupled with a record crop in Great Britain are the factors that have made it impossible to maintain the price level we have hitherto endeavoured to maintain.

We can only hope that as the season advances conditions will improve. At

least producers can be assured that our overseas agents are very much alert to the situation confronting us and they are doing everything possible to arrest the downward drift in prices.

STOCK POSITION

The volume of "carry over" unsold honey on hand from last season is now reduced to 100 cases of lower grade blended honey plus a small quantity held in London for "spot" sales. We are also holding a quantity of "Imperial Bee" honey in retail packs to carry up through until the new season's supplies come to hand.

This is a most satisfactory clearance and obviously puts the Authority in a stronger position than would otherwise be possible with a heavy carry over such as we have experienced in the past.

Our plant is operating satisfactorily. Several important improvements have been made to it in recent months and we have every reason to be well satisfied with its efficiency.

WALLACE NELSON,
Chairman.

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HONEY CROP PROSPECTS, 1959-60

Though it is too early to make a firm estimate of the total crops likely to be harvested this year, reports received from Apiary Instructors in mid-January show that overall production will be greater than the previous season, the full extent of which will not be known until April.

Following is a summary of the position early in January:

NORTH AUCKLAND

Pastures have shown excessive growth and fair crops have been secured from manuka and buttercup. Clovers bloomed profusely but crops from hilly pasture are disappointing. Pohutukawa yielded only fair to light crops. Good crops have been secured from blue pine and bush sources. Pennyroyal is now in full bloom.

Little further honey is likely to be gathered this season other than from late bush sources and from Pennyroyal. Indications are that a slightly less than average crop of improved quality honey will be secured.

AUCKLAND

Manuka and buttercup have yielded fair crops. Pohutukawa bloomed heavily but only fair to light crops will be harvested from this source. The yield from this source was adversely affected by wet and windy weather at the period of maximum bloom. Clover growth has been good and fair to good crops have been secured. Pennyroyal is now commencing to yield.

Prospects are for fair to good crops from tree top sources. Pasture crops are variable, ranging from light to good. The crop generally is of better quality than in the previous two seasons.

HAMILTON

Pastures have shown an abundance of clover bloom and in most areas clover is still capable of producing more nectar. Both blackberry and buttercup produced medium crops. Lotus Major and Catscar have flowered well. The Manuka has flowered heavily and honey is still being gathered from this source. Pennyroyal is showing well. Indications are that the crop is a little above average. The prospects of a bumper crop as anticipated earlier are fast failing due to prevailing cold winds.

TAURANGA

Clover and Lotus Major are showing the best flowering for many years and are yielding well. Rewa Rewa flowered profusely but little nectar was gathered from it. Climatic conditions have been erratic all season. Cloudy conditions, constant winds and cool night temperatures have been a feature.

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

HAWERA

Clover, Lotus Major and field flowers are prolific in pastures except for coastal areas which have dried out.

A steady flow of honey was experienced from manuka and clover. Boxthorn, Birch and Rewa Rewa have also yielded. Weather conditions deteriorated late in December. The weather since has been warm and overcast with thunder showers and a steady westerly wind.

Crops will be average for the district.

HASTINGS

Pastures benefited from the heavy rain at New Year and are in fair condition. In all areas the conditions generally have been favourable but are best in the Wairarapa.

Indications are that the overall crop will be about average.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Clover bloom is very patchy. Dry weather conditions have prevailed and all light country is rapidly browning off. On inland high country clover bloom was affected by frost early in the month but is showing signs of recovering. Rain would assist in changing the present prospect from heavy soil areas.

Near average crops are expected and the quality of the honey should be fair.

GREYMOOUTH

On the Coast the weather has been unsettled. All sources, with the exception of Rata, have produced an average crop of honey of fair quality. Lotus Major, thistle, catsear and mixed bush sources are still yielding. In Nelson an average crop of good grade honey has been gathered. Because of drought conditions the flow has now almost ceased. In Marlborough a light crop of fair quality honey has been gathered. Drought conditions have prevailed and there is no further prospect.

CHRISTCHURCH

Conditions generally have been hot and sunny with occasional nor'west winds. This has caused a rapid drying out of pastures. In areas near the hill country growth is still abundant. Clover, mustard, thistle, catsear and vipers bugloss are still yielding.

At present the overall crop is below average. Immediate heavy rains could assist in improving the present prospect.

OAMARU

Pasture plants have shown full flower but cool conditions earlier retarded growth to some extent. White clover is

still holding out but fast going off, particularly where exposed to winds or the effects of frosts. Vipers bugloss, lucerne, catsear, thistles and a little red clover are still flowering. White clover has yielded throughout the month but weather reduced bee activity over much of the time. Other sources continue to be worked to a limited extent.

With suitable weather further honey could be stored. Indications are that crops generally will be below average.

INVERCARGILL

Pastures in most areas are in good condition. High winds have restricted bee activity. Clover blossom is abundant and has yielded nectar freely. Minor sources such as catsear and dandelion are producing moderately.

