

The New Zealand Beekeeper

FEBRUARY 1961



The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

PRESIDENT:

Mr. J. R. Barber, *Pio Pio*

VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. J. W. Fraser, *Ryal Bush, No. 6 R.D., Invercargill*

EXECUTIVE: Mr. D. F. Penrose, *Southbridge R.D., Canterbury*

Mr. J. D. Lorimer, *Hoopers Road, Hamilton*

Mr. J. I. Jay, *Reporoa R.D.*

Mr. J. K. Bray, *Leeston, Canterbury*

GENERAL SECRETARY: Mr. R. A. Fraser, F.Comm.A., *P.O. Box 19, Foxton*

EDITOR: Mr. J. McFadzien, *29 Nottingham Cres., Calton Hill, Dunedin, S.W.1*

<i>Branch</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
FAR NORTH	Mr. W. G. McPherson, R.D. 111, Kaitaia	Mr. W. I. Haines, Bonnetts Road, Kaitaia
NORTHLAND	Mr. A. G. Tucker, 35 King Street, Whangarei	Mr. H. R. Holdaway, Alamein Ave., Onerahi, Whangarei
AUCKLAND CENTRAL	Mr. H. Belin, 88 East Coast Road, Milford	Mr. L. Reisterer, P.O. Box 45, Papatoetoe
SOUTH AUCKLAND	Mr. J. I. Jay, Reporoa R.D., Rotorua	Mr. T. S. Wheeler, Otewa Road, Otorohanga
BAY OF PLENTY	Mr. D. A. Barrow, Byecroft Avenue, Tauranga	Mr. A. H. Benson, No. 1 Rimu Street, Tauranga
HAWKE'S BAY	Mr. A. Foster, 400 Gascoigne Street, Hastings	Mrs. G. O. Dorward, P.O. Box 86, Havelock North
C/S. HAWKE'S BAY	Mr. D. L. Ward, Guy Street, Dannevirke	Mr. R. B. Jones, c/o. Hospital Board, Dannevirke
NELSON	Mr. L. T. Cropp, 7 Surrey Road, Richmond, Nelson	Mr. A. V. Hewlett, 11 Mules Street, Stoke, Nelson
WEST COAST	Mr. R. V. Glasson, Blackball	Mr. T. Holland, Weemink Road, Karoro, Greymouth
CANTERBURY	Mr. P. R. Robins, c/o. Post Office, Tai Tapu	Mr. D. G. King, P.O. Box 353, Christchurch
SOUTH CANTERBURY	Mr. A. H. Simpson, Main North Road, Geraldine	Mr. J. G. McKenzie, Bathgates Road, Waimate
NORTH OTAGO	Mr. W. Irving, P.O. Box 65, Kurow	Mr. H. S. Wilson, 2C R.D., Oamaru
OTAGO	Mr. E. Shepherd, 31 Warden Street, Dunedin	Mr. A. J. Shaw, 40 Signal Hill Road, Dunedin
GORE	Mr. F. J. Glass, Waikaka Val- ley, No. 5 R.D., Gore	Mr. C. R. Donaldson, Pomahaka R.D., Tapanui
SOUTHLAND	Mr. C. Cunningham, Winton, Southland	Mrs. A. W. Cranstoun, Beecroft, Hamilton Burn, No. 2 R.D., Lumsden

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 23

February, 1961

Number 1

1961 Crop Survey

In our May issue it is intended to conduct a survey of the Dominion honey crop for 1961. The general information gained will be helpful to the Marketing Authority in forming a prudent marketing policy and producers are therefore urged to support the survey in their own interests.

Executive Meeting

The Dominion Executive meets in Wellington on February 28 and March 1. On March 2 representatives of the Executive and the Honey Marketing Authority will meet the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. W. H. Gillespie, when the general position of the beekeeping industry will be reviewed and current matters discussed.

U.K. HONEY MARKET

The demand for New Zealand honey in the United Kingdom remains good, but supplies are short. In its latest market review, dated 27/1/1961, the London Office of the Bank of New Zealand states that New Zealand white clover is non-existent on the United Kingdom market at the moment. A line of New Zealand extra light amber sold recently at £175 a ton.

Australian light amber is quoted at £85 a ton, while Canadian white clover is offering at £138 to £145 a ton.

New Manager Visits South

The recently appointed Manager for the Honey Marketing Authority, Mr. Colin Gosse, paid a visit to South Island

beekeepers at the end of January. Field Days or meetings were attended in Southland, Otago, North Otago and South Canterbury, and Mr. Gosse was also able to meet many individual beekeepers by courtesy of the South Island Apiary Instructors.

Reports indicate that the visit has proved most helpful both to Mr. Gosse and to producers in the south and it



Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, new Chairman of
the Honey Marketing Authority.

has promoted a closer understanding of production and marketing aspects. The new Manager made an excellent impression in all districts and there is evidence of a general feeling of confidence in the work of the Authority.

Gift Parcel Scheme

A scheme has been introduced whereby persons in New Zealand may send gift tins of honey to individuals in the United Kingdom. Five pound tins of our finest light amber honey will be supplied through this scheme. The procedure is for the donor to write to the Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland, enclosing the sum of 12/6 per tin and giving full particulars of the person to whom they wish the honey sent. Personal messages may be enclosed for despatch with the gift.

Snowman Eludes Hillary

Sir Edmund Hillary returned to New Zealand during January after his Himalayan scientific visit and hunt for the "abominable snowman." From the failure to find a specimen of the yeti and from the information gleaned by the expedition it is now generally accepted that the "abominable snowman" can be regarded as a legendary figure.

Shortly Sir Edmund will be accompanied by Lady Hillary in their joint expedition to Nepal when both climbing and scientific work will be undertaken.

Weed Control by N.Z.R.

A new weedspray outfit, the second of its type to be constructed for New Zealand Railways, has arrived on the West Coast for permanent basing on Greymouth.

The new type has a capacity for 1200 gallons of water. This is mounted on a wagon and is drawn by a utility vehicle equipped with flanged wheels.

In all, the machinery weighs 12 tons, can cover 22 miles in a day, and has a speed of 10 miles an hour.

The 1200 gallons of water take 36 hundredweight of a weedkiller called atleclide, and a stirring mechanism is used to keep this in suspension.

The spray can be regulated so that only half of the track is treated and this

method is used when travelling long distances, so that on the return journey the other half of the track is sprayed.

Two sprayings are carried out each year, and following the spring operation the second takes place in the autumn.

Although this is only the second unit in the South Island—in the North Island weed spraying is carried out from a train—four more outfits are under construction and will be introduced in other areas.

—"Grey Evening Star," 8/11/1960.

Butter 'Spreadability'

New Zealand's butter manufacturers must give greater consideration to the manufacture of a more spreadable or plastic-bodied butter, says the annual report of the Department of Agriculture.

"It is a matter of economic importance to British housewives, rapidly becoming owners of domestic refrigerators, to spread butter thinly at between 40 and 45 degrees F," the report says.

The department's inspectors of dairy products in London have said in their reports:—

"Considerable emphasis is now being placed on spreadability and there can be no argument that there is opportunity and need for improvement in the texture of our butter. A few factories have achieved good results, but this matter is one which requires to be taken more seriously."

Acarine Precautions

In our November issue reference was made to correspondence between the Association and the Department of Agriculture regarding the extent of the diagnostic services available to the industry and the need for precautions against the possible introduction of Acarine disease. Subsequently the Dominion President, Vice-President and General Secretary met the Acting-Director General of Agriculture (Dr. I. J. Cunningham) and officers of the Department in Wellington, and the matter was fully discussed. Plans are now in hand to provide additional diagnostic facilities at certain provincial stations and to increase the services available for urgent work. It is intended that the scheme will operate through the district apiary instructors.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Hormonised Fertiliser

In response to the 1960 Conference remit seeking restrictions on the use of hormonised fertiliser the Agricultural Chemicals Board has advised that in view of the importance of hormone weedkillers in agriculture it is unable to impose restrictions on their use until there is clear evidence of their toxicity to bees. In order to throw more light on the matter the Board has set up a technical committee to examine the direct and indirect effects of hormone weedkillers on bees. The members of the committee are Messrs. A. M. W. Greig, chairman; R. Odnot (therapeutant specialist), L. J. Mathews (D.S.I.R.), T. Palmer-Jones (Wallaceville), R. Paterson (apiculturist), and a nominee of the Lands and Survey Department.

