The New Zealand Beekeeper

FEBRUARY
1962

The National Beekeepers' Association

(Incorporated)

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Editorial

THE FOOD VALUE OF HONEY

It is disappointing to find that the Department of Health, in its Bulletin of September 1961, has seen fit to refer to honey in almost derogatory terms. The statement, which takes the form of answers to a reader's questions, is reprinted elsewhere in this issue. **"Honey is a pleasant and attractive food,"** says the Bulletin, **"but contains little of value other than carbohydrate. It is sometimes believed to have special merit as either a medicine or a nutritious food. Unfortunately, this reputation is quite undeserved."**

There is such a wealth of evidence available, testifying to the special properties of honey, that the attitude of the Department is difficult to understand. In practically every country authorities have extolled the unique food value of honey.

In the United States it has long been recognised that honey is very easily digested, as indicated in the following statement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture: "Honey is one of the best of the high energy-producing foods. Because it is composed almost entirely of simple sugars, it can be assimilated with ease. Most sugars require action by the gastric and intestinal secretions to break them down into simple sugars similar to those occurring naturally in honey. Because it is easily assimilated, honey is of importance where normal digestive activities have been impaired by disease or old age. Honey can be utilised by the body without placing much burden on an enfeebled digestive tract and is also recognised as a valuable food for babies and young children."

A similar opinion is given by Doctors Schultz and Knott of the Chicago University in an article reviewed in the Journal of the American Medical Association for November 26, 1938.

In Russia the findings of N. Yoirish, published in 1959, give emphasis to the presence of enzymes in honey, and to its mineral constituents. In the case of magnesium, sulphur, phosphorus, iron, calcium, chlorine, potassium, iodine and sodium a remarkable comparision is made showing the percentage of these elements in honey on the one hand and in human blood serum on the other.

In Western Germany the presence of enzymes in honey is considered to be so important that all imported honey is subject to a test to ensure that the enzymes have not been destroyed at any stage by overheating. In the year 1960 44,000 tons were imported, New Zealand supplying a portion of this amount.

Had the New Zealand Department of Health conducted a proper investigation of the characteristics of honey it might have made some contribution to our

understanding of its special properties as a food. But to dismiss these special properties with a curt reference to the main constituents of honey is surely an injustice to a natural product of New Zealand, a product whose particular merit can be gauged from the fact that it commands a premium over all other honeys on world markets.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The appointments to the specialist positions of Honey Grader and Apiculturist (South Island) will be welcomed by beekeepers. Both of these positions are of vital importance to the industry. In the grading of honey it is necessary that the Grader should be able to concentrate upon the work and his visits to local districts will help beekeepers to understand the proper handling of honey and should promote a feeling of confidence among producers. The new position of Apiculturist (South Island) is particularly pleasing because it will give more authority to the work that is being done on pollination and pesticide problems. It is this kind of work which gives beekeeping its proper place in agriculture and produces harmony and understanding between the different branches of farming.

The industry is fortunate in having men of the calibre of Mr. D. Roberts and Mr. I. W. Forster to take up these positions. Their experience and ability make them well fitted for the duties before them.

Dominion Conference

It has been arranged tentatively that the 1962 Dominion Conference will be held in Tauranga on July 24, 25 and 26.

Resignation from Executive

Mr. J. D. Lorimer tendered his resignation from the Dominion Executive as from 11/12/61. In stating his reasons Mr. Lorimer said that the South Auckland area was well represented by Messrs J. R. Barber and T. S. Wheeler, and he felt that since his recent appointment to the Honey Marketing Authority there had been a preponderance of members serving simultaneously on both bodies, which was not in the best interests of producers. He expressed his personal regret at leaving the Executive and extended his best wishes to members.

Mr. Lorimer's resignation was accepted by the Executive, members expressing appreciation of his services during his term of office.

At the time of the Journal going to press no appointment had been made by the Executive to fill the vacancy resulting from Mr. Lorimer's resignation.

Personal

Apologies were received at the Southland Field Day on January 27 from Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, and from Mr. T. E. Pearson, N.B.A. representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board, who were unfortunately not able to be present owing to indisposition. We hope that by this time they are both fit and well again.

Sir Edmund and Lady Hillary spent the Christmas holiday period packing for a year away from home. The whole family left by air on December 30 for the United States, where Sir Edmund is to carry out a lecture tour.

OBITUARY

MR. E. A. FIELD

The death of Mr. E. A. Field on January 20 at the early age of 50 years came as a sad shock to beekeepers in all parts of New Zealand. His active connection with the National Beekeepers' Association and the Honey Marketing Authority had made him a leading figure in the industry and had brought him many personal friendships among beekeepers.

Coming to New Zealand from England at the age of 16 he first trained at the Flock House Farm of Instruction. Later he became interested in commercial beekeeping and he developed an apiary business at Foxton which was to become one of the Dominion's best known honey production and packing units. He quickly saw the need for organisation among producers and after joining the Association his administrative ability was soon recognised. In 1939 he was elected as Dominion President and he held this office continuously for 11 years. He also served on the Honey Marketing Committee which acted in an advisory capacity to the Government and in 1954 he was the first Chairman of the Marketing Authority. He continued in this position until 1958.

Mr. E. A. Field

Mr. Field's service to the beekeeping industry was particularly notable in that it covered the strenuous World War and post-war period of the Association and the difficult initial years of the Authority. His work will be long remembered in the industry and his passing will be mourned by a wide circle of personal friends in the beekeeping sphere.

In addition to his work with beekeepers' organisations Mr. Field took a prominent part in community affairs and after serving for two terms as a Borough Councillor he was Mayor of Foxton from 1956 until the time of his death. He had also been Chairman of the Board of Governors of Manawatu College, and in serving the Anglican Church in Foxton he had filled almost every position open to a layman.

Mr. Field had had periods of illness for some time and had been in hospital for several weeks prior to his death. He is survived by his wife and family of two sons and two daughters.

A Tribute from Mr. W. B. Bray

Although I knew that Mr. Field had been in poor health for some time it came as a great shock to me to know that he had passed away at an age reckoned today as the prime of life. During the long term of his Presidency of the National he had carried out numerous other public duties. It is probable that the burden of these contributed to his failing health. He was the most able President that the National has ever had and he earned the respect of all for the ability with which he carried out duties which were often onerous by reason of the difficult times through which the industry was, and still is, passing. Although I had occasion to differ with him at times, it made no difference to our friendship. I am sure that there are many others who, like myself, will feel his passing as a personal loss.

—W. B. Bray

MR. T. C. HORNER

Mr. T. C. Horner, a well known and respected South Auckland beekeeper, died recently at his home in Hamilton. Mr. Horner was born in Scotland and came to New Zealand in 1908. After returning from the First World War he attended a beekeeping class for soldiers at Ruakura, conducted by the late Mr. A. B. Trythall. Passing the Government examination he established apiaries in the Whatawhata and Koromatua districts in 1921 and continued as a honey producer and part-time inspector until his retirement some years ago. Mr. Horner was a member of the National Beekeepers' Association throughout his beekeeping career. He is survived by his wife and by one son, who now carries on the beekeeping business.

MR. J. H. WHITE

The death of Mr. J. H. White occurred suddenly at Tapanui, Otago, on November 15. Mr White was a prominent commercial beekeeper in that district for many years until his recent retirement. In 1924 Mr. White was the first President of the West Otago Branch. Always taking a keen interest in current beekeeping affairs, he was a well known and popular figure and will be missed from Field Days and beekeepers' meetings in Otago.

MR. W. J. WATSON

A respected Southland beekeeper of former years, Mr. W. J. Watson, died

recently. At one time Mr. Watson was in partnership with the pioneer beekeeper, Mr L. Irwin of Winton, and he carried on the business after Mr. Irwin's retirement. As a member of the Association he kept up the traditional co-operative outlook and his opinions and advice were valued both in Southland and further afield. Mr. Watson had been living in retirement for some years.

U.K. Honey Market

When it is obtainable, New Zealand white clover honey continues to bring prices in the region of 185/- a cwt and more in the United Kingdom, but it is extremely hard to get. The monthly market review of the London Office of the Bank of New Zealand of 1/2/62 reports that extra light amber grades are still moving rather slowly and are offered at 150/- to 155/- a cwt. Light amber is quoted at 120/-, and medium amber from 100/- to 105/-.

Other honey is quoted at considerably lower prices, with best white Argentinian at approximately £94 a ton c.i.f. London.