Depending on favourable weather crops should be average.

E. SMAELLIE,

Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

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BRANCH NOTES

SOUTH AUCKLAND

This season has been a particularly good one for all beekeepers in the Waikato and Rotorua-Taupo areas. Following a most generous spring the main flow started early and provided an average crop by Christmas. Since then the flow has continued to a widely varying degree in different areas, a few of which are still yielding. The sum total must be above average.

A feature of the yield is the record percentage of white clover honey being collected from all parts. For some mysterious reason the bees have left all other sources alone.

—R. R. Chandler.

WEST COAST

The old saying about the best made plans of mice and men could be applied here this season as the promise given by an easy winter followed by a good spring and early summer was not altogether fulfilled. Holiday folk had a wonderful time and the dry December suited most farmers, if not the beekeepers. It was a bit too dry for us, though some will be better off because the clover areas (not many on the Coast) yielded well. There was only a very small amount of rata except in one or two exposed coastal areas. I think that the honey crop may be roughly 3½ tons per 100. Very few have extracted any at the time of writing this, and that only the lower grade of so-called birch — really kamahi, etc.

A point of interest is that Rewanui, 20 miles north of Grey in the Blackball area, recorded only 134 inches of rain for 1959. The normal fall is 190 inches.

Perhaps it was the season that suited but the autumn queens that I wintered in nuke boxes have been a real success. Others that were transferred to full-size boxes before winter were at strength too early and many of them cleared out. The small boxes jammed tight with stores prevented that. Any other year one just cannot get colonies strong early enough — what fun we have!

Another November trend was that though the hives had plenty of room in the shape of empty boxes above, as brood emerged the bees filled in with honey and pushed the queen down, jamming her in a very small area at a critical time.

Not many wasps have been noticed around this summer, the reason I do not know. Perhaps folk are more careful in not leaving food and rubbish about, or the high rainfall of 1958 may have had something to do with the reduction. They have never been very troublesome here. Bushmen and bulldozer drivers have been bothered the most.

With nearly a month of centennial year gone some of the planned events have passed and they have been very fortunate with the weather. Each gathering brings many visitors and the happenings of bygone days are lived over again in memory.

Stop Press: We congratulate Mr Ralph Glasson on his appointment as a Justice of the Peace. A stalwart of the West Coast Branch for many years, and a respected citizen, it is an honour well deserved.

—Tom Holland.

CANTERBURY

The only activity of note recently in Canterbury was the well attended spring Field Day held on October 3, at the latter end of the Willow Flow. This gathering, on Coutts Island, Waimakariri River, was very successful and attended by beekeepers from the West Coast and South Canterbury.

The programme included "Questions and Answers," compered by David Penrose and Rob Woods. This item gave the opportunity for interesting discussions on topical matters. Addresses were also made on items of current interest by T. E. Pearson, Jasper Bray, W. B. Bray and our Apiary Instructor, Mr L. A. Griffin.

A popular feature was the supplying by the branch of free soft drink to children.

—K.E.

SOUTH CANTERBURY

A good gathering of beekeepers, their wives and families met on the last Saturday of November at the apiary of Mr. A. Simpson at Waihi Gorge. It was a very pleasant picnic spot and the time spent went all too quickly for those present. Our president, Lon Lyttle, had a programme

arranged but as is our custom a picnic spirit prevailed and no strict timetable was adhered to.

After lunch the menfolk walked to the apiary nearby where various demonstrations were given. First, a talk by Mr. G. Jeffery on the way to light a smoker and various kinds of smoker fuel. He demonstrated the use of sacking soaked in diesel fuel which appeared to quieten the bees but he did not recommend its use because of the danger of tainting honey.

Next a method of introducing a four-frame nucleus with new queen to a hive with an old queen was demonstrated by Mr. A. Simpson, and this was followed with interest. Then Arnold showed us how to gather up a swarm of bees hanging on a branch nearby. (We don't know where the swarm came from; anyhow it's safe in a hive now and we hope it will support itself with a bit over for Arnold.)

Next on the list was a talk on spring queen raising by Mr. R. Davidson. Bob put this talk over so clearly and explained the manipulations so well, with the help of son Johnnie, there was no need to ask further questions. I have never introduced a new queen without destroying the old one, but Bob says he lets the young queen do the job for him. I would have thought that method would result in swarming, but I must be wrong.

Mr. Sid Clearwater gave a demonstration of waxing supers and had the plant on the truck and some supers already treated. No doubt this is the way to save time and paint. We thank Messrs. Gumbrell and Clearwater for loading their equipment for our benefit.

A further short address was given by Mr. Jeffery on pollination and a talk by Mr. W. Bray on H.M.A. matters.

Among those present three gentlemen are worthy of special mention on account of their long association with the industry—Mr. E. Simpson, Mr. W. Bray and Mr. L. Robins. It is a pity we did not have Mr. James Forster; something held him up at the last moment I am told.

