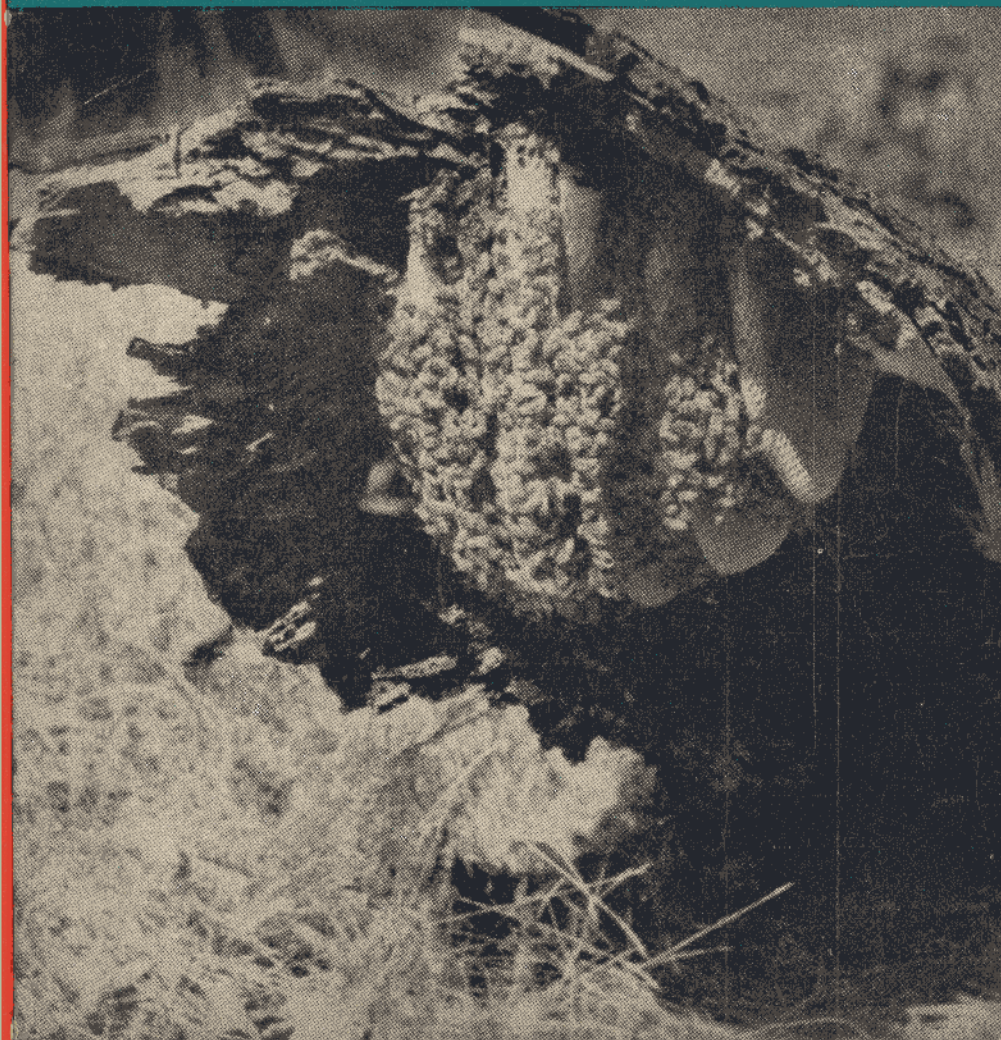


The New Zealand Beekeeper

AUGUST 1961



The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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Editorial

BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY LOOKS AHEAD

It was a forward-looking move that the Dominion Conference made in Nelson when it surveyed anew the aims and functions of the Association in adequately serving the beekeepers of New Zealand. It was also a practical move when it followed this up with an assessment of the funds that would be required and took active steps to make the money available.

In carrying out the programme laid down it is not money alone that will be required but also the active participation of beekeepers in all parts of the country. It is only through participation that the objectives will be achieved and the real benefits gained. As for the money, the sum envisaged is not too much for an industry to spend in promoting its own welfare.

It could be said that the challenge of the future has been taken up, and in meeting the challenge we will now find out whether the industry has really come of age.

FAREWELL "FOUL BROOD"

One of the most interesting decisions in the history of New Zealand beekeeping was made at the Nelson Conference when the industry resolved to abandon the disgusting name "foul brood." Specifically, the term is henceforth banned from all publications of the National Beekeepers' Association, the Department of Agriculture is to be requested to refrain from using it, and beekeepers themselves are asked to let it die.

The name, while it lasted, was an unfortunate blot on the honey industry. To the beekeeper, blunted by familiarity, it perhaps gave no offence, but to the layman its significance was unmistakable—filthy, loathsome, stinking, rotten; as the dictionary confirms in no uncertain manner. The routine publicity given to "foul brood" conveyed a stigma to the product of the hive which was as damaging as it was unfair.

New Zealand is not the first country to reject this obnoxious term. We are told that in New South Wales the Department of Agriculture has eliminated it from the latest edition of its bulletin "Bees and Honey," while in Victoria the Department has been requested to do the same.

Of course, the passing of the Conference remit in itself does not compel beekeepers to reject the name "foul brood." It is our privilege, however, to drop it if we wish, and the remit records our resolve to do so.

In making this change it is not necessary to coin a new term for the disease in question as the correct name *Bacillus Larvae* (or B.L.) is known and used throughout the world. In future this Journal will use the correct name in specific references to the disease.

ANNUAL REPORT

*Presented by the Dominion President, Mr. J. R. Barber, at the
Nelson Conference, 25/7/61*

Every year brings fresh problems. The past year has been no different. The only difference is in the problems themselves. This is what we tell ourselves year after year—but in this we err. Because there is one major problem which has been with us for years and has been steadily growing in size and importance. And yet we have steadfastly averted our eyes from it.



Nor is it our problem alone. It is one shared by a great many New Zealanders. A problem born of the Welfare State, where everything is organised and everyone tends to shelter under the artificial umbrella of State protection and controls.

The problem is APATHY. And events of the past year have demonstrated the degree to which we, as an industry, have tended to fall under its spell.

Two developments in particular justify this statement:—

Price Control

Four years ago the industry voluntarily sought freedom from price control and was successful. But because freedom brought difficulties which we had not expected and because we were ill-equipped and too poorly organised to overcome these difficulties we were only too happy to return to the protective though restrictive shelter of control and we have hidden our heads beneath it ever since.

With the change of Government and of government policies we have latterly been faced with the prospect of decontrol whether we like it or not and it is evident that the majority of us do not. We have expressed a firm reluctance to surrender bureaucratic dictation for the right of self-determination in the matter of prices, margins and market organisation. I put it to you that we have not been prepared to accept the challenge of running our own business under highly competitive conditions because we have not been prepared to accept the responsibility for our own management. We have drifted into an apathetic reliance on Government officials to steer our course for us, reserving only the right to criticise and complain.

Whether Government will finally decide in favour of decontrol is not yet known, but whatever the outcome I would suggest that NOW is the time when we should take a new look at ourselves and our responsibilities.

PRODUCTION

For some time we have been telling ourselves that we must do something to improve our standards in production techniques and in apiary management, both for our own good as individual producers and for the benefit of our neighbours, who can and do suffer from our own failure to do so. And every year many of us have no doubt secretly tried to convince ourselves that the matter was not really very important and could wait another year, or another, if next year seemed too busy.

Perhaps we have told ourselves that others "get away with" slipshod methods and so can we. And perhaps our advisers have in turn acquired some of our apathy and allowed us too much latitude, turning the other way rather than face an unpleasant duty.

The result has now been disaster in some cases in this last year. Let us resolve here and now to convert words into action; to eradicate those problems which threaten the very foundations of our industry. Let us be deadly serious. This is not something we can leave to our neighbour. YOU and I must tackle

this matter ourselves, in our own apiaries; prepared in advance to meet the loss on discarding of faulty stock and plant. Because from now on there can be no second chances. The markets which we have developed for our product are too important to too many people to sacrifice for the inefficiency or selfishness of a few.

Marketing

Conditions on the local market have remained fairly static during the past year. Crops were average and there has been no great evidence of over-supply with attendant price worries. Production costs continue to rise however through general inflationary tendencies in the country's economy and we cannot help but be concerned at the additional burden which the industry must bear through rising prices of essential commodities and services.

Our industry marketing organisation has undergone some changes during the year with the appointment of a new Executive Officer and a change in elected representatives. Both have tended to bring a new stimulus to the Authority's functioning. The able leadership which the new chairman, Mr. Gumbrell, has brought to his position, coupled with good management and new outlooks has been most heartening and it is noteworthy to record the new degree of confidence which producers are expressing in their marketing body. Certainly there has never before been such a period of helpful co-operation between the Authority and your Association's Executive on vital issues.

Department of Agriculture

It has been our practice each year to express our thanks to the Department for its services as a matter of courtesy and in this we have perhaps conveyed the impression that we were entirely satisfied with the way in which the Department was attending our problems and generally over-seeing our interests. If we have engendered this understanding, let me hasten to correct it.

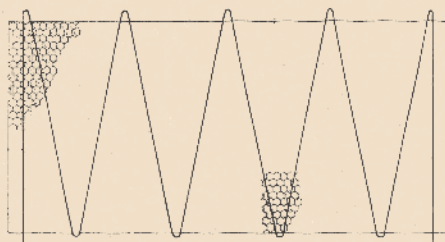
Certainly we do genuinely appreciate and thank individual officers, especially Field Staff, who in the main have been attentive to the industry's requirements within the limits of their powers. But in honesty let us face and clearly record the fact that in large measure we are far from satisfied with the Department's general attitude to the Beekeeping Industry and to its approach at administrative level to our very real needs. Far too much has been left to chance and far too often have our genuine and just representations been fobbed off with official excuses and unconvincing explanations.

For instance: Four years ago the Hon. K. J. Holyoake, when Minister of Agriculture, recognised the legitimacy of our plea in the vital need for additional specialists to aid in servicing our industry and he authorised two new appointments—an additional scientific officer and a field experimentalist. Neither position has yet been filled and when we have enquired for a reason we have been informed that no suitable applicants have come forward. In this we have naturally believed that the Department has made and is continuing to make every effort to fill the positions. But when we look at the Public Service Grading Scale we find not only has no provision been made for such specialist positions but the grading scale for our existing specialist position has been held static whereas those of comparable specialists in almost every other division of the department have been raised.

I ask you, how on earth does the Department think it will hold even existing senior staff, much less attract additional recruits at any level if it destroys all incentives. And what quality of men are to be offered to us as specialists if the positions carry no more salary and status than that of a run-of-the-mill instructor. How empty do assurances become, when they are mere words entirely unsupported by any real intention. Last year a producer organisation was told that Departmental administration was none of its business. What utter nonsense, when administration so clearly affects **operation** which is the producers' concern. It is becoming increasingly obvious that administration is out of touch with operational requirements and that more emphasis should be placed on this side of the department's activities.

This and other matters of equal concern will have to be taken-up with Government at an early date.

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Agricultural Chemicals and Research

There have been occasional reports of mysterious bee mortality but no recurrence of the disaster experienced five years ago when agricultural chemicals were more or less in their infancy. In this we can be more than thankful for the existence of the Agricultural Chemicals Board, set-up partly as a result of our own representations. We owe a great debt of gratitude too, to our personal representative on that Board, Mr. T. E. Pearson, who, apart from making a useful contribution to all other aspects of the Board's work, has been especially vigilant in the beekeeper's interests. His work has cost him much personal time and effort and deserves the warm appreciation of the industry.

In response to last year's Conference remit, the Board has carried out investigations into the effects of Hormonized super and other compounds with a view to providing protection for essential pollinating insects. Developments in the use of agricultural chemicals and the experience of other branches of primary industry such as meat production during the past twelve months have done nothing but re-inforce the validity of the strong demands for careful control and research which the Association has advanced in recent years. Under modern conditions of agriculture the spotlight is on research today as a means towards improvement tomorrow. From this point of view it is disappointing to note that pollination studies which were commenced five years ago do not yet appear to have been brought to conclusion.

