

**The
New Zealand
BEEKEEPER**

**February
1963**

The National Beekeepers' Association

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THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November, by
the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated)

J. McFadzien, Editor

Subscription,
8/- per annum, post free

Registered for transmission by post
as a Magazine

Volume 25

February 1963

Number 1

INDUSTRY ASSESSMENT

STATEMENT BY THE DOMINION PRESIDENT

There is nothing unique in the fact that the beekeeping industry in this country has been beset by a succession of problems and not a few crises. So have most other primary industries. There is no reason to suppose that this position will ever alter. New problems and difficulties constantly arise both in production and marketing.

Being by nature rugged individualists, beekeepers and the national bodies which represent them, have always endeavoured to overcome any setbacks themselves and to improve their position by dint of their own labours. Often however, the magnitude of the problems has exceeded the capability of the industry itself or else the problem has been inter-related with existing Government policy and because of this we have been obliged to seek the assistance of Government in its solution. Hardly a year goes by without either the Honey Marketing Authority or the Association's General Executive seeking the consideration of Government on some highly important matter.

By and large the history of these negotiations reflects credit on both Government and the industry's administrators. Invariably some solutions have been found and if not a complete answer they have at least gone part way and enabled the industry to keep afloat.

But is this enough? The complexity of problems tends to grow rather than diminish and mere survival can hardly be regarded as success!

If we look honestly at past negotiations with Government we see that both sides have tended to studiously confine themselves to the one problem of the day concentrating on the solution of that problem alone. That is, we have lived largely on a day-to-day basis and regard to the long-term future while often intended in negotiations has been either submerged in the considerations of the day or has been ineffective in practice because no real basic understanding existed between the two parties on the long-term future of the industry as a whole.

This then, is the background against which all of the industry's current and future problems are set. Neither Government nor the Beekeeper really knows where the industry is going.

In this knowledge and with a number of pressing problems awaiting solution, the Association Executive has offered Government its support in the undertaking of a full assessment designed to establish clearly the proper place and function of the honey industry and the role it should be playing in the agricultural and economic development of the country both now and in the foreseeable future.

That this matter is of vital importance to our future hardly needs emphasis. Nor will this be a case of the industry trying to impress Government with its own

importance. The assessment envisages the calling together of all available specialist knowledge from many fields, both local and overseas, and the ultimate promulgation of an authoritative non-partisan evaluation which will clearly point the road ahead.

It could well be that in the final analysis the industry is shown to be of lesser importance nationally than some of us have believed but if this is so at least everyone will know. Better to have the certain knowledge of future limitations than labour under a delusion of impending prosperity which never materialises.

One way or the other this comprehensive assessment of the industry's present and future role and prospects will establish a new starting point from which both Government and the industry's administrators may realistically tackle problems of today and tomorrow with a common ground of understanding and the greater certainty of success.

—J. R. BARBER, Dominion President, February 1, 1963.

Notice Board:

Executive Meeting

The next Meeting of the General Executive will be held in Wellington, probably on March 20 and 21. The Meeting will be timed to coincide with the Government meeting at present being planned to undertake a full assessment of the industry.

1963 Dominion Conference

Subject to confirmation the Annual Dominion Conference will be held this year in Oamaru, probably in July. Branches will be notified promptly when the dates and the venue are decided.

The North Otago Branch advises that the following Accommodation Houses are reasonably handy to the Hall where the Conference is expected to take place:

Empire Hotel, Thames Street (2-Star. Unlicensed).

North Otago Hotel, Thames Street. (Unlicensed).

Thompsons Guest House, 42 Wharf Street.

Anne Mieka Guest House, 47 Tees Street. (Bed and Breakfast).

O'Connell Guest House, 299 Thames Street (B. and B, £1 per day).

Rangimarie Guest House, Thames Street (B. and B. 22/6).

Nevada Guest House, 24 Coquet Street. (B. and B 22/6).

Camping Ground at Oamaru Gardens has Cabins available.

Morning and afternoon teas will be available at the Hall, also a 3-course midday meal at 5/- and a 3-course evening meal if sufficient require it.

Accommodation is limited so be early. £1 deposit is required with each booking.

If any assistance is required contact the North Otago Branch Secretary, Mr Stan Wilson, 2C R.D., Oamaru.

SCOPE OF SURVEY

The proposed discussions with the Department of Agriculture which were originally planned in October, have now been widened to take the form of a full assessment of the honey industry in New Zealand. Representatives of relevant sections of agriculture and of Government Departments will take part in making the assessment.

The scope of the survey is defined in the following broad objectives:—

(1) **To establish** clearly the proper place and function of the honey industry in New Zealand and the role it should be playing in the agricultural and economic development of the country both now and in the foreseeable future.

(2) **To determine** those factors which are limiting the achievement of this proper role.

(3) **To devise** ways and means of ensuring that the industry makes its full contribution to the country's welfare.