An enjoyable day was brought to a close by the president, Mr. Lon Lyttle, moving a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Arnold Simpson for making his apiary available at a pleasant picnic spot.

—J. G. McKenzie.

OTAGO

Ground conditions were excellent and lots of white clover was in evidence through December and January. Overhead the record was not so good as there was enough rain, cloud and wind to make it a disappointing summer. On some days when a gale was blowing down here the high clouds could be seen floating motionless in a calm sky—but what can a beekeeper do about that? Manuka bloomed later than usual and in some areas was worked by the bees in conjunction with clover. Moderate honey crops will be obtained.

We regret to report that our Branch President, Mr. C. A. Foote, has been out of action with a severe illness, and spent several weeks in hospital. He is now up and about again, making a good recovery, and we all wish him the best of health in the future.

—J. McF.

Post at Wallaceville

Applications, up till February 8, were invited recently for the post of Scientific Officer at Wallaceville Animal Research Station. The duties are to include specialised problems affecting the bee-keeping industry, entailing research on subjects such as pollination and the effect of agricultural chemicals on bees.

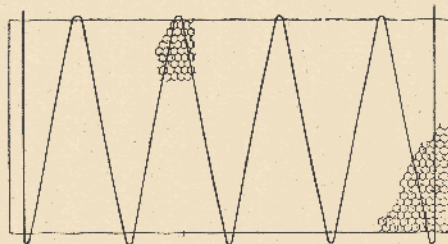
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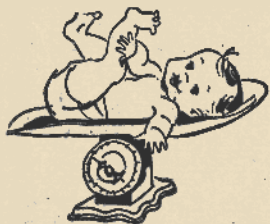
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Notes for Beginners

by 'SKEP'

There is little doubt that your success in honey production has been largely influenced by the weather conditions prevailing in your district during those vital November to January months. I suggest you compare your results with other beekeepers in your locality. Their hives may have been strong just prior to the honey-flow period, the bees occupying three full-depth supers and about 15 combs of brood in various stages of growth, whereas yours may have had only 8 combs of brood, and a relative proportion of bees. Any experienced honey producer would tell you that you could harvest up to four times the quantity of surplus honey with the stronger hives.

Morale is Factor

The field force of bees would be double and the hives' morale much higher and this acts as a great stimulus for increased activity and better results. One of the greatest fascinations of keeping bees, in my opinion, is one's constant endeavour to provide the best possible service in adequate stores during the dearth spring period, close attention to the queens' laying capacity and the provision of additional supers as required.

If one has attended to all of these factors efficiently it is possible that in favoured localities some astounding results in production may be obtained.

Drift May be a Factor

Where you have an apiary situated in an area subject to prevailing winds the bees tend to drift to the hives at the extremities of the yard and surpluses of 300-350lb. each are not uncommon.

However, the average yield per colony will indicate whether your management technique is efficient.

Management Methods

Surely where you have readily at your disposal apiary instructors of the Department of Agriculture and the

debates frequently held at "field days" of the National Bee-keepers' Association on apiary management and honey production, an intelligent interest in such recommendations will be bound to bring better results.

Talking about success, I am reminded of the two frogs who fell simultaneously into a bowl of cream. The first rapidly gave up and sank to the bottom, whereas the other frog by its continued efforts to jump out turned the cream to butter — success was then assured. Please do not think I am suggesting you jump around your hives in an effort to increase production. The end result of these antics could well be a hurried dash for cover with Pop yelling encouragement from some safe retreat.

Methods of Removing Honey

For the owner of up to six hives I would advocate the use of a brush specially designed for removing bees from the combs. With a couple of puffs of smoke at the entrance, remove the lid, turn back the inner cover, and give about six puffs, leave for 30 seconds, and proceed to remove the combs, brushing the bees in front of the hive, and placing the combs in an empty super. Too much smoke causes the bees to become demoralised and should be avoided. The use of an escape board is another method. Place this between your second and third supers, and provided there is no brood above the board, it will be effective. The honey can be lifted off next morning without recourse to the handling of individual combs.

Extracting and Marketing

No doubt you have given thought to the best way in which you can dispose of your product so little need be said at this juncture. No matter how small the quantity of honey or sections you have to offer there is a Price Order which sets out in detail the maximum prices that may be charged and this will act as a guide for you. Selling at figures below this schedule will inevitably mean that you will not

recover your costs of production and in the end lose interest. Sales of extracted honey, with certain minor exceptions, are subject to a seal levy at the rate of one penny per pound. Supplies of these seals, and particulars of the Regulations, are obtainable from the Marketing Authority, Box 2615, Auckland. The way you prepare your product, whether it be sections, liquid or granulated honey, and its presentation will be a factor in the price realised. This applies particularly to sections where travel stain by the bees spoils the sale value. If they are well filled and wrapped in cellophane there is a ready market, particularly in December-January period. Beekeepers in regions producing a somewhat darker honey should investigate this field.