General

Amongst many matters dealt with by the Association during the past year the following are worthy of mention:—

Additional diagnostic stations have been set up by the Department of Agriculture following our insistent representations; A "Gift Parcel" scheme for honey has been inaugurated by the H.M.A. at our suggestion; A "Crop Survey" has again been undertaken and results will be published shortly; Transport difficulties with liquid honey have been taken up with the Railways Department; Representations on State finance for beekeepers have been made; Increased duty on imported Carton Card has been successfully resisted; Extensions of insurance cover with no extra premium are under negotiation; Price Control has been investigated. In addition all matters which arose out of last year's Conference have been dealt with and those that have not been specifically reported upon in the Journal or by Head Office circular will be advised to you in the course of Conference's consideration of similar remits this session.

In themselves, these matters may sound insignificant because when one looks at achievement it is difficult to realise the time and effort which has gone before it. One thing is certain however. Without the corporate strength represented in your membership any achievement by the Association would be a practical impossibility.

INTERNAL

In reviewing a year of work, there is, I feel, always a strong temptation to remember the things we have done and to forget or disregard the failures; to remember Executive action with outside agencies and to overlook our internal Association organisation; to point to our strength rather than give recognition to our weaknesses.

There can be no doubt that we have moved forward during the past year in some respects and we can feel justly proud of this progress. But let us recognise also the fact that success has sometimes been more the result of good fortune than good management. This is a matter which we must be prepared to face, and in any re-appraisal to plan for improvement.

Fifteen Branches continue to operate in the service of members, with varying degrees of success. Of these, only some could be really regarded as reasonably well-organised and usefully active. When it is considered that the Association is essentially a "Service" organisation this thought must give rise to concern.

Branch members are largely dependant upon their local organisation for representation, dissemination of news, educational activities and so on. The larger branches naturally find it easier to provide these facilities than those with smaller membership but there can be little doubt that all branches would benefit from some degree of re-organisation in the near future, with a greater accent on membership participation.

The General Executive held two meetings during the past financial year, in addition to the normal pre-conference meeting. The first of these meetings was in June 1960 when we were concerned with the Report of the Government Investigating Committee and the other in late February of this year. In between these dates our business has, of necessity, rested in the hands of the General Secretary, with questions requiring decision being decided by a postal "questionnaire and reply" system. Effective Executive action under such conditions cannot be anything but difficult and places an unfair burden on our Executive Officer, who is obliged to act firstly as an arbitrator in the different postal views expressed by the Executive Members and to finally decide largely on his own judgement, the course to be followed on any matter before being in a position to perform his proper function of attending to or "executing" the Association's business.

This does not infer that the Executive is in any way dissatisfied with the manner in which the General Secretary has acted. Rather the contrary is the case. But the serious weakness in our administration is spotlighted when we realise that Executive action would in some cases have come to a virtual standstill had it not been for the initiative of the Secretary alone.

It is obvious that the Executive must meet more often and at least when urgently required. Since finance has been the only limiting factor the resolving of our financial difficulties is therefore of major importance. A smaller, more active and mobile executive could also assist in this direction.

There are bright points in our internal picture however and one of these is the continued loyalty and personal sacrifice of Branch Officers, and Secretaries in particular, without whose enthusiasm many branches would collapse. Their efforts are worthy of our warm commendation for in the main they represent that hard core of untiring interest which inspires all members.

The Association's Journal too has been a source of continued satisfaction. Apart from providing beekeepers with a valuable information service we must remember that our Journal is also the "shop window" of our industry and has deep impact on a wide circle of readers. The number of overseas subscribers is evidence of its interest value to many people other than our local producers. All of this continues to reflect high credit on our editor Mr. McFadzen whose vital interest, ability and balanced judgement have elevated not only the Journal itself, but the Association to a position of wide respect.

Visits to Branches

Within the limits of private means every effort has been made to keep in personal contact with Branches and members. Apart from attendance at "home" branches visits have been made by the President and Vice-President to Bay of Plenty, by the President to Hawkes Bay, and by the Vice-President to a number of South Island Branches. Such visits prove a stimulating experience for everyone and help materially to keep our members properly acquainted on many important matters. The extension of such visits in the future would undoubtedly do much good but here again finance is a largely limiting factor.

Appreciation

On your behalf I extend to the Director of Horticulture and his staff our thanks for services rendered. To the members of your Executive and the General Secretary who have cheerfully accepted and actively worked on your problems your appreciation.

Many serious problems lie ahead for both the industry and the Association. The industry problems cannot be solved without an effective association.

We can solve our own Association problems. And that must be one of the specific aims of this Conference. If we fail we fail only ourselves.

. : Notice Board : .

H.M.A. Election

Nominations were to close on August 16 for two producer representatives on the Honey Marketing Authority as required under the H.M.A. Regulations, 1953. The election will be held by postal voting during September. The retiring members this year are Messrs G. E. Gumbrell and W. T. Herron.

New Mailing List

With the November 1961 and subsequent issues we will be using a revised Mailing List based upon current membership subscriptions and hive registrations with the Department of Agriculture. If any beekeeper should fail to receive his November copy he should check his membership status and hive registration and notify the General Secretary accordingly.

Obituary

MR. E. AIREY

Reference was made at the Dominion Conference to the recent death of Mr. E. Airey, for many years one of the best known personalities in beekeeping circles on the West Coast. Mr. Airey was a member of the West Coast Branch since its earliest years and was its President from shortly after the first World War until 1954, an outstanding record.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Airey and it was decided that a letter of sympathy be sent to his family. Mrs. Airey died some years ago.

U.K. HONEY MARKET

On a practically unchanged market, New Zealand white clover honey remains in short supply in the United Kingdom and is still commanding prices of about 180s. per cwt., reports the Bank of New Zealand Produce Department, 24/7/61.

Extra light amber grades have just become available and should make 165s. to 170s., though owing to poor

demand during summer slightly lower prices might have to be accepted. Light amber is in quite good supply and meeting competition from other origins. According to quantity and grade, it is fetching 125s. to 135s. per cwt.

Returns from Crop Survey 1961

Questionnaires Issued	617
Questionnaires Returned	174
Percentage of Replies	28.2%

From the 174 replies received the following information is available.

No. of Hives Represented	68,382
Production therefrom	2,268 tons, 12 cwt.
Average Production per hive	74.3 lbs

Election Candidate

Mr. J. D. Lorimer of Hillcrest, Hamilton, advises that he has accepted nomination as a producer representative at the forthcoming Marketing Authority election.

At present Mr. Lorimer is a member of the National Executive, a position in which he has served for four years. He has also held office as Secretary and as President of the South Auckland Branch.

New Executive Member

The Dominion Executive for the coming year has one new member, Mr. T. S. Wheeler of Otorohanga. Although one of our younger beekeepers Mr. Wheeler has taken a prominent part in commercial beekeeping activities in the Waikato for some years and is at present Secretary of the South Auckland Branch.

The retiring member, Mr. John Jay, has now retired from commercial beekeeping. Mr. Jay built up his apiary business at Reporoa after the end of the war, was elected to the Executive in 1958, and last year was also President of the South Auckland Branch. At the close of Conference a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Jay for his services to the industry, together with best wishes on the occasion of his retirement.

NEW SEALS REGULATIONS

Proposals Outlined

Prior to the discussion on remits dealing with the seal levy Mr. C. T. Gosse, Honey Marketing Authority Manager, was invited to address the 1961 Conference outlining the proposed changes in the Seals Regulations. These changes are designed to meet the wishes expressed repeatedly by the industry that seals should be applied to containers at the point of manufacture. This would eliminate evasion of the levy and would also eliminate the work involved in applying seals.

Mr. Gosse explained that the new regulations would require the Seal Authority to be indicated on all honey labels on containers of 10lb or less. As the labels were already required by law this would make for easier administration. Arrangements are being made with both the printers and the manufacturers, and suitable provisions will be made to facilitate the change-over. The administrative cost of the new system is likely to be less even after making some allowance to the printers and manufacturers.

A number of questions were answered satisfactorily by Mr. Gosse and the proposals met with general approval. The new regulations will be introduced shortly subject to the final approval of the Minister.

THE FUTURE OF OUR ASSOCIATION AND OUR INDUSTRY

Results of a Conference Study

Following the passing of Remit 2 at the 1961 Dominion Conference (see Conference Report) a session was devoted to a complete review of the functions and aims of the National Beekeepers' Association and the methods of financing its proper activities. In introducing the subject the President, Mr. J. R. Barber, referred to the limitations which had hampered the Association in the past, and he then asked the General Secretary, Mr. R. A. Fraser, to lead a discussion on the future of the organisation.

Mr. Fraser first addressed the Conference and with the aid of illustrated data he surveyed the purposes, operations and requirements of a producers' organisation. He then invited members to ask themselves what their objectives were, as individuals in association with one another, what methods would bring the best results, and how to provide such finance as would be required.

At this stage the Conference divided into small study groups each of which conducted a searching inquiry into the proper aims of the organisation. Each group then reported to the Conference, and from the suggestions made

the following objectives were accepted as the requirements of the Association:

- More active Executive
- Improved Journal
- Adequate Secretarial and Administrative Services
- Drive for membership
- More Branch activities
- Visits to Branches by Executive members
- Education sessions and courses in beekeeping
- Bursaries and Field Scholarships
- Research by the Association
- Honey promotion
- Improved Public Relations
- Participation in International Bee-keeping Movements

After a general discussion of the likely costs involved in this programme the study groups resumed in order to consider the sum required by the Association to carry out its work effectively. The group conclusions were again reported to the Conference and were collated and confirmed in the following resolution which the President put to the meeting:—"That this

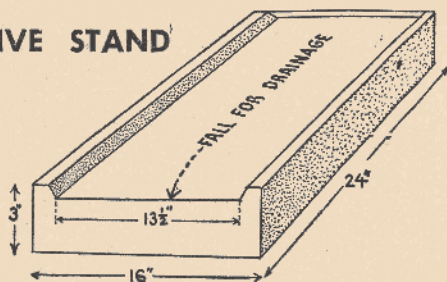
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Conference considers that the Association requires the sum of £4000 annually in order to carry out its proper functions." This resolution was carried by 34 votes to 22.

Methods of raising the required finance were then considered and the large number of proposals which came forward were eventually reduced to three possible sources of revenue. These were the proposed Hive Registration Fee, a grant for Pollination Services, and the Seal Fund. After discussion the Hive Registration Fee was discarded as being administratively impracticable, and the proposed Pollination Grant was also dropped in view of the outcome of past negotiations and particularly the unfavourable recommendation made last year by the Committee of Investigation.

The following resolution was then moved by Mr. T. F. Penrose, seconded by Mr. L. Holt, and carried on the voices by an overwhelming majority:—"That in order to provide for the needs of the Association the annual grant from the seal fund be increased to £3500 per annum."

The theme of the whole discussion was progress in the beekeeping industry through education and membership participation in Association work. In setting this goal the motto "Better Beekeeping, Better Marketing" was given a new meaning, ably portrayed by Mr. Fraser: Better Beekeepers, Better Administration.

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CONFERENCE REPORT

The 1961 Dominion Conference was held in Nelson, on July 25, 26 and 27. The President, Mr. J. R. Barber, was in the chair and there was a large and representative attendance, well over 100 being present at the opening session.

The proceedings commenced with delegates and visitors standing while the President read the Conference prayer.

The official guests were then introduced and the Mayor of Nelson, Mr. S. I. Russell, extended a welcome to delegates.

The Conference was opened by Sir Theodore Rigg, ex-Director of the Cawthron Institute. Sir Theodore recalled that he had himself once conducted an investigation into the properties of beeswax and the Institute had at various times handled investigations affecting beekeepers, such as the chemical composition of New Zealand honeys, the removal of undesirable flavours and colours, and the testing of honey for adulterants. The export of honey was of significance in the diversification of our products and it was important that the best should be made of our growing beekeeping industry. He wished delegates a successful and enjoyable Conference.

Apologies

A message was received from Mr. S. A. Whitehead M.P. apologising for his unavoidable absence and extending best wishes to members. Apologies were also received from Messrs W. W. Nelson, E. A. Field, and P. Berry.