In reporting this decision the N.B.A. representative on the Board, Mr. T. E. Pearson, explained that the destruction of clover or other honey plants is a matter for the owner of the land and must be left to his discretion. The discussion, however, has been helpful to those concerned and it has now been found that weed control can be dealt with effectively much earlier than December—the trouble month a year ago.

The Conference remit also came before the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers in November when the N.B.A. representative, Mr. R. A. Fraser, assured members that it was not the wish of beekeepers to restrict unduly the use of chemical and hormone preparations and he was able to explain the Board's decision to set up an investigating committee. The statement was well received by the Council.

Detecting Apiaries

Branches have been asked to comment on a proposal which has been put to the Civil Aviation Administration by an aerial operator. In order to assist in the identification of apiaries from the air it is suggested that hive roofs be painted a distinctive colour and the surroundings be kept clear of rank growth. This, it is claimed, would facilitate compliance with the relevant regulations. The proposal is to be considered by the Executive at its meeting at the end of February.

FEBRUARY 1961



ITALIAN QUEENS

1960-61

Quantity	Untested	Tested	Select Tested
1	9/-	13/-	16/-
2	17/6	25/-	30/-
3	25/6	36/-	
4	33/-	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
10	77/6	110/-	
20 and over	— 150/- per 20.		

SELECTED UNTESTED: Add 1/- extra per Queen.

BREEDERS: £3/3/- each (when available).

DELIVERY: November to April.

TERMS: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added

Telegrams 1/- extra

Orders over 20 Airmailed free on request

Orders under 20, 2/2 extra

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.

Apply to —

F. D. WHITE

Commercial Queen Breeder,

P.O. Box 32,

KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND.



HONEY PRICES

Under the current Price Order No. 1718 the following prices are listed for honey in the various packs:—

Maximum Prices for Honey Sold Otherwise Than in Retail Containers:

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

Maximum Prices for Honey Packed in Retail Containers:

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

The full provisions of the Price Order were included in the August, 1957, issue of "The N.Z. Beekeeper" and copies are obtainable from The Price Tribunal. Comb honey and beeswax are not subject to price control.



**YOUR HONEY IS GOOD BUT MODERN SELLING
DEMANDS AN ATTRACTIVE PACK BRIGHTER PRINT
MONO CARTONS ARE YOUR BEST SALESMAN**

DOES YOUR DESIGN SELL YOUR HONEY?

FULL PARTICULARS FROM:-

**FOLEY BROS. (N.Z.) LTD., GRANDON HOUSE,
FEATHERSTON STREET, WELLINGTON.**

MONO (N.Z.) LTD.,

HIGHWAYS CORNER, PANMURE, AUCKLAND.

FEBRUARY 1961

1960 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Replies to Representations

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington,
October 31, 1960.

Mr. R. A. Fraser,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

I have considered the resolution passed at the Association's conference in favour of a registration fee for apiaries to provide funds for the Association.

Before agreeing to sponsor legislation providing for a fee payable to the Association, I would have to be assured that the proposal had been widely circulated and that a substantial majority of those directly affected supported the proposal. This is in line with the method adopted for establishing levies for producer organisations of fruit and vegetable growers.

It would also be necessary to ensure that the major purpose of the existing registration of apiaries for disease control was unaffected and that the collection of fees was not the responsibility of my department.

I suggest that you let me have more details of your proposals for the introduction of an apiary registration fee.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. SKINNER,
Minister of Agriculture.

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington,
November 7, 1960.

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

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of October 5 concerning the Seals Levy. I have considered the two resolutions passed at the Association's Dominion conference recommending that all sales of honey in packs of over 10lb. and all unsolicited retail sales be exempted from the Seals Levy. I am sorry that the Association's annual conference proved in favour of reducing the scope of the Levy rather than extending it.

The recent Honey Marketing Investigation Committee attached great importance to the Seals Levy which supplies the money for what is in effect a stabilisation fund for the industry. All producers benefit by the stability given by the operations of the Levy Authority. I think any move to reduce the Seals Levy is not in the best interests of the Honey Marketing Authority and the industry as a whole. I agree with the Committee's recommendation that the Levy should apply to all honey sold otherwise than to the Authority (except comb honey) and I am not prepared to agree to further exemptions. If some producers are evading the Levy then I think the solution lies in the Authority's making further efforts to counter what evasion there may be.

I have noted the conference's resolution on the ownership of the Authority's assets when the State Advances loan is paid off and should like to give more consideration to the implications of this proposal. It may be that the Authority's

funds, like those of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, for example, should be regarded as industry funds to be used in the best interests of the industry as a whole.

Yours faithfully,

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

Mr. R. A. Fraser,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
FOXTON.

Department of Agriculture
Wellington.
November 3, 1960.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

Re: CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

In reply to your letter forwarding resolutions passed at your Association last Annual Conference, I comment as follows:—

- (1) "That the Department of Agriculture be asked to explore the possibility of finding assistant inspectors to work full time for a period of say 1 to three months in one area."

Owing to recognised difficulties associated with part time apiary inspection the need to intensify inspection of apiaries to reduce the incidence of bee disease especially in areas where American Foul Brood is troublesome, is recognised and your resolution is being given favourable consideration.

- (2) "That in all cases where American Foul Brood is discovered by Apiary Instructors, adjoining producers be advised."

Apiary Instructors usually advise neighbouring commercial beekeepers verbally and occasionally by letter when American Foul Brood is discovered in a locality. I am prepared to request Instructors to make this the standard practice but it would be too onerous if every beekeeper was to be advised in accordance with your remit.

- (3) "That the Department's experimental apiary be moved to a more suitable location and that more use be made of it."

The Director, Animal Research Station, Wallaceville, has advised that the apiary to which you refer was closed down at the beginning of the year because of location, which as the area in the vicinity of Wallaceville has become built over had now become an unsuitable site.

As most research projects requiring bees have to be undertaken in various parts of New Zealand often widely separated it is considered to be most satisfactory if local beekeepers loaned or hired their hives for experiment purposes rather than for the department to maintain one apiary for experiment purposes.

BEESWAX

**BEST MARKET PRICES FOR
PURE CLEAN WAX**

*CASH on receipt of Wax and Invoice.
Write NOW Stating Quantity available.*

C. O. PRODUCTS LTD.

P.O. Box 7035
WELLINGTON
Telephone 88-199

- (4) "That in view of reports from overseas of successes obtained by hybrid breeding, the Department be asked to resume its work with artificial insemination and queen breeding."

In this connection I am advised by the Director, Animal Research Station, Wallaceville, as follows: An artificial insemination project commenced at Wallaceville was continued for five years. The technique was mastered and in-breeding and production of some hybrids was achieved. However, the climate at Wallaceville proved too unsettled for the work.

In the course of two trips to the U.S.A. the question of artificial insemination was discussed with their leading research workers. They are all of the opinion that improvement of strains of bees by this technique is very much a long term project, and requires much staff and resources. Our own experience at Wallaceville confirms this opinion.

It is estimated that to obtain worthwhile results with an artificial insemination project, it would be necessary to relocate the bee laboratory in a district with a more suitable climate, engage two assistants experienced in handling bees, and devote the main part of the summer for many years to the project.

The recommendation of such an ambitious programme would be completely unrealistic when we have no staff available for more important work.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. W. GREIG (signed),
Director, Horticulture Division.

New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority,
Auckland, C.I.

November 15, 1960.

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

Dear Mr. Fraser,

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The Authority recently considered the two Conference Resolutions conveyed to us in your letter of September 8, 1960, and I have to give you the decisions of the Authority on these matters as follows:—

(1) **Re Reserves.**

The Authority is aware of the wishes of the N.B.A. Conference so far as reserves are concerned and wishes to advise that the 1959/60 payout absorbed all available funds from the year's operations.

(2) **Re Advertising Food Value.**

This factor will not be lost sight of in the general advertising campaign.

Yours faithfully,

C. T. GOSSE (signed),
Manager.

'SUPERIOR'
COMB FOUNDATION
IMPROVED WEED PROCESS

Medium Brood and Thin Super. Beekeepers' own wax converted.
LARGE STOCKS ON HAND. BUY DIRECT AND SAVE.
NO DEALERS' MARGIN.

PULLIN'S APIARIES LTD.