For granulated honey I use a proportion of about one part of fine grained starter honey to 10 parts of liquid and stir thoroughly to ensure complete incorporation. When packed I place in a cool room with a temperature of 45-50 degrees. The temperature of the normal household refrigerator is too cold and only retards granulation. Where your production is in excess of your own requirements there are numerous avenues open to you in disposing of it. Write to the manager of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority for information and forward a sample. Packers of honey may be interested in purchasing your honey or sales can be made by advertising. I cannot reiterate too strongly that you should obtain its full market value for only by this means can you make a success of your venture. I realise that I have covered a wide field in this article and intend to enlarge on techniques in honey processing in later issues. In the May edition I will tell you something about beeswax and colony wintering.

GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE

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

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

Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.

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Commercial Queen Breeder,

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KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND.

Overseas Experience of Wallace Nelson, Chairman, Honey Marketing Authority

My recent overseas trip by air covered a period of 12 weeks. I visited Sydney, Singapore, Bangkok, Bombay, Beirut, Istanbul, Madrid, England, Belgium and Moscow.

Thanks to credentials kindly provided me by both our Prime Minister and our Minister of Agriculture I was placed in a position to be of some service to our industry overseas.

More may be said in this vein at a later date.

The quoting of my experience in Moscow proved to be of great interest at a recent meeting of producers in the Waikato and it has been suggested to me that I should offer it for publicity in "The New Zealand Beekeeper."

Let me first say that my Moscow visit was not part of my duty or responsibility as Chairman of the Authority. I made the trip entirely on my own initiative and I was not answerable to any organisation to report on the visit.

From what I have read and been told Russia has a great deal of advanced scientific knowledge in many spheres and this includes the treatment of disease and human ills with the products of the hive. Royal jelly, honey, propolis, bee sting poison, the use of all this has been experimented with on the human body and it is alleged that astonishing beneficial results have been achieved.

All this has intrigued me greatly for a long time. For instance it was discovered by Russian scientists who were investigating the factors responsible for longevity that the 125 oldest living inhabitants of the country (all over 100 years old) were all beekeepers.

My interest in this particular subject was such that I decided to return to New Zealand via Moscow, in the hope of obtaining some up to date scientific information.

I arranged to stop off at Moscow for five full days but it transpired I had to stop off six days due to bad weather hold up.

There are different categories of travel arrangements to Russia. One is available to the business man but he must prove that he has Russian business connections. Another way of entry to the country is by the usual conducted tour arranged by Cooks or other tourist agencies through the Russian "Intourist" organisation. The third way of visiting Russia is the way I chose—that was to go alone as a tourist. This required me to make advance arrangements through Cooks in London. It cost me £10 10s 0d per day for which I was provided with de luxe hotel accommodation, food, a car and driver at my disposal for three hours per day and an interpreter and guide.

On the second day of my visit I asked my guide to arrange a visit to those in charge of the beekeeping industry.

This request completely puzzled the guide. In fact I think he had some doubts concerning the existence of an "industry" that could cultivate anything so objectionable as bees.

However he quickly got busy and piloted me to Russia's exhibition farm. This so called farm is about 15 miles out of Moscow. It covers several miles of country. I never thought there could be such a beautiful set up. Beautiful gardens and over a score of the most magnificent buildings I have ever seen. The architecture was unique and apparently designed to portray the purpose for which the buildings were erected. Most were used to display the products (manufactured and primary) of the separate Russian provinces but there were also buildings specially dedicated to music, literature, astronomy, art, etc. In the music hall were a great array of instruments and music was pouring forth all the time. It would take weeks to see everything but my special interest was honey and beekeeping.

I was taken to the building especially set up and designed to promote interest in beekeeping. There I saw a great array of everything used in the production of honey in the way of hives and beekeeping appliances. What was of particular interest to me was a machine for producing comb foundation rollers. This machine struck me as a piece of master craftsmanship in skilled engineering.

Samples of honey from all over Russia were on display. On the walls of this unique building were photographs and drawings of hospital patients being treated and operated on with the aid of the products of the hive. There was one case portrayed of a man under an anaesthetic being inoculated with the poison from the bee sting for some disease. I could not read the explanatory matter but it was interpreted to me. Also on display was a lot of medicine incorporating Royal jelly and what surprised me was they had found propolis to be of some medicinal value but in what direction I cannot say.

I found those in charge very friendly and just as keen to glean knowledge from me as I was to get some from them. (I subsequently found that they had a high regard for New Zealand beekeeping methods due to a visit many years ago of Dr. Phillips, the predecessor of Dr. Dyce at Cornell, U.S.A. Dr. Phillips had been engaged to give them instruction on modern beekeeping and had spoken highly of New Zealand honey and our standard of efficiency).

Well everyone plied me with questions. They were well aware that their industry is in its infancy and very far behind us in modern appliances and beekeeping technique. They were astonished, however, to learn of the standard of our efficiency. For instance it was hard for them to grasp the idea that in New Zealand a full time beekeeper should be able to operate 450 hives with the help of one assistant, and that many of our top grade men could improve on that effort.