Marketing Authority

The Conference was addressed by the Chairman of the H.M.A., Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, who reviewed the activities of the past year.

Department of Agriculture

The Director of the Horticulture Division, Mr. A. M. W. Greig, addressed the Conference, dealing with current production problems and the work of the Apiary Section.

Agricultural Chemicals Board

Mr. T. E. Pearson, who is the N.B.A. representative on the Board, reported on the work done during the past year.

Annual Report

The President's Annual Report and the Financial Statement were read and adopted. The general account showed a credit balance of £26 compared with a credit balance of £111 last year.

REMITTS

(Note: The remit numbers correspond with those appearing on the Order Paper. In the case of some remits the original wording was altered slightly by the unanimous agreement of Conference.)

Organisation

(1) "That in the interests of improved administration Conference agrees to a change in the constitution of the Association to provide for a General Executive comprising one Executive member from each Island, a Vice-President, a President, and an immediate Past-President, who is to hold office for one year." (Moved by J. W. Fraser seconded by E. D. Williams.)

Mr. Fraser said that the office of Vice-President should be the stepping stone for an incoming President, rather than an outgoing one. The proposed change would ensure that the Executive had the benefit of the experience of the Past-President for one year without his standing in the normal line of succession. There would also be a more compact Executive with some saving in expenses.

Opposing the remit Mr. L. Holt claimed that the larger Executive gave a more balanced opinion and gave wider training to new Executive members.

An amendment suggesting that the remit be altered to read "... comprising three Executive members from each Island, the President and Vice-President to be elected by the Executive" (W. J. C. Ashcroft/L. Holt) was lost.

A further amendment substituting the words "Junior Vice-President" for "Past-President" (T. S. Wheeler/K. Gregory) was lost.

After further discussion the remit was lost.

(2) "That following successive Conferences' concern at the weak state of the Association's finances and in

view of the report of the Executive's investigation into a 'Hive Registration Fee' to strengthen finances as directed by last Conference, this Conference now set up study groups (of the whole or part) to consider and report to this Conference upon the following questions:

(Such Committee sessions to be held in ordinary hours of sitting especially set aside for the purpose.)

- (1) The extent of the Association's monetary requirements present and future, bearing in mind changes in the scope of the Association's functions and work, which are either necessary or desirable.
- (2) The suitability and adequacy of the Hive Registration Fee scheme or any modification thereof to meet the Association's financial needs
- (3) Other methods of improving the Association's finances, bearing in mind the need to meet not only present day needs but those which may arise, and the consequences of continuing inflation on any present monetary provision.

And that Conference after such investigation, give a clear indication to the incoming Executive as to:—

- (a) The future scope of the Association's work and
- (b) The method of financing same."

Moved by J. R. Barber and seconded by J. W. Fraser, the remit was carried.

The outcome of this remit is reported separately on page 10 of this issue.

Agricultural Chemicals

- (3) Withdrawn.

(5) "That in view of the general use by farmers of DDT and hormone sprays on pasture, this Conference urges the continuation of close representation in the interests of beekeepers." (J. W. Fraser/R. Davidson)

Mr. Fraser commended the remit as an appreciation of the importance of controls and a token of the Association's confidence in Mr. T. E. Pearson as its representative. Carried.

(5) "That we join with other primary industries in expressing concern over the indiscriminate use of pesticides and request more research into the residual effects of these chemicals." (R. Davidson/T. F. Penrose) Carried.

Honey Production.

(6) "That because of the superior gathering qualities of hybrid queens in all countries where they have been tried, importation of a trial shipment be permitted under the supervision of the Agriculture Department." (R. Davidson/W. I. Haines.)

Information which has been given about superior overseas strains should be put to the test, said Mr. Davidson.

Mr. D. F. Penrose opposed the remit, stressing the danger of introducing acarine disease.

Mr. J. K. Bray: If the Department will not import bees others will be tempted to do so illegally, and that is where the risk lies.

Mr. C. Bird said that Dadants were the only source of true hybrid strains and in his opinion the procedure that had to be followed made imports quite impracticable, even if permitted by law. He believed that locally developed strains were the best for any locality.

The remit was lost.

(7) "That owing to the valuable service of part-time inspection this Conference expresses the desire for its continuation at the fullest possible capacity." (J. W. Fraser/N. E. Glass) Carried.

(8) "That the name "Foul Brood" be banned from all publications of the N.B.A. and that the Department of Agriculture be asked to refrain from using this obnoxious term. The correct name *Bacillus Larvae* (or B.L.) to be used when that disease is specified." (J. McFadzien/K. Gregory)

After emphasising the harm that came from using this horrible expression the mover said that passing the remit was only the first step in wiping it out. Before supporting the remit members should ask themselves whether they were prepared personally to avoid the term.

Several speakers supported the remit, which was carried unanimously.

(9) "That in order that the Apiaries Act may be made truly effective, the Department should provide facilities for the ready diagnosis of honey for *Bacillus Larvae* spores, and that such work should take top priority." (J. Glynn/N. E. Glass)

In discussion it was argued that this proposal was not practicable and that

in any case it was tackling the disease problem from the wrong end. The remit was lost.

(10) "That apiarists, on application to the local inspector, be notified when inspection is carried out in their apiaries." (R. Davidson/A.R. Gossett)

On the motion of Mr. J. K. Bray, seconded by Mr. D. F. Penrose, the remit was amended to read "That commercial apiarists, on application to the local inspector, be notified when inspection is to be carried out in their apiaries." (29 votes to 24).

After considerable discussion the amended remit was put to the meeting and was lost by 25 votes to 26.

(11) Withdrawn.

(12) "That in future, in inspection programmes, commercial apiaries should receive more attention." (J. Glynn/T. S. Wheeler) Carried.

(13) "That where Bacillus Larvae is found in an apiary within a reasonable time after extraction, the Department should have power to direct that the whole or part of that producer's crop shall be sold only through channels which preclude the possibility of that honey being packed and sold in retail containers." (J. W. Fraser/J. K. Bray)

Mr. Fraser said the remit was designed to support the Department in measures required to combat B.L.

Mr. R. Bennie, comparing B.L. with the rabbit problem, said that de-valuation of diseased honey was the only solution.

Mr. R. Davidson: Is B.L. honey heated to 212 degrees for twenty minutes when used in making tobacco?

President: Yes, when you smoke it!

Mr. C. Hill: This remit is going too far; it is looking for perfection where we can't find it. Sometimes bees are put into an area to clean up disease, so we should be reasonable and practical. If the remit were carried out in its entirety there would be no beekeeping industry left.

Mr. W. I. Haines: This remit would encourage beekeepers to conceal cases of disease and would drive it underground.

The remit was lost, 16 votes to 42.

(14) Withdrawn.

(15) "That the use of antibiotics and sulfa drugs be prohibited for the controlling of Bacillus Larvae and that

a heavy penalty be provided against offenders." (L. Holt/R. Davidson) Carried.

(16) "That the Apiaries Act be amended to give inspectors power to destroy bees and contents of all hives in neglected apiaries if 75 per cent of hives have Bacillus Larvae." (R. Davidson/K. Gregory)

Under this system the first visit would be the last, said Mr. Davidson. At present it was sometimes necessary to return to a neglected apiary year after year to destroy diseased hives.

Mr. A. V. Hewlett suggested that there was a good case for destroying all neglected hives irrespective of the percentage of disease. The remit was carried.

(17) "That the Apiaries Regulations be enforced insofar as they apply to the sale of bees and consequent moving of equipment." (R. Davidson/G. E. Gumbrell)

In reply to a question Mr. E. Smaellie explained that a permit for sale was required only when the bees were to be moved. The remit was carried.

(18) "That Conference asks for a revision of the Apiaries Act to cover the disposal of abandoned apiaries." (T. S. Wheeler/L. Holt)

Explaining that there was at present no power to deal with abandoned apiaries Mr. Wheeler quoted cases of overgrown apiaries which were a menace to the industry.

Mr. T. F. Penrose said that a definition of abandoned apiaries was needed in order to avoid liability of the Department.

On the motion of Mr. R. Davidson, seconded by Mr. A. E. Deadman, the remit was amended to read "That Conference asks for a revision of the Apiaries Act to cover the disposal of apiaries abandoned for over two years."

The amended remit was carried.

Educational

(19) "That all articles, and radio and television talks dealing with honey marketing by officers of the Apiary Section shall first be approved by the Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry." (J. W. Fraser/N.E. Glass)

Mr. Fraser said it was important that the interests of the industry, as



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well as technical accuracy, should be borne in mind in preparing material for publication.

Opposing the remit Mr. L. Holt said there was already too much Government control and we should avoid stifling people who had something useful to contribute.

Other speakers feared that the proposal would be cumbersome and would tend to destroy the initiative of field officers. The remit was lost.

(20) "That efforts be made to secure the production of Departmental pamphlets, with explanatory photographs, covering such subjects as Transport of Bees, Queen Rearing, Multi-Queen Systems, Comb Honey Production etc. and that the booklet "Beekeeping in N.Z." be revised and reprinted without delay." (R. B. Jones/G. F. R. Gordon)

Mr. E. Smaellie explained that the new edition of "Beekeeping in N.Z." had been delayed because most of the old blocks had to be replaced but it was now in course of preparation. The general policy was to include all information in this Bulletin which could be kept for reference, whereas separate pamphlets tended to get lost.

In reply to a question whether it would be possible in the new edition to use only the term *Bacillus Larvae* when referring to our main brood disease Mr. Smaellie said that unfortunately the Bulletin was already being printed and he thought it was now too late to make the amendment in this particular publication.

The remit was carried.

(21) Withdrawn.

(22) "That the Department of Agriculture make available to Branches of the N.B.A. a series of colour slides and lecture notes." (L. Holt/K. Gregory) Carried.

(23) "That the National Film Unit and the Superintendent Beekeeping Industry be approached with a view to producing a documentary film of at least 1000 feet, on commercial beekeeping in New Zealand." (T. S. Wheeler/G. E. Gumbrell)

Mr. A. Fleming suggested that the film should be on an adult level and quoted similar films in colour which had gained wide circulation.

Supporting the remit Mr. F. Hansen said that the commercial film industry should be interested in such a project

and would perhaps be willing to bear the cost. The remit was carried.

Marketing

(24) "That the N.B.A. or H.M.A. conduct a vigorous honey promotion scheme on a national basis and that Conference devise a scheme to finance same." (W. I. Haines/J. W. Fraser)

On the motion of Mr. T. F. Penrose, seconded by Mr. C. Hill, the remit was amended to read "That the Honey Marketing Authority conduct a vigorous honey promotion scheme on a national basis."

Supporting the remit Mr. Gumbrell said that the Authority was concentrating on a long term policy of advertising honey in general, and he quoted some of the avenues at present being used. The amended remit was carried.

(25) Withdrawn.

(26) "That the H.M.A. put on the Auckland market a manuka pack to be sold as Manuka Honey." (W. I. Haines/F. Hansen)

An amendment moved by Mr. A. V. Hewlett seeking to include the words "and kamahi" lapsed for want of a seconder.

Mr. Gumbrell mentioned that there were numerous sources of honey, each with a special appeal, but it was impossible for the Authority to handle each one separately, especially as supplies were unpredictable. In most cases it would be more economic for individual beekeepers to market special lines in the districts where they were produced.

Mr. J. Bell: More consideration is needed for manuka. In Nelson the wasps came; then they went bush, and they are now cleaning up the manuka blight. Manuka is coming back, and manuka honey may be on the increase.

On the motion of Mr. A. Fleming, seconded by Mr. L. Holt, the remit was amended to read "That the Honey Marketing Authority investigate the possibility of putting on the market a manuka pack." In this form the remit was carried.

(27) Withdrawn.

(28) Withdrawn.

(29) "That the H.M.A. be asked to accept liquid honey at the depot free of penalty provided is it delivered by own transport." (K. Gregory/D. A. Barrow) Carried.

(30) Lapsed.

(31) Lapsed.

(32) "That the price of honey be not (NOT) de-controlled." (T. E. Pearson/D. L. Ward).

