

# *The New Zealand Beekeeper*

NOVEMBER 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

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Volume 22

November, 1960

Number 4

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## MESSAGE FROM DOMINION PRESIDENT

To the Members of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand,  
and All Other Beekeeper Readers of the Journal

Fellow Producers,

I am sure Mr. Fraser would wish to join me in thanking the electors for returning us both to the Authority with such handsome majorities. Many have expressed the hope that the general change in the Administration of the Industry's affairs will be the beginning of a new era for the beekeepers of New Zealand. We are conscious of the responsibility that is ours to see these hopes are realised, and we start with the knowledge that never before have the Authority and the National Beekeepers' Association been integrated in such a manner as has now occurred, and while doubtless we shall have our strong differences of opinion, I trust we shall all work together for the common good.

To Mr. Wallace Nelson, who has given service to our Industry for 28 years without previous defeat, a record unequalled on producer bodies, I give thanks for long and untiring efforts, and I am happy to do so, on behalf of us all. He will wish us well in our continuing efforts, and we all hope he, and Mr. Chudley, will enjoy their years of retirement.

We welcome Mr. Gosse, the new Authority Manager. We know his is no easy task, but if he can do well for us he should not find beekeepers ungrateful.

The Secretary, the Vice-President, and I are meeting in Wellington to discuss with Mr. Greig and others urgent problems of the Industry with which we shall acquaint you very shortly. From that meeting we proceed to the first meeting of the new Honey Marketing Authority, which has been delayed by the considerable time taken in the gazetting of new members.

I do hope the coming season will be a good one for us all.

J. R. BARBER, President,  
National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.



#### H.M.A. Election

At the recent election for two producer representatives on the Honey Marketing Authority, Messrs J. R. Barber and J. W. Fraser were the successful candidates. The result of the poll is as follows:—

J. R. Barber	1214
R. D. Bennie	372
J. W. Fraser	1136
W. W. Nelson	798
T. F. Penrose	810

The term of the appointments is three years. The other two seats for producers, at present held by Messrs G. E. Gumbrell and W. T. Herron, come up for election next year. The fifth member of the Authority is the Government nominee, Mr. K. B. Longmore.

#### Membership Records

A new system whereby membership records and subscription accounts will be prepared at Head Office has been introduced by the General Secretary. Branch Secretaries have been given details of the change which is designed to assist Branches and simplify the records of the Association. Members should pay subscriptions and insurances as usual to the Branch Secretaries.

#### Field Day Notice

On the first Saturday in March the North Otago Branch will hold its Field Day (see Branch Notes). Please keep this date free so that all hands can converge on Elderslie.

#### Bee Research Association

The B.R.A. now allows a discount to Beekeepers' Associations which choose to stock all, or some, of their literary productions. Particulars of the scheme, together with a list of the publications available, can be obtained by Branches of the N.B.A. from the Hon. Publications Secretary, Mrs. Betty M. Showler, 11 Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent.



Mr. C. T. Gosse, recently appointed Manager of the Honey Marketing Authority.

#### New Authority Members

The 1960 election has brought two new producer representatives to the Honey Marketing Authority in Messrs J. R. Barber and J. W. Fraser. Mr. Fraser has been a member of the Authority for the past four years as a nominee of the National Beekeepers' Association—an office which has now been terminated following the report of the Honey Marketing Investigation Committee and with the approval of the Dominion Conference. Mr. Barber, at present Dominion President of the Association, has a long record of administrative work in the beekeeping industry. Both Mr. Fraser and Mr. Barber are familiar with the operations of the Authority since its inception and are well known to honey producers throughout the Dominion. In the recent election their nominations received the endorsement of the Dominion Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association.

The two previous members of the Authority who were not re-elected on

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this occasion were Messrs W. W. Nelson and W. B. Bray, each of whom has given a long period of service in the honey industry. Mr. Nelson has been associated with marketing since the first efforts at co-operative marketing in New Zealand. He was Chairman of the Honey Control Board and later a member of the Honey Marketing Committee and he was an original member of the present Marketing Authority. Mr. Bray, whose association with beekeeping goes back to 1908, has long been known as one of the most capable and outspoken members of the Association. Elected to the Authority three years ago he was unable for health reasons to accept nomination at the 1960 poll. Both Mr. Nelson and Mr. Bray are Life Members of the National Beekeepers' Association.

## U.K. HONEY MARKET

Supplies of New Zealand white clover honey, which have been very short, have been made available in the United Kingdom and have met an eager demand at £170 a ton, states the London office of the Bank of New Zealand in its market survey, dated September 29, 1960.

Canadian white clover continues to be offered freely and large sales have been made at about £145 a ton. Australian light amber has been available at £90 a ton in small quantities, while the price for Argentine best white has advanced to £94 a ton c.i.f. London.

## Administration of Apiary Section

### EXPLANATION BY MINISTER

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,  
Wellington.

October 26, 1960.

The General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association of  
N.Z. Incorporated,

P.O. Box 19,

FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of September 16, 1960, concerning a resolution passed at your Association's recent Dominion Conference in regard to the Apiary Section of my Department.

The line of control for the Apiary Section is similar to other sections of my Department which also give an advisory service to primary producers. For all technical and urgent matters, Apiary Instructors are free to communicate direct with the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry who, in turn, is also free to communicate direct with them.