I told them frankly why I was there. That they were far behind in modern beekeeping methods but foremost of nations in scientific achievements and I hoped to be granted the privilege of taking away with me copies of their most advanced scientific work on the subject of the value of the products of the hives in health and in the treatment of human ills. They were most friendly and at once gave me copies of all they had.

I left the building feeling quite pleased with myself but this comfortable feeling got a temporary shock. Just as I was about to enter my car with my faithful guide along came a big limousine and out jumped three important looking individuals who were joined by a few of the leaders I had been with. They came towards me hurriedly and for a dreadful few moments I wondered whether I had said or done anything that might land me in the salt mines—"Why left I ma hame" thought I.

It transpired however that the leader of the important looking official group was the professor of Soil and Apiculture at the Moscow University. He was accompanied by another whom I understood to be a professor of biology (I guess they had been communicated with by the officials in the building hence the rush out to meet me). Well I was given a real good welcome and had to re-enter the building and repeat to the professor much of what I had already said.

He told me that on the following day a convention of many of the leading beekeepers from the Russian Provinces would be held in the adjoining hall and the convention would be addressed by the leading Doctor from the Moscow Hospital on his experiences in the treatment of disease and human ills by the products of the hive. Would I attend this convention and address it? I agreed to do so but reminded the professor that I am not a scientist and I felt very diffident about appearing on the same platform with the distinguished Doctor. However that attitude was brushed aside and on the following day I followed the Doctor with my address. It was interpreted as I went along by my guide and the reception given me was most friendly. However the address from the Doctor was "right up my alley." Scraps of it were interpreted to me by my guide as the address proceeded.

The Doctor warned the audience repeatedly that treatment of disease or illness by the hive products was dangerous and should only be undertaken by a qualified medical man. When it was all over I was invited by the professor to address a gathering at the University the following evening.

I was told that the gathering would consist of University students, beekeepers in the vicinity of Moscow, and colleagues of the professor.

This proposition scared me quite a bit—I feared I was drifting out of my depth (if indeed I had not already done so). I again reminded my hosts that

I am only competent to speak as a fairly efficient New Zealand beekeeper on the methods New Zealand employed in the production and in the marketing of our product.

Well I did the best I could the following evening and I naturally confined my talk to what I was competent to talk about from my beekeeping experience and as a practical producer of honey. These people were really thirsting for knowledge (and so was I). I was asked many questions relating to our beekeeping methods. If I did nothing else I feel I at least established in the minds of these people a very friendly feeling for New Zealand and a high regard for the standard of efficiency and the modern methods practised by our beekeepers. At the conclusion of the meeting the professor asked me to convey to the New Zealand beekeepers the fraternal greetings of those present and very complimentary references were made to our Minister and to the New Zealand Government which they seemed to believe was in some way responsible for my presence there free to speak as I chose.

At the conclusion of all this I was given further copies of the very books I was so anxious to secure.

I was escorted back to my hotel and invited to return during the summer months. Such a visit will not eventuate. It cost too much money. Food was in abundance and in great variety but the constant change in diet as I moved from one country to another had virtually reduced me to a milk diet much to the anxiety of the table waiter. I arrived back in New Zealand with a loss of 16 pounds in weight and far from well. It was snowing when I left Moscow and the heat of India (my next stop), where I had to spend two and a half days waiting on connecting 'planes, was unbearable. All this, together with much loss of sleep, was not conducive to keeping fit.

All the booklets I have received are in Russian but I think I can get the essential material translated locally. If I can't then I will get it done by a cousin of mine in Edinburgh who is a lecturer in modern languages. Russian is one of her languages.

I have always marvelled at the absurdity of a situation where one Government Department (Agriculture) at great cost to the country is out to promote beekeeping in the interest of the economy and the health of New Zealand while another Department (Health) rather deprecates the value of honey as a food.

I personally can testify to the food value of honey. I came to this country 35 years ago unable to follow my own profession owing to a cardiac complaint. I have not the slightest doubt but that I have to thank my beekeeping career for my good health. I regard sugar as a poison that leaves the body susceptible to many complaints while honey has a food value very much greater than is generally realised—especially in cardiac complaints.

It may well be that I have greatly over-estimated the value of the material I have brought back from Russia. If however it provides me with the evidence I hope for, I shall use such evidence as effectively as I can in the interest of health and happiness.

It is not possible to have one without the other.

WALLACE NELSON, Chairman

Honey For Health

Old and simple remedies for everyday domestic ailments are often the best. This is the case with household fatigue, when a spoonful of honey is likely to be far more beneficial than cigarettes, cocktails or tranquillisers. But many people are still apt to forget this and try any new suggestion or remedy which happens to be in fashion at the time, and this can be quite an expensive habit too. Honey is cheap, and readily available just so long as you keep a jar in your kitchen cup-

board, and its reputation as a quick stimulant and restorative goes back as far as the ancient Greeks. By the spoonful or mixed with hot water to make a refreshing drink, honey is healthful for adults and, given to children when they are cross or overtired, it quickly cheers them up. It doesn't damage children's teeth, either, nor does it upset their stomachs. Try honey on grapefruit and porridge, in salad dressings, and use it with lemon juice to ease a tickly cough or 'flu.