A detailed agenda is being prepared to cover these objectives in detail, and additional meetings will be arranged if they are considered necessary.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Special Meeting Costs

The Executive expresses appreciation for the following donations, received up till January 31, towards the cost of special meetings involved in the forthcoming Industry Assessment:—

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Nelson Branch | £2 2 0 |
| Canterbury Branch | £20 0 0 |
| Southland Branch | £ 7 10 0 |
| R. L. Holland and Co. Ltd. | £ 5 0 0 |
| South Auckland Branch | £20 0 0 |
| Mr. T. Gavin | £ 5 0 0 |
| Hawkes Bay Branch | £10 0 0 |
| Otago Branch | £ 2 2 0 |
| Anonymous Otago member | 10 0 |
| Far North Branch | £ 5 5 0 |
| Gore Branch | £10 0 0 |
| Mr. W. I. Haines | £ 5 5 0 |
| North Otago Branch | £ 2 10 0 |
| Total | £95 4 0 |

U.K. HONEY MARKET

A combination of cold weather in Britain and a shortage of some varieties has resulted in an extremely firm market for honey, reports the London Office of the Bank of New Zealand, 1/2/63.

White Clover is unchanged between 180s and 185s, with Extra Light Amber slightly weaker at 155s to 162s 6d. Light Amber is unchanged, fetching between 125s and 140s, but Medium Amber is quoted 102s 6d to 115s.

Australian Light Amber is 107s 6d and Argentine 104s c.i.f.

Personal

Mr. and Mrs. A. Ecroyd and Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Ecroyd, of Christchurch, leave for Australia on March 1 for a month's business-cum-holiday trip, and they plan to visit as many beekeepers as time permits. We trust that they will have an enjoyable and rewarding trip and hope on their return to hear news of progress amongst our fellow beekeepers across the Tasman.

Roy Paterson Retires

The retirement of Mr. C. R. Paterson removes a well known personality from active participation in beekeeping affairs. Early in his



career Roy kept bees commercially in North Otago where he was instrumental in forming the North Otago Branch and was Branch Secretary for some years before joining the

Department of Agriculture. As an officer of the Apiary Section he made a notable contribution to the development of beekeeping equipment and methods. The industry showed its appreciation of his services by making him a Life Member of the National Beekeepers' Association at the Annual Conference in 1961.

We wish Roy and Mrs. Paterson a happy retirement and we hope to see them at beekeeping functions from time to time.

Hillary Project

When Sir Edmund Hillary returns to the Himalayas in March he and his party will take materials for two schoolhouses on their 17-day trek into the mountains from Katmandu.

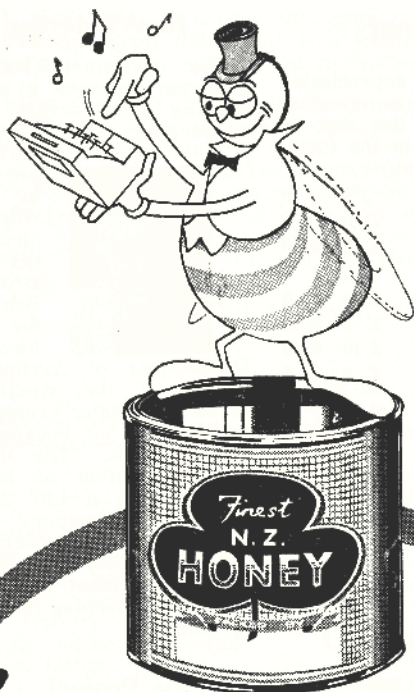
The construction of schoolhouses in two Sherpa villages will represent for Sir Edmund the fruition of a project he has had in mind since he and members of his 1961 Himalayan expedition built the first Sherpa school at the village of Khumjung, 12 miles from Everest.

Sir Edmund describes the building of this school as a gesture to repay the Sherpas in some small measure for the loyal and courageous service they have given over the years to many mountaineering expeditions.

GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE

A 64-page monthly Bee Magazine, generously illustrated, featuring timely articles on beekeeping practices in the U.S. Rates: One year, \$3.00; two years, \$5.50; three years, \$7.50. Sample copy on request.

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LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS

Explanation by Minister

Office of the Minister of Justice.
Wellington C.1,
January 14, 1963.

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

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 19 December concerning the introduction of the principle of absolute liability for motor vehicle accidents.

It is inaccurate to say that the Government is introducing legislation on this subject. What has happened is that on the recommendation of the Law Revision Committee, a special Committee has been set up to investigate all aspects of the matter and to obtain the factual information necessary for an informed judgment. Not until this Committee reports will the Government give any consideration to the desirability of changing the law in this respect, and it is of course open to any interested party to present submissions to the Committee.

I would, however, point out that liability in the absence of negligence is by no means unheard of in civil cases. It has long existed in the Workers Compensation field and what has been suggested is very broadly that the principles now applying to industrial accidents should apply to motor vehicle accidents. You say that this form of liability can benefit no one but the Insurance Companies. I should have thought that the real beneficiaries would be those who are injured by motor

vehicles and are at present unable to obtain any compensation.