29 Belfast Street, Mt. Roskill, Auckland
Rail Station, Onehunga. P.O. Box 13052, Onehunga. Telephone 556-950

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the Authority meeting in November, I have had one visit to Auckland when several matters of urgency concerning plant, building and policy had to be dealt with.

Mr. Gosse is now in complete charge of affairs and it is very pleasing to note the efficiency and enterprise with which he is pursuing his duties. Although the next few months will make fairly heavy demands on my time, I feel confident that real progress is being made and that the effort involved is worthwhile.

The Authority plans to meet on February 14 and 15 and I have arranged that space be kept in the Journal for any "Stop Press" announcement that may be thought advisable.

The Export Market

This has been quiet. We have bulk stocks of Honeyco ready for shipment and no doubt this will be cleared long before this report appears in print. The market for white clover honey is remarkably good and it is to be regretted that we have no stocks to offer. Messrs. Kimpton Bros. Ltd., cabled us for token quantities for December/January shipment but we were unable to supply. In order to make some attempt to meet their request we have made an appeal to usual suppliers of this type of honey for prompt deliveries; owing to climatic conditions in the areas concerned and the consequent uncertainty of the crop, this appeal has not been very rewarding.

Shipments to Australia and the East continue to grow and the overall trade is rapidly assuming worthwhile proportions. Enquiries have also been received from countries with whom we have not previously done business and results are awaited with interest.

Local Sales

These are buoyant and we will be hard put to find the necessary class of

honey to fulfil orders. The advent of the new season's honey will, of course, rectify this difficulty.

The Building and Plant

The prototype packing plant is in operation and a very acceptable pack is being produced. From this, the plant proper will be evolved. The original plant is, of course, engaged in blending. Modifications have been made to the ovens which enable us to handle twice the amount of honey at a time.

Bulk Packing

An experimental pack consisting of 56lb. of honey in a special kraft veneer outer is undergoing trials. If satisfactory this should mean a saving of approximately ½d. per lb. Enquiries are also under way for exporting liquid honey in 44 gallon drums.

Recent Developments in Packed Honey

We are investigating dried honey as put out by the United States of America, Department of Agriculture, and jellied honey, a recent United Kingdom development. These are very much in the investigation stage as the plant involved is very expensive.

A new approach is being attempted for manuka honey and we may have something to report at a later date.

Attempts to dispose of dark honey to stock food manufacturers proved abortive owing to the low cost of molasses.

Seals Levy

The revenue continues to remain fairly stable. The incidence of application is being carefully watched and it is hoped that the co-operation of cannister makers will enable the Authority to collect the levy on all retail containers.

Tour of Districts

As arranged, our Manager has commenced his tour of the honey producing areas. Last month, Canterbury, Otago and Southland were visited and other districts will be covered as opportunity occurs.

Beeswax

We urgently require large quantities of beeswax at top market prices. Extra premiums are paid for very clean cappings wax of a light colour. Immediately you have sufficient wax ready, write for our current quotation.



Bee Supplies

As always a full range can be supplied promptly — equipment for new honey house installations and general improvements are our speciality.



A. ECROYD & SON LTD.

25 Sawyers Arms Road, Papanui, Christchurch, N.W.4
P.O. Box 5056, Papanui.

Telephone : 48-230, Christchurch

Telegrams : "ACORN," Christchurch



"The Foundation of Success"

The Immediate Future

From reports received from the Department of Agriculture and others, it appears that the honey crop will be patchy and below average in many areas, especially the white clover honey producing areas. The welfare of the industry is very closely bound up with our ability to act as a stabilising force. To achieve this we must at all times be able to export surpluses and it is unreasonable to expect any agent to act merely as a clearing house in time of plenty.

Some continuity of supply must be maintained and normally this should come from stored surpluses. The Authority is, unfortunately, not in this favoured position and as Chairman I do appeal to producers to forward at least a portion of their crop of white honey to the Authority. By so doing you will enable us to keep faith with Messrs. Kimpton Brothers Ltd.

The position regarding costs and price structure is being carefully watched and your Manager and myself will be conferring with the N.B.A. Executive on several matters of importance concerning our industry.

G. E. GUMBRELL,
Chairman of N.Z. Honey Marketing
Authority.

Sales at Apiaries

Producers are reminded that all retail containers up to and including 10lb. weight and sold at the apiary, whether by advertisement or not, are liable for the appropriate levy.

Attention is also drawn to the regulations governing the incidence of the Seals Levy where honey is advertised for sale. Anything displayed to indicate, either directly or by implication, that honey is for sale is regarded as an advertisement and renders the vendor liable to place the appropriate seals on all honey sold at the apiary.

INDIAN BEE JOURNAL

Know interesting facts concerning the Honey Bees of India. The only Bee Journal of India published in English. Subscription: Rs. 12/- or Sh. 17/6 (sterling) or \$2.75 per year (INTERNATIONAL M.O.). Sample copy 2/- or 25 cents. Can be had from: The Managing Editor, Indian Bee Journal, Naini Tal, U.P., India.



A Hawkes Bay honey-house decorated with deer antlers. Owned by Mr. Jack Foster, of Wairoa, the honey-house is situated in open country.

Photo by Sefton Line.

STOP PRESS

Supplementary Report from the Honey Marketing Authority

The Authority met in Auckland on February 14 and 15.

Among the many matters of importance discussed, the probability of decontrol of honey prices was probably the most important. It will be remembered what happened when decontrol came about some years ago and the Authority is anxious to avoid a repetition of the conditions that then prevailed. It was unanimously decided that some form of "floor price" would be necessary to bring about the stability that producers would look for and our Manager is busy on costs, etc., in order to bring a worthwhile plan into being. We will be meeting the Ministers concerned on March 2 and provided that time does not limit our scope of action I am confident that the H.M.A. can and will be a decisive factor in bringing about stability, increased returns to the producer and a reasonable price to the consumer.

GOVERNMENT NOMINEE

Mr K. B. Longmore, who has been Government nominee on the Authority, has been appointed as General Manager of the Tourist and Publicity Department. His place on the Authority has been taken by Mr A. E. Wood, District Executive Officer, Department of Agriculture, Auckland, who will in future attend meetings as Government nominee on the Board. Unfortunately Mr Wood is in hospital at the time of writing and his place at the recent meeting was taken by Mr Lee of Wellington. To Mr Wood we extend a welcome and good wishes for a speedy recovery. To Mr Longmore our thanks for the many valuable services he has rendered the Bee-keeping Industry.

JOINT COMMITTEE-STATUTORY BOARDS

The Authority now has representation on this Committee which comprises the Statutory Boards controlling the export of all primary produce. This is a big step forward in the recognition of the economic importance of our Industry. As your representative I have already attended one meeting in Wellington and the information gained is of a very worthwhile nature.

G. E. GUMBRELL,
Chairman.

Inconsistency of Lines of Honey

A matter which has been causing concern to the Authority is inconsistency in lines of honey supplied by producers handling mixed sources.

Such producers are asked to exercise as much care as possible in ensuring that lines put up under the same extraction mark are uniform in grading. Irregularities within a line can result in an overall down grading of the whole line affecting the returns to the supplier.

Suggestions offered are:—

- (a) When handling lines where there is any appreciable variation in colour and consistency the size of the lines should be kept down to individual tank lots. Extraction sub-marks may be used to identify tins from each tank. Examples—A1, A2, A3.
- (b) Thoroughly stir tanks before drawing off to ensure proper mixing.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Department of Agriculture

Horticulture Division

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS, 1960-61

Prospects in most districts appear to be above normal. Though it is too early to make a firm estimate of the total crops likely to be harvested this season, the following is a summary of reports received from Apiary Instructors covering the period to mid-January.

North Auckland:

The manuka flow ended abruptly in early December as a result of stormy weather. An average crop has been secured from this source. Weather and pasture conditions were ideal for nectar secretion from mid-December until mid-January. Heavy rain in mid-January revived pastures which continue very favourable for further yields from clover and lotus major, and later pennyroyal. Bush sources, towai and white rata should supplement this crop. Buttercup will be detectable in most crops.

Above average crops will be secured.


Auckland:

The Pohutukawa flow has been good, and manuka has yielded well. Above average crops from these sources will be secured. Pastures are in excellent condition. Good crops of buttercup honey are assured. Clover and minor pasture sources began yielding earlier than usual and above average crops are already secured by most beekeepers.

The further prospect is good and above average crops of good quality honey are assured.

