

The New Zealand Beekeeper

AUGUST
1962



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(Incorporated)

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THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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J. McFadzien, Editor

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1962

GENTLEMEN,

It is NOT my pleasure to present to you this report of your Association's past year. Rather is it a duty which I am called upon to perform.

There has been nothing exceptional about this last year. Nothing, that is, except the uniquely new and challenging problems which have arisen this year and will continue to appear in each future year, coupling with the continuing problems of the past which, all in all, are the very reasons for the Association's existence. The very reason why scattered beekeepers throughout the Dominion were forced by common-sense and judgment to put aside prejudice and narrow self-interest; to combine their endeavours into a communal strength which this Association has come to represent in the honey industry. A body which has the ability and courage to tackle major problems on a national or even international scale.



Production

Every branch of primary industry the world over has one important fundamental need; a soundly based production. For without successful production the best marketing system man can devise is worthless. And we as beekeepers must continually acknowledge this in striving for greater efficiency, better techniques and higher standards. During this past year I believe a significant forward step has been taken in this direction with the calling of a special conference on 'bacillus larvae' disease by the Minister of Agriculture at the Executive's request. A two-day symposium was held in Wellington last October at which senior officers of the Department and all members of the Executive gave careful study to the problems which have so long stood in the way of complete disease eradication in this country. The result of these deliberations will be two-fold. Firstly, a much greater need on the part of all beekeepers to carry out their obligations under the Apiaries Act and secondly, a considerably more stringent approach to careless beekeeping on the part of the Department. If necessary the Act will be strengthened to give the Department wider powers of enforcement. I am quite sure that the responsible and efficient beekeeper will welcome these moves. The casual and careless, will, on the other hand, have every reason for concern for he will be ruthlessly hounded out of production if need be without fear or favour to persons. The time for kid gloves has passed. The blot of B.L. disease WILL be removed from our production scene.

While there are many aspects of production which can be controlled and improved upon by beekeepers there are unfortunately still many hazards in the craft which are largely beyond our control and sometimes beyond our comprehension. There would be few if any laymen who could appreciate the

essentially chancy nature of a beekeeper's occupation. Certainly the price of a pound of honey would give no lead. The vagaries of weather and the danger of agricultural chemicals are something which we have grown to understand; when a year's hard work and much capital investment yields hardly enough honey to keep our bees alive because of freak winds, cold, drought or other circumstances. But there are other and many unaccountable hazards which each of us has had to face in our respective areas over recent seasons: the failure of clover to secrete nectar in the Waikato; heavy losses of bee stocks for no apparent reason in Auckland and so on. These factors have been the subject of careful study by the Association during the past year and as a result of the Executive's persistence are now being investigated scientifically by Government agencies. I am hopeful that these studies can be completed without undue delay so that the industry may move a step closer to that very elusive security which it has so long striven to achieve.

Perhaps the most unfortunate occurrence in the industry during this past year has been the incidence of some mildly toxic honey in the Northland area over the past few months. The problem has its genesis in the prevalence of the 'tutu' vine which is widespread throughout the country.

Tutu is normally toxic to livestock in some degree and this is a factor which has been known about for many years. The effect of this plant on beekeeping is somewhat more complex however. In itself it offers nothing to the honey bee but where it is infested by a sucking insect known as the 'passion-vine-hopper' a limited danger to beekeeping does occur under certain conditions because the hopper excretes a 'mellatoxin' which can be attractive to bees when other nectar sources are depleted. The hopper propagates quickly only under very favourable weather conditions and bees collect the 'honey-dew' produced by the hopper only when normal nectar-sources are depleted. The mellatoxin contained in the honey-dew is only mildly toxic compared with the toxicity of the tutu vine itself but nevertheless the industry has for many years recognised that some honey could be produced where such circumstances existed which was not entirely pure and wholesome. For this reason successive Executives have supported the Department of Agriculture in various safety measures designed to ensure that only the finest and purest honey ever reached the consumer. The measures which the Department has taken this year in Northland are nothing more than a continuation of this principle and accordingly the Department has received the full support of the Executive. The fact that the Health Department has no recorded evidence of illness caused by honey despite the prevalence of both tutu and the 'hopper' in Northland over more than half a century, does, I feel, speak for itself. The honey which reaches the table of the consumer is the finest and purest nature can produce. That New Zealand honey reaches if not surpasses this standard is adequately demonstrated by the fact that our honey has for many years enjoyed a premium price in all world markets.

Pollination and Research

It is obvious that there is still an inadequate appreciation of the value of bees as essential pollinators among other sections of primary producers. During the past year the Association has been actively assisting beekeepers in the Nelson fruitgrowing area to bring home the importance of this aspect to fruitgrowers in the area. With a decline of natural nectar sources in the Nelson province under modern agricultural development a serious decline in beekeeping had become evident in this area. It is pleasing to report that as a result of Association pressure, aided by the Department of Agriculture, beekeeping in the area now has good prospects of re-establishment now that fruitgrowers have been made aware of the value of bees and the economics of beekeeping. As a result of our efforts it is now likely that beekeepers will be able to maintain production in the area supported by a realistic 'pollination-service-fee' paid by fruitgrowers.

The importance of pollination and other research in a small and specialised industry such as ours cannot be over-estimated. Comprehensive pollination studies were commenced by the Department almost five years ago but the work

appears to have come to a partial standstill which is unfortunate. Other aspects of research too have not been developed as well as we might have expected. We are still awaiting the outcome of testing into the toxic effects of 'hormophos' on bees after a two-year wait to name but one instance. The industry was promised extra scientific staff as long as four years ago but results have not been forthcoming although we understand that suitably qualified persons applied for the advertised positions but were not engaged. It is evident that the scientific tasks confronting the industry are more than one man can handle and further representations will have to be made to Government to fill the vacant positions.

Marketing

The progress of the Honey Marketing Authority has already been covered comprehensively by the Authority Chairman. Nevertheless there are some general aspects which should be mentioned especially as the Association is concerned with wider principles.

Early in the year the Executive was obliged to give consideration to the possibility of a decontrol of honey prices in line with Government policy. Decontrol did not eventuate and it is therefore pointless making lengthy reference to what results might have occurred under different circumstances. The industry however must realise that price control is not in force to serve the interests of producers, but consumers, and the time could arrive when we are forced to face the issue whether we desire open markets or not. This further demonstrates the need for a strong central marketing body and a strong Association. However, irrespective of Price Control there have been other disturbing developments on the marketing scene during the past year. The Authority, by virtue of excellent returns on overseas markets and other factors was enabled to substantially increase the payout to its suppliers of top grade honeys and the Executive, in consequence, was faced with some proposals that the Authority's payout be limited to that figure which private packers were prepared to pay for a similar bulk product. The suggestion that returns of bulk producers should be limited in this way was reprehensible to the Executive and accordingly the proposal was rejected. If the industry is to progress and producers are to achieve a higher standard of living we must continue to strive for the best returns possible under any marketing system. The Executive has, however, been pleased to support an alternative proposal for a ½d. increase in the price of South Island honey marketed in the North Island.

Representation

At the last election of producer-representatives to the Authority, producers paid the Association a signal honour by electing a further member of the Dominion Executive to the H.M.A., thus creating a position where, of five producer members on the Authority, three were Executive members of the Association. The Executive had never envisaged such a position and although the particular representatives are men of undoubted integrity capable of divorcing themselves from outside influence when they sit as Authority members it was felt that some producers may consider that the Authority was being directed by the Executive. To save the embarrassment of such unwarranted criticism Mr. J. D. Lorimer resigned his position on the Association Executive following his election to the Authority. Mr. D. Barrow has been appointed to the executive in his place.

Elections

A number of difficulties which have previously stood in the way of producers and seals purchasers exercising their valid votes at H.M.A. elections were this year taken up by the Executive with the appropriate authorities and a simplified system will operate at the next election to the benefit of electors. Certain discriminations applied by the Returning Officer at the last election have now also been overcome in accordance with the original intention of the H.M.A. (electoral) Regulations.



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The Department

The Department of Agriculture has continued to carry out its traditional services to the industry, during the past year. Our relationship with the Minister, the Hon. B. E. Talboys, and with the most senior officers of his department has been most cordial and helpful. At lower levels of the administrative tree there has been much left to be desired however. Field staff, have been generally co-operative and helpful as ever and their individual efforts are appreciated. Our congratulations have been extended to Mr. I. W. Forster on his promotion to the position of Apiculturist: a well-deserved honour. One does not like to be critical but I would be less than honest if I did not record the fact that in many respects the industry is still dissatisfied with some facets of departmental working. The control of Apiary Section field staff by area Horticultural Superintendents has again proved unsatisfactory during the past year and I must again reiterate our belief that Apiary Section field staff would be better operating under the direction of Island Apiculturists as specialists in practical beekeeping work. In administrative matters the year has demonstrated the necessity for well-qualified officers at the top of the tree however and in this regard we must commend the Director of Horticulture for a degree of balance, ability and understanding which is both desirable and necessary.

The Association

That the Association continues to enjoy the support and confidence of the large majority of beekeepers throughout the country has again been amply demonstrated in the past year when membership has been retained and increased. During the year a new membership drive was again conducted with worthwhile results. The project was gratuitously assisted by a firm of beekeeping equipment suppliers and their assistance was greatly appreciated.

There are several district branches which continue to function under difficulties and one of these was visited by the President and General Secretary during the year when a reorganisation and extension programme was demonstrated with good results.

The Executive approved a general extension and reorganisation programme during the year and the principle of the General Secretary visiting various branches in rotation as a regular routine, but unfortunately any proper implementation was hampered by lack of finance. It is disappointing that this and similar work has had to be curtailed after the overwhelming endorsement given at last year's Conference.

With regard to general functioning, the year, like its predecessors, has been a busy one: Honey sales promotion has been undertaken with the assistance of the H.M.A.; adverse criticism of the food value of honey has been countered; unsatisfactory transport regulations for bulk honey have been overcome in the South Island; submissions have been made to the Royal Commission on State Services; bank overdraft special charges have been opposed; assistance has been given to the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture in the introduction of a Diploma Course in Apiculture; crop surveys have been evaluated; extra duty on carton cardboard successfully opposed; glass container prices taken up with the Price Tribunal; and a number of other problems dealt with.

Consolidation and Programme Extension

At last year's Conference a major reappraisal of the Association's proper functions was undertaken by members and delegates and a seven-point programme emerged with unanimous support. The Conference also assessed the Association's financial needs and overwhelmingly resolved to seek an increase of £2500 per annum in the grant from Seals Levy funds to meet the essential needs of proper functioning. The H.M.A. however, as administrators of the fund, were compelled to oppose this further drain on resources which were designed primarily for marketing purposes. This has of course left the Association in the same parlous state of impecunity which threatens our very existence. In the face of a further indefinite period of inadequate remuneration our chief Executive officer felt impelled to tender his resignation. By a fortuitous circumstance the Executive

was able to make a partial increase in his remuneration and we are indebted to him for agreeing to provide our administrative services for another year, although still at some loss to himself.

When we compare ourselves with a country like Norway which has virtually no commercial beekeeping as we know it yet maintains a full-time secretary and provides him with housing, clerical staff and administrative offices, the deplorable weakness of our own position becomes even more apparent.

In the confident hope that Conference will take realistic steps to improve our finances two extension programmes 'Courses in Practical Beekeeping' and 'Overseas Study Tours' have been investigated during the year by special committees convened by Messrs T. S. Wheeler and J. W. Fraser who will be reporting on these matters during this Conference.