J. R. HANAN,
Minister of Justice.

RETURNS FOR DARK HONEY

Investigation Sought

44 Baycroft Avenue,
Tauranga,
December 3, 1962.

Mr R. A. Fraser,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association,
P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

Dear Sir,—

I would like, on behalf of the Bay of Plenty Branch, to draw your attention to the possible financial difficulty experienced by Beekeepers in various parts of the North Island, because of the considerably reduced payout by the H.M.A. for the darker grades of honey. Beekeepers in these areas cannot continue to operate economically on this reduced return, and we feel it should be the concern of both Government and our industry generally. I would like this matter placed on the Agenda for full discussion at the next meeting of the Executive.

I am, yours faithfully,
D. A. BARROW,
President Bay of Plenty Branch.

INDIAN BEE JOURNAL

Know interesting facts concerning the Honey Bees of India. The only Bee Journal of India published in English. Subscription: Rs. 7.50. Managing Editor, E.A.R.1., New Delhi 12, India.

The Royal Visit

It has been a pleasure to New Zealanders to welcome Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh after a lapse of nine years since their former visit. Once again their high ideals and their understanding of this Dominion have been an inspiration to us as citizens in the British Commonwealth.

As they continue their journey we wish the Royal couple a successful tour and a safe return to their home and family.

G O D S A V E T H E Q U E E N

Conference Resolutions

The following comments on 1962 Conference Resolutions are contained in a letter received by the General Secretary from the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. B. E. Tallboys):—

1. That conference request Government that eradication of passion vine hopper be given top priority.

Government is regarding the control of passion vine hopper as a high priority. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has arranged for an entomologist, Dr. Cumber, to study in New Zealand the passion vine hopper and other insects associated with it to check whether a parasite for the hopper is present in this country. It is then intended that Dr. Cumber visit Australia this summer in his search for a suitable parasite to achieve biological control of the hopper without any unforeseen adverse effects on beneficial insects.

2. That tutu be put on No. 1 Schedule of the Noxious Weeds Act and its eradication speeded up.

I do not accept that the placing of tutu in the schedule of the Noxious Weeds Act will achieve the objective desired by beekeepers. Gazetting tutu as a noxious weed is only the initial step. This would enable local authorities to take action if they considered it warranted. If beekeepers induced local authorities to eradicate tutu it would probably result in compulsion being applied to farmers. As the beekeeper is the farmer's client such action is more likely to create friction rather than to retain the co-operation which must exist between farmers and beekeepers.

In view of the possibility of control by biological methods it is considered wiser to defer consideration of this proposal.

3. That this conference views with concern the decision of the Authorities to proceed with extensive plantings of tutu for soil stabilisation and would urge the use of a plant that is not harmful to the industry.

The planting of tutu as an earth stabiliser was commenced before its association with the current toxicity problem was recognised by those concerned with the planting. Tutu is grow-

ing and is established naturally in the areas where such plantings have been made. It is probable that the tutu is only likely to create a problem in association with passion vine hoppers in the warmer parts of the country as hoppers appear less numerous in districts subject to frost. The use of alternative species of trees for earth stabilising purposes is being encouraged and I am recommending to my colleague, the Minister of Lands, that the planting of tutu cease.

4. 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.

It is agreed that additional research on this problem is required but no assurance can be given that extensive research can be undertaken at present.

5. That after an inspection of a commercial apiary by an Inspector the Department of Agriculture advise the owner within 7 days.

Whenever some action is required to be taken by the beekeeper he should be advised accordingly by the Apiary Instructor. However, if no action is required it is considered unnecessary to make it mandatory for Inspectors or Inspectors to advise beekeepers.

6. This Conference urges the Minister of Agriculture to have the apiary section so constituted that the Apiary staff be under the direct supervision of and responsible to the Superintendent, Beekeeping.

This proposal is at present being considered by the Director General of the department.

7. That in view of the frequency of partially incorrect information concerning beekeeping in various publications those giving information ask for proofs of copy before publication.

This is standard practice with departmental publications but Government cannot accept responsibility for non-Governmental publications and cannot ensure that its officers receive from outside publishers the courtesy of sight-ing proofs.

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Horticulture Division



HONEY CROP PROSPECTS: 1962-63

Reports from Apiary Instructors indicate that the total production of honey this season is likely to be average.

Crops in Marlborough, North Otago and Central Otago districts will be above average. A crop well above average has been secured in Canterbury and the bees are still gathering in some districts.

In Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay and the Palmerston North-Manawatu districts crops are below average, but are likely to become average or better if there is more favourable weather during the remainder of the season.

An average crop is expected in Southland, but in Northland, Waikato, Taranaki, Westland and Nelson crops will be below average.

In most South Island districts the yields from pasture sources have been the best for several years and most of the honey produced is of the light colour grades.

Staff:

Mr. C. R. Paterson, Apiculturist, Hamilton, retired from the Department in December, 1962.