Hamilton:

December rainfall was below average and temperatures were variable. Pastures which had browned off revived with the coming of rain and are now showing good stands of clover bloom. Catsear is showing



at
als
per
crop
to a
area.
With
the present
position
to an average or
above
age crop. Honey extracted
to date is of good quality generally.

Tauranga:

Rewa rewa, lotus major and blackberry flowered well. Kamahi flowered profusely. Cool winds and cool night temperatures were a feature and clover generally was about three weeks late. In December pastures commenced to dry out and the honey flow was erratic. Recent rains have benefited clover growth. Honey is still coming in from dandelion, lotus major and clover although the peak of the flow is past.

Average crops seem assured.

Palmerston North:

The season has been the driest for many years with pastures showing very little clover bloom. On light soil areas pastures dried off in December. Manuka has yielded fairly heavily and bees have worked catsear freely. Crops are light in the coastal areas but are better from the heavy soil districts inland.

Recent rains may revive clover in limited areas but the district crop will be below average.

Hawera:

Pastures dried out in the Taranaki and Waverley areas during December. Clover, hawkweed and other pasture flowers were prominent during early January. The weather was fine and warm and in most areas, excluding New Plymouth, a steady flow was

experienced until mid-January, when heavy rain and occasional showers developed. Blackberry and lotus major yielded in the lower reaches of the mountain in the New Plymouth area.

The overall honey crop is above average.

Hastings:

The weather has been very broken in the central and northern Hawke's Bay. Pastures throughout the east coast remain in good condition with only the weather preventing the bees from working the clover to full advantage. Except in the Wairarapa, where the honey crops are likely to be above average, indications are that the overall yield for the district will be below average.

Greymouth:

On the Coast the weather has been warm and settled. The best crops for several years have been gathered from kamahi, blackberry, clover, manuka, rata and other bush sources. Rata is flowering the heaviest for several years and there are prospects of a good yield from this source. Good crops have been produced in the Takaka and Collingwood districts, but yields from pastures in the Waimea Plain have been adversely affected by drought conditions. Dry conditions with cold southerly winds prevailed in Marlborough throughout the season and crops in this district are light.

Christchurch:

Pastures generally are in fair condition. Clover has yielded well on the lighter soils and colonies in these areas have secured a good surplus of honey. Clover is now yielding on the heavier soils. Vipers bugloss is abundant this season and is yielding well. Recent rains over the district should improve nectar secretion.

Present indications are that the crop will be well above average for the district.

Oamaru:

Weather has been hot and drying winds have been persistent. A frost early in January affected the high country. Rain fell over the entire

district in mid-January bringing lower temperatures. Clover ceased yielding on light land early in January after supplying a short sharp honey flow. Clover has continued flowering on heavy land and should yield nectar for some weeks supplemented by lucerne, thistles, catsear and vipers bugloss.

Crops range from total failure to below average on light land, and from below average to above average crops on heavy land. The overall crop for the district will be below average and the tonnage approximately similar to last season.

Gore:

Bush sources such as kamahi and rata have yielded exceptionally well as also has white clover. Clover bloom is still very abundant throughout the district. Following a dry period heavy rain fell over most of the district on January 20.

If fine weather follows this period of rain the district yield will be well above average.

E. SMAELLIE, Superintendent,
Beekeeping Industry.

Notice to Beekeepers

Will beekeepers please note that the headquarters of the Apicultural Advisory Officer for the Otago-Southland district has been changed from Invercargill to Gore and all enquiries and correspondence should now be addressed in the first instance to:— The Apicultural Advisory Officer, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 20, Gore.

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

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

Caters for both Amateur and Commercial
Apiarists

Subscription: 12/6 (Aust.) per annum
Published Monthly

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION

112 Whitehorse Road
RINGWOOD, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

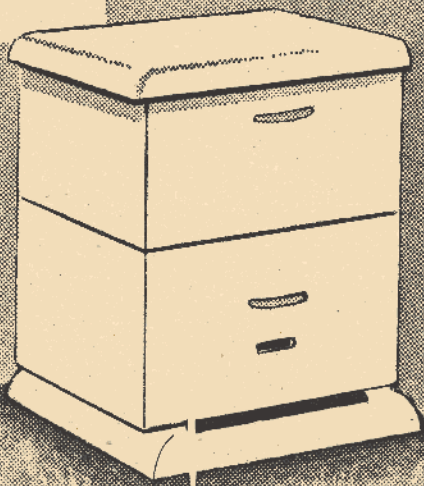
ASBESTOS CEMENT HIVE COVERS & FLOOR BOARDS

SPECIFICATION:
Durock Covers
 Size 20½" x 16½" — to fit standard beehive. Thickness 5/16".
Durock Floor Boards.
 Size — to fit standard beehive. Thickness 5/16".
PRICES: (Ex factory).

Covers	11/3
Crate	1/8
Floor Boards	12/3
Crate	2/-

Freight*
 *Freight costs are not heavy — for example, lower half of North Island approximately 2/3.

Orders are accepted for minimum crate lots of 6 Covers and 6 Floor Boards, and should be addressed to the nearest Sales Office.



Save costly replacement charges — give unlimited life

Carefully conducted tests have shown that Durock Asbestos Cement Hive Covers and Floor Boards are completely free from the failings associated with the normal timber hive components.

Asbestos Cement is completely resistant to rot, borer and fungoid growths. Loading tests have shown that Durock Floor Boards placed on firm level ground are able to carry hive loads of 1,000 pounds.

Durock Hive Covers are completely free from warping, shaking and splitting due to weather conditions, and consequently give the colonies full protection in wet weather.

Because of its insulating qualities Durock Hive Covers also give greater protection during summer heat.

Private Bag, Auckland: P.O. Box 1168, Christchurch:
 P.O. Box 2052, Wellington:

AK3285

FLETCHER

industries



BRANCH NOTES



By speech, Wisdom shall be known;
and Learning — by the written word.

SOUTH AUCKLAND

In the last 12 months the Branch has formed two sub-committee of five members each.

The Publicity Committee, under the chairmanship of Alastair Fleming, has set out to present ideas and material suitable for promoting the sales of honey. A few aspects of this enormous assignment are talks to schools, institutes and clubs; written articles in local and national newspapers and magazines; pamphlets for school children; a New Zealand Apimondia; and the organising of Winter Show displays.

Most people are genuinely interested in bees and beekeeping in general, and beekeepers are extremely slow to capitalise on this fact.

Through your columns, the Publicity Committee would like to enlist the support of all beekeepers by getting them to make signs advertising their own particular brand of honey, or honey in general (HONEY FOR HEALTH, etc.), to be placed at apiaries on main roads or at honey house gates. It would also like to see beekeepers maintain the appearance of their trucks (a coat of paint every now and again), and make full use of the tail and side boards for signwritten advertising.

The Membership Committee, under the able chairmanship of Lloyd Holt, has been elected to: (1) Increase membership of branch by personal contact in each member's area (this would help branch funds); (2) Attempt to improve interest in meetings by encouraging members to take an active part in programmes; (3) Introduce new members to the president and other members (make them feel at home and

members to act on committees and to put forward their viewpoints at meetings.

The Membership Committee feels that the actual participation of members in branch activities is most important, but cannot be achieved unless meetings are so planned to give the opportunity of participation. To effect these objectives, the Committee has the task of planning bright new programmes for branch meetings, and of winning the support of the Branch Executive.

Honey Crop

The honey flow in the King Country here went well from December 13 to January 3, but tapered off rapidly as the drought continued. Now, on January 22, after a week of rain, the pastures are once again green, but the weather will have to clear up quickly if we are to get much more honey. This season's honey is lighter than usual, with a good proportion of blackberry.

Our hives, as with many of the Waikato hives, suffered from a feed shortage in the late spring.

— A.F.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations to the South Auckland Branch on the progressive steps it is taking. We wish it success in its activities and we commend its enterprising example to other branches).

BAY OF PLENTY

Beekeepers gathered at Sapphire Springs, Katikati, on November 19 for the annual Bay of Plenty Field Day.

Unfortunately the weather was not the best, nevertheless things went off very smoothly. First item on the programme was official welcome by President Don Barrow.

This was followed by a most interesting talk given by Mr. L. G. Corlett on

beekeeping management. Graham certainly knows his onions! Following the luncheon adjournment the Dominion President gave an address on National affairs and also on H.M.A. matters. This is the first time this Branch has had an official visit from a Dominion President and we were very grateful that Mr. Barber was able to be present.