I am advised that there should be no cause for delay in dealing with any technical problem connected with your industry.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. SKINNER (signed),  
Minister of Agriculture.

## Cartage of Honey

### REPLY FROM MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

Minister of Railways Office,  
Wellington.

October 20, 1960.

R. A. Fraser Esq.,  
General Secretary,  
National Beekeepers' Association  
of New Zealand Inc.,

P.O. Box 19,  
FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

Your request that the Transport Regulations be altered to permit general carriers to carry honey from producers' honey houses to packing plants has been fully considered but I do not think that there is justification for this amendment.

At present producers have the right to carry their own honey by road for any distance; when they do not desire to run themselves, and the distance is over 30 miles, rail transport is used.

During the last 18 months the railways have had two claims for damage to tins of liquid honey, one concerning a consignment to Pleasant Point and the other to Ashburton, but in these instances the tins were not protected in any way. In most other parts of the country it is the practice to place tins of honey in cases for transport and there is then very little likelihood of damage. If this practice were adopted in Canterbury and South Canterbury there would be no difficulty there with rail transport.

There is already provision for carriers to make application to the Transport Licensing Authorities in any

particular case where rail transport may be considered to be unsuitable and I feel that the existing legislation covers the needs of the honey industry.

Yours sincerely,

M. MOOHAN,  
Minister of Railways.

**NOTE:** The General Secretary will be pleased to receive from Branches or members any useful evidence which will give further support to the Association's request.

### Apiaries Registration Fee

The General Secretary has advised the Minister of Agriculture of the Conference resolution supporting the introduction of an annual registration fee on apiaries and has asked for his approval of the proposal in principle. A detailed plan can then be formulated and examined fully by the Executive before being implemented.

### Grocers' Price Lists

On September 22 the Trade Practices Appeal Authority disallowed an appeal by the N.Z. Master Grocers' Federation and the Master Grocers' Associations of Auckland and Canterbury against an order which forbade members of the Federation and Associations to sell goods only at prices or on terms agreed on among them. The Authority allowed the appeal in respect of the Wellington and Otago Associations as it had been shown that grocers in those districts were selling more than 16 per cent of the lines stocked at other than list prices, and therefore no substantial agreement could be said to exist.

Commenting on the decision, Mr.

R. M. Barker, Secretary of the Master Grocers' Federation, expressed dissatisfaction with the position and advocated amendments to the Trade Practices Act.

### Canadian Administration

The Canadian Beekeepers' Council is financed through a container levy contribution plan. At present one-tenth of a cent per pound is collected—only two dollars on a ton of honey. Up until this time collections have been handled by the Continental Can Co., who have given strong support to Canadian honey publicity, and your national association.

—From the Council Bulletin, 15/8/1960.

### International Beekeepers' Week

Beekeepers' Associations in many countries, under the auspices of Apimondia, celebrated International Beekeepers' Week from November 13 to 20, 1960. The aim of this annual "Week" is to publicise beekeeping in relation to agriculture and the use of honey and other bee products.

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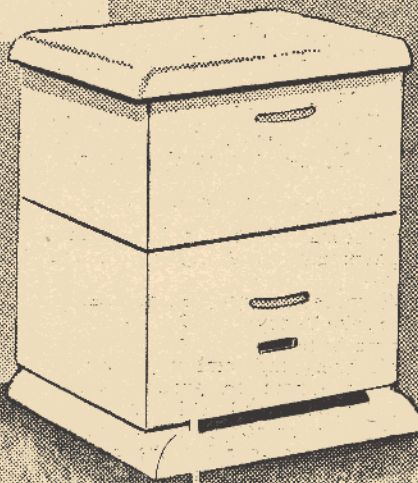
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# HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After considerable difficulty in securing the gazettement of the newly elected members the Authority met in Auckland on November 2 and 3. This was the first meeting since Messrs Barber and Fraser had been officially appointed to the Authority. It was also the first meeting that the new Manager, Mr. C. T. Gosse, had attended since he took full charge on November 1. At the election of officers, Mr. G. E. Gumbrell was elected Chairman and Mr. J. W. Fraser Deputy Chairman.

### Payout and Supply Conditions

After perusal of the draft accounts final payments were agreed to as follows:—

On all graded honey	4½d pro rata
On manuka honey	3d flat
On birch honey	4d flat

This will bring the total payments to 1s. 2½d. pro rata on graded honey, 9d. on manuka, and 11d. on birch. Birch and manuka returns show a slight reduction on last year but the returns on graded honies have been maintained. It must be remembered that last year's return included a contract premium which no longer exists.

For the coming season it has been decided to maintain the advance payment of 10d. pro rata for graded honey, 7d. for birch, and 6d. for manuka. As an added aid to producers it was agreed to make an initial advance of 3d. if required as soon as the honey

was tinned and suitable application made to the Authority. Full details as to methods of application will be set out in the circular to producers inviting supplies.

### The Packing Plant and the Second Pack

A detailed inspection of the plant and premises was conducted and it was decided to make certain improvements to the plant to enable the packed honey lines to be kept at the desired standard.

### Local Sales

From information available it would appear that there is an overall increase in local consumption of honey. The Authority will endeavour to maintain a policy to encourage this expansion of trade and it is evident that quality in packing is a very desirable factor in maintaining public demand. Our agent continues to do a good job and the second pack appears to be making steady progress. Leading wholesalers estimated that the consumption of darker honies now approximates 40% of the total consumed in the Auckland district.