Ministry of Agriculture

The widespread regret at the untimely death of the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. T. L. Hayman, was shared by all associated with the beekeeping industry. Mr. Hayman had come to the portfolio of Agriculture with a fine record and his knowledge of farming practice together with his vigorous and sincere approach to administrative work had earned him universal respect. During his short term as Minister his interest in honey production and his careful attention to its problems were appreciated in beekeeping circles.

We extend our best wishes to the new Minister, The Hon. B. E. Talboys. He is believed to be the youngest Minister of Agriculture in New Zealand's history but he is very well equipped for his important task. A graduate in political science, he is a farmer and former Assistant Editor of the New Zealand Dairy Exporter.

Mr R. St. Barbe Baker

The Man of the Trees

We extend a welcome to Mr Richard St. Barbe Baker, a new member of the National Beekeepers' Association. Mr St. Barbe Baker, who came to settle in New Zealand about two years ago, is well known throughout the world as the Founder of the international society The Men of the Trees, the Editor for over 20 years of the magazine "Trees and Life," and author of several books on tree culture.

Mr. St. Barbe Baker started keeping bees at the age of 12 in Hampshire, England, and at 16 he had an apiary of 16 colonies. He has always retained his interest in bees and caught the beefever again when he successfully hived a stray swarm from across the Tasman River which landed in the chimney of the homestead at Mount Cook Station in South Canterbury. We hope he will derive much pleasure from his beekeeping and from membership in our Association.

Dates to Remember: July 24, 25, 26 (tentative). Why? For the Association's Dominion Conference. Where? Up in the Hybiscus country—Sunny Tauranga.

APIARY INSURANCE (PUBLIC RISK)

Here's big news for all Association members. As from the beginning of the next financial year, (June 1, 1962) every member will be automatically covered against Public Risk claims WITHOUT PAYMENT OF PREMIUM.

The cover which is limited to £5000 (in lieu of the previous £500 cover) for any one claim, will be automatic upon payment of current years Association Subscription, which, incidently is NOT being increased to meet the cost of this extra service. Free public risk insurance on apiaries will therefore be a privilage of membership henceforward. Branch Secretaries are particularly asked to note that where advance subscriptions are now being paid for the 1962-63 year, insurance premiums at the rate of 1s. 3d. per apiary should no longer be charged to members.

What does this mean to the member?

(1) Your **legal liability** to the extent of £5000, is taken over by the Association's insurers should you be claimed against **for injury or death to persons or livestock directly attributable to the actions of your bees and arising from your own negligence as the beekeeper.**

(2) Formerly the first £2 0s. 0d. of each and every claim had to be paid by the beekeeper. This does not now apply. The full claim up to £5000 will be met by the Insurers.

(3) The beekeeper/member now obtains **free** an insurance cover which would cost several pounds if taken out individually with his private insurers.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

In "The Australasian Beekeeper" of September 1961, Mr. C. W. McIntyre (who represented the Australian beekeeping industry in recent discussions with the Department of Primary Industry) reports upon the likely effect on Australian honey from the proposed entry of Britain into the E.E.C.

If the Agricultural policy of the E.E.C. includes honey as anticipated, the entry of the U.K. would mean that honey imported into Britain from Commonwealth countries would lose the present advantage over foreign competitors of 5/- per cwt. In addition it would be subject to the present customs duty for honey entering the E.E.C. of 30/- per cwt. Thus honey at 100/- per cwt. would rise in price to the U.K. buyer under E.E.C. to 130/- or alternatively, if the price in the U.K. remains the same, bring about a reduction of 30/- per cwt. to the overseas suppliers. In practice the price would probably adjust somewhere between the two. It also seems likely that the price rise on all honey entering the U.K. would restrict total sales to some extent.

The basis of E.E.C. is laid down by the Rome Treaty, reports Mr. McIntyre, and its principles would appear to be frustrated if the U.K. attempted indefinite continuance of Commonwealth preferences. However the Treaty does provide for an adjustment period of up to six or seven years for some commodities, but requires immediate steps towards the ultimate objective in each instance. The conditions which would apply to honey in this respect are not yet known.

Death of Miss Betts

Miss Annie D. Betts, who was Editor of "Bee World" from 1929 to 1949, died on September 8, 1961. Through her long life of service to bee research and beekeeping Miss Betts was known and highly regarded by readers of beekeeping literature all over the world.

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South Island Representative: P. G. Collings, 33 Charlcott Street, Christchurch. Phone 29-062.

.: EXECUTIVE NEWS :.

Commission on State Services

The Association made submissions to the Commission on points considered of importance to beekeepers. Emphasis was given to the value of the beekeeping industry, the importance of adequate staff for research, instruction and inspection work, and the need for a revision of the salary scale to bring beekeeping into line with other sections of primary industry. Copies of the submissions have been forwarded to Branches.

Price Control

The Minister of Industries and Commerce (the Hon. J. R. Marshall) on October 30, 1961, acknowledged the request from the Association that honey should be freed from price control and indicated that its representations would be taken into consideration in the review of those items still under control.

Depreciation Allowances

In reply to the Conference remit requesting a reinstatement of the initial depreciation allowance of 30 per cent, the Minister of Finance, the Hon. H. R. Lake, has drawn attention to the 1961 Budget provision of 20 per cent special initial depreciation for workers' dwellings. This will be subject to review in March 1963. The concession does not extend at present to plant and equipment. Branches have received copies of the Minister's letter.

Exchange on Cheques

The Minister has replied to the Conference request that the internal exchange on cheques be abolished. This is a matter for the trading banks which contend that they could not afford to dispense with exchange unless they could recoup the revenue in some other way. No satisfactory alternative has yet been found. Copies of the Minister's letter have been circulated to Branches.

Heavy Traffic Licence Period

The following letter has been received from the Transport Department:

The Secretary, N.B.A.,
Foxton,

Dear Sir,

In your letter of October 12 you referred to me the following resolution passed by a recent conference of your association:

"That the Transport Department be approached to alter heavy traffic licence dates to coincide with the motor registration."

I have consulted the National Roads Board which receives these licence fees and the Board prefers to retain the existing dates for renewal of Heavy Traffic Licences. A change to the orthodox quarters would, on account of Easter, result in greater variations in revenue for each quarter and this could be inconvenient under the Board's present budgeting system. Additionally, a change to the motor registration dates would disrupt the present fairly even spread of payments made by the transport industry to the National Roads Board.

I feel, therefore, that I cannot support the suggested change in the present arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
A. E. FORSYTH,
Commissioner of Transport.

Bank Service Fee

The following letter has been received from the N.Z. Bankers' Association:

The General Secretary, N.B.A.,
Foxton.

Dear Sir,

Your letter dated October 26 protesting at the introduction of the Overdraft Service Fee by the Banks was considered by this Association at its recent meeting.

Member Banks appreciate that many beekeepers avail themselves fully of their overdraft limits only occasionally during each year, but this is so with the many other seasonal businesses. The Banks do not feel therefore, that exemption of beekeepers from the fee is justified.

Yours faithfully,
Deputy Chairman,
N.Z. Bankers' Association.

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HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Markets

1. Local: This market is in a very healthy state and the Authority packs are in demand. During the coming year it is hoped that further developments will take place which will absorb a larger quantity of "Honeyco 60" grade honey.

2. Export: We have had no supplies of white honey to offer our London agent since August. Stocks of lower grades are very slow selling and were shipped to London before the hot weather could cause deterioration. Producers of these grades may have to revise their ideas of values if they continue in production of these types of honey. The export of retail packs to the East continues to be a growing business and is proving to be a worthwhile trade.

Joint Committee of Statutory Boards

There was a meeting of this Committee when Mr. J. R. Marshall, Minister of Industries and Commerce, gave a full report on Britain's negotiations with the European Common Market.

Honey Price Order

The Manager and I recently had a busy day in Wellington when we had a long interview with the Trade Practices Division. Although the matter of de-control of honey selling prices is still under review, we do feel that the increases in freight charges provide a very strong case for an increase in selling prices and strong representations were made accordingly. We await results of our representations.

Factory Foreman

Mr. L. W. Tomkins, who has held the position of factory foreman of the Authority since its inception in 1954 and prior to that with the Internal Marketing Department, will shortly be retiring with twenty years' service to his credit. The best wishes of the Authority and producers go to Mr. Tomkins for a long and happy retirement. Mr. A. E. (Jim) Peake has been appointed to succeed Mr. Tomkins and has already assumed duties at the Auckland factory.

New Plymouth Depot

A last-minute change has been made in the New Plymouth Depot of the Authority. Would producers in this area please note that honey should now be consigned to The New Zealand Shipping Co. Wool Store, Breakwater. Facilities are available for both road and rail entry to this store.

Government Honey Grader

Mr. D. Roberts has now been officially appointed as Honey Grader. Our congratulations to Mr. Roberts on his appointment.