After Mr. Barber's address, Mr. Allan Bates (Matamata) gave an entertaining interlude when he spoke about his early beekeeping experiences.

Next item on the programme was Mr. Howard Lowe's "How to Fix Those Hard to Find Wasp Nests." Howard's mixture certainly would give their little stomachs a big ache.

Amongst the gadgets on display was Mr. C. P. London's microscope, a vat suitable for melting old combs, and Mr. Ron Parkes' compact electric drilling machine for drilling the holes in the end bars of frames.

Concluding the day, the President thanked all those who had partaken in the day's programme, and gave special thanks to the ladies for supplying the necessary cups of tea.

Honey Prospects

Bees wintered very well, but swarming was a real problem in some areas. Rewarewa only yielded moderately, the trees had a good showing of flowers but the weather was most unsettled during the flow. Hives are in good order at time of writing—but for goodness sake when are we going to get some decent weather?

—D. A. Barrow, 11/12/1960.

HAWKES BAY

On the East Coast, and Hawkes Bay in particular, we had more rain this last winter than for many years. This should be good for when the hot weather comes. However, the recent changeable weather has brought about a tricky situation with brood rearing in full swing and stores needing attention.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gordon and also Maurice Gordon (from his Bisley shoot) are back home and have been able to show colour slides of their trip to the Rifle Club and the Branch. George picked up a good projector at Singapore, with remote control, for his colour slides. They experienced considerable wet weather during their

summer in England and on Continent. —"Tingle," 21/11/1960.

WEST COAST

The Field Day was held at Lake Kanieri on November 5. The weather was nearly perfect and the lake, surrounded by high bush-clad hills, is a delightful place. Though there were not as many present as we might have wished the gathering was genuinely interested and one had time to talk with everyone—more like a family picnic.

There was plenty of variety in the programme—laughter and history in the President's reminiscences, education in the talk by Mr. Tom Pearson, while Mr. Dick Hobbs and Mr. Penrose and Mr. Chavasse all gave us something to think about.

Ralph Glasson made reference to many youthful happenings including the building up of apiary numbers by collecting swarms. Gathering wild colonies made a profitable day out and there was often much honey and wax. His best effort was when he followed a real big swarm from an established yard, and after a two-mile chase it settled high up on a slender pole-like sapling. Determined not to be beaten he hurried home for Dad's shotgun and taking careful aim his shot bust the branch near the swarm. Ralph still thinks that was the most profitable swarm he ever gathered.

Of the many names and personalities mentioned in this our centennial year perhaps pride of place goes to Dave Cochrane, a foundation member and first secretary of this Branch and still a foundation member today. From 1915 to 1926 he was owner of the Clematis Beehive Factory and among his possessions is something many would like to have—a grade sheet showing 100 points.

Mr. Penrose reported upon recent activities in the N.B.A. and spoke pointedly on the topic "Why Be a Member?" The efforts of our organisation need the support of every beekeeper.

Crop Report (29/1/1961)

This part of the Coast has had a long dry spell and due to the steep nature of the watershed it dries out quickly. The 80-odd inches that fell for 1960, though sufficient for many, was

not evenly enough spread to keep growth or nectar going where soils are light or shallow.

The change to a comparatively dry year means a change in honey production and I hear that some areas have yielded very well; others, though of good quality, are not up to average quantity. Some rata areas are reported to be very good and others only moderate. Overall I think it will be an average to good quantity season and perhaps slightly better than average quality.

Wasps

While in some bush areas the wasps have been a real menace, many folk notice a decrease this summer. There were plenty around Greymouth in November and then they suddenly disappeared. Why? I do not know. Maybe they will come back from the bush as autumn advances and there is falling fruit for food.

— Tom Holland

SOUTH CANTERBURY

When the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority recently adopted measures to modernise its packing plant in Auckland, it discovered that the best machine for packing honey was made in Timaru, and one was ordered. These machines have been developed in collaboration with South Canterbury beekeepers, and while extensive inquiries were made in New Zealand and overseas, no better machine could be found.

This was stated by Mr. C. Gosse at the last meeting of the South Canterbury branch.

A scheme to send gift parcels of packed honey to the United Kingdom started recently by the Authority is proving popular.

The need to maintain a regular supply to Britain of white clover honey was emphasised by Mr. Gosse. The good market that had been built in the past could only be held by sending regular shipments.

The blending of honeys for marketing in the Auckland area was outlined.

Expanding markets in East Africa, Malaya, Hong Kong, Australia and the Continent of Europe were absorbing ever increasing amounts of New Zealand honeys.

New methods of bulk packing, using mainly all-New Zealand wood and pulp products were described in detail and a considerable saving in cost would be assured if experiments now being carried out were successful.

Unusual packs of honey in small plastic containers were shown by Mr. Gosse and new and more interesting ways of presenting the product to the public were demonstrated.

Following this very interesting and instructive address, questions were asked and answered and a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. H. Cloake received enthusiastic approval.

Mr. A. Simpson, president of the South Canterbury association, expressed the appreciation of members and assured Mr. Gosse of their interest in the progress of their own marketing authority.

A wide divergence of opinion was shown in later discussion by the meeting in attempting to find methods of controlling the number of apiaries in any area. It was felt that the overstocking with bees in some areas was creating an economic problem and methods of control might need to be considered.

Improved methods of marking beehives so that they could be seen from the air by top-dressing pilots was suggested and after full discussion it was decided that no action be taken.

— C.D.

NORTH OTAGO

We had a very good attendance of members at a meeting held to meet Mr. Gosse, the new H.M.A. Manager. Mr. Gosse made us all at ease from the word go and he delivered a very fine address on the recent happenings and future plans for the packing and exporting of our honeys. It would appear he is leaving no stone unturned that will brighten the future for the industry and we feel the Authority should be commended on their choice of Manager.

Arrangements are now well in hand for our Field Day at Elderslie on Saturday, March 4. The South Canterbury Branch is joining in with North Otago and it is our aim to make this a Field Day that will be talked of for some time. An invitation is extended to all who care to come along. The main feature of the day will be the

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

results of the experimental yard where the different strains of queens are being tested by the Department. Unfortunately the dry season has not been in our favour. It would appear that the crop for North Otago will be about a half crop unless the nodding thistle steps in over the next week or two and fills up the brood nest and those empty supers on top, as it did at the end of last season.

— Stan Wilson.

OTAGO

Our Field Day on February 4 was a great success. The holiday premises of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Kellett at Waihola provided an ideal setting and the weather was just right. It was a pleasure to have with us Mr. C. T. Gosse, the new H.M.A. Manager, and also our new instructor, Mr. G. L. Jeffery, and they were given a cordial welcome to the meeting.

Mr. D. Stewart presided and the other main speakers were Messrs. J. Heineman, J. H. Horn, W. T. Herron and J. W. Fraser. Gadgets and ideas were demonstrated by several other members and a word of thanks is also due to the ladies for dispensing lunch and afternoon tea.

The weather has been very disappointing through January and the honey crop will be light in coastal districts but better further inland.

— J.McF.

GORE

The combined Gore and Southland Field Day was held on January 28 at Dollimore Park, a beautiful picnic spot nestled in the Hokonui Mountains. The fine weather and the lovely surroundings contributed to a very enjoyable gather-

ing. Mr. John Glass welcomed the visitors, among whom were the Manager of the Marketing Authority, Mr. C. T. Gosse, and Mrs. Gosse, and the newly appointed Advisory Officer for the district, Mr. G. L. Jeffery, and Mrs. Jeffery.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. G. Grieve, M.P., and the principal speakers were Messrs. G. E. Gumbrell, C. T. Gosse, G. L. Jeffery and J. W. Fraser.

Reports indicate that the honey crop will be fair to medium. Unsettled weather interfered with honey gathering and in some places colony strength was noticeably depleted by strong winds.

— J.McF.

Two South Canterbury Beekeepers in a More Exciting Role

The skin-diving operations of Dick Holland and Fred Bartrum were being watched by a Timaru resident through his field glasses when he saw their dinghy capsize about threequarters of a mile off the coast recently.

Two launches were soon to the rescue and a police party and about 200 residents watched from the shore.

Later in the day, a fishing launch took the party to where the capsized had taken place and recovered all the lost gear from the sea bottom. A float dropped near the scene of the mishap provided an excellent marker.