Mr. Paterson joined the Department as Apiary Instructor at Greymouth in 1938, and was transferred to Hamilton in 1940. Since his appointment to the position of Apiculturist Mr. Paterson has specialised in development of improved honey houses and equipment for processing and packing honey, mechanical labour saving aids and the designing of Apiary Show Exhibits. Other important work undertaken has included field trials and experiments in connection with the problems associated with production of honey.

Mr. Paterson's record of achievement in these services is appreciated by the Department and he leaves with our sincere wishes for health and happiness in his well earned retirement.

Mr. R. S. Walsh, Apiary Instructor, Auckland, has been appointed to the position of Apiculturist, with headquarters at Auckland. Mr. Walsh will be a specialist advisory officer and will concentrate on the department's field investigation and experimental work in all apiary districts in the North Island.

Mr. C. G. Rope is now Apiary Instructor in charge of the Auckland Apiary district and all local matters relating to this district should be directed to him.

Mr. G. L. Jeffery, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Gore, resigns from the service of the Department at the end of March to take up commercial beekeeping in the North Otago district. He leaves the service with our best wishes for success in his new undertaking and appreciation of his assistance to the Beekeeping Industry and to the Department.

Mr. R. H. Hobbs, Apiary Instructor, Greymouth, has been transferred to Gore to fill the vacancy for the Southland Apiary District and will take up his new duties in April.

As from April 1, 1963, Mr. L. A. M. Griffin, Apiary Instructor, Christchurch, will attend to apiary inspection and any urgent matters at Greymouth periodically until a new appointment is made to fill the vacancy for this district. Meantime, beekeepers in the Westland, Nelson and Marlborough districts should continue to address all correspondence to the Apiary Instructor at Greymouth as usual.

E. SMAELLIE,
Superintendent, Beekeeping.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Honey Marketing Authority

ANNUAL CIRCULAR

In the interests of economy the 1962-63 Annual Circular of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority has not been sent to registered suppliers with whom there has been no contact for eight years. A further change in procedure is to send only current information and omit the lengthy document detailing the "Conditions of Receipt."

All suppliers or prospective suppliers are reminded that both these documents are available from the Auckland Office of the Honey Marketing Authority upon application.

It is also recommended that suppliers renewing their association with the Authority after a gap of several years should write to the Authority for confirmation of their Suppliers Number and general procedure.

ATTENTION!

South Island White Clover Honey Suppliers

Orders for Cartons: The response to the introduction of the single lid and carton has been very encouraging and it has been necessary to place on order additional supplies of this container. Prospective suppliers are advised that further orders will be accepted any time during the supply season.

Marks on Cartons: It is not necessary to stencil on cartons HMA over A. The only marks required are the suppliers number and extraction mark.

Delivery: Early delivery of supplies of honey in the new carton would be greatly appreciated as the United Kingdom market is practically bare of white honey and buyers are anxiously awaiting the appearance of the new pack.

C. T. GOSSE, General Manager N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland C.1.

REGULATIONS AMENDED

New Levy System

Amendment No. 6 to the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953, came into force on November 21, 1962. Copies of the Amendment are obtainable from the Government Printer, Wellington, price 6d each, and any inquiries concerning the administration of the Amendment may be addressed to the General Manager, N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

EFFECTS OF THE AMENDMENT

Regulations 1 to 5 provide for a different method of assessing the levy payable under the principal Regulations and abolish the method of indicating the payment of the levy by the affixing of seals, as follows:—

- (a) The levy payable on packs of odd weights is no longer restricted to calculation to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ d or 1d above but may be calculated to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Example: Levy payable on:

- (1) A 10oz pack would be $\frac{5}{8}$ d.
(2) A 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb pack would be 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
- (b) Honey sold at the apiary in containers containing more than 10lb of honey will be exempt with no proviso as to soliciting by advertisement.
- (c) After a period of six months adhesive seals will no longer be used to indicate payment of the levy. Payment will then be indicated by the following means:—

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(1) **Waxed Cardboard Pottles.**

The system of stamped lids will be retained but if any packer wishes to print a Seals Authority on the pottle itself then this can be arranged with the Authority.

(2) **All Other Containers.**

It will be necessary to have printed on the label of the container a Seals Authority. This authority may be granted to the manufacturer in cases where a label is embossed or lithographed on to a container or its lid or by a printer where a paper or any form of printed self adhesive label is affixed to the container.

It should be noted that it is illegal under the Food and Drugs Act to display honey for sale without a label.

The procedure for issue of an authority is to apply to the Authority giving full particulars of the **name and address** of the firm who is to print the authority. The Authority will then advise the printer direct of the Seals Authority Number and the conditions of its use. Upon advice of delivery of containers, lids or labels by the manufacturers or printers the packer will be invoiced by the Authority for the amount of the Seals Levy.

Credit arrangements as outlined in Clause 10 of the "Conditions for Receipt of Honey and Seals Levy requirements" will still apply.

(d) Where it becomes necessary to alter existing printing blocks in order to incorporate a Seals Authority Number the Authority will consider applications to compensate the packer for costs incurred. When applying to the

Authority for such compensation it will be necessary to submit a proof of the proposed alteration to the blocks and the cost quoted by the printer or manufacturer.