Liquid Honey Penalty

Provision for exemption under special circumstances of the penalty for supplying liquid honey into the Auckland factory has been reflected in honey supplies coming forward much earlier than in previous seasons. We feel that this change in policy should relieve the local suppliers of congestion in their sheds.

Gift Parcel Scheme

The Overseas Gift Parcel scheme of the Authority was very favourably received and in excess of 800 parcels were despatched from London. Already favourable reports have been received by donors from the recipients.

School Project

An entry 'H for Honey' will appear in the School Trades Alphabet for 1962 shortly to be published and issued to all schools. In conjunction with this entry a comprehensive school project for issue upon application by school children is now being printed. It is expected that the publicity obtained from this enterprise should promote honey sales over the whole of the Dominion. Much work has gone into preparing the necessary material and our particular thanks go to Mr. Roy Paterson and John McFadzien for their assistance.

New Minister of Agriculture

The Manager and myself met the new Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Talboys, on February 8 and discussed some of the industry's problems with him.

G. E. GUMBRELL, Chairman

February 8, 1962

EXECUTIVE NEWS

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Transport of Liquid Honey

In spite of the intimation last year that the Railways Department was no longer opposed to the granting of licences for road transport of liquid honey in the South Island, producers advised during January that applications had again been opposed this year.

As a result of urgent representations the Department has now indicated that it has withdrawn in the meantime its opposition to the granting of licences.

Hormophos

In response to a request from the Association the Agricultural Chemicals Board has asked the Wallaceville Animal Research Station to give further study to the action of Hormophos on honey bees in small-scale laboratory and plot tests designed to study the entry of this material into nectar.

Bee Losses in Auckland

Following persistent reports of bee losses during the spring months in the Auckland area the Department of Agriculture has been requested to make urgent investigations. In view of the possibility of chemical poisoning, which requires large quantities of freshly dead bees for testing, it has been suggested that scientific staff be assigned to Auckland for concentrated investigation next spring.

Executive Meeting

A meeting of the Executive will probably be held towards the end of March.

An Outdoor Colony. This cluster survived the winter on the limb of this black poplar in Hawkes Bay. Ten or 12 feet below it a tractor worked up and down the field sowing peas. Normally tractors are the sworn enemies of bees but in this case the bees accepted the tractor driver with unusual charity. A local beekeeper was so impressed that he captured the colony holus bolus in a tea chest.
— Photo by Sefton Line.

Recipe

Honey for a Tickly Cough

Scrape out the whole of a lemon or grapefruit (pulp as well as juice) into a dessert dish or cup, and mix in a big tablespoon of honey; or mix together 2 tablespoons each of honey and glycerine, a dash of ginger and a tablespoon or more of lemon juice. Keep the mixture just warm and use a little as needed. A cough may be eased by a teaspoon of warmed honey.

Department of Agriculture

Horticulture Division

SPECIALIST POSITIONS

Mr. R. A. Fraser,
General Secretary, N.B.A.,
Foxton.

January 15, 1962

Dear Mr. Fraser,

During the past few years your Association has made representations to the Minister in regard to staffing the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division. Two divisional positions in which you have been particularly interested are Honey Grader and Apiculturist (South Island).

I am pleased now to be able to advise you that Mr. D. Roberts who has been acting as Honey Grader for a period of two years has now been officially promoted to Honey Grader with headquarters at Auckland. This is a specialist position with Dominion coverage and from time to time, especially during the off season for the grading of honey, Mr. Roberts will visit the districts in which your Association has its branches and give advice on the packaging, forwarding and grading of honey. Requests for such advice should be made through the Apiary Instructor for the district and Mr. Roberts' visits to districts will normally be made in association with the local Apiary Instructor.

I am also pleased to state that a specialist position of Apiculturist has been established in the South Island to strengthen the department's field experimental work including pollination trials and improved bee management methods.

Mr. I. W. Forster has been promoted to the position, with headquarters at Oamaru. Mr. Forster will be a specialist advisory officer covering the four apiary districts in the South Island. Requests for the services of Mr. Forster should normally be made through the Apiary Instructor for each district. Mr. Forster will also be expected to act for and assist the Superintendent of Beekeeping as requested from time to time by me. The designation of Mr. E. Smaellie has been altered by deleting the term Industry. He is now designated—Superintendent of Beekeeping.

As a consequence of Mr. Forster's altered duties, Mr. V. A. Cook is now Apiary Instructor in charge of the Oamaru apiary district and all local matters relating to this district should be directed to him.

Yours faithfully,

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

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS: 1961-62

Reports received from Apiary Instructors indicate that above average crops will be harvested in most North Island districts. Exceptions are Palmerston North and Hastings districts where the yields will be less than the previous six-year average. Above average crops are in sight in the Otago-Southland district, but in all other South Island areas, districts yields range from near average to poor.

Following is a summary of the position to date:

Northland

Early summer rainfall was low and pastures became very dry, especially in the southern half of the district. Good yields were obtained throughout the district from Manuka, buttercup, lotus major and catsear. Blue pine and privet also yielded well.

The soil was saturated with heavy rain early in December when a steady flow developed from pasture sources, manuka and pohutukawa.

Crops produced are above average.

Auckland

Weather conditions have been favourable and good crops were produced from pohutukawa and other bush sources. Manuka flowering was profuse. Heavy yields were also obtained from privet, barberry and buttercup. Clover flower was sparse but there was a vigorous flow from this source.

The overall crop for the district is above average.

Hamilton

Warm weather and average rainfall made conditions very favourable. Catsear, Lotus Major and thistle yields are good. An average bloom of Penny Royal is also showing. Clover on the lower areas such as the Hauraki Plains, has been revived and good crops from this source are anticipated. Yields from high country pastures however, are poor.

Estimated crop this season will be a little above average. Honey extracted so far is of good average quality.

Tauranga

Weather conditions were settled and generally warmer. A loss of field bees was experienced earlier owing to cold winds, but hives recovered and are normal for this time of the year. Clover in Rotorua areas received a check by frost during November, but recovered and flowered heavily later. Lotus Major is flowering profusely at present. Yields from Rewarewa did not come up to expectations.

Average to above average crops are in sight.

Palmerston North

Clover yielded well early in December but with continuing drought conditions pastures dried out and the yield from this source is poor. Manuka bloomed profusely and yielded heavily. Thistles are yielding in some districts.

In the Lower Rangitikei district many colonies have gathered only sufficient honey for winter stores. Very little extracting has been done to date. Crops generally are below average but are of good quality except in manuka areas.

Hawera

Weather has been mainly mild, with occasional high wind. Pastures in Southern Taranaki dried out and the honey flow from clover was very light. In Central and Northern Taranaki clover and other pasture flowers yielded with a steady flow. Yields from Towai and manuka have been heavy. With further rain a light crop is expected from Boxthorn in South Taranaki.

Overall crop is above average.

Hastings

In coastal districts of Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa drought conditions prevailed and yields from pasture sources were poor. Conditions were more favourable nearer the ranges and beekeepers who moved hives inland to the higher country secured fair crops. Manuka honey is evident in most crops.

The district crop will be below average.

Greymouth

On the West Coast very little honey has been gathered because of unsettled conditions. Rata bloom is very scattered and bees have preferred to work clover, blackberry and other nectar sources. Given good conditions till the end of the season light to average crops of good grade honey will be secured. With drought conditions in Nelson districts only light crops of darker honey have been gathered. An average crop has been produced in Marlborough with further prospects of a good flow from lucerne which has shown up well in response to recent heavy rain.

Christchurch

Canterbury has experienced a poor season. The district has recently received good rains but drought conditions still affect all the lighter soil areas. In some dry areas the bees have not yet

secured winter stores. Pastures are still holding on heavier soils where clover and catsear are yielding. Vipers bugloss is yielding well in lighter soil areas.

The overall crop will be much below average.

Oamaru

Continued high temperatures seriously affected pastures in most areas. Clovers on light land have not responded to recent heavy rain. In areas where clover growth has been maintained a light flowering has continued to yield. Some surplus honey was stored early in season from brassicas and bush sources. Vipers bugloss, lucerne, catsear, thistles and red clover are in flower and in some areas are supplying light subsidiary flows.

Honey crops vary from good to very light. The overall crop will be a little below average.