In the course of a long discussion supporters of the remit argued that higher prices would benefit only the trade and the demand for honey would be adversely affected. Opposing speakers claimed that under de-control it would be possible to obtain a premium for high grade honeys, and that competition among the trade would keep profit margins at a reasonable level. The remit was carried by 33 to 29.

(33) Withdrawn.

General

(34) Withdrawn

(35) Withdrawn

(36) "That this Conference approach the necessary authority with a view to banning the use of honey in any form for spraying blossom." (A. V. Hewlett/J. Bell)

Honey has been used in sprays to encourage bees to work the flowers. Several speakers stressed the danger of spreading disease and urged that growers be asked for their co-operation in stopping this practice. The remit was carried.

(37) "That the incoming Executive makes a thorough investigation into ways and means of controlling apiary sites, and report back to next Conference." (R. Davidson/G. E. Gumbrell) Lost by 23 to 27.

(38) "That an amendment be made to the Apiaries Act prohibiting the establishment of apiaries on the sides of used roads." (T. S. Wheeler/K. Gregory)

Mr. Bird: Some roads in our district are ten miles wide with plenty of room for hives. Also there are roads on the West Coast where apiaries can be sited for rata without causing trouble. Apiaries in a paddock could be more troublesome if the bees happened to be channelled down the road.

Mr. R. Newton quoted from a press report that 40 beekeepers were being notified to move bees from closely settled areas.

The remit was lost.

(39) "That the Executive inquire into the lack of the Catchment Board's observance of a previous agreement with the Executive to give beekeepers four weeks notice of intended earth works near apiaries." (R. Davidson/G. E. Gumbrell) Carried.

(40) "That the Executive approach the Government to have the initial depreciation allowance of 30 per cent on farmers' new equipment and workers houses reinstated." (L. Holt/C. Bird) Carried.

(41) "That the results of both N.B.A. and H.M.A. elections be given wider immediate publicity by broadcasting over YA Stations." (H. S. Wilson/R. Bennie).

Mr. Wilson said there was a time lag of up to three months if beekeepers had to wait on the next Journal. This could be avoided by using the regular farm sessions to announce election results. Carried.

(42) "That ownership of H.M.A. fixed assets be declared; and shares be made available to active beekeepers who supply honey and/or purchase seals."

After the General Secretary had reported that this proposal was not practicable under the present constitution of the Authority it was suggested that this remit be withdrawn. This suggestion was adopted on a show of hands, Mr. T. F. Penrose asking that his objection be recorded.

(43) "That extra copies of each issue of "The N.Z. Beekeeper" be issued to each Branch on application." (K. Gregory/L. Holt) Carried.

(44) "That the Transport Department be approached to alter heavy traffic licence dates to coincide with the motor registration." (T. E. Pearson/J. D. Lorimer) Carried.

(45) "That the appropriate authorities be approached to have internal exchange on cheques abolished." (J. K. Bray/N.E. Glass) Carried.

(46) "That the next Conference be held in Tauranga." (K. Gregory/J. W. Fraser).

It was explained that the remit would in effect be a recommendation as the matter would be decided later by the Executive.

Mr. G. F. R. Gordon mentioned that Hawkes Bay had already extended an invitation to next Conference and he hoped this would receive consideration.

Supporting the remit Mr. Don Barrow described the attractions and facilities and the welcome awaiting in Tauranga, and in the space of two minutes put up one of the most devastating arguments ever heard at a Conference. Delegates expressed their admiration in a spontaneous burst of applause.

Mr. Ashcroft, Hawkes Bay (a trifle lamely): Anything you can do we can do better. (Laughter.)

The remit was carried.

A resolution "that this Conference places on record its appreciation and thanks to our General Secretary, Mr. Bob Fraser, for the work and time devoted to the preparation and presentation of material for our group discussions," moved by Mr. T. F. Penrose, was carried by acclamation.

Election of Officers

President: Mr. J. R. Barber (re-elected unopposed).

Vice-President: Nominations were J. K. Bray and J. D. Lorimer. Mr. J. K. Bray was elected.

Executive: Nominations were D. A. Barrow, J. D. Lorimer, D. L. Ward, T. S. Wheeler (North Island) and R. Davidson, J. W. Fraser, D. F. Penrose (South Island) Messrs J. D. Lorimer, T. S. Wheeler, J. W. Fraser and D. F. Penrose were elected.

Life Members

Two nominations for life membership were presented with the endorsement for the Executive.

In moving the nomination of Mr. E. D. Williams, Mr. L. Holt traced a notable career in beekeeping. Mr. Williams started beekeeping in Te Awamutu district as a cadet under Mr. Bartlett-Miller, a well known beekeeping pioneer. With his cousin he later took over the business and built it up so successfully that it became a legend all over New Zealand. Production at one stage reaching over 100 tons of honey for three consecutive years. A member of the National Beekeepers' Association since 1921, Mr. Williams served on the Executive from 1942 until 1950 when he became Dominion President. He held this office for six years and was

also the Association's representative on the Marketing Authority from 1953 to 1956.

Mr. J. D. Lorimer seconded the nomination.

The nomination of Mr. C. R. Paterson was moved by Mr. Lorimer. Early in his career Mr. Paterson kept bees commercially in North Otago where he was instrumental in forming the North Otago Branch and was Branch Secretary for some years before joining the Department of Agriculture. As an Instructor he was stationed first at Greymouth and later at Hamilton where he was given the designation of Apiculturist and specialised in the designing of apiary equipment. His contribution in this field brought much progress in beekeeping technique and his personal assistance to many beekeepers was widely appreciated. Mr. Lorimer paid a special tribute to Mrs. Paterson for her unflinching hospitality to beekeepers.

Mr. J. Jay seconded the nomination.

The two nominations were carried by acclamation and Mr. Williams and Mr. Paterson briefly acknowledged their election to Life Membership.

General Business

Mr. J. D. Lorimer referred to the absence of beekeeping articles in the Journal of Agriculture in recent months and expressed the hope that these would be resumed in the near future.

Mr. T. F. Penrose made reference to the system of group discussions which had been used for selected remits at recent Conferences, and he gave notice of motion for next Conference "that consideration be given to the advisability of holding group discussions at future Conferences."

In closing the Conference Mr. Barber thanked the Nelson Branch for their assistance and hospitality, Mr. G. E. Gumbrell and Mr. C. T. Gosse for their help and co-operation during Conference, and Mr. A. M. W. Greig and Mr. E. Smaelic and other officers of the Department of Agriculture for their continued interest.

Mr. T. L. Cropp on behalf of the Nelson Branch acknowledged the tributes which had been paid to it and expressed the pleasure of local members at having been able to entertain delegates.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

Chairman's Address to the Nelson Conference

I have much pleasure in presenting to your Conference this report on the Authority's activities for the past year. You will realise that it is not possible, neither is it desirable, to go too fully into details and I do hope that you will not hesitate to ask any questions that will help explain away any doubts or misunderstandings.



The H.M.A. Election last year, coupled with the appointment of a new Manager and a major re-arrangement of the packing facilities has made the year a particularly busy one and it is pleasing to place on record the help and co-operation that has been received from the Authority's staff and the beekeeping industry in general. If real progress has been made—and I do believe it has—this is not solely due to any one person but to the united efforts of all connected with the industry. The Authority's one aim is to strive for better marketing conditions and increased returns to producers and we will continue to work to obtain these ends.

Supplies, Returns and Conditions of Supply

The Chairman's Report to the Minister has already been published and gives all the relevant details, and it is sufficient to say that the renewed confidence in the Authority which is shown by way of increased supplies is very satisfactory. This tonnage has been further increased for the period of supply ending June 30, 1961, and it is pleasing to note that these figures include a significant increase in the supplies of white honey.

This year we made some alterations in "Condition of Supply" that are calculated to assist both the Producer and the Authority. On request, an advance of 3d. per lb was made available to suppliers as soon as the honey was tinned and 24 beekeepers availed themselves of this service. There has been some unexpected time lag in the receipt of grading notes on honey received into South Island depots and graded on sample. In order to ensure that suppliers receive at least some immediate substantial payment it has been decided in future to make a comparable advance immediately on receipt of advice of delivery. The exact amount will be announced when the "Conditions of Supply" are drawn up for the coming season, but I can assure you that the amount will be realistic.

There is also room for improvement in the "Conditions of Supply" by making provision for honey from beekeepers who can deliver it into Auckland depot by road transport. The accent today is on colour and by receiving these honies into store for blending in a liquid condition it may be possible to save loss of colour in melting and so increase the return to both supplier and the Authority. We are cognizant with the problem and you may rest assured that we will use every endeavour to overcome this difficulty of colour loss.

Plant

Despite anything that you may have been told to the contrary, the plant as it existed when I took office was not suited for packing for the retail trade, neither was it functioning at maximum efficiency for blending. After very full and careful consideration the Authority unanimously decided to rectify the position by installing an efficient packing plant for the retail trade and when opportunity arose to make the necessary modifications to the existing plant to ensure efficient blending.

In order to enable us to keep going, a small prototype plant was assembled which gave us the necessary data on which to base the erection of our plant

proper. All this took time and while we do not claim that our operations were 100% efficient we did keep going and maintained continuity of supply. The new plant came into operation on July 4, and surprisingly few "teething troubles" were experienced. We are not yet at the end of the modifications and alterations needed to bring our activities up to full efficiency but we now know where weaknesses exist and these will be rectified as opportunity permits.

Markets

(1) **Export:** After a difficult period of supply it is gratifying once again to be able to offer our London agents some of our better selling honeys and credit is due to them for maintaining the premiums which were offering under conditions of short supply. White honeys are selling well but we may have to face lower values for Honeyco grades. You can rest assured that all avenues are being explored to obtain the best possible prices for all grades. A worthwhile export trade in packed honey—with emphasis on the "HoneyGold" standard is being developed and your Manager is exploring every possible avenue of disposal. To this end we are receiving considerable assistance and advice from our Trade Commissioners in the various countries and I am confident that this trade is very worthwhile and can be considerably extended. All white clover honey from the South Island export ports has been or will be shipped direct to U.K. or N. Europe and this action has given the best net return.

(2) **Local:** Any appreciable increase in this direction has not been possible owing to restrictions on packing facilities. However these days are now over and the next few months should see a favourable expansion in the sale of retail packs. We are now operating on the Wellington market and will be extending our operations to other centres in the near future. In all cases the emphasis is on the sale of "HoneyGold" which returns a price to us considerably better than export parity. We have at times found it difficult to satisfy the demand for "Imperial Bee" the availability of which depends on the amount of white honey that is received into the Auckland depot. The fluctuations in supply that inevitably occur, coupled with the Authority's general trading policy, have made it prudent to return to the original colour grade for this pack. This action will cause less confusion to the trade and will enable us to maintain continuity of supply—a very important factor.

Seals Levy

While the method of enforcement of this levy has left much to be desired, so has the matter of levy on the sales at the apiary. Considerable effort has been put into solving these difficulties and at long last it is possible to state that we only await Cabinet's approval to a plan to enable us to collect ALL levies and so minimise evasion. Likewise we will be able to give effect to the Industry's request to exempt all sales at the apiary other than those of 10lbs or less. Details of the scheme will be announced at this Conference.

Advertising

Now that the "HoneyGold" brand is firmly established the Authority is concentrating on a general long term campaign of advertising honey in general. An entry in the New Zealand Trades Alphabet has been secured and as every school child receives a copy of this publication this form of advertising is considered most valuable. In conjunction with this entry a school project on "Beekeeping and the Honey Industry" is being prepared and will be made available to children on application. This is a very comprehensive publication and I must extend my thanks to Mr. C. R. Paterson who has prepared the basic material and to Mr. J. McFadzien who is editing the document.

Full use is being made of news items in connection with the Industry and much valuable publicity is being obtained in this direction. A display stall has been allotted to the Authority at the 1962 Easter Show at Auckland and it is the intention of the Authority to make the most of this opportunity to publicise honey.

Two show cases are now complete and have already been displayed at Westland's Industrial Fair and the Waikato Winter Show. We regret that we have

had to turn down the Dunedin Branch due to their Show clashing with the Waikato. However we are proceeding as fast as possible with the second two cases and these will be available for the 1962 Show Season.