### The Export Market

There was a token quantity of white honey sent to Kimptons which was sold at very satisfactory prices. We hope that the coming year will see larger supplies of this class of honey which is readily saleable on the London market. Considerable quantities of

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Apart from a small quantity of manuka honey, we will enter the New Year with almost bare floors.

### The Building

The demand for storage space continues to grow and very satisfactory returns are being obtained from the letting of unwanted space.

### Valedictory

During the meeting an opportunity was taken to say farewell to Mr. W. H. Chudley who has retired from the position of manager. A presentation was made by members of the Authority and appreciation of his services was placed on record. Reference was also made to Mr. W. W. Nelson who had served the beekeeping industry for over 25 years in various capacities and who for the last two years had been Chairman of this Authority. Reference was also made to Mr. W. B. Bray, who, owing to health reasons, did not seek re-election.

G. E. GUMBRELL,

Chairman,

New Zealand Honey Marketing  
Authority.

### VISITORS PLEASE NOTE

Visitors are welcome at the Authority's building and our new Manager is desirous of meeting as many beekeepers as possible. It would be appreciated if you would first call at the office when arrangements can be made to deal with any enquiries you may wish to make and to conduct you through the building.

### FAREWELL FUNCTION

On the afternoon of Monday, October 31, a pleasant function was held in the offices of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority at Auckland when the staff farewelled Mr. W. H. Chudley, the retiring Manager of the Authority.

Presentations were made to both Mr. and Mrs. Chudley by Mr. D. B. McLaren, Chief Clerk of the Authority, with references to the service Mr. Chudley had given to the Industry. Best

wishes were expressed by the staff for a long and happy retirement. Other speakers were Mr. W. W. Nelson, former Chairman of the Authority, and Mr. C. T. Gosse, the new Manager.

### Nine Frame Spacer

It is best to use only nine frames in extracting supers, to get thick, easily uncapped combs. Some beekeepers use all 10 frames if they contain only foundation, but I have used nine frames of foundation with good results, provided the frames are spaced properly.

It is time-consuming to space the frames by hand when supering, and the result is inaccurate. A frame spacer can be made in only a few minutes, and saves lots of time in the apiary.

Cut 10 pieces from a strip of wood exactly 7/16-inch thick, each piece about two inches long. Put a blunt point on each piece. Nail them between two strips of wood, leaving 1 1/8-inch between each peg. One quick swipe with this and your nine frames are spaced perfectly.

—R. Taylor, in 'Gleanings.'

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Department  
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Agriculture

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### CONTROL OF BEE DISEASES

American Foul Brood, *Bacillus larvæ*, which was introduced into New Zealand with imported bees many years ago, is the most serious disease of bees in New Zealand. Methods of dealing with bee diseases in recent years have been successful in reducing the incidence of American Foul Brood to low proportions in the main honey producing areas. Experience has shown, however, that to hold the present level of disease and ultimately eradicate this bacterial disease from the country, strict control measures, based on a policy of burning infected hives must be continued.

The first consideration of the beekeeper is to maintain healthy stocks of bees. This can only be achieved when all beekeepers make periodical inspection of their hives during the breeding season and deal promptly with any brood troubles found. The beekeeper who gives his bees proper attention is a benefactor to his neighbour beekeepers but, as he has no control of the flight of his bees, he must run the risk of their contracting infectious disease unless all other beekeepers in the neighbourhood co-operate. Without efficient organisation and a widespread knowledge of the destructive nature of the diseases affecting bees, it is difficult for even an efficient beekeeper to carry on successfully over a long period. He cannot take precautions against his neighbour's carelessness. His is a losing battle unless the State gives him legal protection.

The Apiaries Act, 1927, and the regulations thereunder are administered by the Department of Agriculture, and were designed to enable the maximum of protection and service to be applied to the beekeeping industry for the economic production of honey and beeswax.

All persons owning hives of bees should be thoroughly familiar with the requirements embodied in the Apiaries Act, 1927, and its subsequent amendments. The main points affecting all beekeepers are summarised briefly as follows:—

**All Hives** of bees must be registered with the Department of Agriculture and it is the responsibility of the owner to see that this is done.

**All Bees** must be kept in hives fitted with proper moveable frames in which the combs are built in such a way that they can readily be removed from the hive for examination without cutting or breaking.

**Bees, Bee-combs and Appliances** must not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of for removal without first obtaining a removal permit from the Apiary Instructor for the district.

**Bees, Bee-combs and Appliances** must not be moved from one property to another to establish a new apiary without a permit as in the above paragraph—except that were they are free from disease they may be moved between a beekeeper's own registered apiaries.

**Diseases** . . . The Apiary Instructor must be notified of the presence of bee disease within seven days after its first becoming apparent.

**Where Disease** has become apparent in an apiary the beekeeper must take all precautions to prevent bees from gaining access to infected material from a diseased colony i.e. honey, combs, supers, frames, etc.

**Hives** must at all times be kept free from overgrowth by vegetation or from other obstruction which would impede or prevent inspection.

**Penalties** upon conviction for infringement of the various provisions of the Apiaries Act, 1927, are established at maximums of £20 to £50 pounds.

**Further Information** regarding the provisions of the Apiaries Act is readily available from the local Apiary Instructor.

As in past seasons a number of competent beekeepers have been appointed as Part-time Apiary Inspectors for the current season to assist Apiary Instructors in seasonal apiary inspection work.