Gore

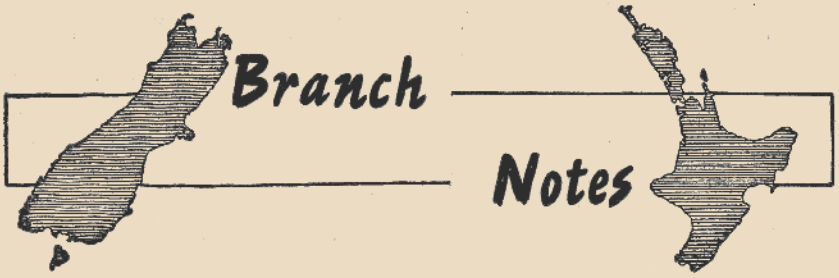
Weather conditions favoured development of good pasture growth in Otago and Southland. Clover, dandelion and thistle have secreted well but dry conditions in South Otago are now adversely affecting the clovers. Yields from bush sources have been good.

The crops in sight are a little above average and if favourable weather continues increased yields can be anticipated.

E. SMAELLIE,
Superintendent, Beekeeping.

FIRES EXTINGUISHED

At two recent field days in the South Island, Mr. Kevin Ecroyd has demonstrated the effectiveness of the fire extinguishers that the firms he represents are now selling. At these demonstrations when both carbon dioxide and dry powder type extinguishers were used on petrol fires, it was apparent that they were very effective. Most present agreed that it would be wise to carry one in every vehicle and also have one in the honey house. These extinguishers are available to beekeepers throughout New Zealand at competitive prices from A. Ecroyd and Sons Ltd., Christchurch.—Advt.



AUCKLAND CENTRAL

The Auckland Central branch had the pleasure at their December meeting of a visit from the Dominion President, Mr. Jim Barber and the General Secretary, Mr. R. A. Fraser.

Mr. Barber gave an address and answered numerous questions put to him by branch members.

Mr. Fraser spoke on improving branch membership by increasing activities and services to members. After this talk, the branch members went into discussion groups to discuss what each individual member would like to see in the way of branch activities. The results were unanimous that we should have more field days, more talks by Apiary Instructors, more films and discussions on improved honey production, better queens and various other things. The branch looks forward to putting these ideas into practice this year.

Another important factor discussed was a resolution passed requesting the executive to take the matter up at the highest levels, to ascertain the cause of serious bee losses that have occurred over the past three seasons in our districts. These losses are apparently the result of some poison.

This meeting was one of the best we have ever had and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to both Mr. Barber, and Mr. Fraser.

—C. Aylward

BAY OF PLENTY

During recent months branch activity has been restricted owing to the rush of seasonal work.

In October, we had a visit from the Chairman, Mr. Gumbrell and the Manager, Mr. Gosse of the H.M.A. They spoke to a well attended meeting on this occasion. These visits do prove of immense value to beekeepers in the branch as considerable quantities of honey are forwarded to the H.M.A. from this area. With discussions and exchange of ideas they do help us to forward our honey in an improved condition and so to Mr. Gumbrell and Mr. Gosse this branch extends a very big thank you for your visits.

This season the rewarewa had a moderate flowering and although the weather was perfect at the time next to no honey was stored from this source. Never-the-less honey prospects at the time of writing are most encouraging. The Bay of Plenty has had one of the best showings of clover for many years. As early as October pastures were white and when it looked like drying off in mid-December some eight inches of rain fell during a ten day period and a renewed showing of clover appeared. Weather conditions over all have been considerably better than in recent years, and we have experienced more of the really bright hot sunny days which keep the bees working at peak.

The branch proposes holding a meeting in February when plans for the annual field day will be discussed.

—Don Barrow

HAWKES BAY

The Field Day was held early in November. The apiary for this occasion was on the lawn at the side of the homestead, pleasantly surrounded with shrubs and trees and the weather was fine and hot. Long-stemmed clover flowered in an adjacent field but the bees were only slightly interested, so we wondered if the afternoon would find them in a cantankerous mood. No one was stung so far as I know. Mrs. Dorward made Q-cells on a petrol stove and showed also her

method of using a small paint brush for removing larvae to bars of cells. Yes, she waxed eloquently. Several gadgets and ideas were demonstrated and there were beekeepers from as far south as Dannevirke and north near Wairoa.

The last item was supplied by the Apiary Instructor showing two frames infected with B.L. where the coffee-colour and ropyness of the disease were demonstrated and then placed on a model fire; supers also were scorched. Afternoon tea was enjoyed in the welcome shade of trees and asparagus sandwiches disappeared fast. Everyone had an interesting and pleasant afternoon and we are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Maultsaid for a meeting in such pleasant surroundings. —Tingle

WEST COAST

November opened with a fortnight of wet weather and then the fun began. Most beekeepers keep colonies reasonably tight at this time of the year and they got the swarm fever. We all have ideas as to methods of control but the burning question is: Which method for a given condition, and how nearly can we guess the future?

Practically every flora-bearing shrub and tree bloomed but many did not last long, probably because of some short-duration but heavy rain in both December and January. (In early November Stockton had 37 inches of rain in four days). The year 1961 was for Greymouth a dry year—78 inches against the general average of 95. The result is a light-average crop. Admittedly, at the time of writing, there is time yet for some favourable areas but in many cases drones were receiving marching orders in mid-January.

At a meeting of the Branch held 19/1/62 consideration was given to the uneconomic payout for 1960-61 kamahi honey. It was resolved that the Honey Marketing Authority be asked, through the Association, to justify the payout by giving figures showing the proportion of A and B categories in the kamahi honey supplied, and the proportion of each category in the kamahi honey sold overseas, direct in New Zealand, and packed in New Zealand; as well as any relevant sales figures which can be disclosed.

—Tom Holland.

A Group at the Southland Field Day

From left: Messrs. J. McFadzien, G. L. Jeffery, J. K. Bray, J. W. Fraser, J. R. Barber, the Hon. B. E. Talboys (Minister of Agriculture), D. F. Penrose, Mrs. A. W. Cranstoun, and C. Cunningham. —Photo by Chris Dawson.

NORTH OTAGO

Well, that big crop we were going to tell you all about at our field day has slipped through our fingers again. After what was an early and glorious start, continued extreme heat and norwest winds just burnt the clover out in a week to ten days.

The demand for the small lamb was a great help as the paddocks were cleared at an early date of the many small mouths that rob us of our existence.

We are now looking to the nodding thistle in the hope of a slightly below average crop.

Field Day

Owing to the dry season the field day has been transferred to camp Iona. Turn inland at the south end of Herbert township. February 24 is the day. —Stan Wilson

OTAGO

In Central and South Otago the honey crop varies from good to very good. In some districts yields were limited by loss of bee strength in early summer or by dry conditions in January but producers are generally well satisfied.

The wasps have arrived in Otago. When beekeepers meet they are all bringing wasps in bottles to show them to each other. —J. McF.

SOUTHLAND

The annual Field Day was held in perfect weather and pleasant surroundings at the apiary of Mr. A. W. Cranstoun at Hamilton Burn on January 27. The large attendance included many from Otago and Canterbury and among the official guests were the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. B. E. Talboys, and the Dominion President, Mr. J. R. Barber.

The President, Mr. C. Cunningham, in welcoming the visitors, was able to congratulate Mr. Talboys, who is the local member, upon his appointment as Minister of Agriculture, and to wish him every success in his work. Mr. Barber, speaking for the Association, and Mr. J. W. Fraser, on behalf of the Marketing Authority, also expressed pleasure at having Mr. Talboys at the Field Day and in being able to introduce him to the beekeeping industry in such a practical manner.

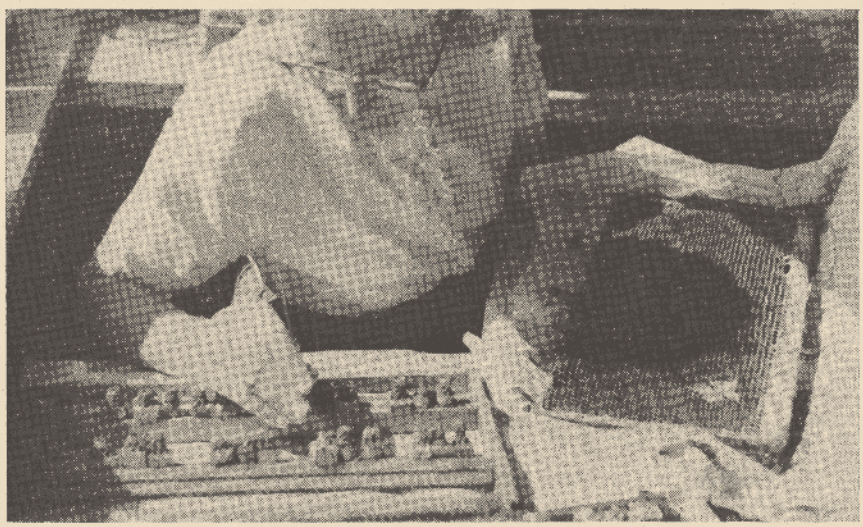
In opening the program Mr. Talboys said that bees were kept on his own farm at Heddon Bush and he was aware of the value of pollination by honeybees. He welcomed the opportunity of being at the Field Day to learn something of beekeeping practice and the problems of honey producers.