Decontrol of Honey Prices

During the last six months a considerable amount of thought and discussion has been put into this subject. It must be appreciated that decontrol or otherwise of selling prices is not the prerogative of the beekeeping industry but is part and parcel of declared Government policy. After very careful investigation into all the "Pros and Cons" of the proposition the H.M.A. was unanimous in its opinion that the Industry can be best served by freeing honey from price control and we have informed the Government accordingly. Whether or not decontrol will come about I am not in the position to say.

Gift Parcel Scheme

In response to numerous requests the Authority has instituted a Gift Parcel Scheme for Honey. For a reasonable sum of money any person can have delivered to any address in the U.K. a 5lb tin of "HoneyGold." The package will be suitably wrapped and will contain a short brochure on New Zealand honeys. Besides being a good medium for advertising in the U.K. the scheme will fill a much needed want for Christmas gifts to friends and relations in Great Britain. The scheme will be suitably advertised in several publications.

Superannuation Scheme

We have introduced a very efficient Superannuation Scheme which, having had the approval of all the necessary officials, is now in operation. This scheme should be of immense benefit to our staff and will help to maintain our standards.

National Beekeepers Association

The year has been marked by the frank and cordial associations that have existed between us and your Association. This has been a big help to both bodies and has contributed considerably to the progress that has been made.

Visits to Branches

During the period under review we have tried to get around to as many Branches as possible, both to convey information and to listen to problems. We regret that we have not yet completed the round, some had to be left out until next year. To those producers in this category we apologise and crave their indulgence. Their turn will come next.

Joint Committee of Statutory Boards

Last year the H.M.A. secured representation on this Committee which, as its name suggests, comprises the Statutory Boards controlling our Primary Products. As your nominee I attend these meetings in Wellington and when necessary I am accompanied by Mr. Gosse. Apart from meeting together to discuss problems of mutual interest we confer with the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee and play our full part in the destiny of our primary industries. Although this makes an added call on my time I consider the effort worthwhile. It is usual to combine other business with the visit to Wellington and so minimise the actual cost to the industry.

European Economic Community

As your representative on the Joint Committee of Statutory Boards I was afforded the same opportunity as other Boards in putting our case before Mr. Duncan Sandys when he was here early this month and took part in the full and frank discussions that eventuated.

Manager and Staff

It is fitting to place on record the service rendered to the Industry by Mr. Gosse and his staff, both in the "Office" and on the "Floor." It has been a year of tremendous progress and endeavour. We have a lot to do yet before any

diminution of effort can take place. We are indeed fortunate to have at the helm a man of such versatile ability as Mr. Gosse and I know that you will share with me my complete confidence in his management.

For my part, I feel that I have been privileged to be your Chairman during a time when so many important changes were taking place. If demands on my time have been heavy then I have been amply rewarded by the real progress that has been made.

I feel that this Authority stands on the threshold of great things and is about to attain its true worth to the Industry. We will have our successes and our reverses, but because our principles are sound and our interests are inseparable from your interests, we will go forward in increasing strength and efficiency.

July 25, 1961

G. E. GUMBRELL, Chairman

GIFT PARCELS

Early this year in response to numerous requests a scheme whereby 5lb tins of honey could be sent to friends in the United Kingdom was introduced. This scheme started off on a limited scale but has now grown to such an extent that in order to continue on such a scale the handling and despatching in the United Kingdom has had to be put into the hands of a commercial firm who has the staff and facilities to handle large quantities.

In addition the scheme has been extended to make the presentation of the gift more attractive. Special cartons have been made to take one five pound tin and attractive gift labels have been printed. Inside each carton is placed a folded gift card giving the donor's name and address and containing some interesting information about New Zealand honey on the inside.

This new scheme will operate from the date of this publication and the price will be £1 per tin.

Christmas orders will contain a special Christmas Gift Card and to ensure delivery in time for Christmas, orders must be received by September 15.

Remember the address —

New Zealand Honey Marketing
Authority,
P.O. Box 2615, AUCKLAND.

Beekeeping Problems in Nelson

At the pre-Conference Executive meeting a deputation from the Nelson Branch comprising Messrs. T. L. Cropp

A. V. Hewlett and J. Bell attended to discuss the particular problems facing beekeepers in Nelson. Honey crops have been decreasing in the district and the fees for orchard pollination (20s. to 30s. per hive) are not sufficient to cover the costs and labour involved in pollination work. Consequently beekeeping has been somewhat in the doldrums lately.

During the discussion it was mentioned that decreasing nectar secretion is a wide problem which, it is hoped, will be the subject of more research in the near future. In the meantime steps are to be taken to assess the expenses and losses incurred in moving bees for pollination and to investigate with the fruitgrowers some more satisfactory hive rental arrangement.

Honey Treatment and Equipment

"Honey—its Treatment and Conditioning for Sale" was the title of an address by Mr. R. S. Walsh, previously Government Honey Grader, at the Nelson Conference. Mr. Walsh received an attentive hearing in dealing with problems faced by producers packing honey for sale.

Another attraction was a display showing two models of super hoists for use during extracting. These working models, one of which was electric and the other hydraulic, were designed by Mr. C. R. Paterson and were demonstrated by him during recess periods at the Conference.

Department of Agriculture

Horticulture Division



Address by A. M. W. Greig, Director, Horticulture Division at the Nelson Conference

Introduction

I appreciate very much a further opportunity of meeting you as beekeepers and I am particularly pleased that you are holding your Annual Conference here in Nelson because Nelson is renowned as a thriving fruitgrowing centre and a thriving fruitgrowing centre should have a thriving beekeeping industry associated with it. I hope that beekeepers in this district will also benefit directly from meeting beekeepers and departmental staff associated with beekeeping from other parts of the country. The new Minister of Agriculture the Hon. T. L. Hayman has asked me particularly to say how sorry he is that he is unable to attend this year because of his Ministerial responsibilities in Wellington at this time of the year.



From time to time the importance of this industry is mentioned through statistics such as the number of beekeepers, the number of hives established throughout the country or the value of the honey and beeswax directly produced. In addition reference has previously been made to the great value of bees as pollinating agents.

However, it is not often that anyone of us is in a position to make a direct comparison between the efficiency of beekeeping in New Zealand and beekeeping in other parts of the world and therefore today I propose to emphasise certain points made by an American authority when visiting this country a few years ago. Some of these points were made to me personally at the time and may not have been made known to you as beekeepers. I refer to remarks by Dr. E. J. Dyce, Professor of Apiculture for Cornell University, U.S.A., a man well known to many of you individually, and whose work as a Professor of Apiculture covered apicultural research, teaching, and extension work from the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca. He emphasised that in the United States, and the same is becoming increasingly true in New Zealand, we cannot get along without honey bees if we are going to continue economically the production of many of our important fruit and seed crops. He was firmly of the opinion that whilst basic research had its advantages and value, information that will save beekeepers money in the production and marketing of their honey is of more vital and immediate importance to them than anything else. He went on to say that the New Zealand advisory service to beekeepers was superior to that in New York State which is organised on a county agricultural agency basis and that beekeepers in this country are better off financially through the service being given by Apiary Instructors. He was firmly of the opinion that the Apiary Instructor achieved more through his responsibilities in the control of bee diseases being associated with extension work and also the fact that an Apiary Instructor being fully engaged in field work in his particular district enabled him to obtain a better knowledge of individual beekeepers and their problems as a whole. He also considered that the recruitment of former

beekeepers as Apiary Instructors had been a sound investment as far as this country was concerned. He was particularly impressed with the manner in which specialist officers of the Apiary Section were designing labour saving devices of direct benefit to beekeepers. Mr. Paterson, Apiculturist, has brought models to this conference of some further labour saving devices in the apiary. These are models of mechanical lifters which can be used in conjunction with the work of uncapping combs for extraction.

Dr. Dyce emphasised that the methods employed by those engaged in the beekeeping industry in New Zealand were as modern and as efficient as he had seen anywhere. He linked his remarks with the service provided by the Department of Agriculture through its Apiary Instructors, specialist officers, Superintendent, and research officer, a team for which he had seen no equivalent or counterpart in any other part of the world. In these days of change and re-organisation it is particularly important for beekeepers to realise what a valuable service they have had through these specialised sections of the department.

One important comment made by Dr. Dyce which has not yet been altered was that on arrival in New Zealand it came as a great surprise to him to learn that courses in apiculture were not given by both the agricultural colleges, and he strongly recommended that such courses be organised and commenced as soon as possible.

Honey Crops

I know that for a number of years beekeepers have expressed some doubt regarding the accuracy of departmental estimates of crop production. It must be realised that although these figures are based on the full and frank co-operation of beekeepers themselves and on the Instructor's knowledge of the prevailing climatic conditions no one would suggest that departmental estimates could be 100% accurate. However, with the view to obtaining the greatest degree of accuracy, this subject has been tackled by the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry assisted by senior members of the Apiary Section, and a new system of determining the honey crop has been put into operation during the last two seasons. By this system three distinct classifications are made. A forecast of crop prospects is made monthly from October to December based on the condition of hives, prevailing weather conditions and the flowering of clover and other nectar sources prior to the commencement of the main honey flow. This is followed by an estimate in the months of January to March, that is the net surplus of honey produced by the bees at the time of the estimate; for the purpose of these estimates the net surplus is the quantity of honey available for harvesting over and above the quantity of stores honey required to maintain the bees throughout the coming winter and the spring months.

Finally an assessment of the season's honey crop is made for each district at May, 31. This assessment is based on the quantity of honey the beekeeper has harvested or has available for harvest: all figures whether forecast, estimate or final assessment are regarded as confidential between the beekeeper and the department. It is standard practice only to release for general information the figures for a district or for the country as a whole.

The final assessment for last season's crop as at May 31, was 5400 tons of honey and 189,000lbs of commercial beeswax. Although this production was below that of the previous season ending May 31, 1960 these production figures approximate the average of the past six years.

The crop in the Nelson district was fair, Marlborough was light, due to dry weather conditions and cool winds, but in Westland the production was well above average. The flowering of the rata on the West Coast was exceptional last year and as a result honey production from all sources on the Coast was the highest recorded. Crops in the districts of North Auckland, Auckland, Canterbury and Southland were above average but in Manawatu and North Otago crops were considerably below average.

Staffing

The Apiary Section is fortunate in being one of the few sections of the department which is up to full strength. The resignation of Mr. D. W. Seal was

followed by a change in headquarters for the Southland district from Invercargill to Gore and Mr. G. L. Jeffery was transferred to that centre. Mr. V. A. Cook has commenced duty at Oamaru filling the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr. Jeffery. It is matter of interest that the Apiary Section now has about 25% of field staff who had their basic training in the United Kingdom before coming to this country. I refer to Messrs L. A. M. Griffin, A. W. Bennett and V. A. Cook. I regret to state that Mr. R. S. Walsh, Honey Grader, has had to resign his specialist duties as grader, owing to ill health, but his services are being retained on field duties as an Apiary Instructor, Auckland. It is hoped that a permanent appointment will be made to the position of Honey Grader and that one officer will be freed from district duties in order to concentrate on field experimental work and other specialised work in the South Island.

I have previously made reference to apicultural cadetships and I continue to be concerned that insufficient young men who have grown up in association with the beekeeping industry and have reached University Entrance during their post primary school education, should be offering as apicultural cadets. On this subject I believe your Association should be giving wide publicity to the opportunity which exists in order that the Instructors of the future may be recognised for their scientific qualifications as well as having a sound training in the practice of beekeeping. Unless this is done there is a possibility that future appointees may be less adequately trained in the commercial aspects of beekeeping.

Bee Diseases

I would now ask this Conference to turn its attention to a continuing problem but one with which your industry has always been seriously concerned. I refer to the serious bacterial disease *Bacillus Larvae*. The appearance of this disease in New Zealand many years ago led to the foundations of the Apiaries Act but one aspect which appears to have been overlooked by many beekeepers is that the prime responsibility for the detection of this disease rests with the beekeeper himself. Any action taken by the department or by Inspectors under the Act whether they are Apiary Instructors or part-time beekeepers is to assist beekeepers as a whole, but the fact remains that this is primarily a responsibility of the individual beekeeper.