(e) If a packer has large quantities of paper labels on hand after the expiration of six months then application may be made to the Authority for permission to continue using adhesive seals after date or alternatively the labels may be sent in to the Authority for franking.

(f) If a packer has large quantities of lithographed 5lb tins on hand after the expiration of six months then application may be made to the Authority for permission to continue using adhesive seals after that date.

(g) Adhesive seals will be repurchased by the Authority at any time.

REGULATION 6 increases, from £1000 to £1300, the amount payable out of the Honey Industry account to the National Beekeepers' Association.

REGULATION 7 prescribes August 31 as the end of the financial year of the Honey Marketing Authority.

REGULATION 8 rewrites the provisions of the principal Regulations relating to the inspection of books.

REGULATION 9 makes new provisions relating to voting for members of the Authority. Voting power is to be determined by the amount of honey supplied, or the amount of levy paid, during the preceding two years.

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BAY OF PLENTY

Beekcepers had their first meeting of the New Year on January 12 to make arrangements for the forthcoming Field Day on Saturday, February 16.

The honey season has been a most trying one, with continuing wet weather right up till Christmas. Something like 120 to 140 inches of rain was recorded for the 12 months in many parts of the district. Due to the wet conditions it has been a problem getting hives up to the required strength for the main flow. Where beekcepers have been able to maintain colony strength, and with the better weather experienced since Christmas, average crops of honey appear likely.

—Don Barrow, 22/1/63.

HAWKES BAY

With the continued fine weather throughout Hawkes Bay all bees in the area seem to be working "overtime" and the season shows promise of being a very good one, with the possibility of record crops in some areas.

At a recent evening "get-together" members had the pleasure of meeting and welcoming our Editor, and of viewing the colour-slides of George Gordon's trip to the Games, and Percy Berry's visit to Mexico.

F. D. Maultsайд, 1/2/63.

NELSON

The Nelson Branch held a very successful Field Day on November 10. There were 32 present, among whom we were pleased to welcome Mr. Langbien, a visitor from Auckland. Four new members were enrolled.

The weather was splendid but a little windy. Our Apiary Instructor, Mr.

Hobbs, spoke on Queen Raising and demonstrated from a hive. Other items of interest were a display of "gadgets" explained to younger members by the President, Mr. C. Bell, and a demonstration of the Ward Loader by Mr. L. T. Cropp. A social hour was enjoyed over afternoon tea.

The "pollination" negotiations earlier in the year were not in vain. Orchardists met the increase to £3 per hive rather than lose the pollination service altogether.

We look forward to a visit from Mr. I. Forster in the near future, having already enjoyed the pleasure of his visit last winter.

—Ila M. Cropp.

CANTERBURY

The season is practically over except for the possibility of additional stores which could be gathered in February. Normally there is more honey gathered after Christmas than before but it was not the case this year. Many producers had honey off by Christmas—certainly the earliest for many years—in anticipation of that "bumper" crop, but the necessary rain came just two weeks too late. However, an average crop after three out of four "duds" has satisfied most of us. Unfortunately the North Canterbury chaps were well down again as the rains petered out north of Christchurch. The quality of the honey is the best for some years and drier than usual. Viper's buglos, thistle and catsear have been welcome additional sources of nectar and should yield for a while yet.

—J.K.B.

NORTH OTAGO

With good rains early and extreme heat at the right time North Otago has turned on a crop above average for a change. This has been long overdue and is very welcome. A good

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

rain could still work wonders as an average thistle flow is still in the making.

Our Field Day is under way for February 23 in the Kurow area with a good program arranged.

—Stan Wilson, 28/1/63.

GORE-SOUTHLAND

The Gore and Southland Branches held their combined Field Day on Saturday, February 2, at Dolamore Park, an attractive spot at the foot of the Hokonui Hills. The children spent the day disporting themselves in the paddling pool, on the swings, slides and kindred amenities, while their elders were content to relax in the shade. The weather, the attendance and the place were all in keeping with what has been a most favourable season in Southland, as elsewhere in the South Island.

Vice-President Douglas Todd welcomed visitors from all parts of Otago, North Otago, South Canterbury and Canterbury, and made special reference to the presence of Mr W. Caldwell,

an original member of the Southland Branch. Also warmly welcomed were Mr Gordon, M.P. for Clutha, and his colleague, Mr Pickering, of Hurunui, Mr Gumbrell, H.M.A. chairman, and Mr Cloake, an Executive member, and Mr Smaellie, the Superintendent of Beekeeping.

Mr Gordon, in declaring the field day open, said he had brought his friend Mr Pickering South "to show him some decent sheep" but he had also been able to show him "some fair fields of clover" so he presumed we met in an atmosphere of prosperity.

Mr Gumbrell and Mr J. W. Fraser covered the H.M.A. ground (no questions) and Mr Cloake brought us up to date on Executive activity (no discussion).

Mr Smaellie spoke on Departmental matters, announcing our loss by the resignation of Mr Jeffery, and his replacement by Mr Hobbs, at present on the West Coast. (Welcome, Dick, we look forward to seeing you).