Public Liability Insurance

A number of years ago the Association made available to members a low-cost Public Liability Insurance in respect of damage or injury caused by bees. The cover was underwritten by a leading insurance company at a premium of 1/- per apiary and an indemnity of £250 was provided for any one claim with a franchise clause requiring the beekeeper to meet the first £10 of any claim. The Association levied an extra 3d. per apiary so that this franchise liability could be paid by the Association. Over recent years the company has met claims in full with the result that this insurance support fund has accumulated to fair proportions. During the past two years our administrative officer has been negotiating with the underwriting company for better policy conditions in view of comparatively low claims incidence and this year these negotiations reached fruition with a number of major concessions. The limit of the indemnity has been raised to £5000 for any one claim; the franchise clause has been withdrawn; the cover has been extended to all members of the Association and the premium reduced substantially. Rather than continue a special levy on members the Executive has decided to meet this premium from its consolidated funds. This vastly improved cover has been welcomed by our members, and has also resulted in a fortunate 'windfall' for the Association by freeing accumulated funds in the insurance support account for general purposes following the withdrawal of the franchise clause. Had it not been for this transfer of £625 the Association would not have been able to complete the financial year.

The Journal

The Association's quarterly journal the 'New Zealand Beekeeper' has continued to be a most valuable contribution to our organisation and of benefit to all beekeepers, reflecting great credit on our Editor, Mr. J. McFadzien. I regret to advise that the Editor is at present on the sick list and is unable to be with us on this occasion. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Mr. McFadzien has also indicated a desire to relinquish his position and although the Executive is requesting him to continue meantime the Association will in all likelihood have to face up to a reappointment in the not-too-distant future. This, again, is further evidence of the Association's real need for finance for we would be fortunate indeed to obtain the services of another editor of his calibre at the meagre honorarium which he has received.

The Late E. A. Field

It is with sincere regret that I must record the passing of Edward Field earlier this year. Mr. Field was President of this Association for very many years and devoted much time and energy to the betterment of the industry in this and other capacities. His untimely death while in the prime of life has been a shock to us all.

Thanks

To members of the Executive and branch officers throughout the Association I extend your thanks for valuable service rendered again during the year. To our General Secretary likewise in staying with us over a very thin period. I do not think that there are many who could believe or even begin to appreciate the tremendous amount of work and interest which he has invested in our affairs. Nor do many know of the skill and tenacity which he has exhibited in important negotiations on our behalf which will bring much lasting benefit to the industry.

To your representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board, Mr. T. E. Pearson, I extend warm thanks for continued unselfish devotion to our interests. I must record too that Mr. J. K. Bray has volunteered to act as Mr. Pearson's deputy in this field.

Customarily the President has welcomed members and delegates to these Annual Conferences. This year I may have to vary the procedure and say farewell. For this year the moment of truth has arrived! We have the organisation! We have the Executive ability! We have the same determination to go forward! But . . . we have no money. And it is going to rest with you Gentlemen as representatives of those most vitally affected, as to whether the Association is to founder or forge ahead. On your greatness and on your courage will the future of the honey industry in New Zealand depend over the next three days of this Conference. The vital need of the Association for realistic finance will not wait another year.

NEW ADDRESS OF 'THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER'

The Editor, Mr. John McFadzien, has given up commercial honey production and has moved to Havelock North, in Hawkes Bay. He hopes, however, to maintain his interest in beekeeping and at the request of the Executive he has agreed to continue editing 'The N.Z. Beekeeper' in the meantime.

Will readers please note that contributions, advertisements and other Journal matter should now be addressed to:—

The Editor,
'The N.Z. Beekeeper,'
P.O. Box 157,
HAVELOCK NORTH.

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U.K. HONEY MARKET

Prices of New Zealand clover honey have firmed to 185/- and upwards in the United Kingdom, and extra light amber is also firm at 165/-. Very little is available, according to the monthly market review of the London office of the Bank of New Zealand, dated 19/7/62.

Other grades of light and medium amber honey have eased a little, with quotations about 110/- to 120/- and 90/- to 100/- respectively. There are still considerable stocks of lower grades to move, and as is usual in summer demand has eased.

HONEY PRICES

A new Price Order No. 1878 was gazetted on June 21, 1962. This order gives effect to the following provision:—

'Where honey produced in the South Island is sold in the North Island the appropriate price fixed in the schedule for any such honey may be increased by an amount not exceeding ½d per lb. in respect of freight.'

In other respects the previous Price Order No. 1718 remains unaltered.

An inquiry from the Association regarding the increased costs of glass containers is at present being investigated.

Declarations by Packers

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. N.Z. Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of April 12 in reply to your D/29 of April 5, the legal officer has now ruled that the Returning Officer may accept, for the purpose of establishing a producer's right to vote at any election of New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority members, a statement by a packer, supported by his statutory declaration, of the quantity of honey which the producer has sold to him during the period prescribed by the Regulations. The responsibility for procuring the statement, and submitting it to the Returning Officer, should rest with the producer concerned.

Yours faithfully,

M. M. O'MALLEY,
Returning Officer.

Action By The Minister of Agriculture

Mr. R. A. Fraser, July 23, 1962
General Secretary, N.B.A.,
FOXTON.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

The Government has, after a full consideration of all the facts, decided the two questions of such vital interest to the beekeepers of North Auckland—compensation for the honey which will have to be destroyed because of proven or suspected toxicity and the future of parts of Northland for beekeeping.

The Health Department has confirmed its opinion that it would be unwise in the interests of public health to permit any of the impounded honey to reach the market. The provisions of the Poisons Act 1960 will therefore be invoked and the honey will be destroyed. Although it is not the usual practice to compensate producers or others concerned in respect of loss resulting from action under the Poisons Act or similar legislation, the Government fully appreciates the unfortunate financial loss being faced by the beekeepers of Northland. It has therefore authorised the granting of ex gratia payments to all beekeepers who have had half a ton or more honey impounded because of suspected or proven toxicity. The payment will be made at the rate of £75 per ton. Where honey has been impounded in supers before extraction from the comb, the weight of the honey to be compensated will be assessed by the Department of Agriculture on a basis agreed with your Executive.

The formal orders in respect of the impounding and destruction of the honey will be issued by the Health Department and there will be the usual rights of appeal as provided for in the Poisons Act. When all the legal steps have been completed, including decisions on any appeals, the Department of Agriculture will arrange payment of the grants on the terms approved by Government.

There will be the problem of collecting the honey and transporting it to some agreed collecting point, but I am sure your Association will co-operate in every possible way. The Government has had no wish to interfere with the normal operations of the beekeepers nor to involve the general tax payers

in the cost of compensation payments, but it has nevertheless decided to take the action it has.

The Government has decided not to close the affected areas of Northland to beekeeping but I am sure it will be appreciated that this decision places a high degree of responsibility on the beekeepers concerned. They must decide whether they will carry on in the hope that the conditions of last season will be rare and that some economic and practical means will be found to control the passion vine hopper. There can be no assurance that if it is found necessary in some future season to impound honey or to close off certain areas to beekeepers, the Government will come to the aid of the beekeepers concerned with ex gratia payments. The Department of Agriculture will of course, help in every way possible with advice and will do what it can to find a solution to the problem of the passion vine hopper.

I thank your Association most sincerely for its understanding and co-operation. Without it, the Government's and the Department's responsibilities would have been much more onerous.

Yours faithfully,

B. E. TALBOYS,
Minister of Agriculture.

Pen Pals Invitation

The Editor,
The N.Z. Beekeeper,
Dunedin, New Zealand.
Dear Sir,

The American Bee Journal is starting a pen pals group.

There is an especial demand for letter friends outside the U.S.A.

If the friends of the New Zealand Beekeeper would like their names listed in our Journal, please send them to me, or have them write direct.

The names, addresses, and interests will be put in my column which is for women and children primarily.

New Zealand is so exciting. The romance of the other side of the world and the other side of the Equator will make New Zealand pen pals popular.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pat Diehnelt, Feature Editor,
American Bee Journal,

N83, W13799 Fond du Lac Ave.
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Appreciation in London

H. M. A. Chairman's Visit

Kimpton Brothers (Red
Carnation) Ltd.,
Red Carnation House,
36-37 Poultry,
London, E.C.2.
June 21, 1962

J. McFadzien, Esq.,
The N.Z. Beekeeper,
Dunedin S.W.1.,
New Zealand

Dear Sir,

I feel I must send a letter to your magazine to say how very much, not only I, but my fellow Directors and staff of Kimpton Brothers (Red Carnation) Limited have appreciated the recent visit of the Chairman of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority.

Mr. Gumbrell got through an enormous program—his energy was unbounding! A number of most important points were discussed and he has given all of us fresh encouragement to increase the sales of your excellent New Zealand honey. He visited the principal buyers of New Zealand honey throughout England as well as in Germany and already more interest is being shown by these buyers as a result of his visit.

The discussions together have cleared up many points and enabled both of us to appreciate the problems which arise in connection with production, shipment, sales and consumption of New Zealand honey.

The visit has been of great value and has proved once again the importance of these personal contacts. It has even encouraged me to consider the possibility of making a further visit in the next year or so to New Zealand.

Yours faithfully,

Lieut.-Colonel A. C. W. Kimpton,
Managing Director

Personal

Those who had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Alf Eastley when he visited New Zealand early in 1960 will be interested to know that he has recently retired from honey production and packing. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Eastley every happiness in their retirement in Canberra.

Obituary

MR. W. K. DALLAS

The death occurred at Wellington recently of Mr. William Kerr Dallas, a former Director of the Horticulture Division in the Department of Agriculture.

Mr Dallas joined the Department in 1908 and following his return from service in World War I he served as Instructor at various Department stations in New Zealand. Later he rose to the position of Director of Horticulture, an office which he held for 10 years prior to his retirement in 1948. In this position he was in close association with the beekeeping industry and he always showed a keen and helpful interest in apiary matters. He was frequently a speaker at the Dominion Conference.

Mr. Dallas is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

MR. M. M. MORRISON

We record with regret the death of Mr. Munro McKay (Noie) Morrison, of Balclutha, on July 8, after a brief period in hospital. Mr. Morrison had kept bees commercially for over 20 years and had achieved considerable success in the Clutha Valley district.

Well known for his close interest in production and marketing problems, Mr. Morrison was a regular attender at meetings in the south and was always alert to the questions of the day. In his work he was never afraid to pioneer new and improved methods of apiary and honeyhouse management. His courage in facing a physical handicap and his success in spite of difficulties were an object lesson to all who knew him.

Mr. Morrison is survived by his wife, one daughter, and one son, Alan, who has recently been associated with the business.

MR. F. J. GLASS

It was a sad shock to beekeepers to learn of the death by drowning of Mr. Francis John Glass, of Waikaka Valley, Southland, on July 22. The accident occurred at Lake Te Anau where John apparently overbalanced from his dinghy after rowing out to his launch about 100 yards offshore.

Mr. Glass had been beekeeping at Waikaka in partnership with his brother, Norman, for about 15 years and together they had built up one of the most efficient producing and packing units in the south. John had taken an active part in Association affairs, having been President of the Gore Branch, Chairman of the Dunedin Convention, and a frequent attender at the Dominion Conference. His friendly and constructive outlook will be sadly missed in beekeeping circles.

Mr. Glass is survived by his wife and two small children.

World News

International Congress

The XIX International Beekeeping Congress will be held in Prague in the second half of August 1963. It is to be organised by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture.

New Style 'Bee World'

This year 'Bee World' has changed to a new style as a quarterly magazine with greater variety and interest for the practical beekeeper. Different sections deal with beekeeping around the world, bee products, practical beekeeping, science and news.

'Apicultural Abstracts,' formerly a section of 'Bee World,' now appears as a separate quarterly publication. The Abstracts are very brief summaries of articles on apiculture from different parts of the world. They are of particular assistance to research workers for reference purposes.

Both journals are published by the Bee Research Association, 678/80 Salisbury House, London Wall, London E.C.2.