Section 8 of the 1927 Act says: "Every beekeeper in whose apiary disease appears shall forthwith take proper steps to cure the same and to prevent its spread, and shall within seven days after first becoming aware of the presence of the disease send written notice thereof to an Inspector." Instead of this being the accepted standard practice it seems to be ignored by most beekeepers. Let me re-emphasise that the detection of this disease is primarily the responsibility of the beekeeper concerned and one of his first duties is to notify the Apiary Instructor for the district who is gazetted as an Inspector under the Act.

For many years it has been accepted that the larger or commercial beekeepers were responsible men who would keep this serious disease under control and the inspection service organised each year through Apiary Instructors with qualified beekeepers acting as part-time Inspectors, has been concentrated on the part-time hobbyist. Recent events whereby this serious disease has been found well established throughout the hives of some commercial beekeepers has caused us grave concern and also to doubt the wisdom of leaving many commercial beekeepers to act as their own Inspectors. I refer to the recognised fact that it is virtually impossible for any Apiary Instructor finding disease, with part-time Inspectors, to inspect all the hives in his district in any one season. Naturally he has concentrated on those hives where he thought, through their previous history that disease was more likely to be found and when found, the time taken in burning diseased hives has restricted the inspection coverage which might have been given to a larger number of hives. I have always doubted whether the percentage figures relating to diseased hives as found from time to time in relation to the total number of hives inspected, gave an adequate picture of the disease position throughout any Instructor's district. Even with this proviso the incidence of *Bacillus Larvae* in several districts is an indication that some beekeepers anyway have become too complacent. In the Otago

Southland district 48 apiaries out of 203 were found diseased and 156 hives were burnt. At the other end of the scale is the Hawkes Bay district where only four diseased apiaries were found, with 13 diseased hives out of 742 apiaries inspected, containing over 3000 hives. This is much less than one percent.

The overall position as seen by the statistics to which I refer in the 1960/61 season is 285 apiaries were found with Bacillus Larvae out of 4059 apiaries, as a consequence of which 622 hives were burnt out of 36,109 hives inspected. The percentage of apiaries and hives inspected and found with disease was 7.02 percent and 1.72 percent respectively.

For the year ended March 31, last, £1350 was provided on the departmental estimates under the heading of "Apiary Inspection" and £1314 was spent. This shows that there is still the continuing difficulty of ensuring that beekeepers who have undertaken to do a certain amount of part-time inspection work keep their undertakings with the department. Certain changes were made during the current financial year whereby some inspection has been done in the autumn and this new procedure contributed to the finding of diseased hives with the honey crop still present. I must emphasise for public information that although bees are seriously affected by this particular disease, honey removed from diseased hives is not harmful to human beings.

Disease Control

As beekeepers you are well aware that the existing policy is that all diseased hives affected with Bacillus Larvae must be completely burnt as soon as the disease is found. I hope that beekeepers are not going to be tempted to use methods advocated and used in some countries overseas. I refer to the treatment of hives with sulphur drugs. The use of these drugs in New Zealand for the treatment of diseased bees cannot be too strongly condemned, both from the point of view of control of Bacillus Larvae and also because possession of these drugs for this purpose is contrary to certain Acts and Regulations administered by the Health Department. Under the Poisons Act all sulphonamides including sulphathiazole have been declared prescription poisons because in excess quantity they can cause the poisoning and even death of humans. They may only be used in accordance with a prescription issued by a medical practitioner or dentist for their human patients, or by a veterinary surgeon for animals under his care. The possession by a beekeeper of stocks of sulphonamides is not only illegal but also their use by a beekeeper in treating B.L. would certainly make the control of this disease in his apiaries and throughout his district more difficult and also might seriously jeopardise the marketing of honey if traces of these chemicals were ever found in any individual beekeeper's honey.

Diagnostic Services

During the past year the department has extended its diagnostic services to beekeepers by enlisting the assistance of other research scientists to help the bee research officer, Mr. Palmer-Jones, at Wallaceville and also by the establishment of a separate diagnostic centre at Taieri near Dunedin. It is intended that Ruakura, Hamilton will be similarly established as a bee diagnostic centre in the near future.

If these diagnostic centres are to be fully effective it is necessary that beekeepers remain observant and notify the Apiary Instructor for their district as soon as bees are showing symptoms of distress, the cause of which is unknown to the individual beekeeper. Beekeepers should carefully note any unusual happenings in the vicinity of their hives which they believe may have caused distress to their bees. The Apiary Instructor when notified will collect samples and forward them to the appropriate diagnostic centre. At the same time he will forward as much information as he can obtain in order to give the diagnostic scientists a lead as to possible causes. As a routine procedure all samples of bees received are being systematically checked for the range of bee diseases including acarine disease, Acarine woodii; external harmless acarine mites; nosema apis; and Malpig-hamoeba. Of the samples received at the diagnostic centres up to date, no bees have been found infested with the harmful internal acarine mite. Harmless mites have been found on bees from apiaries in both the North and

South Islands. During the coming spring it is intended to commence a New Zealand wide survey covering all these diseases.

The purpose of this survey is to have more factual knowledge regarding the extent of the distribution of bee diseases in this country. I wish to re-emphasise that the serious acarine disease, *Acarine woodii* has not been found in this country.

Agricultural Chemicals

A subsection of the diagnostic service is known as the Toxicology Section which endeavours to identify particular chemicals which may affect bees. The diagnostic section at Wallaceville is not able to provide a full chemical diagnostic service at present and can only handle samples of bees which are regarded as a part of serious losses suspected to be due to the use of chemicals in the vicinity of apiaries. Again the individual beekeeper should call in the Apiary Instructor for the district as promptly as possible and supply him with as comprehensive a case history as is known to him as a beekeeper. Beekeepers require to be particularly vigilant and should note down promptly any information they obtain concerning spraying or other use of chemicals in the vicinity of their hives. It is in the interests of the individual beekeeper himself as well as those who endeavour to assist him through toxicological investigations, to have adequate case histories to accompany samples of bees which are forwarded for analyses.

During the past year the Agricultural Chemicals Board has given careful consideration to some of the urgent problems facing beekeepers. It appointed a special committee of which I was Chairman, to consider the effect of hormone weedkillers on bees both directly and indirectly through pasture. The appointment of this committee in itself was an advantage because through it the Board was able to bring together for discussion a cross section of individuals whom the Board considered could most readily contribute to a solution of this problem. This committee consisted of representatives of chemical manufacturers and distributors, and members of the Public Service associated either with beekeeping or the use of hormone weedkillers. The findings of the committee were adopted by the Board and released for publication. It should be pointed out that your own representative on the Board, Mr. Tom Pearson, played an active part in indicating to the Board the importance of this particular problem, and in the establishment of the Technical Committee.

I believe the conclusions reached by this Technical Committee were satisfactory to all the parties concerned. I expect Mr. Pearson has given your Association a full report on this subject. Through this problem and similar problems close liaison has been maintained between the Horticulture Division and your representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board.

Research and Field Experimental Work

Further investigations into the pollination of white clover and lucerne by honey bees has proceeded in South Island districts. These projects have been carried

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out jointly by the Animal Research Station Wallaceville; and Horticulture Division, represented by Mr. I. Forster of Oamaru.

The first stage of the lucerne pollination project has been completed. This covered 25 seed crops in Canterbury, North Otago and Central Otago. The relationship of other factors such as bee activity, flower density, degree of pollination and relevant factors between the bee and the lucerne plant is being studied so that the pollination requirements of lucerne can be determined. This may be regarded as a long term project as it will probably take several seasons to complete.

Other work done by Wallaceville during the past year has been in connection with field investigations and laboratory tests regarding the effects of 2,4-D mixture on bees.

Some bee losses in certain districts such as Hawkes Bay had proved baffling over several years. A particular loss has now been traced to the karaka tree (*Corynocarpus laevigata*). Nectar produced by the karaka tree has been shown in field experiments and laboratory work at Wallaceville to be highly toxic to adult honey bees but not to brood. The karaka flowers in the spring and is very attractive to bees. Heavy bee mortality, resulting in loss of hive strength, may occur in apiaries located near karaka trees. It is considered that losses from this cause can be dealt with only by resiting apiaries or moving them out of bee range of karaka trees during their flowering period.

It is also considered that karaka nectar constitutes no danger to humans because it is collected only in small amounts in the spring and is consumed by the bees before the honey is extracted. Also karaka nectar rapidly becomes non-toxic. The high toxicity of karaka nectar to bees is an additional safeguard as field bees succumb before they can bring much of this nectar into the hive.

Conclusion:

I trust that this review of research, experimental, advisory and regulatory work done by the Department of Agriculture co-ordinated by Mr. E. Smaellie, Superintendent of Beekeeping will be a useful background to members of this conference as you discuss the many remits on the Order Paper associated with the various problems facing you today.

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BRANCH NOTES



CENTRAL/SOUTHERN HAWKES BAY

At the annual meeting held on May 15 the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President, Mr. D. L. Ward; Vice-President, Mr. H. Adrian; Secretary, Mr. R. B. Jones.

Executive Committee: The above together with Messrs. Aitchison, Anderson and Lambert.

Field Committee: Messrs. Anderson, Aitchison, H. Adrian, Lambert, Telford, Ward and Line.

Mr. Gavin Lambert was complimented upon his management of the two Branch hives which produced a net income of £10 for the season.

After the business of the meeting had been concluded Mr. S. Line showed a series of coloured slides featuring nectar sources in New Zealand and a system of fumigating supers to ensure safe storage during winter.

BAY OF PLENTY

During the last week in April the branch held its annual general meeting. Secretary Tony Benson did not seek re-election, owing to too many other commitments. The branch is very grateful for the time and assistance Tony gave as secretary during his three years of office. The new secretary is Michael Atkinson.

Following the annual meeting the branch had a brief visit from the "Big Two" in honey marketing—Mr. George Gumbrell (chairman N.Z.H.M.A.) and Mr. Colin Gosse (manager N.Z.H.M.A.). Mr. Jack Fraser was also in the party. Bay of Plenty beekeepers found much to interest them in the addresses given by the three gentlemen — only one complaint, don't be too long before you come back again.

With Conference in Nelson this year and a little far away for some members of the branch, we still hope to have a fair representation there.

Weather at time of writing, cold and wet; to be expected this time of the year.

The Five Finger is showing excellent budding in the bush areas, and, given fine weather during the flowering period, quite a surplus could result.

—D. A. BARROW

OTAGO

Annual Report

The branch closed the year with thirty-five members, very nearly 100 per cent financial. The branch is managing to make ends meet, and has a small credit balance. We are grateful to those who have made donations to our funds to help bring this position about.

On the five occasions when the members were called together, the response was good, all meetings being well supported. There were three ordinary branch meetings, one conducted by the Department of Agriculture represented by Mr. D. Seal, and the Field Day.

The Field Day was a very successful function. The branch is indebted to Mr. C. Kellett, who was host to the beekeepers at his apiary at Waihola. In addition to our usual panel of speakers and demonstrators Mr. Gosse, manager of the H.M.A., was in attendance, and was glad of the opportunity of meeting some of the producers.

The annual convention of Otago and Southland beekeepers was a very successful gathering organised by the branch.

In conclusion, I would like to extend the thanks of the branch to the apiary instructor, Mr. Jeffery, who replaced Mr. D. Seal halfway through the year. We appreciate the support he has given the branch at our Field Day and on other occasions.

I also have to thank the committee and the members generally for the support they have given me throughout the year.

—E. SHEPHERD, President

SOUTH AUCKLAND

A Project Report, 8/7/61

Project: Auction for Messrs Pearson Bros., Rotorua.—Surplus Apiary and Honeyhouse equipment.

Plan: The sanction of the Branch was obtained to arrange the auction at normal commission rates, any profits from commissions to go to Branch funds.

Arrangements (Legal position):

- 1 We checked with the National Beekeepers Association Secretary to ensure that we were in accordance with the Association Bylaws.
- 2 We found that we had to obtain a licensed auctioneer to enable us to hold the auction. An auctioneer was arranged at a 5% commission providing that the branch did all the advertising and dealt with all other arrangements.
- 3 We had to obtain a permit from the Department of Agriculture to sell and remove apiary equipment.