During the afternoon Mr. Barber referred to the recent death of Mr.

E. A. Field and several speakers supported him in paying tribute to Mr. Field's qualities, and his many years of service. A motion of sympathy was passed, the gathering standing in silence as a mark of respect.

The principal items on the program were addresses on administrative matters by Messrs J. R. Barber and J. W. Fraser, a honey extracting demonstration by Mr. A. W. Cranstoun, and a talk on Queen Banks by Mr. Chris Dawson. Other speakers also contributed to an interesting day. Hamilton Burn was looking its very best and visitors admired the premises and attractive new home of Mr. and Mrs. Cranstoun, not to mention the charming manner in which Mrs. Cranstoun performed her dual role of hostess and Branch Secretary.

After having sufficient rain and a beautiful summer Southland is obtaining a honey crop which will be remembered for some years. A light autumn flow to fill up the brood chambers would make the season all that a beekeeper could desire. —J. McF.



Mrs. W. J. C. Ashcroft of Havelock North, transferring larvae from comb to queen cells. Beekeeping is a family affair with the Ashcrofts. While Bill is away checking over his hives Mrs. Ashcroft raises queen cells in prepared hives in the back garden.
— Photo by Sefton Line

NOTES for BEGINNERS

By "SKEP"

Preparing Queen Rearing Colonies

In the prevous article, the methods of artificially creating the Swarming, Supersedure and Emergency impulses were discussed and now, with an understanding of these urges, we can approach the building of Queen Rearing Colonies with confidence.

The three types of Queen Raising Colonies now to be described each use the impulses in different ways.

1. The Cell Raising Colony.
2. The Cell Starting Colony.
3. The Cell Finishing Colony.

The Cell Raising Colony first uses the Swarming Impulse and later the Supersedure Impulse. It can be used for the starting, building, completion and holding of completed cells.

The Cell Starting Colony uses the Swarming Impulse with an element of the Emergency Impulse present. It is used only for starting cells which are moved later to a Cell Finishing Colony.

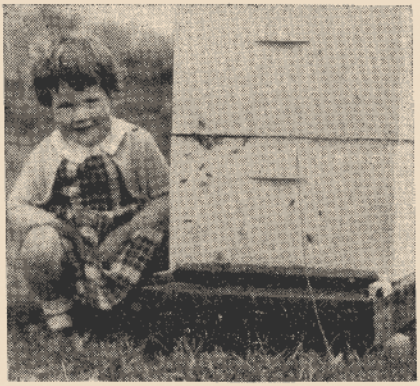
The Cell Finishing Colony uses the Supersedure Impulse and is used only for the building, completion and holding of completed cells.

Building a Cell Raising Colony

The Cell Raising Colony is built as follows: Select a healthy colony sufficiently strong in bees of all ages and on the same site place a good bottom board which will allow ample ventilation from the front entrance if necessary. Close entrance down to allow two inches or less according to conditions.

In Super 1, place frame 1, consisting of pollen and honey: frame 2, mixed brood and queen; frame 3, mixed stores and brood; frame 4, pollen and honey; frame 5, a dummy frame. Fill up the rest of the space with clean sacking so that there is no airspace for bees to keep warm (or build in a division). Over this, place a queen excluder. Cover most of the excluder (except over frames 1 and 2) with a snug-fitting hive mat. Now place over the queen excluder a division board with a one-bee exit on side opposite to entrance on botton board and leave ⅛inch ventilation space all round under super 2.

Build Super 2 as follows:—Frame 1, pollen and honey; frame 2, space for cell bars: frame 3, frame of sealed brood, honey, pollen or bare comb which must have a small patch (4 square inches) of unsealed brood. Frames 4 to 9 consist of mixed frames of stores, bare comb and sealed brood, but no unsealed brood. (If too much unsealed brood is placed here, nurse bees will be drawn away from raising queen cells.) Finally, shake all bees into this super except the small number on the frames 2 and 3 in super 1. (Flying bees will leave by the back entrance and return to queen in Super 1, leaving all the nurse bees in super 2.) Cover with a snug-fitting hive mat which has a feeder hole over frames 2 and 3. Place super 3 in place and feed with 2-1 syrup. Pack all round feeder tin with clean sacking so that there is no empty space for bees to keep warm. Cover with a snug fitting lid.



The Beginner in the heading photograph is Miss Jacqueline Ecroyd of Christchurch.
— Photo by Chris Dawson

The Cell Raising Colony is **used** as follows:

Day of Cycle

1 Build Cell Raising Colony and feed Stimulative Syrup (2 water to 1 of sugar or honey). Feed daily for one week if necessary.

2 Graft bar of cells from Breeder Queen and place in colony. (The Breeder Queen having been fed, if necessary, stimulative syrup for one week prior to this.)

3 Check bar of cells and, if not good acceptance, transfer cells to a dequeened colony for raising and graft again using royal jelly from one of the cells. Carefully check frame 3 for signs of rogue queen cells and destroy. When good acceptance of cells has taken place, remove division board.

4 - 9 No attention needed.
On Day 9 prepare as many nuclei as are necessary to take the number of queen cells to be grafted.

10 Graft out queen cells. Remove queen excluder and return Cell Raising colony to normal.

Once a Cell Raising Colony has started building Queen Cells, it is often **possible,** by removing the Division Board on Day 4, to introduce a bar of newly grafted cells every day for several days provided the bar grafted the day previously is removed to another colony for finishing and provided every care is taken to locate and destroy rogue cells in the frames.

Starting and Finishing Colonies

In turning our attention to the Cell Starting Colony and the Cell Finishing Colony, we note that they are used together; cells are started in the first and finished and held in the second. We note, too, that the first is queenless and the second is queenright.

Building a Cell Starting Colony

Select a healthy colony that has sufficient bees of all ages and on the same site place first of all the Bottom Board.

This Bottom Board needs to allow ample ventilation to keep the cluster compact and a ¾in opening along the front is not too great **but** the size of the entrance MUST be related to the outside conditions. If there is a good nectar flow on, the entrance can be much larger than when no nectar is flowing or if there is liable to be robbing. If weather conditions are cold, the entrance needs to be much smaller than when temperatures are high. Cover the unused portion of the entrance during hot weather with wire gauze and at other times with a block of wood.

On the Bottom Board place super 1 making sure that there are no extra entrances round the bottom where strange bees can disturb the colony. In super 1 place frames as follows: frame 1 (beside entrance), pollen or pollen and honey; where frame 2 would go, leave a space for the cell-bar frame. Frame 3 can consist of anything so long as there is a small patch of unsealed brood of about four square inches. Frame 4, wet comb of unsealed honey or mixed stores or a frame of sealed stores that has had the cappings cut off as large a portion as necessary. Frames 5 to 9: stores of honey and pollen with sufficient bare comb for the bees to live on but no brood. Place super 2 on and then shake into super 1 all your bees **except the Queen** which must be introduced elsewhere. Cover with a snug-fitting hive mat, leaving a hole over frames 2 and 3 through which the bees have access to the feeder tin. Fill empty space with clean sacking and cover with snug-fitting lid.

Building a Cell Finishing Colony

Select a strong healthy colony and on the same site place your Botton Board. The same remarks apply here as to the Cell Starting Colony.

Build Super 1 as follows:—Frame 1; pollen and honey. Frame 2, mixed brood and **queen.** Frame 3: Mixed stores and brood. Frame 4; pollen and honey. Frame 5 can be a dummy frame or a piece of ply 17in by 9½in can be used and fill up the rest of the space with clean sacking, or divide off with a built-in partition. On top of this place a Queen Excluder and over the excluder place a hive mat which covers all except over frames 1 and 2 of super 1.

Super 2 is built as follows:—Frame 1, pollen and honey. Where frame 2 would go, a space is left for a cell bar frame. Frame 3, frame of

anything so long as there is a small patch of unsealed brood. Frames 4 to 9 consist of mixed frames of stores, bare comb and sealed brood but if there is much unsealed brood, the nurse bees will be drawn away from raising the queen cells.

After placing super 3 in place, shake all your bees in and fit a snug hive mat which has a hole over frames 2 and 3 around the feeder tin. Fill the empty space round the feeder tin with clean sacking to reduce space that the bees have to keep warm. A good fitting lid completes the operation.