They told the police they never considered themselves in danger as they were confident with their frogmen outfits they could have reached the shore safely.

HONEY TINS

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

J. GADSDEN & Co. Ltd.

P.O. BOX 94, AUCKLAND

P.O. BOX 216, CHRISTCHURCH

P.O. BOX 14, PETONE

P.O. BOX 669, DUNEDIN



CARDEA HONEY CARTONS are PRECISION MADE

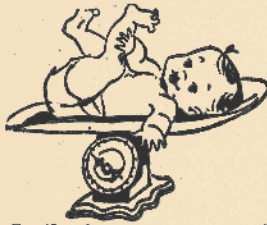
You can have complete confidence in CARDEA Honey Cartons because they are high quality containers. They are precision made to the highest possible standards and are subjected to rigid inspection and testing at every stage of manufacture. CARDEA Honey Cartons are sturdy, less expensive, have high sales appeal. Promote your honey the modern way. Pack it in attractively designed and printed CARDEA Honey Cartons and watch your sales grow and grow!

Made by CARTON SPECIALTIES LTD., Auckland, and distributed by—

Frank M. Winstone (Merchants) Ltd.

71-79 CUSTOMS STREET EAST, AUCKLAND.

South Island Representatives: C.S. Agencies Ltd., 249 Moorhouse Avenue, Christchurch.



Notes for Beginners

by 'SKEP'

clover and mixed sources. In my case the darker honey does not present a problem as practically all the honey is extracted from the clover area and replaced by the lower grade honey.

In the November issue I dealt briefly with apiary management, the importance of good queens, etc. I sincerely trust that your investment in good stock has proved advantageous and that your honey crop has been satisfactory.

Be Guided by Public Demand

Variation in Yield Due to Seasonal Conditions

Do not be discouraged if the weather conditions during the honey flow were abnormal for over a period of years nature seems to preserve a reasonable balance and that bumper honey crop may be yours next year. Your beekeeper neighbour may have had a satisfactory crop from the same region? If this is the case improved apiary management could be the answer to your problem.

You will find a limited demand for honey with a pronounced flavour and colour and if satisfactory prices can be obtained you are fortunate, but failing this, there may be some merit in selling as feed honey.

Some Hints on Improving The Appearance of Your Pack

Most extracted honey has fine particles or specks which rise and spoil the appearance of a pack. My final straining is effected by attaching two nylon stockings (one inside the other) to the end of the delivery pipe to the holding tank. This removes all specks and the honey is carefully skimmed once cooled, and is ready for the incorporation of starter honey in the proportion of 1 in 8.

Extracting Now in Full Swing

Most beekeepers will be extracting and prepared for the disposal of their honey at the best prices possible. In areas where manuka is predominant and the honey difficult to extract, it will pay you to try selling this particular type in the combs, as feed, to commercial honey producers. A certificate must be obtained from your local apiary instructor showing that the hives are free from disease prior to making a sale of this nature. The average price realised for a full super of feed honey ranges from 30/- to £2 with the combs replaced by new frames and foundation.

It is mechanically stirred to ensure a thorough mix and left to partially granulate, stirred again and then tapped off. A fine grained, attractive and appealing pack can then be sold with confidence.

I recall the sound advice of a cultured Indian gentleman who toured New Zealand some years ago for the purpose of promoting commercial honey production in his country. He stated that honey should appeal to the eye, the nose, and the palate in that order. How very true when you think of it?

There is little demand for manuka honey as it is thixotropic in character, bitter, and too pronounced in flavour for the average palate. It has an undesirable tendency to separate after a few months giving a blotchy unattractive appearance to your pack. Most honeys can be blended satisfactorily and find a ready market but it pays handsomely to be selective in what you extract—keep your darker honey aside for spring feed.

A friend of mine has just returned from Australia having had two years working for commercial honey producers and has a remarkable story to tell of the huge crops harvested as the result of migratory beekeeping. However it would appear that their marketing conditions are chaotic and largely offset the advantages of larger yields.

I operate in two regions, one producing a dark honey and the other

Such reports lead one to appreciate all the more the good marketing position in this country.

Storage of Queen Bees

By D. W. A. SEAL

With the increased production of queens and package bees, occasions have arisen when beekeepers have been faced with the problem of storing queens due to adverse weather.

Enquiries as to the length of time queens could be stored with safety, led to experiments along these lines. These experiments, now in their third season, have provided information which may be of help to beekeepers, many of whom have taken a greater interest in the matter since the visit of Mr. Eastley and his remarks with respect to queen-banks.

Storage of Queens in Mailing Cages

Queens with attendants can be stored two to three weeks without apparent injury if they are kept at brood rearing temperature and have access to queen cage candy and water. Bees need water more to maintain the balance of water in their bodies than to merely soften candy.

Storing of a few queens can be carried out satisfactorily by utilising a strong colony. A portion of the colony is made queenless with the aid of a queen excluder and caged queens are placed over the brood frames with the wire gauze facing downward, making sure first that all outlets to cages are bee-tight and that there is no possibility of queens escaping. A sack mat and empty half super placed over cages retain the warmth and allows cover to be replaced securely.

It is important that the queenless portion retains an adequate supply of brood, preferably seven frames. Cages should not be placed right out against the walls of the hive as a cold period could reduce the cluster and so leave the outside cages neglected.

Storing Large Numbers of Queens

Where storing large numbers of queens is necessary, more care and preparation is required.

Special frames need to be made which will hold 50 to 70 cages placed back to back. Sizes of cages should be determined by individual beekeepers but as a guide two-hole commercial cages give an indication of size. Some

mailing cages are six-hole types and others three-hole. The description "holes" being the number of times a seven-eighths drill has been driven into the block of wood from which cages are constructed.

Queens are placed in these cages without attendant bees or candy and the entrances to cages are covered with a strip of tin to prevent any possible escape of queens.

In the case of queens received in postal cages it is advisable to remove the queens from these cages and place them in standard bank cages. Attendant bees should be omitted as they are frequently responsible for losses due to antagonising of hive bees.

The prepared frame of caged queens can be placed in the queenless portion of a strong hive with unsealed brood on either side to attract nurse bees. The colony queen being securely retained away from caged queens.

Similarly the frame of queens can be placed in the centre of a five framed nucleus containing two frames of young brood, two combs of honey and adequate bees to cover all frames.

Queen excluder should be tacked over the entrance to prevent the possible entrance of a virgin queen and consequent losses due to fighting with caged queens.

Queens can be kept in this manner for lengthy periods and even over winter without any apparent harm.

Points to be noted are, that the cluster is large enough to cover all cages, if not remove outer cages especially those in the bottom row of the frame. In the case of nuclei being used, young brood should be replenished occasionally or young bees added to prevent a diminishing cluster. It is also an added advantage to feed queen bank colonies although queens overwintered quite well on natural stores.

It appears conceivable from experiments that queens could be overwintered more satisfactorily in queen banks than individually in nuclei although further experimenting would be necessary to confirm this.

A matter of importance with reference to cages for queen banks is that the wire gauze covering them is large enough in gauge to allow bees to feed and lick queens with ease.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Removing Surplus Honey

Over a period of 30 years or more of large scale honey production and the trial of all methods, I have evolved our present system of removing honey, taking into consideration colony welfare after the honey is removed as well as an efficient inspection system and one trip only to outyards to remove the honey. One requirement here is a queen excluder for every colony since we start removing honey in July just as soon as the scale colony has several days without gain or a small loss of weight.

Contrary to the general belief that honey should be left on the hives for ripening, we have found by test that the best honey we get is the honey from the main clover flow removed in July before any secondary flow starts. If a secondary flow materialises in late July or early August from alfalfa, red clover or new seedings of alsike, we cease operations and wait until the flow has waned. However, the quality of the honey from the later flow is never as

good as the conditions permit. The honey dew is a period, colour

We remove as much as possible during the main flow. All supers during the flow is apt to be full. The flow from the usually is only a small amount. The colonies in tip top condition for winter.

—E. W. Long, in "Gleanings."