—From Aunt Daisy's page in
'N.Z. Listener,' 23/10/1959.



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You can have complete confidence in CARDEA Honey Cartons because they are high quality containers. They are precision made to the highest possible standards and are subjected to rigid inspection and testing at every stage of manufacture. CARDEA Honey Cartons are sturdy, less expensive, have high sales appeal.

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Gadgets and Ideas

Queen Marking Cage

The easiest way to mark a queen is right on the comb where you find her, provided you can make her hold still! And you can do that by slipping a little cage over her, which presses into the comb to hold her firmly. The simplest cage is made of about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wire screen, with points at the sides to sink into the comb. Press it gently until you have her just tight enough so she can't wiggle away, but not so tight as to hurt her. (Try a couple of drones for practice.) A quick touch of a match to her back, with a bit of fingernail polish or plastic fast-drying enamel, a quick release, and she's marked. If she's a new queen from a mailing cage, you can mark her by slipping the cage over her on a generous piece of cotton wool.

—R. Taylor, in "Gleanings."

Wax from Slumgum

An article by J. M. Marcy in the "Canadian Bee Journal" describes a method of wax recovery by centrifugal force. The article gives details of a wax extractor made by modifying a spinner-type washing machine, the heat being supplied from a steam boiler. An average yield of 3.2lb of wax per super of 10 old combs was obtained in trials. The author believes that the wax recovered by this means is of better colour than that obtained by conventional methods.

Repairing Honey Combs

The following method used by Mr. R. C. Abernethy, of Owaka, whereby one old comb can be used to repair several damaged ones, is described by Apiary Instructor D. W. A. Seal in the Journal of Agriculture.

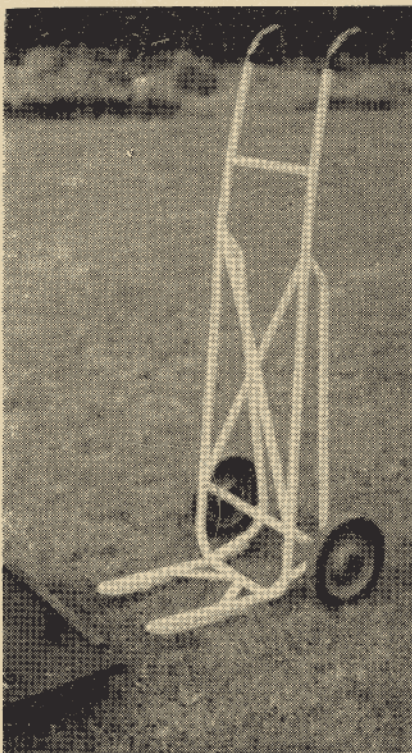
The damaged area of comb and frame wire is cut out with a sharp knife. Next place the comb over other worker cell comb being used for repairs and trace the size of piece required. The job is completed when the traced piece of comb has been cut and neatly pressed into place, as the bees will do the final cementing of joints.

It should be noted that repairs using comb foundation are rarely successful where the patch exceeds 2 sq. in. For the larger patches drawn comb should be used.

New Honey House Barrow

After several trial designs with tubular steel barrows, this is the final result produced by P. Berry and Sons of Hawkes Bay. It is the tubular steel used for domestic furniture and is unusually tough—probably due to alloys. The various pieces are welded or brazed together with gas. It is so light that the little finger can pull it. A piece of reinforcing metal is welded on edge to the under side of the two forks (or tines). The wheels are about 10 inches in diameter and have a semi-solid tyre with a flat tread about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. Excellent in the honey-house or on neighbouring paths. Can be pulled across a paddock with honey but a bigger wheeled barrow would be better for paddock work. This barrow will safely carry four full supers of honey on pallets or bottom boards.

—Photo by Sefton Line.



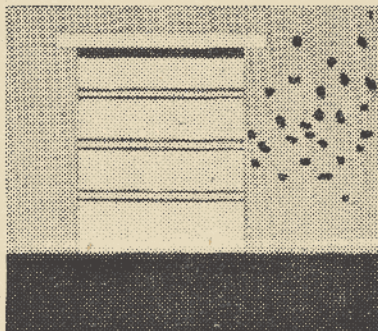
destroy grasses and weeds
around hives with

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Obstructed hives mean obstructed bees. Bees slow up, production suffers. Spray now with Phytazol.



Hives cleared of surrounding grasses ensures maximum production and harmony in the hive.