Associate Editor of 'Bee World'

Mr. J. I. Hambleton has agreed to act as Associate Editor of 'Bee World,' thus providing a valuable link between British and American beekeeping and bee research. Mr. Hambleton was head of the Bee Culture Section of the U.S. Department of Agriculture until he retired in 1958.

The Editor of 'Bee World' is Dr. Eva Crane.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Dominion Conference was held in Tauranga on July 25, 26 and 27. The President, Mr J. R. Barber, was in the chair, and there was a good and representative attendance.

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

The Mayor of Tauranga, in extending a cordial welcome to delegates, referred to the growth taking place in Tauranga and the Bay of Plenty generally, and mentioned the traditions of the past, both Maori and Pakeha. He expected that there would be no arguments among beekeepers—all their words would be honeyed. (Laughter).

Mr. Walsh, M.P., deputising for the Minister of Agriculture, said that beekeeping was a welcome industry round the globe, responsible for a popular product and the more valuable and important work of pollination of economic crops. It was fitting that Conference should be held in Tauranga, as the district had a long and early association with beekeeping in this country. He referred to the early and continuing interest and assistance of Government in beekeeping in New Zealand. In view of the uncertain future of New Zealand markets, there may be a need for a revival of the pioneering spirit in seeking new outlets for our produce. Mr. Walsh then read the letter from the Minister, stating the Government's decision on the tutu problem.

In formally declaring the Conference open, he wished delegates a successful and enjoyable conference.

Department of Agriculture

The Director of the Horticulture Division, Mr. A. M. W. Greig, addressed conference, dealing specifically with the tutu problem. In a later address the Superintendent of Beekeeping reviewed divisional affairs generally.

Agricultural Chemicals Board

Mr T. E. Pearson, the N.B.A. representative on the Board, reviewed the matters dealt with during the year.

Annual Report

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts were read and adopted. The

general account showed a credit balance of £428, as against £26 last year, due to a transfer from the Trust Account, which had been closed on the introduction of the new Apiary Insurance scheme. It was pointed out, however, that association activity on the tutu problem subsequent to balance date had already accounted for a considerable part of this credit balance.

Remits

(Note: The remit numbers correspond with those appearing on the order paper. In some cases the original wording was altered slightly by the unanimous agreement of Conference).

As Mr. Walsh had expressed a wish to hear the discussion on the 'tutu' remits, particularly to gauge the reaction to the Government proposals, the President invited comment from delegates from the affected areas.

Mr. Gavin, on behalf of affected producers, thanked the officers of the Department for their helpful attitude in what had been a very difficult time, and expressed appreciation of the work of the Executive, and particularly the General Secretary, Mr. Fraser. He wished to thank the Government for the reasonable attitude adopted, and asked Mr. Walsh to convey this to the Minister.

Mr. Broadhead, endorsing Mr. Gavin's remarks, stressed the importance of an accurate assessment of the position. He was confident that with full information and co-operation from all parties the present difficulties would be overcome.

Mr. Haines emphasised that this was not purely a local problem, but a national one.

Mr. Walsh, speaking in reply, said that he appreciated that beekeepers held fast to a rugged individualism, and in that lay a source of strength. He was gratified at the reception accorded the Government's proposals, and concluded by stressing the value of honey as a food, held in high regard by the public, which could be assured that all safeguards were being taken, and would be taken, to see that this confidence was not misplaced.

Remits 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 were then withdrawn.

(5) 'That tutu be put on the number one schedule of noxious weeds and its eradication be speeded up' was carried unanimously.

Mr. Haines felt that immediate action on this could clear many areas in a short time. Biological control, while supported, was necessarily long term.

(11) 'That this conference views with concern the decision of the authorities to proceed with the extensive planting of tutu for soil stabilisation and would urge the use of a plant that is not harmful to the industry,' was also carried.

A vote of thanks to the Press for their co-operative treatment of the reference to the tutu problem in the Annual Report was carried by acclamation.

On the last day of conference, two further motions of which notice had been given were also carried unanimously.

'That Conference extends to Government and the Department thanks and congratulations on their considered actions in dealing with the question of toxic honey in the Auckland province.'

'That Conference request Government that the eradication of the passion vine hopper be given top priority.'

(1) 'That it be a recommendation to Conference that during the election of officers, nomination speeches be limited to half a minute.'

Mr. Glynn felt that without some limit, nominating speeches could develop into marathon eulogies. Mr. T. Penrose asked 'when had there been an instance of an unreasonably lengthy nominating speech?'

Mr. Glynn: 'By Mr. Penrose, at last Conference.'

The remit was carried.

(Note: During the election of officers on the last day, Mr. Glynn moved an extension of time for Mr. Penrose, who had not quite completed his nominating speech).

(2) 'That group discussions on remits at Beekeepers' Conferences be discontinued.'

Mr. Cloake felt that the system denied speakers the right to be heard by Conference as a whole. Mr. J. W. Fraser thought that any failure of the group system was due to a lack of preparation by those responsible for the organisation rather than to any denial of a demo-



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cratic right. Messrs. Lorimer, Holt and Williams stressed the value of the group method in giving everyone an opportunity to participate and contribute to debates.

The remit was carried.

(12) 'That attention be drawn to the necessity of having adequate supplies of quality queen bees available to the industry.'

Messrs. Glynn and J. W. Fraser referred to the inter-relation of honey prices and the availability of queens—much was heard of the difficulties of bulk suppliers and packers—little of the difficulties of queen breeders.

Conference freely gave Mr. Bird and Mr. Bates an opportunity to comment on the problems faced by breeders. Most speakers were of the opinion that the matter was best dealt with by the law of supply and demand as between individuals.

The motion was lost.

(13) 'That more emphasis be placed on the cash value of pollination to farmers and orchardists and that some means be devised to educate farmers to benefits.' Carried.

(14) 'That after an inspection of a commercial apiary by an inspector, the Department of Agriculture advise the owner within seven days.' Carried.

(15) 'That the Government subsidise a minimum of £5 per hive for all hives that are destroyed for bacillus larvae by Government inspectors.' Lost.

(16 and 17) Were combined to read: 'That we make the strongest possible representations to the Department of Agriculture for further extensive research into the effects of hormones on nectar secretion and the effects, if any, there are on bees by weed-icides.'

Delegates from widely separated areas expressed uneasiness with the present position, with so many unknown factors, and many instances were quoted of unexplained bee and crop losses.

Carried unanimously.

(18) 'That as recent newspaper publicity regarding poisonous honey is detrimental to the beekeeping industry, it is obvious that Horticultural officers unqualified in apiculture are dealing with technical beekeeping matters. This conference therefore urges the Minister of Agriculture to have the Apiary Section constituted into a

separate unit, controlled by skilled apiary staff and be under the direct supervision of, and responsible to, the Beekeeping Superintendent.'

Mr. Cloake contended that the advisory service available to the industry was being hampered by having apiary staff controlled by administrative officers. Mr. J. W. Fraser was largely in agreement with Mr. Cloake, but felt that the matter could be put right by straightening out the chain of command within the division under which the Apiary Section at present operated. If this was done, and shortcomings were still seen, it would be time to advocate a reconstitution of the section. He accordingly moved as an amendment: 'This conference urges the Minister of Agriculture to have the Apiary Section so constituted that apiary staff be under the direct supervision of, and responsible to, the Beekeeping Superintendent.'

The remit was carried in the amended form.

(19) 'That the Honey Marketing Authority be urged to continue its system of advance payments as made in the last season.' Carried.

(20) 'That all honey purchased by H.M.A. other than "straight-purchase" be paid for on a pro-rata basis.' Carried.

(21) 'That the H.M.A. on receiving consignments from suppliers send an advice note to the supplier acknowledging receipt.' Carried.

(22) 'That H.M.A. stand the cost of exchange on cheques to producers.' Carried.

(23) Was withdrawn, when the Manager of the Authority, Mr. Gosse, explained the Authority policy on unblendable honey.

(24) 'That the H.M.A. be requested to establish further classifications in the final payment.'

The Chairman of the H.M.A., Mr. Gumbrell, said that it was the Authority's policy to return to producers, as nearly as possible, actual realisations 'in the interests of equity and better beekeeping.'

Carried.

(25) Was withdrawn.

(26) 'That the Executive establish (a) the cost of production of honey from the hive to the 60lb. tin, and (b) the cost from the 60lb. tin to the retail

container, for the purpose of approaching the Price Investigation Tribunal for an increase in price.' Lost.

(27) Lapsed for want of a seconder.

(28) 'That the Honey Marketing Regulations 1953 be amended to permit the Authority to refund seals money or a proportionate amount thereof to seals purchasers in order to equalise the bulk price paid by packers to producers with the payout by the Authority to its suppliers.'

Messrs. Cloake, Pearson and Penrose, emphasised that there was no suggestion of an immediate adjustment, but they hoped that with increased efficiency on the part of the Authority, the time would come when an adjustment could be made. Mr. J. Bray considered that the Authority had been considering only its own suppliers, whereas it had a duty to the industry as a whole.

Mr. Williams said that the Authority could correct any imbalance now, by putting money into the reserve fund. Mr. Lorimer thought this a dangerous power to give the Authority. Mr. J. W. Fraser pointed out that any regulation of the payout by packers, as envisaged in the note to the remit, could only be downward. Regulation upward was governed by price control.

The remit was lost.

(29) Was withdrawn.

(30) 'That no person may be a member of the H.M.A. and the Executive of the N.B.A. at the same time.'

In response to a point of order, the President ruled that this involved a change of the rules of the Association, but allowed discussion to proceed. It was pointed out that no remit was necessary—if dual representation was considered undesirable, the remedy lay with Conference in electing its officers.

Lost.

(31) Was withdrawn.

(32) 'That the nomination of candidates for the General Executive be made at the same time as remits are framed for Conference, and that the voting for these candidates be subject to delegates' vote.' Lost.

Points made in discussion were that branches have the right of nomination under the existing rules, and that branches, composed of members with varying preferences, would find difficulty in instructing delegates how to vote under the preferential voting system.

(33) 'That this Conference resolves that the seals levy be increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., the additional farthing to be for the specific purpose of providing the Association with finance for future functioning and to be collected and held in trust by the Authority for such specific purposes at call and that the H.M.A. Regulations be amended to delete the provision relating to the present sum of £1300 p.a. payable by the Authority to the Association.'

In moving the remit, the President explained it had been brought forward by a majority vote of the Executive in order to give Conference the opportunity of debating the issue.

A call for a delegates' vote was not sustained.

After a lengthy and reasoned discussion, the remit was lost.

(34) 'That this Conference recognises the immediate need of the N.B.A. for finance and request that the annual grant from the H.M.A. be increased to £2000 when the new regulations are gazetted.'

The Chairman of the Authority, Mr. Gumbrell, pointed out that on last year's figures this would have represented nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lb. less available for paying out to suppliers. Mr. D. Penrose said 'the Authority is keeping the industry in a stable condition of which we can be justly proud.'

The remit was carried, two delegates asking for their vote to be recorded against.

(35) 'That the National Executive limit its operations to the finance available, and not indulge in proposed schemes, the work for which may cause the General Secretary to resign and have to be re-engaged at progressive salary rises.'

A literary touch was introduced by Mr. Ashcroft, who quoted from memory and from Dickens. The President said that from his long experience on the Executive he was well able to judge the progress the industry had made through the efforts of the Association. Hard times were behind us, but it was well to remember that a price had been paid. Much remained to be done—new problems were continually before the Executive—pesticides, tutu—if we were to progress, and he was sure that it was not the wish of Conference we should slowly subside into stagnation,

a price would have to be paid in the future. The Executive had not indulged in grandiose programmes—from the aims and objects outlined by the Nelson Conference, the Executive had chosen two, within our means, for further study. A report had been made on these to the Executive—and would be made to Conference—with a recommendation to the incoming Executive that they be further considered for study and implementation.