With the Department's inspection programme and with all beekeepers co-operating by being their own inspectors, it is expected that this activity would result in a considerable reduction in the over-all incidence of bee diseases.

#### STAFF

Mr. D. W. A. Seal, Apiary Instructor, Invercargill, resigned from the service of the Department in September to take up commercial beekeeping on the West Coast. He leaves the service with our best wishes, and appreciation of his assistance to the Beekeeping Industry and to the Department.

Mr. G. D. Jeffery, Instructor in Apiculture, Oamaru, will attend to apiary inspection and any urgent matters at Invercargill periodically until a fresh appointment is made to fill the vacancy for the Southland district, which is being advertised. Meantime beekeepers in the Southland Apiary District should continue to address all correspondence to the Apiary Instructor, at Invercargill as usual.

#### TESTING QUEEN BEES

Arrangements have been made to investigate methods for measuring the worth of different strains of bees for honey production. For this purpose 10 queen bees, two from each of five distinct strains, will be introduced to hives in an apiary to be located near Oamaru. The characteristics of these queens and their progeny will be compared and evaluated during the next two seasons.

It is hoped that this work will assist producers who are having difficulty in producing queens up to the required standard by their present methods of selecting breeder stock.

E. SMAELLIE, Superintendent Beekeeping Industry.

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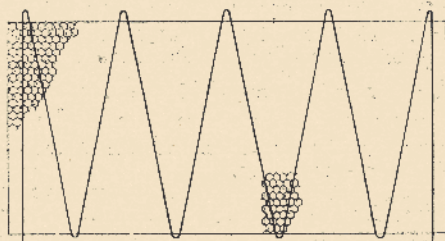
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## ACARINE MITES

The recent discovery in Australia of a form of acarine mite in a consignment of New Zealand bees has caused deep concern to the Executive for the following reasons:—

(1) It appears that an infestation present in New Zealand bees has escaped detection in this country.

(2) There is a fear that the particular species now identified might have some relation to the serious form of acarine disease and should be given a strict investigation.

(3) It is felt strongly that the laboratory and diagnostic services available to the industry should be expanded and improved without further delay to provide an adequate check on bee diseases.

In response to urgent representations made to the Department of Agriculture by the General Secretary the following explanatory article has been prepared by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer at Wallaceville.

### DISCOVERY OF HARMLESS ACARINE MITES IN NEW ZEALAND

All beekeepers have heard of the mite, *Acarapis woodi*, which enters the prothoracic tracheae of honey bees and causes acarine or Isle of Wight disease. Happily this serious bee disease is unknown in New Zealand.

It is not so widely known that harmless species of acarine mites are also found on bees. *Acarapis externus* occurs on the neck and *Acarapis dorsalis* on the dorsal groove of the thorax. It should be clearly understood that these harmless mites are incapable of causing acarine disease and a bee infested with them is no more susceptible to acarine disease than an uninfested bee. The harmless acarine mites are world wide in distribution and have been reported in Europe, Canada, and the U.S.A. In Canada and the U.S.A. the dangerous mites have not been discovered and acarine disease is unknown.

*Acarapis woodi*, the mite which causes acarine disease, can easily be

detected by routine dissection. Since the Wallaceville Bee Laboratory was opened 16 years ago all samples of bees forwarded from hives showing symptoms of distress have been examined for acarine disease as a routine. In this period thousands of bees from all parts of New Zealand have been examined with negative results.

Recently a small shipment of queen bees consigned to Australia from New Zealand was destroyed because the quarantine authorities there discovered acarine mites externally on the escort bees. A subsequent investigation of the apiaries from which the escort bees came showed that the bees were infested with the harmless external acarine mite *Acarapis externus*. Later this mite was found in an apiary in another district and is no doubt widespread.

A short time previously the Australian authorities acted similarly when external mites were found on an escort of a queen bee imported into Australia from California. A follow up investigation in the U.S.A. showed the presence of the harmless *Acarapis Externus* and *Acarapis dorsalis* in the apiaries from which the escort bees came.

The industry has nothing to fear from the harmless acarine mites already in the country, since in no case have they been found to enter the tracheae of the bee and cause damage.

T. PALMER-JONES,  
Wallaceville Bee Laboratory.

### Dominion Executive

The usual November Executive Meeting has been held over pending developments on 1960 Conference resolutions which are under action. However the President, Vice-President and General Secretary had the opportunity of meeting in Wellington early in November when a number of matters were to be discussed with the Director of Horticulture.



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#### SOUTH AUCKLAND

South Auckland beekeepers have had their opinions confirmed regarding the use of hormone weedkillers, and 2,4-D in superphosphates.

The South Auckland branch received a letter at a recent meeting from Dr. E. J. Dyce, professor of apiculture, Cornell University, U.S.A.

He said that, as far as he had been able to determine, 2,4-D is not toxic to bees, but it certainly plays havoc with clovers and the secretion of nectar in practically all honey-producing flora. The drifting of even a slight amount of 2,4-D on flora apparently stops nectar secretion. Even though the plants do not appear to be damaged, nectar secretion is stopped, Dr. Dyce said.

The branch considered that farmers should be acquainted with the serious repercussions which could result from the application of 2,4-D or toxic pesticides during November, December and January. The regeneration of pastures could be retarded, and the production of clover seed, which is so important in the fattening of stock, could practically cease.