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Use of Phytazol for Control of Growth around Bee-hives

By W. Bassett

One of the problems of beekeeping, and particularly commercial beekeeping with its hundreds and thousands of hives, is keeping the area around each hive clear of long grass and weeds. In a high rainfall area such as New Zealand this is essential if bees are to have unimpeded flight, good hive ventilation, and if the cost of maintenance on hive parts due to damp conditions is to be kept down to a reasonable figure.

Most beekeepers have seen apiaries where no action has been taken to control this growth and the usual result is dilapidated hives with open joints and rotting boxes and floorboards and a considerable weakening of the colony itself due to the loss of bees which have returned to the hive heavily laden only to be trapped in the wet dank growth which masks their entrance to the hive.

For some two years now a number of commercial beekeepers have been using a mixture of two non-selective herbicides called PHYTAZOL to control this growth, and most successfully. For a minimum of labour and at the cost of a few shillings per hundred hives PHYTAZOL will give a complete kill of all grass and weeds which may surround the hive and on to which it is

sprayed. It will remain effective for over six months which means that one spraying in spring will give the necessary control for twelve months.

As briefly mentioned earlier the benefits of such a low cost treatment are several:—

1. Unimpeded flight for the bees and consequent reduction in losses sustained when entrances are covered with grass and weeds.

2. Free movement of air into and around the hives with its beneficial effect on the prevention of swarming.

3. Reduction in hive maintenance due to absence of growth near hives allowing free movement of air around the hive parts and thus minimising the incidence of decay due to what would otherwise be wet and dank conditions.

4. The removal of another tiresome chore, and a repetitious one at that, due to the ease of application and its effectiveness over a prolonged period compared to most other methods of control.

5. The low cost factor.

(Published by arrangement)

Extermination of Wasps

By 'TINGLE'

It is not difficult or dangerous for the householder or the amateur to destroy wasps when an insecticide powder is injected into the entrance after dark (with the help of a torch); or during a part of the day when there is little activity about the entrance to the nest. You would need a quarter of a pound of 40 per cent D.D.T. powder, procured at hardware or mercantile firms; also some kind of dust-gun normally used in the garden for dusting vegetables.

About two dessertspoonsful of the D.D.T. powder is placed in the dust-gun and this puffed at and into the entrance.

This is a contact-poison for wasps and bees, but is comparatively safe to handle. The wasps should all be dead in two or three days but a second dose may be necessary if rain or wind has disturbed the powder. No vibration should be caused while applying this.

If the hole goes straight into the ground, a spoon is sufficient to sprinkle the powder. Get another person to hold the torch.

There are several fumigants or insecticides which can kill pests but D.D.T. powder, in a strong form, has been found the best for general use and safe to handle.

Keep the remaining powder in an airtight container and place a label on it.

Honey in Pharmaceuticals

Honey, an oldtime home remedy for coughs and colds, may stage a comeback in modern pharmacy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Research by the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science on contract with U.S.D.A.'s Agricultural Research Service has shown honey to be a valuable vehicle for certain medicinal preparations.

Honey improves the palatability of many medicines with its pleasant, natural flavour, the study showed. Furthermore, medicines in honey preparations settle very slowly and can be resuspended by moderate shaking. For tonics, cough medicines, and some vitamins, honey solutions are entirely stable. For other vitamins, stability is limited to two or three weeks, and for aspirin to several days.

This study of honey in medicines was sponsored by the A.R.S. Eastern Utilisation Research and Development Division, Philadelphia, in an effort to encourage a wider use of honey.

Research showed that a popular iron tonic, ferrous sulphate syrup, usually made in sugar syrup flavoured with peppermint, can be made with honey as the sole flavouring agent. It is stable, exceptionally palatable, and free of the astringent after-taste characterised by most preparations containing iron.

Vitamin B2 (riboflavin) is especially stable in honey solutions. Vitamin B1 (thiamine) alone is not as stable in honey solutions as in other vehicles, but it is sufficiently stable if Vitamin B2 also is present in the preparation. Vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin) and Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) are not stable in honey, but would be suitable for immediate use.

This research also showed that medicinal products prepared with honey and containing water can be completely preserved from microbiological degradation by the addition of sorbic acid to the honey solutions.

Washington, July 23, 1959.

—U.S.D.A. 2038-59.

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Send your wax in for conversion as early as possible.
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*We thank you for your patronage this past season and
now can offer you still better service in the future*

World News

Beeswax for Foundation

The bee supply manufacturers in U.S.A. have agreed to use only beeswax, with no additives or substitute waxes, in comb foundation.

In the past some companies have used a small proportion of vegetable wax to toughen the foundation. Recently new types of wax, of mineral origin, have been developed and their cheapness makes them attractive as a substitute for beeswax.

Since many combs are rendered along with cappings in preparing beeswax for the market the continued practice of using mineral wax for foundation could affect the purity of beeswax, for the mineral wax grossly changes the chemical properties of beeswax. Because of this danger the manufacturers have agreed to use beeswax only in making comb foundation henceforth.