All cell-building colonies must be crowded with bees and if there are any empty spaces, fill them up. Eliminate any surplus air space that would keep bees working at keeping it warm. Cell building colonies also must have available at all times ample pollen and nectar (or 2-1 syrup). It is necessary to keep the bees busy building queen cells—nothing else.

The first cell frame is placed in the space left at frame 2 and additional cell frames are inserted in every second frame position, always placing the most recently inserted cell frame in frame 2 space.

The grafted cells are started in the cell starting colony and then transferred to the cell finishing colony. In a later article which describes a queen rearing routine, this procedure is discussed in more detail.

Bee Behaviour

A reader has sent in the following inquiry:—

Dear Skep,

I am a novice beekeeper who proudly owns three hives, and I seek some explanation on the behaviour of bees.

The time of this occurrence was early January, and midday, and the day reasonably fine. At the two bigger hives of bees I was allowed to look into them without even the use of the smoker, nor was the veil necessary though I wore it as a safeguard. But the small lot of bees was buzzing around its hive most agitatedly, so I left them till the last. They had quietened down somewhat by that time, but on opening them they were full of resentment, and were endowed with an evil intent to commit harikari without provocation. They stung my jacket without goodwill. Normally these bees allow me to look into them without any fuss and bother. Now the question is, what could have caused this upset, for there must be a reason? Inside the hive, on the combs, there was every indication of normal work going ahead.

Thanking you for an honest opinion.

"Bee-stink"

. . . As long as you live with bees, there will remain unanswered questions and although you now receive an answer, it may not be the correct one because there are many things which arouse the protective instinct of bees.

At the time of day and season you mention, bees are usually amiable but there must be an unusual cause.

I wonder if your small colony had found a nectar source that had adversely affected its humour, while the other two colonies had not located it. M. J. Deyell describes in "Gleanings in Bee Culture" how his bees always became angry during the buckwheat flow. (See N.Z. Beekeeper, November 1961, "Mistakes I have made.")

As it was the smallest and perhaps weakest of your three colonies, it may have been under stress through robbing. If the robbing had just started, bees would be fighting at the hive entrance but if they had reached the stage where the robbers were winning, the robbing bees would be running up the front of the super to get height before taking-off. Foraging bees leaving a hive come out the entrance and take off from the landing outside the opening. Other possible causes of the misbehaviour of your otherwise amiable colony could be shortage of stores, no nectar flow and loss of Queen.

These suggestions should help you to locate the cause of your colony's behaviour.

—"Skep"

Queen Reservoirs ★

by Chris Dawson

How can Queens be kept in reserve? How long can they be kept? . . . Do they deteriorate if they are kept?

Such were the questions coursing through my mind during the spring inspection of 1955 when I found in a colony, a live and apparently healthy queen in a cage where she must have lived over the winter. That colony had been requeened in the autumn but, as the introduced queen had been prevented from escaping from her cage, the colony had raised another queen, but had also fed the imprisoned queen and brought her safely through the winter.

All the escorts were dead, but the imprisoned queen and the colony were vigorous and apparently healthy. The queen was immediately introduced to a nuclei made from the same colony, but a few days later she was missing.

This occurrence sparked off a series of experiments which have answered the first two questions satisfactorily, but the third question of the effect of prolonged caging has not yet been answered.

There is no doubt that Queens can be kept in cages in queenright colonies for long periods, but I am not satisfied that they do not deteriorate during their imprisonment.

Success in keeping queens lies firstly in the design of the cage and secondly in their position in the colony.

Reservoir Cages

Early experiments failed because the cage was too large, which made it too difficult for the colony to keep warm, and because the cages were positioned so that the cluster gradually deserted the cages.

The cage had first to be reduced to the minimum size that a queen could live in, and secondly had to be made so that the bees had maximum access to the queen without being able actually to injure her. The cages needed to be positioned in the colony so that they would not be deserted by the cluster at any time, especially during any contraction of the cluster due to cold snaps of weather. Queens kept in these cages for up to eight weeks have been successfully introduced without supersedure.

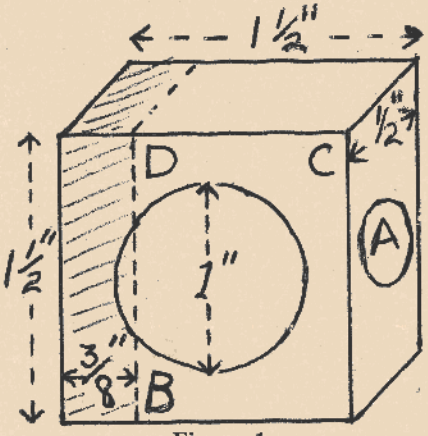


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the cage in the making. In the centre of a piece of wood 1½in. by 1½in. by ½in. thick, a hole 1in. in diameter is drilled and a ⅜in. hole is drilled through one side at A. A strip (the shaded portion) ⅜in. wide is then sawn off the side opposite to the ⅜in. hole at the line B.-D. This produces the skeleton as Figure 2. A

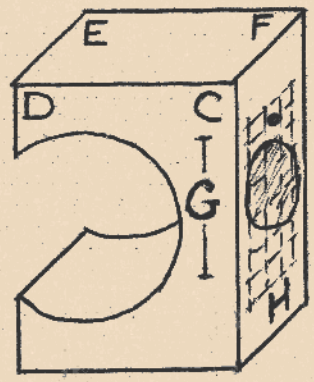


Figure 2

★ This talk was given at the Southland Field Day at Hamilton Burn on Saturday, January 27, 1962.

piece of ordinary wire gauze 1⅜in. by 2⅝in. is wrapped around the skeleton from C to D to E and F, and stapled on each side at G with an ordinary office stapler. Make sure that legs of the staple do not pass through the hole A. A piece of perforated zinc, ⅜in. by ¾in. is tacked in position with one tack at one end over the ⅜in. hole as shown at H.

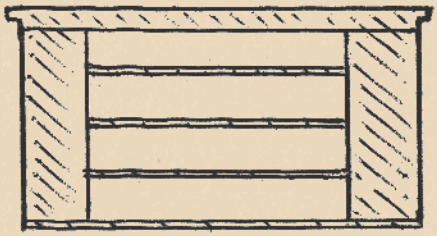


Figure 3

The Cage Frame

The cage frame to hold the cages (figure 3) is the same outside measurement as an ordinary honeycomb frame but is built-in at each side for 2½ inches to reduce the possibility of queens on the outside perimeter being deserted. Across the gap several troughs nine-sixteenth inches wide and nine-sixteenth inches deep are placed to hold the cages. The cages are placed with the perforated zinc side (H) resting in the trough. This reservoir will store over 30 queens.

The queens are placed in the cages without escorts, the perforated zinc is slipped across the three-eighth inch hole and the cages are placed with the entrance holes lying in the troughs. Should the troughs not be filled with cages all empty space must be reduced to a minimum by placing pieces of wood in the gaps. Air space has to be kept warm by the bees and if there is too much air space, the cluster will move away from the cage-frame.

The cage-frame furnished with queens is placed in the centre of a queenright colony populated with plenty of bees which will need easy access to stores of honey and pollen which they will use to feed the queens.

Every experiment, so far, using queen excluder wire to cover the cages instead of wire gauze, has been a failure. Whether the cages are placed in a queenless colony or above a queen excluder in a queenright colony, the result is the same—all the queens are killed.

Although the interest in queen reservoirs has widened only in recent years, it is interesting to note that Langstroth wrote in "The Honey Bee" which he first published in 1852: "On account of this propensity of bees to feed queens, any number of fertile ones may be kept in a hive already containing a fertile queen if they are placed in cages between the combs near the honey and the brood."

While I am quite satisfied that queens can be kept for long periods in cages, I am not satisfied that the keeping does not affect their laying capacity and ability to head a healthy colony. More experiments will have to be made and data collected on the behaviour of reservoir queens after introduction. These experiments are now taking place.

Experiments are also being made to ascertain if queens can be kept in cages where the bees have full access to the queens. This might be accomplished by introducing the queens in cages that have a section of queen excluder wire covered over with wire gauze. When the cage and queen have acquired the colony odour, the wire gauze could then be removed.

It is assumed that a queen would be more contented and her laying propensity less likely to be affected if she has full access to the bees. The results of this experiment will be interesting.

During the coming winter it is proposed to keep a small queen reservoir for about twelve weeks to observe whether there will be casualties and to later ascertain whether these queens can be introduced successfully without supersedure following.

No queens that have served in queen reservoir experiments have been sold.

A sample cage will gladly be supplied without cost to any beekeeper who asks for one.