With the aid of several fearsome charts, our late instructor, Mr Jefferys, gave an interesting account of the principles and hazards involved in line breeding and the breeding of hybrid strains or queen bees.

In thanking Gary for his address, Mr Todd offered the districts thanks for a good job well done during his time here, and our best wishes for his future success as a beekeeper.

(Casual Reporter).



A Tall Order

The destruction of wild colonies in lofty churches is often beyond the resources of the average beekeeper or apiary instructor unless he has the co-operation of the local fire brigade or power board. In this case the bees entrenched themselves high up in the gable of this church at Porangahau, Hawkes Bay, and the power board came to light with an extension ladder. The top of a normal ladder is just visible at bottom right.

Holes were bored in the soffit to take the spout of the smoker. One or two "smoke bombs" were placed in the smoker and the gas injected into the gable, and that was the end of these particular bees.

— Photo by Sefton Line

Meet Sefton Line



Many of our readers will need no introduction to Mr. Sefton (Syd) Line, Apiary Instructor at Hastings and formerly at Invercargill, and all will be familiar with the oft-repeated acknowledgement "Photo by Sefton Line." We

take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Line for his interest in "The N.Z. Beekeeper" and for his many contributions of photographs and other items. As well as being a keen student of beekeeping and photography Mr. Line is a man of wide interests and has a genial personality and a flare for original thinking. In Branch activities his generosity is a by-word in Hawkes Bay, as it was in the south, and in any situation where ideas are required Syd has never been known to fail.

Exporting Comb Honey

Comb honey may be exported from New Zealand by the producer, subject to permit, Government grading, and approval of packaging.

In packing comb honey for export this season the firm of Arataki Apiaries Ltd. in Hawkes Bay has used large crates, each holding 2400 sections of honey. Measuring just over four feet each way the crates are made of one-inch dressed T. & G. timber within a framework of angle iron, and resting on runners which act as a pallet for a fork-lift truck. The sections are first packed in corrugated cardboard cartons, each holding one dozen sections, and 200 cartons are then packed neatly into each crate.

A feature of this form of packaging is that the crates are too heavy to be man-handled and are specially designed for motorised lifting and transport.

Although this is a new method of packing there has been a considerable export trade in comb honey for some years. It has been developed successfully by the beekeepers of Northland to whom Arataki Apiaries Ltd. expresses appreciation for advice and assistance received.

Dominion Ride

by

Richard St. Barbe Baker, F.I.A.L.,
Silviculturist For. Dip. Cantab.

The success of the William Cobbett Ride in Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex when talks on trees were given to sixty schools in 15 days to 20,000 children, prompted the more ambitious venture from the most northerly kauri to the most southerly one—from Cape Reinga to Invercargill.

During the first three months of the Dominion Ride 750 miles were covered with my fine horse Rajah and talks on trees were given to 60,000 school-children. The significance of Arbor Day was a favourite theme and frequently short poems on tree planting were taught to the younger children.

(A most enjoyable visit was paid to a fellow beekeeper, Mr. A. R. Palmer, of Palmer's Apiaries, Dargaville, who proved to be a real friend).

In addition lectures were given for the United Nations Association when Sahara reclamation was presented as the long term solution to freedom from hunger. It has been estimated that after eight years of concerted action by all the Member States of the United Nations, homes and food could be found for 100 million people now threatened by starvation.

The weapons for this battle against the desert are not guns but trees . . . Trees will hold the sands and keep them from drifting; trees will produce life-giving humus; trees will precipitate moisture for they are an essential link in the water cycle. Without trees rain-bearing clouds evaporate over the desert. With trees to reinforce by their transpiration the already moisture-laden clouds, the rains fall; the natural water circulation proceeds and the desert will bloom.

Rajah is now enjoying a rest and good grazing at Fairlie in Mr. Murphy's paddock and will be ready to continue the Ride after the Christmas holidays when the schools resume.

Honey on Porridge

Just try putting a big blob on your breakfast porridge. Let it melt a bit, and then pour on creamy milk.

An Interlude in Honey Land

By J.K.B.

Twelve months ago during the worst of dud seasons, two innocent Canterbury beekeepers accepted the invitation of a West Coaster to assist in the "robbing" of his hives, and set out one warm sunny Sunday afternoon with a load of honey tins, parkas, gumboots and all sorts of equipment that "might be handy," including two pairs of gloves. In Canterbury, gloves are scorned, absolutely unheard of. In fact we don't wear veils and get around in shorts during the summer months—well, some of us do, anyway.