Hormone Research

A 50,000 dollar research project is under way at Cornell University, U.S.A., to find out what hormone can

hold 75,000 honey bees together in a colony with a queen bee as the centre of attraction.

The three-year project will be under Professor Roger A. Morse. As there is a definite relationship between animal and human hormones, and since hormones play a large part in human health, it is possible that this research into the nature of "queen substance" may help in the understanding of various human diseases, including cancer.

Bee Photography

The National Geographic Magazine for August, 1959, contains an article by Mr Treat Davidson entitled "Inside the World of the Honey Bee." The 32 illustrations, mostly in colour, give an absorbing and attractive portrayal of life in a bee colony.

Great Britain

In Britain the warm dry summer was favourable for beekeepers and the 1959 honey crop was the best for many years.

Queens Better Queens

Have you considered
re-Queening this Autumn with
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from now till April?

1-5	10/-
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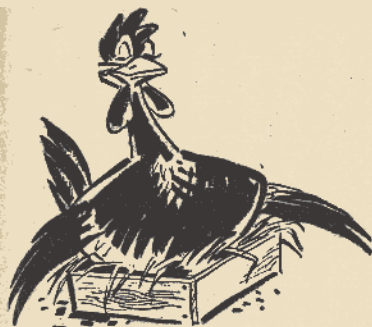
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Reflections . .

from the

Editor's Desk

Crop Survey

Our 1959 Crop Survey was a failure. The preparation of the survey took some time, and cost some money, so the poor response was disappointing.

Ever since the early days of the H.P.A., forty-odd years ago, the honey industry in New Zealand has been striving to achieve some form of co-operative marketing. If during that time it has fallen short of its goal the fault has been in the lack of a co-operative spirit. The industry, of course, must accept the penalty for that. But it might also consider whether it is fair to its leaders when it expects them to build a workable marketing system, and to seek various forms of Government assistance, while it is too apathetic to make two simple entries in an issue of forms and put them into the mail, postage payable on delivery.

American Bee Journal

At the end of 1960 the well-known magazine "American Bee Journal" will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its

founding. It is the oldest beekeeping journal in the English language.

We congratulate "American Bee Journal" on its fine record of service to the beekeeping craft, and we wish it every success in the years to come.

20 Years Ago

The possibilities in beekeeping were the subject of an address in Ruatoria by Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor for the Hawkes Bay district.

Mr. Westbrooke had made a tour in the district and up some of the fertile valleys, and thought that the country was capable of carrying over 1000 hives. White clover was in abundance and the bees now under regulation were storing honey in large quantities.

(From a report published in "The N.Z. Beekeeper," January, 1940)

NICHOLAS' FOR FOUNDATION AND BEE SUPPLIES

— Rail Wax to Henderson Station and advise —

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New Address: 11 COLVIL AVENUE, HENDERSON



★ EMPLOYMENT ★

Young man wanted to assist with queen raising and honey production. Some experience desirable; good working conditions.

BATES' APIARIES,
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UP TO 200 HIVES OF BEES
UP TO 200 HIVES OF BEES
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Lower half of North Island.
Fullest particulars to:

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THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER.

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SHEPHERD AND HILL APIARIES,
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★ FOR SALE ★

One Diehl Hive Lifter. Steel levelling arms and two spares, also an extra set of Super Grippers for working hive endwise; £35.

One Set of Comb Foundation Embossing Rollers, in perfect order. Offers wanted.

One Pender Hot Top Cappings Reducer, with stand and extras, £25.

K. EVERETT,
Centre Bush, No. 2 R.D., Winton.

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£1/5/-. Post Free.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.
Mail your order now to:

J. DARBY,
Hilltop Apiaries, R.D., Bombay.

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:

THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

(Uncut rolls of matting cloth are no longer available).

QUEENS QUEENS

All Autumn Queens sold. Thanks for orders. Hope they perform up to expectations.

Inquiries invited for Spring delivery.

CHRIS DAWSON,
11 Cain Street, Timaru.

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(An Organisation for the advancement of
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'Better Beekeeping — Better Marketing'

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Up to	£ s. d.	Up to	£ s. d.
60 colonies	10 0	330 colonies	2 15 0
(minimum)		360 colonies	3 0 0
90 colonies	15 0	390 colonies	3 5 0
120 colonies	1 0 0	420 colonies	3 10 0
150 colonies	1 5 0	450 colonies	3 15 0
180 colonies	1 10 0	480 colonies	4 0 0
210 colonies	1 15 0	510 colonies	4 5 0
240 colonies	2 0 0	540 colonies	4 10 0
270 colonies	2 5 0	570 colonies	4 15 0
300 colonies	2 10 0	600 colonies and over	(maximum) 5 0 0

An Associate Member shall pay 5/- per annum.



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Arranged by the Association and available to
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(Insurance is voluntary, but if taken, all
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The N.Z. Beekeeper

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Literary contributions and advertisements
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Dunedin, S.W.I., not later than the first of month
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Full Page	£6 0 0	Per Inch	10 0
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