The President's remarks drew a hearty round of applause.

The remit was lost.

(36) 'That the Secretary's position on the N.B.A. be taken over and operated by the present staff of the H.M.A.' Lost.

(37) 'That the National Executive prepare a schedule of duties for the position of General Secretary, for which public or private tenders could be obtained, in order to assess a remuneration commensurate with the office.' Lost.

(38) Was withdrawn.

(39) 'That this Conference is of the opinion that the onus for inspection of honey houses be on the Department of Health.' Lost.

(40) 'That in view of the increasing frequency of partially incorrect information concerning beekeeping in various publications those giving information ask for proofs of copy before publication.' Carried.

(41) 'That this Conference request the Executive to make an approach to manufacturers of honey tins regarding acid and gas burns to the tinning in the vicinity of the screw cap opening.' Carried.

The invitation from the Otago Branch to hold 1963 Conference in Dunedin was

withdrawn in favour of an invitation from North Otago to hold 1963 Conference in Oamaru, which was well received, 1963 being Centennial Year in Oamaru.

The following motions, of which notice had been given, were carried:—

'That the penalty on L.S.G. honey be reduced to ½d per lb.'

'That the N.B.A. subscription scale be revised and presented to next Conference.'

'That the N.B.A. co-operate with the Farm Forestry Association with a view to securing increased plantings of nectar-bearing trees.'

In closing the Conference, Mr. Barber thanked the Bay of Plenty Branch for their assistance and hospitality, and Mr. Greig, Mr. Smaellie, and the officers of the Department for their continued help and co-operation.

Election of Officers

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

Vice-president: Messrs. J. K. Bray and T. Wheeler were nominated. Mr. T. Wheeler was elected.

Executive: Nominations were Messrs D. Barrow, L. Holt, D. Ward (North Island); H. Cloake, J. Glynn, D. Penrose, J. Bray (South Island). Messrs Barrow, Ward, Cloake and Bray were elected.

Obituary

Reference was made at the Dominion Conference to the deaths of a number of beekeepers, all well known in Branch and Dominion circles. The passing was recorded with regret of Messrs Field, Mannix, Otway, Gavin, Morrison, and tragically, John Glass. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

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Personal

Conference learned with regret that the Editor, Mr. McFadzien, and Mr. R. Glasson were unable to attend because of illness. Messages of goodwill were sent.

An apology for absence was received from Mr. P. Berry, who is at present in Mexico visiting the Miel Carlota Apiaries, one of the largest beekeeping concerns in the world.

Life Members

Five life members of the Association were present at the Tauranga Conference: Messrs E. D. Williams, R. Paterson, T. Pearson, W. Nelson and A. Bates. In addition, a message of good wishes was received from a sixth life member, Mr. A. A. Lennie, of Invercargill.

MR. J. W. FRASER

After nine years service on the Dominion Executive, including four years as Dominion President, Mr. J. W. Fraser did not seek re-election this year. Mr. J. D. Lorimer said that Conference would not wish to see him go without paying tribute to his work as Executive member, Vice-president, President and Association representative on the H.M.A.



A vote of thanks for services rendered was passed by acclamation.

Tauranga

Delegates to Conference were very impressed with their host town, soon to become a city. Evidence of great recent growth was everywhere apparent, not only in Tauranga itself, but in the neighbouring port of Mt. Maunganui. The climate was all that could be desired, and the luscious fruits to be found in the surrounding citrus orchard areas caused many mouths to water. It should indeed have been a fruitful Conference: Not only had the Nelson delegates brought apples with them, but grapefruit were on issue at the Conference hall.

Pollination Studies

In a short address to Conference, Mr. Palmer-Jones, Principal Research Officer at Wallaceville, outlined the progress made in pollination studies to date. The major pollination study of white clover has been completed, but unfortunately publication of the work has been delayed. Mr. Palmer-Jones outlined the methods used, using cages, and described the method of estimating the percentage of florets pollinated under any given set of conditions.

The studies showed that the percentage of florets pollinated rose from 4% to 80% after the introduction of bees, which was conclusive proof that for all practical purposes the pollination of white clover under New Zealand conditions was entirely dependent on bees. A high degree of pollination was effective with bee flight distances of up to one mile.

Work was proceeding on a pollination study of lucerne.

N.B.A. Extension Programme

A brief report was given Conference on the extension programme explored by branch sub-committees under the direction of two members of the Executive. Mr. T. S. Wheeler reported on the bursary scheme, and Mr. J. W. Fraser on the forums.

The number of replies received was very encouraging, and it was evident that beekeepers had appreciated the opportunity of being able to give expression to their ideas in this way. It was plain that the proposed forums would be well supported—and more important, self-supporting—and it was likely that this programme would be initiated in the coming year.

The bursary scheme was worthy of further study, and it was hoped that by the time of next Conference a detailed plan could be submitted for approval.

Mr. Hishon moved a vote of thanks to Messrs Wheeler and Fraser for the reports.

Some Random Notes

The N.B.S. again displayed interest in our affairs, when Messrs D. Barrow, T. Wheeler and R. A. Fraser were interviewed over the Tauranga airwaves.

Many delegates were glad of the opportunity to renew acquaintance with Mr. R. Goddard, formerly with the

Apiary Section, and in business as a commercial producer. Ray now has a bookshop in Tauranga—a shop with a view. A large window in the rear wall of his establishment overlooks the boat harbour, where are moored many craft used in deep-sea fishing. Some Executive types say that the view is particularly attractive by moonlight.

Many and varied are the approach marches to a Dominion Conference, but few lead up a mountain. The day before Conference, the General Secretary and Mr. Arnold Palmer, of Wairoa, could have been seen toiling up the slopes of Mt. Ruapehu (assisted, we suspect, not so much by each other, as by the ski tow).

Your roving reporter journeyed down from Auckland with a knowledgeable friend. The great industrial complex at Penrose, on the outskirts of the city, came as an eye-opener to one more accustomed to rural scenes. A stop at Awakino, where was situated the battery which crushed the quartz from the gold mine at Waihi in former days, was a glimpse into the past, more reminiscent of scenes and stories to be seen and heard in parts of the South Island.

In introducing the Chairman of the Authority, Mr. Gumbrell, the President welcomed him back after his overseas tour, and read a letter from Lt. Col. A. Kimpton which expressed his firm's delight at the Chairman's visit, and affirmed the mutual advantages which would stem from it.

The Bay of Plenty Branch were hosts at an evening entertainment during Conference. The programme included musical items, films, elocution (by a very talented beekeeper's wife—I mean that the wife was talented, not the beekeeper) and not least, a man who could turn folding money into even more folding money.

'Certainly it would be a quiet world, if all who had nothing to say, said it' (The President, hopefully, at the commencement of the discussion on remits).

'The passion vine hopper will have nothing on us beekeepers'—Mr. Broadhead, assuring Mr. Walsh, M.P., of great activity next season.

'I would have been a dead duck in his doorway'—Mr. Broadhead, recounting a difficult moment in the life of a part-time inspector.

'It is not often I have the opportunity of limiting a woman's speaking time,' said the President, drawing Mrs. Cropp's attention to the fact that her time was up. (Mr. Barber did not avail himself of this rare chance—Conference applauded his motion from the chair that her time be extended).

Explosion of Beekeeper's Uncapping Boiler

(Editor's Note: We are indebted to Mr. Sefton Line, Apiary Instructor, Hastings, for the following additional particulars about the exploded boiler, mentioned in our May issue.)

Particulars coming from the Marine Department are that the boiler was 11in. diameter and 5in deep made of 1-32in. thick copper, with a small spring-loaded safety valve, but no pressure gauge nor water level gauge (glass). A blockage occurred around the uncapping knife (in the steam jacket of it) and the build-up of pressure exceeded the safety valve. From this it should be seen that water tipped into the boiler should be free of dead bees, seeds, leaf, cobwebs or anything which could cause blockage.

It points out the need for a water gauge glass, as the water may have been very low, and a pressure gauge as well as a safety valve. Thick rubber tubing is better than thin and if you can obtain an old but sound fire extinguisher and have it converted to take an electric kettle element, then this is good. Water becoming more shallow than half an inch can quickly expand to nearly 2000 times the volume of water and explode.

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Honey Marketing Authority

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS AT TAURANGA CONFERENCE

It is once again my privilege to present to your Conference a report on the activities of the Honey Marketing Authority over the past year. I make this account of my stewardship under somewhat unique conditions inasmuch as I have recently returned from a visit overseas where I investigated the market potential of our honeys. It is quite impossible to give a full account of my activities in a report such as this but it is right and proper that you should be acquainted with the most important aspects of my findings.

First let me say that I have no doubt whatsoever that the visit was a success, was long overdue and that it will be of immense value to the honey producers of New Zealand for some time to come. There is no effective substitute for a personal contact between the interested parties and only by such action is it possible to iron out difficulties and accurately assess the market potential. The actual trip had to be conducted on a strict schedule and was, to say the least an exacting, as well as interesting experience for your Chairman.

We have recently broken into the honey market in Vancouver and my first stop was in this city. While there I was given nation-wide television interview, received good Press reports and was afforded ample opportunity to assess the potential of the market. British Columbia consumes approximately 3,000,000lb. of honey annually but only produces about half this amount, the balance of which has to be freighted in through the Rockies at high cost or imported from the U.S.A. and elsewhere. A very strong feeling of Empire Preference exists in British Columbia and it was pleasing to find a favourable reception for our honey which is selling at prices approximately 15 cents per lb. above other imported honeys. We had intended to sponsor a trade exhibit at the Pacific National Exhibition but unfortunately this had to be abandoned owing to shipping and other difficulties.

I received a terrific welcome from Messrs Kimpton Bros., and was impressed by the scope and efficiency of this firm. I have no hesitation whatsoever in stating that we could not place our business in better hands: they sell over 50% of the honey imported into the United Kingdom and are well and favourably known to honey buyers throughout Europe. They are now fully conscious of the needs and difficulties that are associated with our industry and I am confident that they will do everything within their power to ensure the satisfactory disposal of our honey; it now behoves us to do our best to make their task as easy as is possible.

As would be expected the major part of my time was spent in London and from there I called on the major honey packers in the U.K. Germany was also visited and I was favourably impressed with the thoroughness of the packing methods in this country. Germany is more 'honey conscious' than the U.K. and the consumption of honey per head in that country nearly four times that of the U.K. One of the most important observations I made during the tour was the insistence of the Fiehe and other laboratory tests for all honey sold in retail containers in Germany. With the probability of these requirements also being sought by the leading packer in the U.K. and the possibility of the Common Market making the need for these tests a necessity, your Authority is actively pursuing the matter with the Department of Horticulture here in New Zealand. Although we enjoy the benefits of a Government grading system on all honeys exported we cannot afford to ignore the possibilities of these tests becoming a major factor in maintaining our prestige on the world markets.

I visited Nairobi, Singapore and Sydney on the way back and I am now in the position to make some useful suggestions concerning our trade in these places. Difficulties had been experienced with British East African Government concerning certain regulations they had imposed on importing honeys from overseas. This affected Australia as well as New Zealand and it is hoped that through direct personal contacts I made it possible to ensure the continuance and expansion of the useful export trade he had developed in Kenya.

Singapore I found very interesting and here again was able to make useful suggestions to ensure the shelf life of our honey and to instigate some worthwhile improvements in labelling and packaging for this and other Eastern markets.

In all the places I visited I received very valuable help from the New Zealand Trade Commissioners in the respective countries. These gentlemen, together with other staff make a very valuable contribution to the efficiency of New Zealand's trading overseas, a contribution which is often not fully appreciated.