The rata was still flowering at the top of Arthur's Pass and hives, sixty odd to an apiary, all the way down the Teramakau valley looked prosperous and harmless. It rained that afternoon (a shower by West Coast standards but probably a couple of inches) and that was all the rain we had during the week we were there. Come Monday morning we rolled up our sleeves and set to work to brush a load of honey to get the plant going. For the first 10 minutes or so these bees must have been struck dumb at our audacity for we soon had about 20 supers on the truck and hardly more than 10 stings apiece. But then the tempo increased and it was not long before we had literally taken to the bush, to return only when we had donned gloves, gumboots, combination overalls (white zip ones are the best) and thick jerseys. Then it became a race against time, time when we ceased robbing and were robbed. With half the apiary robbed and the rest escaped we cleared off to the honey house and set to work. We soon developed a technique with this robbing business. We had to, as it was a case of survival. Have you ever had bees beating at your veil so thickly that you thought a cloud had come over the sun? Well, that is what it is like in one of those apiaries. The Italians are O.K. and the full blacks not so bad, but it's those hybrids! We had heard of animals being stung to death but we were determined to survive. The longer we were in the apiary the less our chances, so the first requisite was speed.

The drill was as follows:—1 when 200 yards from the apiary wind up all windows; 2 Survey situation from cab of truck and know exactly what you

are going to do before leaving its sanctuary. 3 park truck ready turned for a quick take-off. Have all protective clothing adjusted correctly and with a match in hand, dive out of truck and close door. Light smoker and do not attempt to touch a hive until it (the smoker) is belching smoke. 4 load up quickly, leaving escapes until load is ready and roped (no more than three high as the tracks are really rough). 5 remove escapes and dive into cab. Drive a mile down the road while squashing bees in cab. Remove gloves and veils and dry face with towel. 6 at the honey house sweep up dead bees from cab floor for the compost heap. By about Thursday we found the best time to put escapes on and take the honey off was at night and one night it was accomplished without veils! I was asked how I would requen the hives. My reply was, gas them and start again. Back in the honey house we had time to recuperate and sample the nectar of the bush. Pure rata is a delightful honey, white as snow with a wonderfully fine grain. It grades around the 100 points and commands top prices overseas. Unfortunately, other bush sources, notably kamahi, are difficult to separate and tend to down grade it. Access to areas and access to apiary sites are problems but increased production will continue to play its part in the future development of the Coast. But the Coast beekeeper has an enemy yet to be beaten—the opossum. Whole mountain sides are dotted with dead rata trees, killed by opossums eating the young shoots until the trees die. It is a national problem which is going to cost the country millions of pounds as time goes on. We enjoyed our stay, we dreaded the bees, we liked the people for their hospitality, and the scenery was superb. Who knows, we might even be invited back—and we'll probably go!

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Notes for Beginners

By Skep



HONEY HARVESTING

When taking off the honey, thought should be given to next season's honey crop because enough stores must be left on the hive to carry the colony through to next season's main honey flow unless the colonies are going to be fed artificially. One of the skills of the successful honey-farmer is in knowing the correct amount to leave on each colony in each area. There are no rules because each apiary has its own particular requirements and knowledge of the various apiary sites is accumulated over a number of years. While one area will winter well on a half super of stores, another area will need a super and a half. Many beekeepers leave not less than one full super of sealed stores and the beginner does well to leave this much or more. If you leave too much, the honey will still be there next season but if you leave too little, next season there will be no honey and no bees.

Vividly do I remember watching the honey grow in my first hive until that wonderful day when I was able to take the first honey. Carefully I lifted out two frames, ivory white and capped all over. To my eyes there never was anything more beautiful. With a feather I brushed off every bee and then took the results of thousands of bee-hours work into our cellar. Awaiting me was a washed sugar bag and my wife's baking bowl. The honey was soon cut from the frame and crushed in the bag. Shortly a stream of liquid sunshine began flowing into the bowl and all the failures of the past were forgotten in that flush of success. An hour later we all piled into the car and when 25 miles away, while basking with the family beside the river I suddenly remembered that honey flowing into the baking bowl. Surely it would be flowing over the top! and I had to reach the nearest telephone to ask a neighbour to change the baking bowl for something

larger. This he agreed to do. When we arrived home early that evening I rushed to the cellar to find that the baking bowl was only half full and golden honey was lazily flowing from the lowest corner of the bag. (A sugar bag is not the best for straining honey). Since then, many harvests have come and gone but none has ever given the thrill of that first exciting crop.

METHODS OF HARVESTING

1. Shake and Brush: Each frame is lifted from the super and shaken either in front of the hive or on top and quickly brushed and placed in a spare super near at hand. As each super is emptied, it is used to hold the frames from the next super.

2. Shake and Tap: Each frame is lifted out and the bees shaken off but the final shake hits the top of the super and the bees fall off. This system is impossible with some breeds of bees because they cling too tightly to the surface of the comb.

3. Brush over Chute: An empty super is fitted with a shiny tin chute which has a lower exit one inch wide by twelve inches long. Two inches of the lower edge of one end of the super are removed to allow the bees to escape. This super is placed in front of the hive with the escape gap facing the hive entrance. The super of honey is placed on top of this special chute, one frame of honey is removed and then as each frame is opened up, the bees are brushed off the comb. They fall down the chute, find themselves at their own front door and march in.