Queens in Mailing Cages without escorts or candy

In an endeavour to prove whether the queen reservoir principle could be applied to the mailing of queens in

Concluded at foot of page 30

Health Bulletin on Honey

There has been widespread comment among honey producers on the following article which appeared in the Official Bulletin of the N.Z. Department of Health for September, 1961:—

A READER HAS ASKED ABOUT HONEY

Is it true that honey contains vitamins and minerals, and is a good nutritiious food?

Answer:

Honey is 20 per cent water and 79.5 per cent carbohydrate. Thus 99.5 per cent of honey is either water or sugar. The protein content is about 0.3 per cent, which is negligible.

The vitamin content is such that in one teaspoon there are no vitamins in sufficient amounts to mention. In short, honey is a pleasant and attractive food but contains little of value other than carbohydrate. It is sometimes believed to have special merit as either a medicine or a nutritious food. Unfortunately, this reputation is quite undeserved.

Is honey better for children and old people than jam?

Answer:

Not necessarily. Some jams, e.g., blackcurrants, contain vitamin C of which only traces are found in honey. Both jams and honey, however, are valuable not for nutrients, but because they add flavour and interest to other foods. Whether jam or honey is used for any age group is a matter of personal preference and there is no nutritional reason for replacing jam with honey.

Is it easier to digest because it is predigested?

Answer:

The sugars in honey are mainly in the form of glucose and fructose (also called laevulose). It is thought that plants secrete cane sugar, or sucrose which the bee inverts to the simpler sugars glucose and fructose. It is no doubt that this gives rise to the claim that honey is predigested. Similarly in jam making cane suger is turned, by the acid in the fruit, into this mixture of glucose and fructose. Thus if we apply the terms pre-digested to honey we must also apply it to jams and jellies.

Sugars can be utilised in the body only in the form of the simple sugars such as glucose and fructose. Other sugars—e.g., cane sugar must be broken down by the digestive juices before they can be absorbed. Hence the belief that foods containing glucose and fructrose might have an advantage over cane sugar. However, digestion of sugar in the small intestine is so rapid that it makes little difference what form the sugar is in, and foods such as honey and syrup, which contain "pre-digested" sugars, cannot be said to be easier to digest than other sugars...

Bulletin Quoted

The above article was quoted in the N.Z. Woman's Weekly of December 11, 1961, when the columnist Jane Hill drew attention to it and expressed surprise at the revelation that honey "contains little of value other than carbohydrate" and that it "cannot even be said to be easier to digest than other sugars."

A Protest

Both the Manager of the Honey Marketing Authority (Mr. C. T. Gosse) and the General Secretary of the Association (Mr. R. A. Fraser) wrote to the Editor of the Woman's Weekly quoting relevant information and opinions from overseas authorities and suggesting that in its general effect the comment in the Woman's Weekly gave less than justice to the value of honey as a natural food.

The Woman's Weekly has courteously acknowledged the information supplied and in affirming its regard for the qualities of honey has expressed an interest in featuring the Honey Marketing Authority in a future article for the benefit of its readers.

Forget about Rome. You'll be Nero the point if you remember that "ALL ROADS LEAD TO TAURANGA"—FOR THE 1962 BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE.

Peter Snell Eats Honey

The new world mile record holder, Peter Snell, weighed nine pounds at birth, was a "holy terror" when a child and has always been extremely active and determined.

Because of his great energy as a child, his mother, Mrs E. G. Snell of Pukekohe, saw to it that his diet included plenty of honey and glucose.

"I used to buy the honey in 60-pound tins and he literally piled it on his bread," she said. "He was also a great boy for taking glucose in his drinks."

Mrs. Snell also insisted that the baby of her family of three have adequate sleep. "He had a day sleep right up until he went to school," she said.

Peter finished his schooling at Mt. Albert Grammar just before his eighteenth birthday, and began work as a cadet with an Auckland firm of quantity surveyors. He boards privately at Pt. Chevalier, where, his mother is pleased to say, he still gets his ration of honey and glucose.

—From a Press Association report, 28/1/62.

Congratulations from Beekeepers

On behalf of the National Beekeepers' Association the General Secretary, Mr. R. A. Fraser, has written to Mrs. Snell extending the congratulations of New Zealand beekeepers on Peter's splendid performance.

Commenting on the reliance on honey in the Snell family, Mr. Fraser recalled the part played by honey in Sir Edmund Hillary's achievements, and he asked Mrs. Snell to accept a gift of honey from the beekeepers of New Zealand as a token of their admiration of Peter's efforts and their best wishes for his future.

Queen Substance

A great deal of interest in honeybees has been stimulated by the recent queen substance theory. The fact that reproductive processes in an animal can be controlled by a chemical taken orally is most interesting. In the honeybee colony both queen cell production and ovary development in worker bees is inhibited by a secretion from the queen bee. This material (queen substance) is contained in a secretion from the mandibular glands in the queen's head. The chemical composition of queen substance has been determined and synthetic queen substance was made in laboratories in England last year. Feeding of this material to experimental colonies will be undertaken this summer at the Rothamsted Experimental Station in England.

—From an article by Dr. Roger A. Morse in "Gleanings," September, 1961.

Bees for Raoul Island

A hive of bees from Marlborough left on October 23 for new surroundings—to the New Zealand Civil Aviation Administration's farm on Raoul Island, 600 miles north-east of Auckland in the Kermadec group.

The bees, especially packed for the journey by air and sea, were dispatched from the Kekerengu apiary of Mr J. H. Varley. On Raoul Island they will be able to range over a big area where pohutukawa trees abound. It is believed the bees will be the first hived bees on the island, although some years ago wild bees were there in numbers.

Mr Trevor Ross of Christchurch, who has gone north to manage the island's 40-acre mixed farm, cared for the bees on their sea journey in the Holmburn. Apart from a supply of fresh water they required little attention. The bees joined the Holmburn in Wellington after travelling from Blenheim by air-freight.

The ship also took a relieving party of six men and about 130 tons of food, fuel, building materials and machinery to the meteorological station there. The island is serviced once every 12 months and the six men will relieve five who have been there for the last 12 months and two others who had been there for two years. On returning from Raoul the Holmburn was due to load for a similar voyage to New Zealand's other "outpost" station on Campbell Island, 450 miles south of Bluff.

Timothy and Virginia Varley inspect the bees prior to dispatch to Raoul Island.

Mr Varley has received word that the bees travelled well and were soon in production after their arrival. The honey gathered is white in colour and mild in flavour.

Both Mr Varley and Mr Ross attended last year's Conference in Nelson. Trevor must now be the most distant member of the Canterbury Branch.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The XVIII International Beekeeping Congress was held in Madrid, September 25-30, 1961, over 600 being in attendance. The papers which were presented covered a wide variety of subjects dealing with beekeeping and bee research.

Special attractions of the Congress were a Beekeeping Exhibition and an International Film Festival.

The next Congress is to be held in Prague in 1963.

Recent Pamphlets

Recent publications obtainable from the Bee Research Association, 11 Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent, England, include the following reprints from "Bee World":—

"In Search of the Best Strains of Bee. Third Journey: The Iberian Peninsula." By Brother Adam, 9 pages price 1/6.

"The Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers." An account of a London City Guild established over 700 years ago by those who traded and worked in beeswax; by Dr. Eva Crane. 10 pages, price 1/6.

Insecticide Danger for Study

Rome.—The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has called for an international conference to study whether man is poisoning himself in his attempt to kill insects.

The conference, to be held this year, will seek an answer to the increasingly alarming problem of how much insecticide may be used on agricultural products without endangering man's own health.

The organisation had decided to call the meeting on a Canadian proposal introduced at its world conference in Rome.

The Canadian delegate, Mr. W. Hurtig, said insecticides must be used to prevent insects from destroying food plants. But controls were essential to keep the resultant poisoning within health limits.

The proposal was supported strongly by delegates from 15 countries, including New Zealand and Australia.

Honey Sprays on Blossom

The November issue of "The "Orchardist of N.Z." draws attention to the dangers in spraying blossom with a honey and water solution, as expressed in a remit passed at the Nelson Beekeepers' Conference. The sprays are sometimes applied to attract bees and aid pollination.

In point of fact (says "The Orchardist") the distribution of a light honey spray over fruit trees has been shown to have an adverse effect on pollination, as the honey bee is attracted away from the pollen source of the flower-cup. The disturbing issue from beekeepers' point of view, however, is the fact that any broadcast spraying of honey adds immeasurably to the risk of a spread of bee diseases.