Whilst the returns from the export of E.L.A. and white clover honeys are highly satisfactory the future of the lower grading honeys gives some cause for concern. I made particular effort to ensure that every possible avenue of disposal was exploited and at the time of leaving Great Britain, Messrs. Kimpton Bros., were endeavouring to arrange with a big chain store to pack the Honey Gold brand under exclusive rights. If this can be done it will give a guaranteed outlet for given quantities and producers will have a more reliable indication as to what financial reward to expect. It is true that satisfactory prices can be obtained for limited quantities of these grades but once you increase availability beyond known requirements you have to compete with other honey of a similar grade and these can be bought freely at the 90/- per cwt. mark.

Supplies, Returns and Conditions of Supply

The Chairman's report to the Minister has already been published and will supply much of the information covered by the above heading but only deals with the position as at 31/3/61. The tonnage supplied to the H.M.A. for the season just ended is 1325 tons which is an increase of approximately 300 tons on the previous season. This increase is practically confined to the Auckland area and is of light amber quality. The white clover intake despite the Canterbury crop failure is almost the same as for 1961.

This year saw the first supplies of liquid honey delivered into the Auckland depot under the new arrangement. From the Authority's point of view this experiment was a success inasmuch as it spread our receipts and saved melting costs when blending. If certain methods of packing for export are allowed, it may be possible to exploit further this method of supply.

Plant

The new plant has proved its worth during the year but we have not yet dealt with certain weaknesses that have existed in regard to the problem of melting down and blending. This has been further complicated by the possibility of the introduction of the Fiehe and other laboratory tests. At the time of writing this report no opportunity has existed to discuss the matter fully with all concerned.

Markets

(1) EXPORT: Last October we shipped to London all the unsold honey that was calculated to be in excess of local requirements. This was a necessary precaution (1) to ensure that no deterioration took place during the New Zealand summer and (2) to clear the floor for the new season's stock. During my recent visit overseas I met many of the honey buyers in the United Kingdom, West Germany and elsewhere and gleaned much valuable information concerning the packaging and marketing of honey. Our top grade honeys have reached record prices but our light amber and lower grading honeys are expected to show a reduction in the average returns but they will still show a premium over similar honeys from other countries. You can rest assured that our London

agents will do everything within their power to maintain the premium that they have built up. Certain alterations in the traditional 'two tins in a case' will be made in the coming season and the Authority will do everything within its powers to build up the export returns.

(2) **COMB HONEY:** There is considerable scope for development of the sale of comb and section honey in the United Kingdom and Germany. Under the present arrangement there appears to be some price cutting by brokers and in order to obviate this and increase the return to suppliers your Authority is contemplating the appointment of a sole agency to handle this type of honey. The Authority will at all times be happy to advise on the grade of honey that is acceptable in this form. Producers of certain problem honey could well channel their efforts into this type of production.

(3) **LOCAL:** During the past year we have endeavoured to increase the sales of Honey Gold and to stabilise the 'Imperial Bee' sales at their former level. A 'special' last August was an unqualified success and the recent introduction of the new plastic container has given Light Amber honey a useful boost to the public. The favourable terms under which we secured supplies of these containers was a major factor in arriving at the attractive retail price.

The Seals Levy

Last year we had hopes that the regulations concerning the Levy would be modified and amended to provide for more efficiency. Unfortunately the Government legal advisers have thought fit to delay the implementation of the amendments and we only recently reached agreement on the matter. The new regulations will be gazetted shortly. At June 30 the amount collected by the Seals Levy was approximately £4000 in arrear of the amount recorded at the same time last year. A more accurate picture will be obtainable at the end of the financial year and you can rest assured that the position will be watched.

Advertising

During the year a considerable sum was expended on advertising both for honey in general and for the Authority's new Honey Gold pack. An extensive plan for advertising has been prepared and will be brought into operations at the opportune time. Whilst the Authority is fully conscious of its responsibility in this direction anything done by them should not be expected to supplant any individual effort to advertise. The recent example of the South Auckland Branch of the N.B.A. at the Waikato Winter Show is an excellent example in this respect and while in Europe I saw some excellent displays at A. & P. shows that could only benefit the honey industry.

Gift Parcel Scheme

That this scheme has provided a much needed want is amply demonstrated by the number (850) of parcels despatched. Every effort will be made to extend this scheme and it is confidently expected that a worthwhile increase will be achieved. Whilst in England I visited Mr. Shaw's factory at Woldingham, Surrey, where the actual parcels are prepared and despatched and was favourably impressed with the quality of the product.

European Common Market

My visit to the United Kingdom coincided with that of our Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. J. Marshall) and other Statutory Board Chairmen. We were all invited to a meeting at Downing Street where we were addressed by Mr. Duncan Sandys, Mr. Soames and Mr. Heath on the latest aspects and developments of the Common Market. Although this Market could have very serious repercussions on other primary production markets it is not anticipated that the honey industry will receive any serious set-back. You can rest assured that the position is being very carefully watched.

Joint Committee of Statutory Boards

The past year has seen considerable activity of this Committee and the benefits of this close liaison of the Statutory Boards are undoubted and varied. It is not always possible or necessary to attend every meeting but I assure you that we are making full use of our association with the other boards.

The Future

This is an all-embracing subject that we should pay proper attention to. The information that I gained overseas will implement several changes in custom and policy but we are fully appreciative of the need to do nothing that will in any way create confusion in the minds of producers. It has not been possible yet to consider fully some of the suggestions I have made but certain facts are beyond dispute and every effort will be made to implement these policies during the coming season. Whatever is done will be to the benefit of the industry as a whole and with due regard to the economics and the full repercussions of such charges.

Ourselves

During the past year the Authority has held four meetings; one of which was a one day meeting in Wellington. We have at all times endeavoured to address meetings of beekeepers and attend Field Days. There are still some areas where we have not yet visited and to these folk we tender our apologies. Meetings cost the industry money and every effort is made to keep these expenses to a minimum.

Factory

In my last year's report I mentioned that there were still some inherent weaknesses in the Parnell building and plant. These are being dealt with as opportunity permits.

An item of major concern that has arisen this year caused by the long mild autumn was a plague of wasps and bees which because no attention had been paid to beeproofing the building when it was constructed became such a nuisance that it was necessary to suspend packing operations until certain remedial measures in the form of beeproof screens had been undertaken. However this was not done before some of the equipment had been contaminated and it was unfortunate that a blend of honey was distributed on the local market before this was detected. Every endeavour was made to trace and withdraw this honey.

These weaknesses in factory planning have cost and are still costing the industry a considerable amount of money which is to be regretted but you can be assured that the Authority have not lost sight of these matters and are doing everything to ensure that any work done will be permanent and efficient.

Manager and Staff

We have recently conferred the title of General Manager on Mr. Gosse as we feel that this is a more fitting title to the work he is called upon to perform. During the year, Mr. Tomkins who had been foreman here for many years retired and so severed his long connection with our industry; our best wishes go with him in his retirement. His place has been taken by Mr. Jim Peake who has a big job on his hands in coping with the record intake of honey into the Parnell store. Mr Norman Adams replaces Mr. McLaren as chief clerk and has already proved his worth to the industry. Other office staff is much as before and it is pleasing to record the excellent team spirit that prevails in all departments.

My personal thanks to all who have helped to make this past year the success it has been. If I personally have attained any measure of success I can assure you it could not have been achieved without the help of all sections of the industry. I look forward in confidence to another year of progress.

G. E. GUMBRELL,
Chairman.

24/7/62.

Department of Agriculture

Horticulture Division



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

The problem of toxic honey and its association with the tutu plant is an unusual biological one.

The New Zealand native plant tutu can be recognised by its drooping habit with its long row of opposite dark green veined and shiny leaves and its square fluted stems.

The passion vine hopper, *Scoly-popa australis*, is an introduced insect with a wide host range. It can be recognised by its triangular wings and the fact that on touching, the winged adult, springs or hops off its resting place.

Under certain climatic conditions the numbers of passion vine hoppers may build up and living on the sap of plants excrete a sticky substance known as 'honey dew' although it is not related to honey.

When these hoppers live on tutu plants the honey dew they excrete contains poisons derived from the tutu.

During periods of high temperatures and drought when other sources of bee foods are restricted, bees may be attracted to feed on the honey dew on the tutu plants.

They are not poisoned themselves by the toxic honey dew they have collected but by taking it back to the hives they introduce into the true and pure honey some poisonous honey dew. Any of such honey is then suspect.

The biological linkage is therefore that between five factors and only when all five factors are operating is there likelihood of toxic honey being produced.

These five factors are:—

- (a) Tutu plants.
- (b) Passion vine hoppers.
- (c) Higher temperatures often associated with drought conditions.
- (d) Production of 'honey dew' on the tutu plants.
- (e) Bees attracted by and collecting the 'honey dew.'

The Beekeeping Industry of New Zealand would be well advised to take steps to find a use for suspect honey if next year or in subsequent years impounding of honey becomes essential. This year because of lack of adequate information there appears to be no alternative to destruction but this appears to be an unnecessarily wasteful procedure and a practical alternative method of disposal either for bee feeding or for some other purpose seems necessary.

As beekeepers you will now be aware that it is considered impracticable to separate from the impounded honey those lines which are regarded as suspect without laboratory tests having proved that toxic honey is actually present. All the results of laboratory tests have been forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health, Whangarei, who is relaying the information to individual beekeepers on request. Because it is not possible to make any separation within the lines of impounded honey it has been decided that all such impounded honey is to be destroyed by action under the Poisons Act.

There appears to have been some misunderstanding in regard to the question whether any zones have been closed to beekeepers on account of the possibility of the production of toxic honey. The only area at present closed is a certain

locality in the Bay of Plenty. No zones were gazetted as closed to beekeeping either in North Auckland, Auckland or any other part of the country. The Government is concerned to see that steps are taken so that the action of the Health Department in impounding honey on the advice of the Department of Agriculture will not be necessary either next year or in subsequent years.

I am satisfied that the only way to ensure that impounding will never be required again is to declare a number of zones closed to beekeeping and subsequently to gazette additional zones or additions to existing zones whenever necessary by field observations. This would be a constant threat to beekeepers and appears to me to be a negative rather than a positive approach to the problem.

On re-examining the position I find that entomologists are confident that biological control of the passion vine hopper is feasible and could result in a practical solution within five to seven years. I am therefore asking that the control of passion vine hopper should be ranked as a top priority problem for New Zealand entomologists.

I would encourage local authorities and farmers to regard the tutu plant as harmful and wherever practicable endeavour to reduce its density. I think this policy through advice is more likely to assist your industry than any action to declare it a noxious weed, thus authorising local authorities to enforce its destruction under legislation.

In view of the fact that there are reasonable prospects of breaking the link which has resulted in the production of toxic honey efforts must be made by individual beekeepers and your industry to reduce the possibility of toxic honey production to a minimum. To do this normally requires a general understanding of the problem by beekeepers and therefore a widespread educational campaign through 'The Beekeeper' and by other means seems desirable. However, I am aware that untold harm could be done to your industry if the public as a whole came to regard honey with suspicion and if any consumer digestive upsets when the cause was not readily diagnosed were unnecessarily attributed to honey. However, I am of the opinion that as the public is now aware that certain honey has been impounded in North Auckland they should be fully informed regarding the action now being taken by the Health Department in association with the Department of Agriculture, the reasons for this action and the steps being taken adequately to safeguard the consumer in the future.

It is apparent from the past season's occurrence that the problem of toxic honey has reappeared in this country primarily because of the climatic conditions in North Auckland last spring and summer assisted by a rise in the density of passion vine hoppers. Beekeepers in North Auckland and in such other parts of the North Island wherever tutu occurs and where passion vine hoppers can build up in numbers under higher temperature conditions should now be aware that this is primarily a problem for each individual beekeeper who should realise that if he harvests and markets toxic honey he will be personally liable for the consequences and may also do untold harm to the beekeeping industry of this country.