—Straight Furrow, 19/10/1960.

#### HAWKES BAY

Here's an item of news which I saw last week for the first time: We in the North Island don't look upon the little brown-back ant (about 3/16in long) as a very troublesome critter. There are the rare occasions when they have scented out the locality of a pot of jam, or in my case a thin black line of them came up the front door steps, crossed the hall into the kitchen and found their way to a 60lb tin of honey where many met a gooey death, but

others returned home to tell the tale.

Yesterday at somebody's apiary, there was seen a strange procession of a whole regiment of ants going in and out of a hive entrance and they were carrying out hundreds of eggs (bees) and larvae—two or three days old from the egg stage. To help the bees to hold the fort for the present, a super was removed to crowd the bees.

Today, I went there with a shovel to turn over the soil, some waste oil to soak four bricks with, and the bearers of the bottom board would be oiled also. To my surprise—not an ant could be seen—either their nefarious occupation had been too much for their conscience, or our disturbance of the hive, gave them an ominous feeling. A domestic beekeeper at Wairoa has to take the precaution of placing the legs of the honeytank stand in tins of water, and this keeps the ants out.

The days are now almost hot, swarm-cells are appearing, so we are all busy at something, when not cutting lawns.

—Contributed.

#### CANTERBURY

Bees buzzing fitfully in the background provided a realistic setting for the annual spring field day of the Canterbury branch, held in a sheltered garden on the premises of the Rangiora beekeepers, Miss M. A. Shepherd and Mr. Clarrie Hill. Occasionally the bees flitted among the spectators seated on forms arranged on the lawn, and one man pulled his coat over his head.

The field day attracted an attendance of more than 100 with visitors from the West Coast, Nelson, Marlborough and South Canterbury. Among these were a number who engage in beekeeping as a spare-time hobby. These included a Timaru printer and a station employee from the Clarence bridge district.

Miss Shepherd, on whose premises the field day was held, followed proceedings from a wheel chair. She has been beekeeping for more than 50 years and before she began collecting honey she was a queen breeder and imported queens from America. The president of the branch, Mr. P. R. Robins, of Tai Tapu, recalled having attended a field day 30 years ago when Miss Shepherd was secretary.

Mr. Clarrie Hill has been associated with Miss Shepherd for 30 years and the partnership now has some 900 hives. Mr. Hill conducted the visitors over his honey house with its large extractor, honey tanks, a machine for taking off about a ton of honey a day in 1lb and 2lb pots and storage facilities with provision for warming the honey.

Alan Hill, Mr. Hill's young son, gave one of the practical demonstrations of the field day. It was of the electric embedding of sheets of foundation wax on wire frames. The wires when heated electrically fuse into the wax.

In opening the field day Mr. W. H. Gillespie, M.P., said that he had hives from Miss Shepherd and Mr. Hill on his property to help him with his white clover, emphasising the interdependence of the general farmer and the beekeeper. Mr. Gillespie said that the field day was largely educational in character and as in other branches of farming it was essential in beekeeping for beekeepers to keep abreast with scientific developments to hold their place in the world.

Spectators looked with a good deal of admiration on a demonstration of wiring of frames without use of tacks or hammer, usually considered tools of trade in this operation, by Mr. E. W. Elliott, of Amberley.

The impact of labour-saving devices on beekeeping was brought home by a demonstration by Mr. Kevin Ecroyd of a mechanical loader which lifted three boxes of honey on a pallet and carried them up a ramp on to a truck. Spectators said that the loader could be a great boon to beekeepers in moving hives, which was normally a job for two men.

Mr. F. Armstrong, of Cashmere, was judged winner of a competition for the best idea or gadget displayed at the field day. Mr. T. E. Pearson, of Darfield, explained that the Sargeant Memorial Cup for this competition had been given for the most points in the

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honey section in the Christchurch show, but because of waning support for the section the Canterbury A. and P. Association had asked for a ruling on the future of the trophy. The Beekeepers' Association had decided to repossess the cup and award it for this competition at the field day.

Mr. Armstrong's exhibit was a spring clip with neatly filed and indexed articles on beekeeping extracted from the "Journal of Agriculture." Among exhibits in this section was a miniature fence to keep destructive mice out of beehives. An exhibit which also aroused interest, was a flimsy grey wasp net as started by a queen wasp after coming out of hibernation. It was brought to the field day from Blackball.

Mr. Pearson, representative of the National Beekeepers' Association on the new Agricultural Chemicals Board which came into operation this year, said he believed that with some precautions beekeepers could live with these chemicals which were of great benefit to farming and the country as a whole.

—"Christchurch Press."

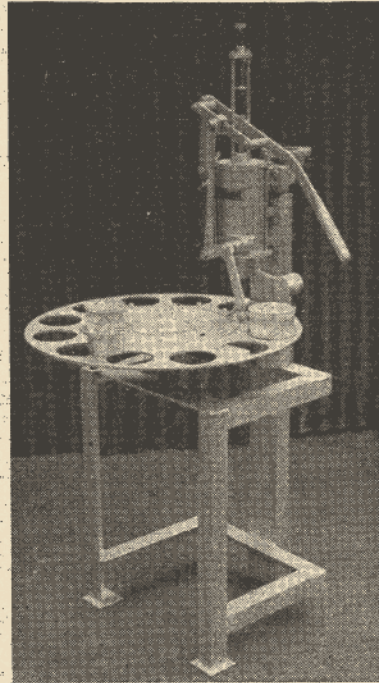
#### WEST COAST

Late autumn on the Coast was mild and the bees, particularly those colonies headed by yellow queens, kept breeding well on to winter. There was no very dirty weather and I believe we had the best conditions for the whole of New Zealand.