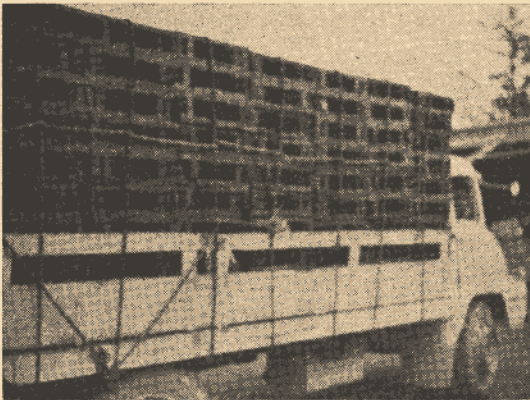
THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

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

Subscriptions: Australia and New Zealand, 16/- per annum (in advance), post paid). British Isles and British Dominions, 20/- per annum (in advance), post paid. Other overseas countries, 23/- per annum (in advance), post paid.

Sample copy free on application to —

THE EDITOR, P.O. Box 20,
West Maitland, N.S.W., Australia.



Bottom boards ready for distribution at Arataki Apiaries, Hawkes Bay.

These bottom boards, designed for use with motorised barrows, are fitted with 4in by 2in bearers to eliminate the bits and pieces, or concrete blocks, when a beekeeper wishes to be "up and

away" with an apiary to another location; from a dry area to a green place, or to supply a pollination service.

(Photo by Sefton Line).

Maintenance of a "Work Table Level" When Uncapping Combs of Honey

(From an article by W. E. Dunham in
"American Bee Journal")

This is an age of mechanisation and commercial beekeeping must meet this challenge as other industries are now doing. Fortunately we are making some progress in this direction.

Few commercial beekeepers are utilising the "work table level" principle through mechanical means when uncapping frames of honey during the extracting period. Two procedures are commonly followed by beekeepers. The most common one is to remove combs of honey from each successive super in the stack which results in excessive labour and fatigue during a day's work. Another method is to set each super of honey on a platform or stack of supers at a convenient height which amounts to maintaining a "work table level" but at the unwise expenditure of human energy.

Maintenance of a "work table level" through mechanical means when uncapping combs of honey is covered by the author under two main headings, namely: Equipment needed and the evaluation of a mechanical aid in terms of labour saved and the increased production resulting from its use.

Search was made for equipment that was already manufactured for industrial purposes that might be modified economically by beekeepers for their use. Several types of vertical air lifts were found on the market that are utilised by garages. Modification of such an air lift to meet beekeepers requirements was simple. The horizontal arms on the lift were removed and an iron platform (24 inches long by 20 inches wide) was welded to the angle iron of the lift. To aid in wheeling the stacks of supers on the platform an iron ramp 9 inches wide was welded to the platform.

A small air compressor outfit for the operation of the air lift is an easy problem to solve for commercial beekeepers as most of them own one in connection with their power paint spraying outfit. Maintaining 40 to 60 pounds

of air pressure is adequate for lifting the supers to the "work table level."

The operation of the air lift is simple. To raise the platform, air is forced in the air chamber by a hand controlled valve. The platform is lowered by an air release valve which allows the air to escape from the air chamber. There is no jerkiness in the rising or lowering of the platform whether loaded or unloaded as long as the cylinder of the air lift is lubricated with a thin oil. Work shop tests over an extended period involving a poundage of over 500,000 pounds of honey has demonstrated that the air lift operates smoothly and with no interruptions for repairs.

The calculated ideal "work table level" was when a comb was lifted only 12 inches high, thus leaving a clearance of approximately two and one-half inches below the bottom bar of the frame and the top level of the extracting super. The frame was then swung on a horizontal plane and set in the holders of a mechanical uncapping machine. The comparison of "foot pounds work" involved in the old method when uncapping a single stack of supers versus the mechanical method is almost unbelievable. When reaching down to the last super for the contents of honey, 224 "foot pounds work" are involved as compared to 64 pounds when the super is maintained at a "work table level." In removing the combs of honey in the four supers by the mechanical method, 320 "foot pounds work" is saved.

Another forcible way of emphasising the saving of energy expenditure by this labour saving device over the old method is to interpret a day's production. This shows that 160 more supers can be handled and 8800 pounds more honey might be extracted with the same amount of energy as is involved in an average day's production by the old method.

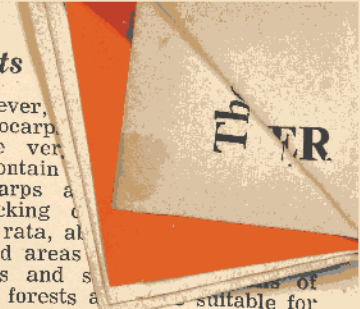
Bees and Forests

(From an address by Mr. C. G. S. Chavasse, an officer of the N.Z. Forestry Department, at the West Coast Field Day, November 5, 1960).

Foresters do not encourage bees in forests. If you have ever had the misfortune to fell a tree with a wild bees' nest in it, I suggest that you would not encourage them either. Nor are foresters liable to encourage the sorts of plants on which bees feed. In Westland for example the forester will spend a lot of time and temper getting rid of gorse and broom, lotus, elematis, and even native shrubs; they are all unwelcome in the fully productive forest and their presence is definitely inimical to work in the forest and also costly.

Up to a point the forester is right. For as far as I can see bees have little or no importance in forests. They do not exercise any control of harmful insects (unlike wasps) nor are their activities essential to pollination of any species as far as I know. So our question (how important are bees to trees?) can be answered—of very little importance.

The other question—how important are trees to bees?—is quite another matter. As far as our podocarp forests are concerned I should judge that they could provide considerable quantities of honey and pollen, especially from so-called secondary species (kamahi, hinau, pokaka, and a large number of shrubs). Even if these forests are managed there will still be a component of these species. For various reasons it is considered desirable to maintain the present structure of these forests rather than attempt to grow completely pure crops of podocarps. For example, the presence of a range of shrubs might be essential to maintaining the remarkable health of these forests; again the presence of numerous canopies may make the stands more windfirm; and yet again it is most probable that the broadleaved components help to maintain satisfactory soil conditions. Possibly when these forests are fully managed the amount of the secondary species might be reduced, but this will be offset by their vigorous growth in felled areas in the early stages of the regeneration period.



If, however, from podocarp forests contain of podocarps a high stocking of including rata, al hinau, and areas coprosmas and s of these hill forests a suitable for exotic trees, but if they are planted, trees and shrubs attractive to bees will certainly be severely reduced or (as far as possible) eliminated.

It will also be necessary to put most of these areas into conifers—again not particularly attractive to bees. However there may be grounds for planting some areas with hardwoods, and it is possible that, for example, several species of Eucalypts would be suitable for planting on the Coast. Now I imagine that there are rather wide differences in the suitability of Eucalypts for bee fodder, and, other things being equal, it might be possible to give some preference to those species which would be of value to beekeepers. But so much else is involved—suitability for climate and site, quality or type of timber, resistance to opossum damage, rate of growth, as examples, that no commitment can be made at present.

When production forestry becomes more normal in this country there will undoubtedly be some place for amenity plantings in forests. In Europe certain parts of many forests are set aside for public use, and managed in order to maintain the beauty of the forests for the enjoyment of the public. These areas, sometimes quite large, are not unproductive; indeed they can be managed to produce valuable material, including timber, and can also be not unprofitable. In such areas open spaces are maintained, and in Britain at least a good deal of trouble is taken to plant decorative trees and shrubs. Some consideration could be given to the provision of nectar producing trees and shrubs in these areas, but it is clear that forestry in New Zealand is too young and raw to attend to such niceties for many years to come.

In Westland it therefore seems probable that, for the time being, the rata/kamaha forests of the foothills and mountains will remain the major source of beefood, so long as they can be protected from introduced animals. I can state that the protection of these forests is still problematical. There are however glimmerings of hope. Techniques of opossum control are being perfected and can be applied with a reasonable hope of success, though it will be some years before they can be used with confidence. Nor is it known how long they will remain effective. A point here is that public opinion in general is not sufficiently aware of the damage being done in these forests nor of the problems involved. And until public opinion is fully behind control measures they will not command the attention, nor the money, which is required. From your point of view, all it is necessary to state is that the interests of the forester and the beekeeper are identical in these forests.

In this talk I have tried to put before you the forester's viewpoint, and to show that he is largely unaware of your needs and therefore tends to ignore them. What I hope is that you could give some thought to the question, and, if you think it necessary, go to the trouble of educating the forester to the point where he is able to give intelligent and sympathetic ears to your problems.

BEES WANTED

- ★ Cash buyer wants to buy 300 hives for removal anywhere from Southland to Mid-Canterbury.
- ★ Smaller outfits considered.
- ★ Will purchase at any date from March 1 to September 30, 1961.
- ★ Write to No. 32, c/o. The Editor, The N.Z. Beekeeper.