In order to safeguard himself each beekeeper should encourage the destruction of tutu and site his hives as far away as practicable from those areas where tutu occurs in profusion. If he is unable to site his hives two or three miles away from tutu infestations then with the co-operation of the landowner he should endeavour to have a tutu free zone of one mile radius from each of his apiaries.

In addition when harvesting his honey crops each beekeeper should keep separate the honey extracted from each apiary site so that if at any time honey has to be impounded and destroyed, action can be restricted to honey from particular apiaries instead of necessitating the destruction of all honey blended by a beekeeper because some toxicity has been proved to exist.

In the North Auckland district and in similar localities where dry weather and higher temperatures are liable to occur beekeepers should aim to have their honey crop off the hives by December 31 each year. After January 1 in the upper half of the North Island of New Zealand it would appear that the production of toxic honey is possible in any season where the tutu plant is widespread and the season is unusually dry with high temperatures. Such

conditions must be regarded as danger signs to beekeepers who would then face the toxic emergency period.

It is now clear that laboratory tests, whether biological (through the use of guinea pigs) or chemical, can only be applied to samples of honey for toxicity checking after such honey has been extracted. The placing of test hives in any part of the country and collection of samples of honey from these hives can be of little assistance in avoiding a repetition of what has occurred in North Auckland during the past season.

In these circumstances test hives are only to be maintained for check purposes and not related to zoning. These will be situated in proximity to an existing apiary and/or where a normal prudent beekeeper would today site his hives with a full knowledge of the current toxic honey problem. They could not, however, be used in any season as evidence of the necessity for impounding honey during that season.

The degree of risk of producing toxic honey in any season must therefore be based on field observations necessitating some special botanical surveys to compare the area and density of tutu in the closed zone of the Bay of Plenty with the suggested zones of North Auckland and other localities shown by existing knowledge to be potentially hazardous. It also seems necessary for entomologists to obtain more information in the field regarding the rise and fall in population numbers of passion vine hoppers with particular emphasis on the time when these hoppers excrete the maximum honey dew on tutu plants. This field work would need to be associated with obtaining adequate and up to date weekly records of rainfall and temperatures. On these two aspects I am also asking for the assistance of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

**ADDRESS BY E. SMAELLIE,
SUPERINTENDENT BEEKEEPING,
HORTICULTURE DIVISION**

It is with pleasure, that I accept this opportunity to address your Annual Conference. I am particularly pleased that Conference is being held this year at Tauranga because it was here and in the adjacent districts that much of our beekeeping as we know it today was pioneered and developed.

Through the activities of such men as Mr. Isaac Hopkins who was at Thames, and later in 1905 was appointed the first Government Apiarist, a soundly based beekeeping industry has been developed, which today is as modern and efficient as anywhere overseas.

Commercial beekeeping has continued to expand in most areas of the Dominion. To meet changing conditions in production and marketing, there is a definite trend toward consolidation of commercial holdings, and the removal of apiaries from dark honey producing areas to newly developed pasture land areas. Other important features noted are the more efficient methods of apiary management being practised, and honey houses re-designed and equipped with modern mechanical aids for processing

and packing honey. Producers who have re-arranged their apiary sites and methods of management to reduce operating costs have achieved good results from their beekeeping efforts in relation to locality and available sources of nectar.

Statistics

As the following figures will show, commercial honey production is a growing industry, particularly in the South Island, despite changes in modern farming practices and their impact on beekeeping.

At June 30, 1961, the number of registered beekeepers totalled 4722. A total of 11,867 registered apiaries containing 179,953 hives were operated. Of these 7410 apiaries and 163,237 hives are owned by commercial beekeepers owing 30 hives and over.

A breakdown of the statistics between the North and South Islands shows present holdings are distributed as follows:—

In the North Island—3519 beekeepers, 6630 apiaries and 107,712 hives.

In the South Island—1203 beekeepers, 5237 apiaries and 72,241 hives.

Comparison with statistics compiled 10 years ago shows in the 250 hives and over commercial group that in the

North Island there has been an increase of 2.4 per cent in the number of beekeepers, but no significant change in the number of hives.

However, in the South Island the increase in beekeepers is 40.2 per cent and in hives 111.8 per cent.

The previous trend toward a decrease in the number of domestic beekeepers has continued. However, the trend toward further consolidation of the larger commercial holdings, which the statistics make apparent, is a very healthy one for New Zealand beekeeping.

Honey Crops

Many beekeepers at this Conference have experienced a difficult year because of the drought conditions that prevailed in many parts of the Dominion last summer. Yields in Canterbury, Manawatu and Hawkes Bay were affected by drought and many crops in these areas were much below average. In Northland and Central Otago and in Marlborough yields varied from very good to very light. In most other districts crops were above average.

The final assessment for last season's crop as at May 31 was estimated at 5300 tons of honey. This production figure is approximately the average of the past six years.

Advisory Work

The Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division has been strengthened with the recent appointment of Mr. I. W. Forster to the position of Apiculturist with headquarters at Oamaru. Relieved of regulatory and other similar district work Mr. Forster will concentrate on specialist work requirements and provide a needed and important service for beekeepers in the South Island.

Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiculturist at Hamilton, for several years has concentrated on the development of apiary and honey house equipment, that will assist beekeepers in keeping down overhead and in the improvement in the condition of the honey for market.

In addition, Mr. Paterson has designed and assembled the apiary feature displayed in the Department's Show Exhibit at A. & P. Shows and Winter Farm Schools each year. These have been of a very high artistic standard and excellent for their educational value.

AUGUST 1962



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This work has been continued during the year and Mr. Paterson has brought to Conference two types of honey cooling equipment he has developed and these are on display.

It is appropriate that I should give notice of Mr. Paterson's pending retirement from the Apiary Section of the Department. Mr. Paterson will retire in December next and on behalf of the Apiary Section staff I am taking this opportunity to express our appreciation and thanks to him for the technical advice and the assistance he has rendered to us over the years of his service.

The Apiary Section of the division has been numerically at full strength during the year. However, to maintain present establishment, and to cater for the increasing work of the Section, additional Apiary Instructor staff will be necessary in the near future.

Apiculture Cadets

I wish to bring to your notice that the Department offers each year a limited number of cadetships open to boys who are leaving school and are interested in taking up careers in the Horticulture Division as Apiary Instructors. Initial qualifications are a good personality, an interest in bees, and education to University Entrance, preferably with passes in chemistry or physics and mathematics. The cadetship covers five years at either Massey or Lincoln studying for the Degree of Bachelor, Agricultural Science, and includes one year's practical training in the second year of the cadetship.

This study award includes generous living allowance, tuition and college fees and book allowance.

This scheme is commended to you and should you know boys who are interested and who feel they have the required qualifications, please inform them so that they may write to the Department for complete information.

National Diploma in Apiculture (N.Z.)

A National Diploma in Apiculture has been under consideration for some years and I am pleased to advise that it has now been established through an Approval Notice issued by the Minister of Agriculture on September 8, 1961.

This diploma, if widely supported by beekeepers, should become the hallmark of the qualified practical beekeeper.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture is authorised under its Act of 1953 to grant diplomas without examination to any person not less than 40 years of age who has practised beekeeping for not less than 20 years and who in the opinion of the Examining Board is qualified to receive the diploma. This authority to grant diplomas without examination, expires on September 8, 1963. The fee payable on the award of the honorary diploma is the sum of two guineas.

Those making application for an honorary diploma may be nominated either by a Branch of the N.B. Association or by an officer of the Apiary Section of the Department of Agriculture.

Younger practising beekeepers will be more interested in the provisions relating to the diploma. The examinations are in three stages—Junior Certificate, Intermediate Certificate and Diploma, each stage normally requires a minimum of two years theoretical and practical work.

Full information on the diploma is obtainable from the Dominion Secretary of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, Mr. K. J. Lemmon, P.O. Box 450, Wellington. Copies of the Approval Notice are also available at 6d. each from the Government Printer, the reference being 1961-122.

Branches and individual beekeepers are urged to support the diploma by putting forward suitable nominations.

Experiments and Trials

The need of honey bees for pollination of agricultural seeds and fruit is recognised and is reflected by demands which growers now make on beekeepers for the placement of bees near to their crops.

Work associated with the investigations into pollination of white clover, lucerne, red clover and the brassicas, have proceeded in South Island districts. These projects have been designed to establish statistically, the pollination requirements of these crops for seed production and have been carried out by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer, Wallaceville, and officers of the Apiary Section of the Department. The work with white clover has been completed and will be published in the near future. The lucerne pollination project commenced

last season in Central Otago and Canterbury will be continued this year near Blenheim. This work is regarded as a long-term project and will probably take several seasons to complete.

Other work carried out in conjunction with the Wallaceville Animal Research Station related to laboratory and large scale field tests to establish the effects on honey bees of pesticides, sprays and dusts that would be considered toxic to honey bees.

The effect on honey bees of the insecticides Dipterex, Thiodan and Phosdrin when applied to flowering white clover, were tested. The aim being to find if they could be used without danger to honey bees.

It was considered that Dipterex and Thiodan sprays, if applied before bees commence visiting the flowers, can be used with safety on white clover crops.

Phosdrin caused heavy bee mortality in field bees for more than a day after application and should not be used on flowering crops or fruit trees.

A survey of the Auckland Province revealed the presence of several areas where tutu (*Coriaria* Spp) was heavily infested with Passion Vine Hoppers (*Scoly popa australis*) producing honey dew. This was regarded as evidence of danger for production of toxic honey, and precautions were taken to prevent honey produced in these areas being available for human consumption.

Disease Control

During the last few years both the Department and the beekeeping industry have been concerned as to whether the existing methods of detection and control of American Brood disease (*Bacillus* larvae) were adequate.

Resulting from the discussions at last Conference, a joint meeting of departmental officers and the Executive of your Association, was held in Wellington. At this meeting the matter was frankly discussed and an endeavour made to overcome the problems which stand in the way of eradication of this disease.

American Brood Disease, or *Bacillus* larvae, is regarded by all associated with beekeeping in New Zealand, as a most serious disease. The group considered, while recognising that the present overall incidence of this disease is relatively low, that the disease could eventually destroy the beekeeping industry of this country if control measures were not properly exercised.

It is expected that when all the recommendations made by the meeting are fully implemented that the present low incidence of *Bacillus* larvae disease will be further reduced and kept under better control.

The number of colonies inspected by Apiary Instructors and by part time inspectors last season was 41,887 and of these 722 diseased hives were destroyed by burning.

INDIAN BEE JOURNAL

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AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOARD

MR. PEARSON'S CONFERENCE REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting this my third Annual Report.

The Board has now been in operation for approximately two and a half years; preliminary difficulties have been largely overcome and the past year has been one of steady work.

I feel it can be fairly claimed that the Agricultural Chemicals Act is being administered justly and with due consideration for all parties.

The use of chemicals, both insecticides and weedicides, has reached colossal proportions and the trend is ever upwards.

In opening the New Zealand Weed Control Conference held in Christchurch recently, the Director General of Agriculture, Mr. D. N. R. Webb, stated 'that our greatest need was cheaper food. The only way of achieving this was by more efficient production. Fifty million people died every year, and of these 35 million died of under-nourishment or the consequences of it. The two greatest enemies of economic food production were weeds and insect pests. Together they combined to reduce yields and increase costs. An estimated 20% of the world's harvests were destroyed by insects. Chemicals provided the answer to both these enemies of economic food production.'

It is fortunate for the honey industry that the conditions of sale, and use of these chemicals, are under the control of a soundly established Statutory Board. During the year, just past, due attention has been given to the quality, packaging, labelling and suitability of the products covered by the Act, together with the safety of operators and users generally, control of residues in foodstuffs, the public health and the safeguard of minority groups or those to whom agricultural chemicals present a special hazard.