Spring blossom came early. Willow (although there is not much here) finished mid-September. I do not remember ever having seen such a show of kowhai and clematis; some valleys looked as if there had been a fall of snow, and the blossom lasted well.

The result of all this good weather was that the spring inspection showed large quantities of field bees, and in many cases insufficient stores.

Bata, that tantalising bloom, is again playing tricks. Deer cullers and bush men have brought home evidence that it commenced to bloom in mid-October and they report plenty of flowers in some high areas. This is most unusual as it seldom appears much before mid-December. I do not know whether the bees are working if or not. Another week and birch, kamahi, etc., will be plentiful.



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The art of management was the main theme of a talk by Instructor R. Hobbs at a recent gathering—especially to plan and do as much as possible ahead of time. This is a very useful thought which should be borne in mind by every beekeeper.

—Tom Holland, 31/10/1960.

#### NORTH OTAGO

We have had a real good willow flow here this year, one of those we usually dream about, in fact it makes one wonder which is the worst at this time of the year, too much or too little honey on the hives. The prospects for the season are good at the moment. Another inch of rain would be welcome as inland the sunny faces are inclined to be drying off a bit, but on the coast it is very good and there is a real surplus of feed. The big nodding thistle that saved the day for us last season is going ahead in leaps and bounds. It is going to be a major problem in North Otago but is a boon to the beekeepers as yet.

Please note that we propose to hold our Field Day at Elderslie on the first Saturday in March and as we have a hall handy the function will be held wet or fine.

—H. S. Wilson.

#### OTAGO

A meeting of Otago beekeepers arranged by the Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. W. A. Seal, was held in Dunedin on September 16. The main part of the programme was an illustrated address by Mr. Seal on the identification of bee diseases and following this there was an open forum on all aspects of beekeeping. The lecture and the discussion proved interesting and helpful to all present.

Prior to supper being served by the local Branch, the Vice-President, Mr. D. Stewart, mentioned that Mr. Seal was about to leave the Department and he took the opportunity of thanking him for his services to beekeepers in the area and particularly for his interest and assistance in the activities of the Branch. Mr. Seal was at all times most helpful at meetings and Field Days conducted by the Association in his district. Those present joined in expressing their appreciation and extending to him every good wish for the future.

### Obituary



Mr. B. T. CLOAKE

The early generation of beekeepers in New Zealand lost one of its members when Mr. B. T. Cloake, of Springbrook, St. Andrews, South Canterbury, died on September 7.

He was born in Cornwall in 1883, and quite early in life found a way, without getting stung, of delving into his father's hives and removing a section of honey to eat straight away.

In 1912 he emigrated to New Zealand to the Winchester settlement, near Temuka. He took a position as teamster at St. Andrews and later at Holme Station. By the following year he had managed to earn enough to send for his wife and daughter, and upon their arrival he worked at Simon's Pass Station in the Mackenzie Country. In 1921 they bought the property at Springbrook, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Cloake died in 1948.

Beekeeping was started by catching swarms and some colonies bought from Mr. Pearce, of Gleniti (near Timaru). These, Mr. Cloake took home in a spring cart at the end of January and later extracted a super of honey from each colony. His apiaries increased until he was handling about 400 colonies. In those days, he sold all his honey to the H.P.A., but in 1930 he went for a trip to England, and on his return

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

started packing honey in cartons. He invented a very effective machine for cutting honey into one pound blocks ready for packing.

Whilst always taking a live interest in the activities of the local Branch of the Beekeepers' Association, he rarely took any part in administration.

In 1949 he retired from active beekeeping, when his son Harry Cloake took over all except the home apiary. In his retirement, he concentrated on the rearing of breeder queens, and by selective breeding was able to produce a line of queens that was in demand all over New Zealand. Some of his queens were sent to Australia and the progeny of one of his queens won the Blue Ribbon of Sydney Royal Show. Although he imported some queens from America about 1939, he was not enthusiastic about what he received.

In recent years, his queens were used in an attempt to establish bees in the Chatham Islands.

Shortly after coming to New Zealand, he took up photography as a hobby, and some of the photos made with his half plate camera still give testimony to the excellent quality of his work. He later became a colour slide and movie enthusiast, and his 8 m.m. film on beekeeping has been declared by many who have seen it to be a masterpiece of patience and photographic skill. At the time of his death, he had partly completed a new 16 m.m. film on his favourite topic, "Bees."

His wide circle of friends held him in high regard because of his very happy nature and his earnest desire to help his fellow men.

—C.D.