Where apiaries do become diseased, not only is the honey crop lost, but the complete hives of bees and equipment must be destroyed by burning and burying. The Beekeepers' Association feels that many fruitgrowers, unaware of this position, are therefore unwittingly depriving themselves of the best services that beekeepers can offer them in the important task of pollination. The association believes that publication of these facts through "The Orchardist" will be to the mutual advantage both of fruitgrowers and beekeepers.

"The Orchardist" also quotes a broadcast address by Mr J. K. Bray on the subject of pollination by bees.

Reflections . . . . . from the Editor's Desk

Propionic Anhydride

This substance was introduced to beekeepers in the American bee magazines of September, 1961, with instructions for its use as a repellent in removing bees from honey supers. As it is harmless to bees and to honey it was hailed as a possible solution to one of the big problems in beekeeping.

Subsequent reports indicate that propionic anhydride has had a mixed reception. Evidently different strains of bees and weather and hive conditions are all factors governing the method of application and the results achieved. "Some honey producers have thrown up their hands in disgust," says Gleanings of December, 1961, "others like the new material and show a willingness to stick with it until the technique of handling it can be fully perfected."

In New Zealand the first trials with Propionic Anhydride were not successful and we have not yet heard of satisfactory results being obtained in this country.

Our Industry

"The Prospects for New Zealand Honey" is the title of an article in the "A.N.Z. Bank Quarterly Review" for January, 1962. This gives an excellent survey of the production and marketing of New Zealand honey and its prospects on world markets. The article has received considerable notice — it was the subject of an Editorial in the Christchurch Press — and it shows beekeeping as an important part of the New Zealand economy.

Shangri-la

The cover of the November, 1961, Journal of Agriculture features a colour picture of the storied Shangri-la apiary and its park-like setting. This apiary, the property of Mr. G. F. R. Gordon of Hawkes Bay, was the subject of a cover photo and an article in the February, 1959, Beekeeper. If our memory serves us correctly this is the first time the Journal of Agriculture has shown an apiary scene on its renowned cover and the one chosen makes an attractive picture.

RECIPE: Honey in Chutney

Four pounds of tomatoes, 2lb sultanas, 1lb dates, 2 large apples, 1lb honey, ½ teaspoon ground cloves, 1 tablespoon salt, 1 large onion, juice 2 lemons, ½ cup vinegar. Slice apples, onions and tomatoes. Put all on together and boil for 2 hours.

Queen Reservoirs

Continued from page 25

cages without escorts or candy, a test was made on January 25-27, 1962. A number of queens were placed in Dawson-style cages which were packed in two rows so that the cages formed a tunnel and in this tunnel were placed the escort bees and the candy so that the escort bees had direct access to the candy but access to the queens only through the wire gauze of their cages.

The mailing parcel was prepared on January 25, placed in one of the special mail bags used for live bees and taken to the Southland Field Day on January 27. In the presence of the Apiary Instructor the parcel was opened and all queens were found to be in healthy condition. The escort bees had fed them and kept them warm. Apiarists at the Field Day took the queens and agreed to give information as to the final success of the experiment.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

In your last issue, under the signature of the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, purporting to be acting on the unanimous instructions of his colleagues, there appears the most amazing and deplorable attack ever made on a past member for having sent out a circular to his fellow beekeepers on the occasion of his ceasing official connection with the Authority. Mr. Herron's criticism was absolutely fair and was confined to the limitations imposed on the Authority by its constitution and the one-sided methods by which it was set up and to the failure of the Committee of Inquiry to find any satisfactory solution to the problems facing the industry. In no sense did he attack any present or past members. In fact he went out of his way to make it clear that they have not been any less concerned than himself on the subject matter of his circular. As a member for a shorter term I can support his circular which was timely and courteous to those who had served with him and to those who were responsible for having put him there, and also to those who had no part in putting him there. In no way did he attempt to exploit differences of opinion. Such are bound to occur except in a mutual admiration society.

If the Chairman has carried out the unanimous instructions of the Authority then the Government nominee must be a party to this remarkable letter. Those who were responsible for instructing the Chairman had not had enough experience on the Authority to justify their implication that Mr. Herron was "definitely talking at variance wtih his considered opinions expressed at meetings." The only way to check such statements is to have the Authority meetings open to the Journal reporter and have at least the minutes reported.

Yours etc.,

W. B. BRAY, Leeston.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We must point out to Mr. Bray that the letter from the Chairman of the Authority was not an attack on Mr. Herron for having sent out a circular; nor was it a reply to Mr. Herron's criticism of the Authority's constitution, as Mr. Bray asserts. It was a reply to Mr. Herron's comments on the achievements and operations of the Authority).

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

It is obvious that the Honey Seals Levy should be drastically reduced or abolished altogether as the Authority is only squandering the money. At the expense of the beekeepers of this country the Chairman of the Authority is going for a trip around the world, the cost of which is as yet undisclosed. Every beekeeper in the country should protest most vigorously at this scandalous and unjustified waste of their money.

Yours etc.,

SWEAT AND TOIL

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

The recent circular from the Chairman of the Authority, read in connection with his remarks made to a meeting of beekeepers at Ashburton last October, raises issues that are fundamental. The seals levy was introduced to the 1938 Conference at Timaru and endorsed as necessary for advertising when the Internal Marketing Division took over the marketing of honey. It was never used for that but later the idea was introduced that it was necessary as an equalising fund. When it was doubled, the proposal came before Conference (at Auckland), by introduction of a remit from the Executive. The price for Executive support was that the Executive was assured of a big slice, up to £1000, of it to run the National which would sink if it depended on what its members were prepared to pay for its valuable services. The latest move by the Authority now puts equalising into reverse gear. Beekeepers are to be discouraged in producing darker honeys because they are difficult to sell, but only at the moment. The fund is now available as the base for happy-go-lucky extravagance on the part of the Authority. The Chairman is to go round the world to find out why these dark honeys are not selling well this year. Is he going to teach the agents

their job as I have been accused of teaching the advertising experts their job? I can deal with the latter point on a future occasion. The cost of this trip would be better spent on paying out on an equalising basis to the producers of dark honey. We have to wait a year to find out how much of this was on hand at balance date and whether it was taken in a at low valuation. If it was, will the payout be restored to those producers next year if realisations come back to normal as they could very well do without any help from the Chairman?

It appears that the time has arrived when I should be writing the second volume of the Honey Marketing Survey I put out in 1943.

Yours etc.,
W. B. BRAY.

AN APPEAL

I am now occupying my time looking after the circulation side of the N.Z. Social Crediter and helping on the editing side. Last September I sent out to beekeepers over 300 sample copies with application forms and had only one response. Since then I have had over a dozen new subscribers from them by making a personal approach I am sure that most beekeepers realise the important part that money plays in this modern world and the solution that Social Credit has to offer. It is only forgetfulness that accounts for the lack of response, so please remember to send that subscription along Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,
(Advt.) W. B. BRAY

HONEY FOR HEALTH

Because honey is such an important natural food and has been recognised as such from the earliest times, it is surprising that in these days of health consciousness we regard it as an extra instead of having it in daily use, like salt or milk. It is nature's perfect carbohydrate, is easily assimilated needs no refining or sterilising because bacteria cannot live in it, and is an invaluable stimulant and restorative.—Aunt Daisy.

Locating Those Bees

The question of where to put bees is apt to be of more interest in spring that during the balance of the year. In "Modern Beekeeping," Marvin Kosanke calls attention to the fact that you should not only know the exact spot where the bees are to be located but you should know all you can find out about the general area around. What are the sources of crops, of pollen for build-up, what is the farming programme? Are these things in your favour? How many bees can be supported where you want to locate? Country over, small yards, 30 to 40 colonies or less, do better than larger ones. Your honeyflows should be steady, year by year, of good quality honey, and you should know what the flow periods are so you can be ready for them. The soil also has an influence because if the soil type is right your location will be a good one for years. We have known sites where the soil would not do for general farming, yet where it was just right for the flora that gave the honey. In reverse, the soil that supports fertile and productive farms, if the farm rotations are right, may be ideal.

Remember too that you must have access to these bees yourself, so choose a place with suitable roads. Don't however, put the bees where they can bother your landlord, his stock, or his family. Try to find a spot where you have some protection with windbreaks. Fence against stock. Supply water for the bees (brook, pool, or water tank). Make a friend of your landlord. Most farmers today think the bees are needed on the farm so try to emphasise that feeling.

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The N.Z. Beekeeper

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

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

Nom-de-plume letters must be signed by the writer and address given, not necessarily for publication, but as proof of good faith. Letters accepted for publication do not necessarily express the views of the Editor.

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FRONT COVER:

Blossom time in a Havelock North orchard. The hives are staggered to prevent drifting of bees. — Photo by Sefton Line.

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