It will be obvious to you that in dealing with agricultural chemicals in their widest aspect, there is often little of direct interest to the Beekeeping Industry in the business transacted, and as mentioned in my previous report, your representative must endeavour to take an intelligent interest in the whole question, in the interest of the national welfare. The Board is constituted to co-ordinate the findings and recom-

mendations of technical officers and industry representatives and apply them in conformity with the Act to control and guide the use of agricultural chemicals and to the best of its ability prevent loss or damage.

The degree of success in a preventative campaign is always hard to assess, but whether by coincidence, or as a result of our guidance surprisingly little damage or accident has been reported during the year from all likely sources, in relation to the vast amount of poisonous spray and dust applied.

Beekeepers generally must benefit from the Board's work along with all other citizens. In addition they have the satisfaction of knowing that they enjoy some special protection under the Apiary Protection Regulations which are recognised by the Board; and that the Board constitutes a forum ready and willing to investigate, and if necessary, take action in any special case of damage to bees through carelessness or wrongful application of toxic material.

The Apiary Technical Committee set up last year, has not been called upon recently, as the Taupo incident has been satisfactorily dealt with and no further damage which would warrant its action has been reported this year. It could, however, be revived at short notice and your representative is ever ready to act as your advocate in any bonafide case of loss or damage.

It must be recognised that some present day trends in farming are unfavourable to honey production and variable yields cannot be automatically attributed to the application of agricultural chemicals. Engineers and scientists have placed in the farmers' hands tools and knowledge which have revolutionised older farming methods. Especially on newly developed lands, white clover is used predominately as a soil fertility builder. From a productive grazing point of view clover dominant pastures are not regarded as ideal and the trend is to treat these pastures with a herbicide to destroy or retard clover growth when the desired fertility has been achieved, allowing grasses to predominate, where necessary oversowing of selected grasses is carried out.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

This practice may materially affect honey production but it is beyond the rights of beekeepers to attempt to interfere with this kind of programme unless the clover has been treated whilst in flower and the beekeeper has lost heavily in bees.

I still never lose an opportunity to preach my theme song. 'Do not apply toxic materials to plants in flower which are attractive to bees.' The more experience I have of the complex nature of agricultural chemicals and their effects, the more I am convinced that this is our only answer to the hazard which continually confronts us as beekeepers. It is a simple request, readily understood by the most humble user: yet, closely adhered to, it spells comparative safety for both bees and beekeepers.

The important question of residues in foodstuffs, especially in our meat and dairy exports, has been given priority attention during this year. Considerable progress has been made. Clear directions have been given to the farming community which, if carefully followed, should control residues within the specified limits. 'Withholding periods' of stock from pastures on which insecticides has been applied have been gazetted. The use of D.D.T. prills and other granular formulations of insecticides (in place of dust or spray) for the control of grass grub and porina moth, are encouraged by the Board. Because of their weight, prills tend to penetrate pasture cover better and reach the soil, leaving less insecticide on the herbage, which could accumulate in grazing livestock. From the beekeepers' point of view D.D.T. prills are greatly to be preferred to either spray or dust. Scientists continue to search diligently for new methods of control, both from the point of effectiveness and the elimination of residues. So far D.D.T. is the universal 'pasture insecticide' and as previously stated has been the least harmful to bees. In view of its wide application, a change over to other chemicals in this field could present a serious hazard to beekeepers but the position is being watched carefully. Eternal vigilance is the price of safety. Treatment of ryegrass crops for army worm still presents some risk to bees in that in suitable seasons these crops often contain a good deal of flowering clover

and must usually be treated in early summer. The application of D.D.T. has been an effective remedy without causing undue trouble to beekeepers. However, it has been found that the straw from treated crops can carry a very high D.D.T. residue, which could present a hazard to livestock grazing off these areas. A change over here to less persistent insecticides seems evident. Only experience will tell us the result, should this occur.

Publicity

A publicity committee of the Board has been appointed as a further step in its campaign to provide the fullest information possible to all interested parties. Senior officers of the Department of Agriculture are taking every opportunity at farmers' meetings, agricultural colleges, per medium of the Press, by radio and by personal contact to point out the responsibilities of farmers under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulations.

The huge back-log of registrations of chemicals has now been dealt with. Registrations of new materials as they come forward are unlikely to present great problems.

Changes in Personnel

There have been some changes of personnel on the Board during the year. Notably, Mr. P. W. Smallfield, who recently retired from the position of Director General of Agriculture, has relinquished his chairmanship of the Board. Mr J. W. Woodcock, Director, Farm Advisory Division, has been appointed chairman in his stead.

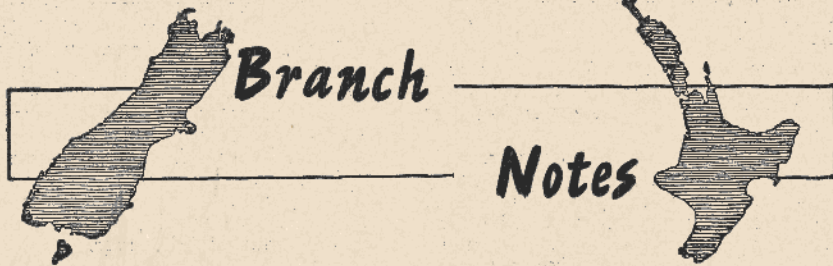
Appointment of Deputy

It has been felt desirable to appoint a deputy representative of the N.B.A. on the Board, and I have pleasure in announcing that Mr. J. K. Bray has been approved by the Board for this position.

Acknowledgments

I again wish to express my sincere thanks 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. It gives me confidence to know that the wealth of their experience, knowledge and kindly advice is

[continued on page 41]



CENTRAL-SOUTHERN HAWKES BAY

The annual meeting was held in Dannevirke on May 22 and although the attendance was rather small an interesting meeting resulted. The past year's activities were reviewed, remits were prepared for submission to the National Conference and the coming year's program was discussed.

After the business had been concluded Mr. Line showed colour films illustrating the following topics:

- (1) Apiary sites throughout New Zealand.
- (2) Processing of beeswax into comb foundation.
- (3) Methods of raising queen cells.

The thanks of the Branch go to Mr. and Mrs. Ward for the hospitality of their home.

—Bee Jay.

CANTERBURY

President's Report

Once again it is my pleasure to report on our activities for the past year—a year which will not be forgotten for many years by most of our members. We have had good attendances at our meetings, and plenty of interest was shown in all the topics discussed.

Throughout the year we have had four meetings. Our Annual Meeting was held on May 24, 1961, with election of officers, President's report and Annual Balance. Mr. G. Gumbrell also addressed the meeting.

On July 18, 46 Remits to Conference, Price Control, and the proposed Apiary Registration scheme were discussed at length. Mr. Gumbrell gave us the latest information on Price Control.

At our next meeting on August 11, we had the Delegates Report on Conference. As Mr. Pearson had to go to Wellington on Chemical Board business, the Report was ably presented by Mr. T. Penrose. Other members also added

their impressions. The County by-laws were also discussed regarding bees in built up areas, and negotiations are under way with the Waimairi County Council, but are of a drawn out nature.

A special evening meeting was held on March 19, to hear addresses given by Mr. Gumbrell and Mr. Gosse, on overseas and local Industry affairs. These proved to be very interesting and many questions were also answered.

There were no committee meetings during the year.

Roll of Members

This year our Branch has made history, as its membership is now 103. We gained 18 new members, mostly hobbyists, and we hope they derive much pleasure and profit by joining our Association. One member, Mr. Trevor Ross of Clarence Bridge, is away on Raoul Island for two years and has taken his bees with him.

On behalf of the Association I would like to thank Mr. K. Ecroyd for sending out circulars to all beekeepers which has resulted in our gaining new members.

During the year a wreath was sent to the relatives of Mr. E. Field, who for many years was Dominion President of the National Beekeepers' Association.

Field Day

This year we were unfortunate with the weather, and we had to postpone our Field Day for the first time. Messrs. Murray and Pomeroy were our hosts for the Field Day at Ashburton, and a very enjoyable day was had by all. The day was fine and the willows yielding well. Approximately 140 were present with many from South Canterbury. A very full programme was arranged and the Queen Bank panel discussion proved very interesting.

Honey Crop

This year will probably go down on record as being one of the poorest overall crops for 30 years. The spring was very good with fine weather and a trickle of nectar coming in, relieving beekeepers of feeding worries. However, the drought had set in and was not to break until February, when it was too late for the honey crop. Crops ranged from nil on the light land to ½ cwt. on the heavy land.

Honey Sales

Sales have been steady throughout the year although I think the very mild autumn has had some effect on demand. There will probably be enough honey to go around as quite a lot has been brought in from other areas.

One disturbing feature I have noticed this year is the number of people who have asked me what beekeepers put in honey when it is creamed. I think today a few beekeepers are overdoing the creaming process, and are doing the honey industry as well as themselves, a great deal of harm.

Prospects for Coming Season

I would not like to try and forecast a coming season, all I can say at the

moment is that the country is in great heart, clover still flowering freely (four months too late) and wonderful Queen mating weather. Hives on light land are fairly short on stores and will need watching closely in the spring.

General Topics

A few months ago we had some adverse publicity from the Health Department, through an article published by them about the food value of honey. It is unfortunate that such an article should have found its way into the Press. However the letters that were written to the Press and the Editorial from the N.Z. Beekeeper, which I had published, would help to counteract this.

I think the best news to come from the National Beekeepers' Association is the Apiary Insurance (Public Risk) free to all members. This is certainly a great step forward and I would like to congratulate the Executive on this move.

May I now extend my thanks to our Secretary, Des King, and the Branch for their continued support during the

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a pleasant one and I would urge you all to continue to support your own organisation, which has your interests at heart and is what you make it yourselves. I would like to wish you all the best of health and better beekeeping in the future.

DICK ROBINS, President

Election of Officers

Canterbury Branch Officers for 1962-63 are: President, Mr. D. Penrose; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. D. Tyrell-Baxter and P. R. Robins; committee, Messrs. J. K. Bray, A. K. Ecroyd, T. Pearson, R. Newton, C. Hill; Press officer, Mr. J. K. Bray; secretary, Mr. D. G. King; auditor, Mr. A. Ecroyd.

OTAGO

In Otago the acknowledged wasp expert is Mr. C. W. Foote. During the past season he has destroyed 58 wasp nests for the Dunedin City Corporation and about 250 for various other parties.

Charlie has a profound respect for the vitality of the wasps that have come down out of the north. When they sting, they sting hard. They are also physically tough; on a cool day in mid-June they were observed quietly robbing honey from a group of hives in which the bees were closely clustered. Is this the result of our mild autumn this year, or will it always be so?

P.S.: On June 25, Jim Marshall found a thrush sitting confidently on a nest of four eggs.

Annual Report

A year ago the roll stood at 37. Now it has reached a total of 42, an increase of 5. During the year eight members were enrolled, while three resigned owing to moving away from Otago.

In the matter of Finance the Branch has achieved some stability, and at the close of the year the Balance in hand stands at £9/9/11, considerably better than last year. There were no extra outgoings during the year and the gain is due to increased membership.

During the year four ordinary meetings of the Branch were held and were well attended. The Annual Convention of Otago and Southland Beekeepers was successfully organised by the Branch and attracted a large number of beekeepers and friends from near and far.

The Field Day was held at the apiary of Mr. R. F. Poole at Kyeburn and was attended by about 80 beekeepers. The day was fine and most successful. Much interest was shown in Mr. Poole's well appointed honey house as well as in the addresses and demonstrations provided. The Branch was ably represented at the Annual Conference by Mr. J. McFadzien who gave a comprehensive outline of the proceedings to a Branch Meeting on his return.