### Mr. EDWARD SIMPSON

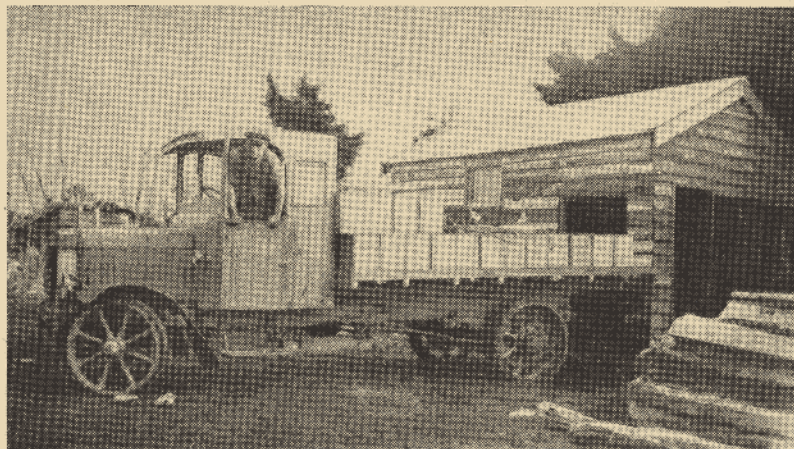
A pioneer in South Canterbury beekeeping, Mr. Edward Simpson, died suddenly in his garden at Woodbury, Geraldine, on September 23. Born at Nottingham, England, in 1875, he emigrated to New Zealand in 1897 on the S.S. Rotomahana, a combined steam and sailing ship. He took up beekeeping for a living in 1911 after a season of practical experience with the late Mr. Clayton, of Peel Forest.

Mr. Simpson established his first apiary at Orari Gorge with bees purchased from the late Eleanor Howard Tripp. That was in the horse and dray era of beekeeping and many were the stories of horses bolting and leaving a trail of hives or honey strewn along the way, to be retrieved later after dark.

Of a quiet unassuming disposition, he travelled widely both in New Zealand and overseas. In July, 1933, he reared queen bees at Raratonga, Cook Islands, from breeders he had brought from Roots in the United States. A lover of our native birds and bush, he was always concerned for their preservation for future generations. He was a keen bowler and played on greens all over the world, including that at Plymouth Hoe, of Sir Francis Drake fame.

Mr. Simpson's second wife died on July 12 last. He is survived by a daughter and three sons, one of whom, Mr. Arnold Simpson, now President of the South Canterbury Branch, is carrying on the beekeeping business established at Woodbury in 1911.

Below: Load of honey leaving a South Canterbury honey house many years ago.



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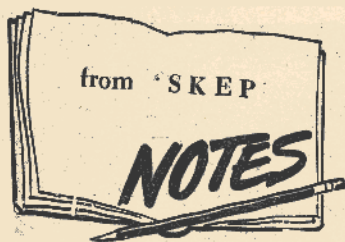
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## for Beginners

This period of the year is full of interest for the bee-keeper and much can be achieved by methodically checking your hives to ensure they have adequate stores of honey and pollen.

### **The Importance of Good Queens**

With ample stores of pollen and honey, queens should be laying to maximum capacity, during November and December.

An old queen rarely maintains her egg laying for a long period, and if not superseded, is prone to swarm, just prior to your main honey flow. The commercial honey producer whose livelihood is at stake, pays particular attention to eliminating swarming by the use of young queens, and gives every encouragement for brood rearing.

Given favourable weather and good nectar secretion a satisfactory crop of honey is assured.

### **Uniting Your Weak Colonies**

Don't hesitate to unite your weaker colonies—numbers are **not** important!

Five strong colonies will yield three or four times as much surplus honey as 10 hives lacking in an adequate force of bees and brood.

Have you experienced a sense of pride and satisfaction in having your hives in tip top condition for the honey flow?

To me, this is a fundamental prerequisite to good beekeeping and can bring great pleasure.

### **Putting on the Empties and Removing the Full Supers of Honey**

Good judgment is required to super adequately, as a great deal depends on the weather conditions and the rate of the flow!

Do **not** over super as this appears to retard the bees, for they have to keep a greater area warm and the tendency is for the queen to lay in

your extracting combs and desert the brood chamber.

An inspection at fortnightly intervals will in most districts be sufficient to ensure that the bees have sufficient room. Old combs particularly should not be placed on top of honey to be extracted.

Lift off your third super, and place these underneath and so avoid dust and wax particles being carried down into the uncapped cells.

### **When to Start Extracting**

The commencement of your extracting will largely depend on the availability of your spare combs and supers, but it has been found that bees will more readily fill combs that have recently been extracted. I start extracting when my hives are four storey and return the wets (or as the Aussies say, stickies) as soon as possible, provided of course the honey flow is still on.

Take care to handle your supers of full combs carefully.

When removing them from your hives work quickly and methodically and cover as soon as possible, to avoid undue disturbance and robbing.

If you are not sure how to do all these things efficiently might I suggest you contact a neighbouring beekeeper; offer to lend a hand during his busy period.

He may welcome the opportunity for additional assistance and you will benefit by the knowledge and confidence gained.

As I've also previously suggested you can ask your local apiary instructor to advise you. I'm pleased to assure you that the great majority of commercial honey producers will be happy to help you.

Christmas is close at hand and I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Cheerio for now.

—Skep.



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## Obnoxious Term

The matter of bee diseases was discussed at the annual meeting of the Victorian Apiarists' Association.

Following a question about the use of the term "foulbrood" in publications by the Department of Agriculture, Mr. M. W. Morgan said that the N.S.W. Department now used the terms American Brood Disease or European Brood Disease. It was the horrible word "foulbrood" which had a bad effect. The word was obnoxious and it was time that it was dropped from references to the disease. The N.S.W. Department's latest edition of "Bees and Honey" had eliminated the term "foulbrood."