BEES WANTED

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.

The A. I. ROOT Co., Medina, Ohio.

NICHOLAS

FOR ECROYD'S 'ACORN' WEED PROCESS COMB FOUNDATION

— Rail Wax to Henderson Station and advise —

T. R. W. NICHOLAS

New Address: 235 TEATATU ROAD HENDERSON

The Nucleus in Everyday Beekeeping

By L. R. Stewart, in *American Bee Journal*

For years we have operated in each of our yards approximately 20% as many nuclei as regular colonies. Because of their many uses we find them not only fascinating but also very useful. Although the two principal uses of the nucleus are to provide an ever-ready, tested young queen and to make up our winter loss we also find them excellent for supplying brood and bees for weak colonies, for drawing foundation, for storing food and as a storage for poor combs.

We have tried various types and sizes of hives for our nuclei but find the little hive that holds five standard Hoffman frames, or four frames and a feeder, the best for our system of beekeeping. The side spacing is a little wider to allow easy, quiet manipulation and the bottom a little deeper to accommodate any good queen cells that might be drawn on the bottom of a frame. The bottom board is nailed on and it has a screened hole in the rear end for ventilation, a hole in the bottom being more private.

We use two types of feeders; the regular division board feeder and one drilled out of a 2" x 6" plank that has frame rests and hangs in the hive just like a frame. This feeder will last a long time and never leak, which is very important in the life of a nucleus.

Our stronger nuclei are ideal for drawing foundation but if there is no flow on they will have to be bountifully fed. We also use them to store feed for other colonies, which saves us the trouble of operating so many feeders. When they get a comb fairly full we trade it for an empty one in the colony we want to feed. All through the season we are culling combs. Any time we find a poor comb it is traded for a good one from some nucleus. At the end of the season they are sorted out, the comb cut out and rendered and a sheet of foundation inserted.

There are three conditions necessary for successful wintering of our nuclei, a fair sized cluster of young bees, plenty of stores, and a protected yard. A cluster need not be too large to winter; the advantage of a large cluster is the quick get-away in the spring. We

have wintered many nuclei here in the Midwest with clusters no larger than a pint of bees. If they can keep in contact with stores we have no trouble. And that is our problem, to have plenty of available stores at all times. Even a large cluster will sometimes starve with honey all around its perimeter and there is still greater danger of starving in a small cluster. Plenty of stores does not mean stores over to one side of the hive but right under the cluster. So we take particular pains to see that all five combs of our nucleus are filled with sealed honey and some pollen except one tiny spot on the bottom of the middle frame that will serve as the basis for the start of the cluster. By having all combs full of honey there is no chance for the cluster to get on an empty comb, and starve, as I have had them do even though there was plenty of honey in some other part of the hive. These same factors are true of any wintering, either large or small colonies.

We like our nucleus type of hive for wintering our small clusters as we can't help but think it is more comfortable for them. It also has other advantages; the combs are interchangeable with anything in our outfit and there is enough room to prevent trouble in case we forget it longer than we should in a honeyflow. We have some locations that are better wintering spots than others, spots that have good windbreaks on the west, north and east but low enough not to cast any shadows that would shut out the least bit of sunshine; and good drainage, air, as well as soil. That's all.

In the spring nuclei that are not needed to replace winter loss are set over into hives of standard size and operated for honey and the empty small hive reconditioned for another season.

Honey Production in U.S.A.

In 1959 the U.S.A. produced 248,000,000lbs of honey. This was 7 per cent under the previous year but slightly higher than the average of the past ten years.

-CLASSIFIEDS-

★ FOR SALE ★

FOUR YOUR TIMBER REQUIREMENTS

RADIATA PINE: Standard export honey cases carried in stock. Prices quoted for special cases. All ordinary building sizes stocked in MACRO-CARPA and RADIATA PINE. Special sizes and lengths cut to order. Wide range of dry dressed lines always in stock. We specialise in selected Radiata Pine mouldings and finishing lines. Logs sawn and timber dressed by contract. We invite you to visit us and inspect our plant and products. Consult:—

J. H. THOMAS & CO. LTD.,
Sawmillers, Timber Merchants,
and Boxmakers.

Te Tipua, 4 R.D., Gore.
— Phone 249, Mataura —

400 HIVES OF BEES AND EQUIPMENT FOR FURTHER 200

Honeyhouse with all modern equipment, and Storage Sheds. Also large Poultry Sheds. Three-bedroom House with all modern conveniences. Two garages. One Truck and 1-Acre Section. Beautiful view and section sheltered and lying to the sun. Handy to school and bus services past door. 30 miles from Auckland. Sell as going concern. All reasonable offers considered. Write:—

“CONFIDENTIAL,”

C/o. The N.Z. Beekeeper.

FOLDING WIRE GAUZE BEE VEILS FOLDING WIRE GAUZE BEE VEILS

£1/5/-. Post Free.
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Mail your order now to:—

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

★ FOR SALE ★

FOR SALE:

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 rail-head 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).

500 HIVES BEES, HONEYHOUSE with all equipment, and storage shed. Going concern. Will consider selling hives separately in large or small lots.

BELIN BROS.,

90 East Coast Road, Milford,
Auckland.

FULL RANGE OF BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT, together with 35 HIVES. An opportunity to start a beekeeping business with an efficient one-man plant, at a give-away price.

L. M. CAMPBELL,
Bay Road, Oxford, Canterbury.

★ WANTED ★

COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING OUTFIT

In Canterbury, Otago or Southland.
Replies to:—

“No. 31,”

C/o. The Editor.

WANTED TO BUY: A South Island outfit in clover country, with approximately 300 hives or room to increase. Reply to “Producer,” C/o. The Editor.

WANTED: Hives on site or for removal. North Canterbury to Southland. Replies to “Bees,” C/o. The Editor.

The National Beekeepers' Association

(An Organisation for the advancement of
the Beekeeping Industry in New Zealand)

'Better Beekeeping — Better Marketing'

Subscriptions

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.



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
accepted for publication do not necessarily
express the views of the Editor.

Advertisement Rates

Full Page	£6 0 0	Per Inch	10 0
Half Page	£3 6 0		
Quarter Page		Minimum charge, 5/-	
Page	£1 16 0	for each insertion.	

CONTENTS

	Page
1961 Crop Survey	3
Executive Meeting	3
U.K. Honey Market	3
New Manager Visits	
South	3
Gift Parcel Scheme	4
Photo, Mr. G. E. Gumbrell	3
Snowman Eludes Hillary	4
Weed Control by N.Z.R.	4
Butter 'Spreadability'	4
Acarine Precautions	4
Hormonised Fertilisers	5
Detecting Apiaries	5
Honey Prices	6
1960 Conference	
Resolutions	8
Honey Marketing	
Authority	11
Sales at Apiaries	13
Stop Press	14
Dept. of Agriculture	15
Notice to Beekeepers	16
Branch Notes	18
Notes for Beginners	23
Storage of Queen Bees	24
Removing Surplus	
Honey	25
Maintenance of a Work	
Table Level	26
Bees and Forests	27
The Nucleus in Every- day Beekeeping	29

FRONT COVER PHOTO:

This attractive self-service
stall is maintained by Mr.
Stan Wilson at Elderslie,
North Otago. Photo by
Chris Dawson.

Alliance
Quality

**BEE
SUPPLIES**

**PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR MAINTENANCE AND
EXTENSION PROGRAMME**

Secure your stores, frames and other equipment in good time for your autumn and winter work.

An Alliance paraffin waxing unit will add years to the life of your woodware. Single and three-heat models priced at £14/16/- and £18/15/- respectively, plus crating at 15/- each.

A full range of all bee supplies available for prompt or later delivery. Commercial beekeepers will be interested in our special prices for bulk purchases.

BEESWAX

WE ARE ALWAYS BUYERS AT HIGHEST CURRENT MARKET RATES. PROCEEDS CAN BE EITHER PAID FOR BY PROMPT CASH OR SET AGAINST GOODS.

The Alliance Bee Supplies Co. Ltd.

25 Sawyers Arms Road, Papanui, Christchurch.

P.O. BOX 5056, PAPANUI.

TELEPHONE: 49-841.

TELEGRAMS: "BEEWARE," CHRISTCHURCH.