Advertising: The names and addresses of beekeepers from Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga and Taranaki were obtained from the Department of Agriculture at the cost of 2s. 6d. per sheet; these people, together with likely attenders from the Hawkes Bay area were forwarded circulars giving the full details of the auction, the part that the branch was playing and a reply form was enclosed so that, if they so wished people attending could have hotel accomodation booked for them by the Branch at Rotorua. The auction was also advertised in the main daily newspapers in the local area and broadcast over the Rotorua radio station.

Catering Arrangements: Arrangements were made with a local catering firm to provide light refreshments at

a small charge during the day. The Branch guaranteed a cover of £10 in case of poor attendance. Any profits from the catering were to go to the catering firm.

Layout of Equipment for Sale: The equipment to be sold was laid out in numbered lots as described in the circulars.

The Honeyhouse was open for inspection on the day prior to the auction and on the morning of the auction.

Auction: Approximately 60 odd people attended the auction which was operated from a central position in the honeyhouse. The Branch Secretary acted as the Auctioneer's assistant and a Branch member handled all financial payments.

Financial Arrangements: Purchases could be uplifted on the total payment of cash or one third deposit, on the day or by arrangement at a future date. The Branch collected all down payments and deposited the monies obtained in a special Bank account for Messrs. Pearson Bros.

All details of the auction were typed and copies given to the Branch Secretary, the Auctioneer, and Messrs. Pearson Bros.

General: The Branch received 10% commission from the auction and will nett approximately £60.

All parties concerned with the auction were very satisfied with the results and the day proved an excellent field day for the branch.

Necessary Equipment for Organisers on Day: A large ruled pad for Auctioneers assistant, a Receipt Book, a ready reckoner and if possible an adding machine and typewriter. —L.H.

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.



Mr. R. Hume's roadside sign "Honey For Sale" introduces the traveller to this apiary in his orchard on the Main Road near Roxburgh. He operates several other apiaries as well as being an orchardist, and is also a carpenter and plumber of no mean ability. A good keen man at a field day.

Photo by Chris Dawson

Dunedin Convention

At the Annual Dunedin Convention on June 6 there was a representative gathering from Otago and Southland as well as a few visitors from the north. The speakers at the afternoon session were Mr. G. E. Gumbrell (Chairman, Honey Marketing Authority) and Mr. J. W. Fraser (Dominion Vice-President), Mr. J. S. Spence being in the chair.

Mr. E. Shepherd presided at the evening function and among the visitors welcomed were Mr. J. H. Watt (Superintendent of Horticulture in Christchurch) and Mr. I. G. Forbes (Assistant Superintendent, Dunedin). The programme included a talk by Mr. G. L. Jeffrey on the siting of apiaries and a presentation by Mr. Gumbrell of colour slides depicting aspects of beekeeping in Canterbury. An interesting discussion followed the addresses and the Convention concluded with supper and a social hour.

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Report of National Beekeepers' Assn. Representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board

Presented by Mr. T. E. Pearson at the Nelson Conference

It is with pleasure that I present this report as your representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board.



The Board has now completed rather more than a year of work as a fully constituted statutory body.

Nine meetings have been held to date at all of which pressure of business has been heavy.

It is now evident that the Board can fulfil, in large measure, the purpose for which it was constituted, but as the clearing house for the problems of many groups its scope of work is exceedingly wide, and as yet attention to the most urgent business only has been possible.

Realising fully the part which Agricultural Chemicals play in modern farming practice and the necessity to maintain the highest level of primary production, the Board's policy is to place the least possible restriction on their use, provided always that the public health is adequately safeguarded, that sectional interests are afforded reasonable protection, and that residues in our primary exports are kept to an absolute minimum.

The acceptability of our products on world markets is of tremendous National importance.

The justification or failure of the Board hinges on the measure of success with which it discharges these responsibilities.

The personnel of the Board is well balanced between industry representatives and technical officers, thus providing a wide range of practical opinion and technical information on all matters under discussion.

The appointment of the Director General of Agriculture, Mr. P. W. Smallfield, as Chairman will indicate to you Government recognition of the National importance of this Board. Under his able guidance the services of all appropriate Government Departments are readily available to the Board.

Education

The need for education of Board members has, from the outset, been fully recognised. The standard of addresses and written material supplied for this purpose has been of a high order and wide in its scope. Education of users supported by a minimum of regulations is regarded as the best method of securing the co-operation of all parties.

The educational programme has not yet been fully implemented. It will be the Board's continuing task. Full use will be made of the Journal of Agriculture, Farmers' publications, the press and radio. The greatest advance along this line so far is undoubtedly the Pilot Chemical Rating Course.

All aerial operators are required to have chemical rating qualifications attached to their pilot's license before being permitted to apply Agricultural chemicals from an aircraft. The course is a most comprehensive one covering both practical and technical fields. There are normally no exemptions granted in respect of the course of instruction or examinations. Penalties for carelessness may be applied under the Civil Aviation Regulations 1953.

It may eventually be deemed necessary for ground contractors to be licensed and qualify for adequate labelling of containers is regarded by the Board as being of the utmost importance.

Surely education and direction at the point of application must make some impression on the user.

Great detail is required as to active ingredients, formulation, uses, residual life on foodstuffs, timing of application, effects on beneficial insects and plants, and

first aid measures. Some products must also comply with the Poisons Act requirements in labelling. Zeal must, however, at times be tempered with sweet reasonableness, for as manufacturers point out, on the smaller containers it is utterly impossible to include the whole of the data required and still leave room for the name of the product and its manufacturer. Leaflet information is the alternative in these instances.

Committees

Much detail of work is handled by sub-committees of the board and by Technical Committees set up by the Board.

Registration

The huge task of registering some 500 products affected by the Agricultural Chemicals Act is proceeding satisfactorily. Registration implies a great deal more than preparing a catalogue of the names of the various formulations. The Board must in each case satisfy itself that the product can in fact achieve the results claimed by the manufacturers. This requires enquiry into the quantity and quality of the active ingredients, methods of formulation, and where possible a study of reports of field trials, or the results achieved in commercial use.

A product may be fully registered or provisionally registered according to whether or not the claims made have been fully established to the satisfaction of the Board. Provision is also made for experimental materials.

Registration does not imply certification of the product by the Board, but it does ensure that all reasonable care has been taken to see that the claims are based on sound information, and further that the Board is satisfied with the directions for use, the safeguards and other information contained on the label.

A registration fee of £3 is payable for each product fully registered.

A list of older type well-known chemicals have been exempted from registration. This includes such items as Borax, Copper Sulphate, Formalin and Sodium Chloride to mention only a few.

Apiary Protection Regulations

I cannot too strongly commend the Apiary Protection Regulations which, though not extensive in their scope, have in actual practice drawn to the attention of manufacturers and users alike the dangers to honey bees of the indiscriminate use of insecticides.

Some manufacturers' insecticide labels submitted to the Board, have, without urging, contained precautions in our interests largely, it would seem, as a result of these regulations.

Honey Bee Losses

Apart from one instance brought to my notice, the past year has been singularly free from major honey bee losses as the result of the use of Agricultural Chemicals. This is indeed most gratifying.

No action could be taken in a case where an apiarist feared loss from the application of insecticides to the settling ponds of the Mangere sewerage area. The matter was investigated by officers of the Apiary section who reported that the applications were absolutely essential to combat the serious midge menace in that area. Mangere was not a commercial honey producing area, and if danger existed the bees in that locality would be required to be moved.

Various insecticides have been used in an endeavour to exterminate the menace, but without success.

My latest information was that 30 tons of D.D.T. would be applied from the air. In any such case public interest must over-rule sectional interests.

Remit from 1960 Conference

At last year's conference a remit was passed to the effect that the N.B.A. apply to the Agricultural Chemicals Board to prevent the application of hormonized fertiliser and other insecticides affecting bees and clover production on pastures between November 1 and February 28, in each year."

This remit was forwarded to the Agricultural Chemicals Board by the General Secretary and was in due course considered.

I endeavoured to obtain the fullest possible information regarding the incident which gave rise to the remit and placed the facts before the Board, but lacking definite proof that the damage reported was actually caused by the application of "Hormofos" my only course of action was to recommend that the Board authorise a full examination of the situation.

Apiary Technical Committee

An apiary technical committee was set up to investigate the matter and report to the Board.

An abridged report of this Committee has been published in "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

Treatment of Flowering White Clover for Case-bearer Moth

It is alleged that case-bearer moth has, in recent years, caused substantial loss of clover seed especially in Canterbury. Control is exceedingly difficult as chemical treatment, to be effective, must be carried out whilst the clover is in full flower. The material recommended and applied this year was Toxophene.

Beekeepers in the districts concerned were apprehensive as to the effect on field bees, but fears were somewhat allayed as the result of findings by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones during experimental work on this chemical.

Field application endorsed Mr. Palmer-Jones' view that toxophene is not seriously toxic to bees. Farmers are not yet convinced that it is seriously toxic to the case-bearer moth. A change to other materials, especially strobane, could have serious implications for apiarists. Your representative will closely watch the position.

Treatment of Flowering Wild Turnip in Grain Crops

In certain districts Weed Inspectors regard wild turnip as a serious noxious weed. During the flowering period this plant is very attractive to bees and efforts at control at this stage can present a danger.

The matter has been taken up by interview and correspondence with the officers concerned stressing the fact that the most effective control can be achieved long before the flowering period and again emphasising my basic motto for all users of all types of agricultural chemicals: "**Do not apply toxic materials to plants in flower which are attractive to bees.**" Co-operation in this matter is likely to be achieved.

Army Caterpillar in Seed Crops

In some seasons army caterpillar causes extensive damage to a wide variety of grain and seed crops. Effective control can be achieved by the application of insecticides during the December/January period.

The risk of destruction of bees, especially in grass seed crops containing flowering white clover, is considerable if insecticides which have been proved highly toxic to bees are used.

A well justified concern by beekeepers at the recommendation of a leading farming page that Lindane be used on ryegrass crops was referred to me for action. Subsequent publicity of the harmful effect on bees of the use of Lindane for this purpose and the effective control which D.D.T. can give in its stead should greatly reduce bee mortality from this source in the area concerned.

It is of interest to note that 15,192 tons of insecticide super-phosphate was applied in this year 1959-60 to New Zealand pastures for insect control, yet bee losses from this source are negligible.

World-wide Concern

All over the world concern is being expressed at the vast and ever growing use of agricultural chemicals but, notwithstanding this, they are here to stay.

Undoubtedly their correct and careful use has brought great benefits to mankind. In most countries authorities have been appointed to control and guide their use.

This is the function of the Agricultural Chemicals Board of New Zealand.

Whilst the Beekeeping Industry has a special interest in agricultural chemicals by reason of the potential hazard to honey bees, beekeepers, as citizens, should also be vitally interested in all the other aspects of this chemical warfare as it affects Public Health, safety to users, residues in our export foodstuffs and the repercussions these might well have on our National economy.

The risk of hormone damage through sheer thoughtlessness to vineyards, gardens, orchards, shrubs and crops is also of very real concern to many in our ranks.

The representation of our industry on the Agricultural Chemicals Board is a privilege which we ought to regard highly for it places us in a position not only to safeguard our bees and our livelihood, but also to make our contribution to the national welfare of our society and our economy.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for assistance so readily given throughout the year, to the Director of Horticulture, Mr. A. M. W. Greig, the Registrar of the Board, Mr. R. Odinet, the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, Mr. E. Smaellie, and officers of the Apiary section. Their experience, knowledge and advice, so freely given, have immeasurably lightened my task.

I thank also our President, the General Secretary and Executive Members for their interest and encouragement.

Service on a high level Statutory Board has been a new experience to me. I have much to learn.

There may be difficulties ahead, but during the term under review I have endeavoured, as your representative, to humbly serve in the interests of both the Beekeeping Industry and the National Welfare.

T. E. PEARSON, N.B.A. Representative on the A.C.B.

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NOTES for Beginners

BY 'SKEP'

EDITOR'S NOTE: Once again we have pleasure in introducing another contributor to this page. Our new "Skep" is a hobbyist beekeeper of long experience and a student of the craft. In his first four or five articles he will discuss different aspects and methods of queen rearing and we recommend readers to keep the series intact for future reference.