On the motion of Mr. W. Cane, seconded by Mr. R. A. Peacock, it was resolved that the Victorian Department of Agriculture be asked to eliminate the term "foulbrood" from all its publications and reports.

—*"Australian Bee Journal."*

## Bee Brood as Food

An article on this subject by B. Hocking and F. Matsumura, in "Bee World" of May, 1960, concludes with the following summary:—

About 130 tons of bee brood, mainly pupae, goes to waste in the Canadian prairie provinces every year. This is shown to be a valuable human food, with up to 18% protein, 119 International Units of vitamin A and 7000 I.U. of vitamin D per gram. Methods of preservation and preparation were tested; the baked product appealed most to women and the deep-fat fried product to men. Initial reluctance to eat these products proved easier to overcome than was expected.

## Spray Poisoning in Sweden

In the late 1940s and early 1950s very great damage was caused to beekeeping in Sweden by insecticides. During the last five years, however, there have been far fewer cases of bee poisoning. This is due both to legal measures and to the increased understanding among farmers of the importance of beekeeping. The bee protection law, issued in 1953, prohibits the use of insecticides poisonous to honeybees and bumble bees on bee plants in flower.

In 1959 only 20 cases of bee poisoning were reported to the Bee Division of the National Animal Experiment Station. They occurred in 32 apiaries, with about 400 poisoned colonies. Most of the poisoning was caused by BHC and parathion, dusted on rape or turnip rape when the fields had just begun to flower—in other words, contrary to the law. Spraying and dusting of flowering plants may be permitted by the authorities exceptionally, but poisons which are comparatively harmless to bees must usually then be used.

—B. Schwan in "Bee World."

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## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

Sir,

May I, through your columns, express my thanks to those who supported me in the recent election.

J. W. FRASER.

To the Editor:

Sir,

Now that another H.M.A. election has come and gone may I suggest to the new Authority two pertinent points to be considered by them seriously in the near future.

(1) That the voting roll be made public and published in the Journal. The position as in the past is not only most unsatisfactory but also most inconvenient.

(2) That the names of both nominator and seconder be published with the name of each electoral nominee.

I will freely admit the reticence of the average beekeeper to have his name in print but perhaps this would be a help to many not only to take an interest in their own affairs but also to speak up at meetings. I am, etc.,

F. J. GLASS.

To the Editor:

Sir,

Please allow me space to thank all those who supported me at the election for producer representatives to the Honey Marketing Authority.

I was unsuccessful but this does not lessen my great appreciation of the confidence that has been displayed in me by the Industry over a period of 28 years. During that time I have been privileged to serve continuously on the several marketing boards that have been in existence. Indeed I can go further and say with a feeling of pride that I have held at one time or another almost every executive position the Industry has had to offer over the past 35 years.

I have always held the view that organised marketing applied by a producer board and supported by the Government is essential to the prosperity of a primary industry. What

we have today in the Honey Marketing Authority may not be all that many would wish for but at least it is deserving of the support of the Industry until something better can be evolved that will provide greater marketing stability to producers. The alternative is chaos and eventual marketing control by outside vested interests.

To the young beekeepers who know nothing of conditions that existed in the Industry some 30 years ago let me say—"Listen to the voice of your elders. There is a certain wisdom that comes with age and experience."

—WALLACE NELSON.

To the Editor:

Sir,

May I through the Journal make reference to Paragraph 25 in the Report of the Honey Marketing Investigation Committee which reads: "The submissions the Committee received showed that there is a large body of opinion in the Auckland Province and in Southland, which urges that voting rights for members of the Authority should be confined to its suppliers. They contend that non-suppliers outnumber suppliers and dominate the Authority, that suppliers' honey is marketed by the Authority not to their best advantage but so as to interfere as little as possible with the market of the producer-packers."

As chairman of the meeting convened by the Gore Branch, N.B.A., some 12 months ago to make submissions to the Investigating Committee I am at a loss to understand why such a statement should be embodied in their report.

The meeting was probably the most representative of commercial beekeeping interests held in the province for many years and at no time was there any suggestion that such a submission as contained in Paragraph 25 be made.

I am not, Sir, competent to speak for Auckland provincial producers but I challenge the Committee to verify their statement as being a truly Southland representative view.

Or perhaps I am wrong and there may be those among us who prefer to remain silent at meetings and do their business under cover. I am, etc.,

F. J. GLASS.

# -CLASSIFIEDS-

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**N. Z. BEEKEEPER**

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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	5 0 0
		(maximum)	

An Associate Member shall pay 5/- per annum.



## Apiary Insurance

Arranged by the Association and available to  
all members.

Premium: 1/3 per apiary per annum.  
(Insurance is voluntary, but if taken, all  
of a member's apiaries must be covered.)

JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH  
AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS



## The N.Z. Beekeeper

This Journal is issued free to all beekeepers in  
New Zealand having 30 or more registered hives,  
and to others who are members of the National  
Beekeepers' Association.

Literary contributions and advertisements  
must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. J.  
McFadzien, 29 Nottingham Crescent, Calton Hill,  
Dunedin, S.W.1, not later than the first of month  
of publication.

Nom-de-plume letters must be signed by the  
writer and address given, not necessarily for  
publication, but as proof of good faith. Letters  
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### FRONT COVER PHOTO:

Can any of our readers  
tell what is going on in  
this pleasant rural set-  
ting. Perhaps someone  
can even recognise the  
place where the photo  
has been taken.

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