The Branch has been well served by members and officials during the year and wishes to express gratitude to all those who gave addresses at the Convention, Field Day and Branch Meetings; particularly to Mr. J. McFadzien, Delegate to Conference, Mr. R. F. Poole, host to the Field Day, and Mr. G. Jeffery, the Apiary Advisory Officer.

—E. H. Shepherd

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Dunedin Convention

A representative attendance of 32 was present at the afternoon session of the Annual Convention of Otago and Southland beekeepers on June 5. Mr. J. McFadzien opened the Convention and welcomed the visitors. Apologies were received from Messrs. J. K. Bray, D. F. Penrose, J. Glass, S. Bryant, J. Spence, Mr. and Mrs. L. Cranstoun, and Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Cook.

Reference was made to members who had died during the year, those present standing as a mark of respect.

The Financial Statement was received and members expressed appreciation of the display at the Winter Show; but it was considered that a more favourable position should be provided for the H.M.A. display.

A special vote of thanks was conveyed to Mr. W. T. Herron for his attendance and talks at Convention during his long term as a member of the H.M.A.

Members expressed regret at the absence of Mr. V. A. Cook, Apiary Instructor at Oamaru, and the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That it is the opinion of this Convention that Officers of the Apiary Section in Otago and Southland should be present at the Convention if the gathering is to serve its proper function."

Mr. C. Cunningham was then elected to the Chair and addresses were given by Mr. J. McFadzien (N.B.A.) and Mr. J. W. Fraser (H.M.A.) A number of questions were asked and the meeting concluded with a general discussion.



Mr. I. W. Forster

At the evening session Mr. E. Shepherd was in the Chair and Mr. G. Jeffery gave a practical and entertaining talk on the removal of bees from buildings and trees. This was followed by an address on bees and pollination by Mr. I. W. Forster who was assisted by Mr. Jeffery showing colour slides. This proved to be an outstanding feature and will be long remembered by the large gathering of beekeepers and friends who were present.

During the evening the opportunity was taken to bid farewell to Mr. J. McFadzien prior to his departure to take up residence in the North Island. Several speakers referred to the service Mr. McFadzien had given over a long period and Mr. Shepherd made a presentation on behalf of Otago and Southland beekeepers. Mr. McFadzien suitably replied.

The Convention concluded with supper and a social hour.



PROSPEROUS COLONY

Not many hives opened up like this in Hawkes Bay last season. Henry Adrian, of Norsewood, takes a look.

—Photo by Sefton Line.

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NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By 'SKEP'

The Count Down

At this season of the year, all the keen apiarists are watching and preparing for those conditions that make it possible to start raising the new season's Queens.

Already they will have been noting the behaviour of several Queens in the hopes of selecting the best. Records of production, progeny and behaviour for last season (and, if possible, seasons before) need to be studied in arriving at these decisions. Need you be reminded that you keep bees to make a profit and any fancy ideas you have about the perfect bee and its behaviour should not be allowed to cloud your decision when Choosing the Breeder Queen? It is wise, also, to make a first and second choice because it sometimes happens that your best breeder disappears just when you need her most or some other unforeseen happening in the Breeder Queen Colony holds up your progress.

If, in the meantime, you have been making some attempt at Understanding the Impulses, you will have noticed that the colonies, while working under the drive of the impulses, show different signs at different stages of the growth of the impulses. If the signs show that the impulse has advanced too far, the colony will not be suitable for the purpose for which you originally intended it, and you will have to start again. To promote the impulse to its correct stage on the right day is one of the skills of Queen Rearing which is developed with experience.

Like every beekeeper who likes to progress, you will want to try your own way of doing things and no doubt you will have some failures at establishing Queen Rearing Colonies, but if you return to the article and read it again, you will probably discover some small point that you had not noticed before. Perhaps you thought it quite unimportant—such is a lesson that only experience seems to teach.

Before you start, check again that all the equipment is ready because it is too late to start making something when it should be on the bench ready to be picked up. Could it be suggested, too, that you find a frame of brood with grubs of the correct age for grafting and practice! Practice! PRACTICE! ! lifting those grubs with your brush and transferring them to another cell. Find the best way to hold the frame, the bar and the brush and experiment to find the best working position for light and comfort. When the time comes, this task must be done quickly and speed needs to be acquired with prior practice. Time spent in the mastering of this skill will be amply rewarded later.

The Queen Rearing Routine now to be described, explains how the Cell Starting Colony and the Cell Finishing Colony are used for the first time. Once these colonies are established, they can be used much longer than that. The Cell Starting Colony can have the first bar of grafted cells removed and a new bar added every two or three days for several weeks provided sufficient supplies of young bees are added with each graft and the colony morale does not deteriorate. The Cell Finishing Colony can be used for several months provided there are plenty of young bees and so long as the colony morale is maintained.

One point which needs special emphasis—be ever on the alert for rogue queen cells. A small queen-cell in an unnoticed corner will sometimes hatch out a small queen no larger than

a worker and she will wreck the cell building impulse of an otherwise perfect colony and you will spend hours looking for her. It is my opinion that bees will seize an egg or grub shaken out of a cell and either place it in a cell or build a cell around where it has fallen and from this they raise a queen. No other explanation seems possible for the queen cells I have found in unusual places.

Should you like to ask any questions on the subjects discussed, please feel free to write and every endeavour will be made to answer. If you would like to add any comment or elaborate on any aspect of the subject, please do write and let us have it.

A Queen Rearing Routine

Day 1: Choose Breeder Queen, move to handy 6-frame nuclei, feed stimulative (2 water, 1 honey) syrup and supply with drawn comb for laying. Keep well fed at all times.

Day 2, 3, 4: Prepare all necessary equipment, cell cups, cell blocks, cell bars, cell frames, transfer brush, frame marking labels, eye dropper and nuclei boxes.

Day 5: Make up Cell Starting Colony, feed stimulative (2 water, 1 honey) syrup, graft three cells dry or on nectar from Breeder Queen Colony. Keep well fed at all times as necessary.

Day 6: Check Cell Starting Colony, destroy any queen cells started on Frame 3, collect royal jelly from grafted cells, graft bar of cells from Breeder Queen using royal jelly just collected. (A new bar of cells can be grafted every second or third day from now or provided ample young bees are shaken into this colony with each graft).

Also on Day 6: Make up Cell Finishing Colony and feed stimulative syrup.

Day 7: Probably Sunday so have a rest.

Day 8: Transfer bar of queen cells from the Cell Starting Colony to the Cell Finishing Colony. Check frame 3 in Cell Starting Colony and in Cell Finishing Colony for rogue queen cells and destroy any found. Another bar of queen cells can be grafted and introduced to the Cell Starting Colony provided a good frame of young bees is shaken into the Cell Starting Colony.

Day 9, 10, 11, 12: If you are not introducing a new bar every third day, leave colonies well alone but if you MUST have a peep to see how things are going, use no smoke and disturb the colonies as little as possible. See the sign hanging out the front entrance 'Bees at work; do not disturb.'

Day 13: Carefully check frame 3 and every corner of Cell Starting Colony for rogue queen cells due out tomorrow. If a rogue queen comes out first, your bar of cells could be completely demolished in a few hours.

Day 14: Prepare as many nuclei as you have queen cells to introduce on Day 15.

Day 15: Introduce your queen cells from the bar grafted on Day 6.

Also on Day 15: Carefully check Frame 3 and every corner of as much of the Cell Finishing Colony as is above the Queen excluded for rogue queen cells due to hatch tomorrow and destroy.

The Breeder Queen, Cell Starting Colony and Cell Finishing Colony will all need to be adequately fed unless there is a honey flow on. All colonies raising queens need a feeling of prosperity to thrive and be successful.

One phrase will come to your mind after you have projected your first queens on their journey and you are thinking of their projected arrival—'weather and circumstances permitting.'

This is the last article of this series and it will give 'Skep' very great pleasure to hear of your successes but should you have failure, you can be comforted by the knowledge that progress in this highly skilled craft has never come to anybody easily and your failure need only be a lash to drive you to further effort and final triumph. May you be rewarded with great joy in your experiments.

What Every Beginner Should Know About Bees

A new illustrated leaflet prepared by Auckland apiary instructor, C. G. Rope is really what it is titled. The information would be helpful to any beginner who can obtain a copy from offices of the Department of Agriculture.

Reflections . . .



from the
**Editor's
Desk**

Thoughts on Leaving Otago

On State Highway No. 1 a few miles south of the Waitaki River there stands on the roadside a stone cairn, and beside the cairn are two signposts which point north to the Equator and south to the Pole—the same distance either way. To find the gentler climate one must take the road leading north, to the lands where grapevines and citrus trees flourish and the grass grows all the year round.

Not all the advantages are to be found in the north. The road leading south from the cairn has its rewards. In Otago and Southland there is a grandeur of scenery which is uplifting, and serene Dunedin has a charm which is to be found nowhere else in New Zealand. Even the rugged climate gives a certain strength of character to the south and to a beekeeper the white clover pastures and the long summer days are something to remember.

In leaving one beautiful province to take up residence in another, we recall with gratitude the good earth of Otago and the many staunch friends who live there. It is fortunate that friendships extend far beyond provincial boundaries; and for that matter so do landscapes. We resolve to return some day to Otago—in the summertime.

THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

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Bees and Trees

The visit to Kenya of Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, a member of the Men of the Trees and of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association, recalls the inauguration of the society by the assistant Conservator of Forests, Mr. R. St. Barbe Baker, in Kikuyuland 40 years ago next month.

The society was formed to work for large-scale tree planing throughout the world and has members in 64 different countries.

Mr. Gumbrell is a neighbour of Mr. Baker in New Zealand.

He arrived at Nairobi Airport recently and was met by Mr. D. Q. Erskine and Chief Josiah Njonjo, who was Mr. Baker's interpreter at the first 'dance of the trees' at which the Men of the Trees was inaugurated on July 22, 1922, at Muguga, now appropriately enough the headquarters of the East African Forestry Research Organisation.

Mr. Baker is now director of Commonwealth and overseas activities of the society, which is to commemorate its 40th. anniversary by holding a conference in Berlin.

Correspondence

QUEEN-CAGE CANDY

To the Editor,
Dear Sir,

Your inquirer for a Queen-cage candy without honey will find an answer in Frank C. Pellett's book 'Practical Queen Rearing.'

'12lb. granulated sugar, 1½lb. candy-makers' glucose, 1¼ quarts water and 1-3 teaspoonful of cream of tartar. The cream of tartar and glucose are added to the water and heated together in a kettle. The sugar is added after the mixture comes to boil, stirring continually while putting in the sugar. After the sugar has all been dissolved, stop stirring and let it heat to 238 deg. Then remove from the fire and let cool to 120 deg. and stir again until it looks like paste, when it is ready for use.'

Yours, etc.,
CHRIS. DAWSON

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Agricultural Chemicals Board Report

continued from page 33]

always so freely available to me. I thank also our President, the General Secretary and Executive members for their interest and help throughout the year. It has been a privilege to serve you for another year. I trust that my efforts on your behalf may have contributed something towards your peace of mind and the preservation of your bees.

In closing, I would like to again emphasise that although Board members have been appointed because of specialised scientific knowledge, or as representatives of defined producer and manufacturing interests, the Board was never intended to operate as a meeting of sectional pressure groups. Co-operation in all aspects of this complex question has been the keynote right from the start, and without doubt this is the prime factor in the Board's successful operation. Representatives from the Beekeeping Industry must always be guided by this principle and act for the general welfare as well as the preservation of our own livelihood.

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



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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, P.O. Box 157, Havelock North, 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:

Bees providing a pollination service in a Hawkes Bay orchard. Commercial beekeepers have a busy time for a couple of weeks placing hives on temporary sites, and later shifting them away to the rolling inland country.

—Photo by Sefton Line

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