Choosing the Breeder Queen

We keep bees to gather honey and we are most interested in cultivating in our colonies those qualities which help to give a surplus crop. Although the subject of choosing the Breeder Queen will be considered under the five headings of vitality, swarming, behaviour, breed, and temper, the importance of each quality is determined solely by its contribution to the honey crop that can be harvested.

1. VITALITY — Crop gathering vitality

The most important quality in any colony of bees is its vitality in gathering a crop and therefore, the first and most important quality in any Queen must be her ability to throw progeny with a vitality that gathers a paying crop.

To choose a queen with this quality it is necessary to observe her progeny or the progeny of her line of breeding over sufficiently long a period to be sure that it is consistent. A Queen which has headed a crop-gathering colony for one season would be at the prime of life during the next season. It is desirable that the breeding stock that heads any programme of breeding should be in the best condition and the Queen from a line of successful stock, having headed a successful crop-gathering colony for one year, could

be an excellent breeder from the aspect of the first characteristic. This first quality of Crop Gathering Vitality is an inherited quality that can be improved by selection.

2. SWARMING—Low swarm tendency

This second quality is closely associated with the first because a colony that has cast swarms before the harvest is not likely also to provide a crop that season. Careful observation is necessary here to make sure that swarming has not been caused by incorrect colony management. The tendency to swarm is an inherited quality that can be changed by careful breeding.

3. BEHAVIOUR

Because the personal preferences of the Beekeeper enter so largely into this aspect of selection, it is the most contentious, and I can only give my own preferences. The most important Behaviour quality is **steadiness on the comb**.

What happens when the hive mat is lifted? Does a curtain of bees rise and fly angrily around—do the bees boil over the top and down the sides of the super—or—do they carry on with their work as if nothing mattered more than the particular job they were doing.

What happens when a frame is lifted out? Do the bees remain steady on the comb carrying out their respective tasks—or—do they run to the far corner, or dance with agitated movements or perform with nervous frenzy?

The colony of my choice would behave as follows:—

1. When the hive mat is lifted, the bees do not rise or run down.
2. When frames are lifted out, they do not drop off, do not move about with nervy agitated movements, and do not run over the comb.
3. When a super is being inspected, the bees do not scamper to the bottom board or out the front entrance nor boil over the top of frames and super.
4. When a frame is shaken to remove bees, they will shake off reasonably easily.

Therefore the first quality under behaviour is to remain steady on the comb during inspection but to shake off reasonably easily when necessary.

Other quality points are:—

5. Do not roar without being queenless (Roarers).
6. Do not habitually "ball" the queen (Scrummagers).
7. Do not gather too great an amount of propolis (propolizers).
8. Build neat comb with even cappings and a minimum of burr comb (Good housekeepers).

Behaviour of the progeny has been inspected in detail but the behaviour of the Queen is just as important. She should move with a steady stately rhythm on the comb without nervy agitated movements. Some Queens will carry on quite undisturbed with their tasks while the frame on which they are working is being inspected while others will run to the darkest corner. Her brood pattern should be even; a patchy irregular brood pattern could indicate temperamental behaviour.

All characteristics under the heading of behaviour can be changed by selection and the beekeeper has to decide those behaviour patterns that he wishes to encourage and work

to that end. It is important not to sacrifice production for personal fancies.

4. BREED

This quality matters little if crop-gathering vitality is high and if behaviour is to the beekeeper's liking, but it is the one quality that shows most readily the care that has been exercised in selection of stock. Purity of breed shows in the three characteristics of colour, size and shape of queen, workers and drones. In colour, the young queen is bright gold with little colour at the tail. In size the breeder queen is long and broad. In shape she has a broad thorax with an even taper to the tail. The workers bright gold with distinct black bands, even in colour and adult bees even in size. Now let us consider this last and most important characteristic of breed which is the quality of the drones. In bee-keeping literature, very little is written about the breed of the drone, yet in the breeding of most domestic animals, the greatest emphasis is placed on the male side of the breeding stock. It is certain, too, that in no quality will the purity of the queen show more quickly than in the quality of the drones she produces. A dark coloured or black-bodied young drone in a breeder colony is the first sign that a queen may not be up to standard. I say may not because it is necessary to be sure that any drone in a colony is the progeny of the queen that heads the colony. To be quite sure that the dark drones are the progeny of the colony's queen, look for drones that are just hatched. Those fluffy fellows who have not yet shaved or been out philandering and wandered into the first home they saw. Better still, pull out some drones that are just hatching and as soon as you find a dark one in this age group, you can be sure your queen will throw a proportion of dark progeny. In size the drones should be large and in shape should be bold.

5. TEMPER—Inclination to sting

Quality number 5 must be linked with quality number 1, the summing up of which is: "as mildly tempered as is consistent with crop-gathering

vitality" Much can be discussed on this thorny subject, but the apiarist will aim to select a queen whose progeny, while they have a reasonably mild temper, will gather a paying crop. It is a quality that is difficult to change and the quality that needs to be watched closest in selection. The quality of temper is closely associated with the inclination to protect the contents of the hive and the ability of the colony to fend off robbers. The ideal, therefore, is to select a queen whose progeny show a disinclination to sting during management, but a willingness to defend the contents of the hive against intruders.

To sum up — when you are choosing the Five-Star Selected Breeder Queen, the five qualities you will look for are:—

1. Vitality — Crop gathering vitality.
2. Swarming — Low swarming tendency.
3. Behaviour — Steady on the comb but reasonably easy to shake off.
4. Breed — Correct colour, shape and size of drones, workers and Queen.
5. Temper — As mildly tempered as is consistent with crop-gathering vitality.

And when you have, by careful observation and wise choice, raised the perfect Breeder Queen, build yourself a home in some secluded spot in the mountains and the apiary world will wear a pathway to your door.

Conference Sidelights

Sunny Nelson, the land of apples! There were two million cases exported from Nelson last year and conference delegates found beautiful apples everywhere; in their hotel rooms, in the Conference Hall, and even an apple motif on their lapel badges.

A highlight of the entertainment programme was a social evening featuring concert items and colour-pictures of local attractions, and here again we saw apples and apple orchards with hop gardens and tobacco fields thrown in.

Mr. Harley, Patron of the Nelson Branch, proved to be an adept raconteur of Nelson lore.

Radio publicity in Nelson included a broadcast interview with Messrs J. R. Barber, J. W. Fraser and G. E. Gumbrell, and, appropriately, an excellent talk on Honeybees and Pollination by Mr. J. K. Bray.

Acknowledging his election to Life Membership Mr. Roy Paterson claimed a record for the shortest term ever as a Branch President. At the inception of the North Otago Branch he was elected as its first President, and 15 minutes later he resigned in order to take up the office of Branch Secretary for which no other acceptor could be found!

Shortly after the passing of Remit No. 8 a delegate suggested a fine of sixpence for anyone who lapsed into the forbidden term for Bacillus Larvae. To the amusement of everybody it cost him 1/6 before he had finished his argument, and the hat was placed right under his nose to receive the money. Thereafter all infringements were ruthlessly penalised and the Nelson Branch funds benefited to the extent of 8 to 10 shillings. Strangely enough, by the end of Conference all members, without exception, were using the approved term easily and naturally.

Part of the programme at the social evening was a series of colour slides made by Mr. H. N. Tuck, of Kihikihi, during his recent tour in Australia with Mrs. Tuck and their two children. Mr. Tuck was able to give an interesting commentary on beekeeping conditions in New South Wales and Queensland.

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Nelson Commentary

(By The Whistling Beekeeper's Wife)

To attend a Beekeepers' Conference, in a new town, is to view an unaccustomed scene through rose tinted glasses.

The friendly spirit which pervaded the recent Conference was not confined to the Hall alone; it extended to the town itself, as the beekeepers spread themselves along the streets.

The Mayor of Nelson's special welcome to ladies was grand to hear. His advice that the "Sales" were now in progress aroused immediate interest and revealed his understanding of a woman's mind. Impulses to explore the situation immediately were suppressed but this was a happy note on which to base his welcome. Leisurely shopping is a joy to every woman, though it seems to cause some apprehension amongst husbands. That special piece of jewellery, that long discussed eternity ring, seems utterly irresistible when viewed in the holiday spirit.

Nelson lived up to its enviable reputation for sunshine. It is well endowed by nature with scenic attractions but its greatest attribute is the friendliness of its people, and this above all else must be the lasting impression taken away by the Conference visitors.

Numbers count little when the spirit is right. The Nelson Branch hospitality would be difficult to emulate. We trust their Branch will prosper and that they feel amply rewarded by the sincere thanks and appreciation of their visitors.

Special social arrangements are not essential for the thorough enjoyment of Conference by the women folk. Beekeepers' wives are broad in their outlook and enjoy Conference sessions. After attending they feel much better equipped to understand the protracted after-Conference discussions on the home front.

Comment on Conference business I will leave to the masculine pen; suffice to say our President's easy manner was delightful and encouraging to young members. The opening prayer, appropriate and sincere, adjusted our thoughts to the need for Higher Guidance. Long may it be continued.

Scenic trips, visits to the Cawthron Institute and the D.S.I.R., doubly enjoyable because of the company, will long be remembered.

The apple and pear cool store inspection left me shivering, though I well realize its value to orchardists. A honey house on this scale should satisfy the most ambitious beekeeper.

To those who had previously considered H.M.A. requirements exacting a visit to the new Milk Treatment station was enlightening.

The town milk supplier is continually under a chemist's eagle eye and woe betide the supplier whose milk contains excess water, bacteria, drugs, or sediment, not to mention tests for solids, fats and half a dozen other things. Thank goodness honey is different.

It's Tauranga next year, Executive willing, and the women won't be missing.

B.R.A. Handbook, 1961

The constitution and activities of the Bee Research Association are surveyed in the 1961 Handbook, a 20-page publication. This organisation is "an association of scientists, beekeepers and others who are interested in the study of bees, and their use for pollination and for producing honey, beeswax and other substances." It aims to provide a central co-ordination of research work and a clearing house of available information from throughout the world. Its principal activities are the publication of "Bee World" and the maintenance of a comprehensive library.

The Handbook is obtainable from the Hon. Publications Secretary, 11 Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent. Price 1/-.

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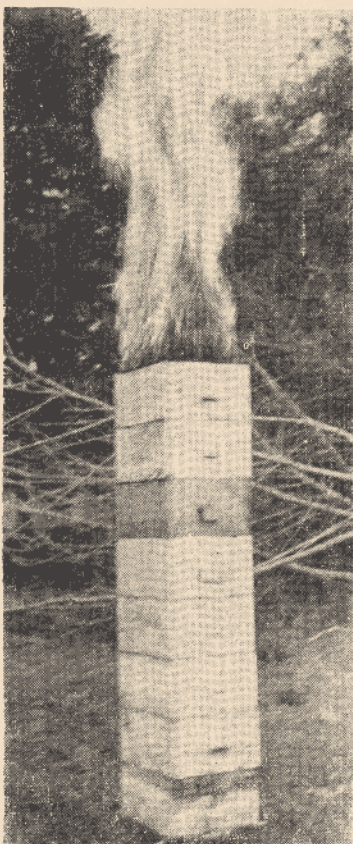


Disease Eradication in Hawkes Bay

The top picture shows material from diseased neglected hives being destroyed by fire. Fires of this sort are prepared by digging a trench six or eight feet long in the direction of the wind, and a log four or five inches thick is laid along and up over the end to face into the wind. The frames are placed on end and against the log when the fire is kindled. In this case a lady's spade was the best tool to lever out the frames and toss them onto the fire.

The lower picture shows empty supers being scorched by the chimney method. At the base is a bottom board with one-inch sticks at the corners to make an air space. Two supers are placed in position, then a loose ball of paper wetted with half a cup of petrol is put inside. The chimney is then built up and a lit match thrown in at the bottom. The supers are placed upside down so that the rebates get the full force of the flame.

Photos by Les Wilsher. Mr. Wilsher is a Part-time Inspector working with Apiary Instructor Sefton Line in Hawkes Bay.



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