4. Smoking Down: Billows of smoke are pumped down between the frames as they sit on the hive and the bees flee in the face of this onslaught of threatened death. The super is then taken complete with no further attention. This method has the disadvantage of sometimes tainting the honey. The system is made easier if the supers have been cracked apart the day before.

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5. Clearing Boards: A Clearing Board has a way for the bees travelling down but no way for them to come up. Some are fitted with "bee escapes" and some are designed with two layers so that the bees travel down through large holes in the centre of the top layer and small holes at the edge of the lower layer. While the bees are able to find their way down, they rarely find their way up. A super of honey and bees placed over one of these Clearing Boards will usually be clear of bees the next day or the day after. It is very important that there are no holes anywhere for bees to get in and rob out the deserted combs. This method is a good way of harvesting but it means two visits and also the lifting of the full super to slip the Clearing Board in is not easy.

6. Taking Supers with Bees: The super to be harvested is removed as it is with honey and bees and loaded on to the truck. On arrival at the honey house, the supers are stacked with spacers between. The room is closed up and made quite dark except

one high window which has ample room for the bees to escape but they cannot return. Outside this window is a healthy Queenright colony stocked with extracted supers, and all the flying bees lost and full of honey are welcomed to their new home. When the apiarist next goes to an outyard, he takes several supers of bees to add to hives.

7. Moving Super behind Hive: The super is lifted off its colony and placed a short distance behind the hive. It is then smoked through the frames or shaken and the bees fly helter skelter for home.

8. Phenol Pad: This method requires very special care and skill for in using it much damage can be done to beekeeper and crop. Bees will march quickly in the face of the smell of carbolic and after a blanket which has been soaked in a diluted solution is placed on a hive on a hot day, the whole colony will march out the front entrance. Even skilled apiarists sometimes have their honey rejected after this method has been used. You have been warned!

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9. Gassing Off: There are several methods of removing the honey crop by using gas and they all are fraught with danger to the health and life of the beekeeper. They must be used in a breeze and they require expert handling and the greatest care.

10. Compressed Air: Since being described in "The American Bee Journal," this method has attracted considerable attention and although I have not seen it in operation, the theory sounds reasonable and quite likely to be successful. It is described in an article on Page 22.

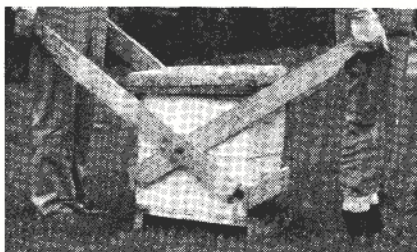
NOW THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

Some of us who are not so young as we used to be always welcome an idea that makes our beekeeping easier on the back and this beekeeper's hod takes the strain out of moving hives.

Two pairs of handles scissors on an axle where the handles cross and as the handles are lifted, they squeeze the load holding it firmly. The heavier the load the more tightly it is held and lifting hives up to four storeys is quite easy.

WORTH LOOKING INTO

A book worth looking into is "Honey Farming," by R. O. B. Manley: Of all the writers on Bees, Honey and Beekeeping in the United Kingdom, none has displayed the forthrightness of this writer. Few U.K. Beekeepers seem to have shaken themselves free of the old-fashioned methods but Manley has adopted modern methods and a new approach to Honey Farming with the result that he is now one of the most extensive commercial apiarists in the British Isles. He writes in a vigorous fashion that makes a



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most interesting book which will be enjoyed equally by beginner and commercial apiarist.

A Reader Writes. A letter has been received from a reader commenting on "Skep's" Notes of last issue. He states "Skep made two mistakes. First, the Langstroth supers are made for ten frames and there should be ten below the excluder. Second, in advocating an extra deep bottom box he is getting away from standard gear. A **standard** box nailed on to a **standard** bottom board gets the same result." First of all I want to thank the reader for writing. The person who disagrees with something shows that he has read it and formed an opinion but the person who takes the trouble to write and state his views has my greatest admiration and I want him to know it is really appreciated. There is nothing more appreciated to one's pride, after taking all the care and thought to write something to hear, at a Field Day, one beekeeper say to his friend: "What did you think of so and so in the Beekeeper Journal last issue?" and his friend replies, "Mine is still in the wrapper on the mantelpiece—must look at it when I get home!"

Now to answer the correspondent: Far be it from me to suggest that our reader would be more successful if he adopted the 9 frame super for a brood nest but from my observations of several successful beekeepers at work and from my own activities I have concluded that nine frames in a ten frame super is the more practicable.

To the second comment I would say that there is no doubt about the better of the two methods. The bottom super suffers most through dampness and the less cracks for the weather to get in the better. If a **standard** super is going to be nailed on a **standard** bottom board, there are many more places for the weather to get in and if these two **standard** pieces of equipment are going to spend their days of usefulness doing this job, they would do the job longer and better if they were specially made for the purpose. To make the **standard** bottom board and super takes eleven pieces of timber and 35 nails. To make the one piece bottom super takes eight pieces of timber and 32 nails and less time in making.

LETTER FROM WESTERN GERMANY

Hans KOGEL,
Niendorf,
Post Hamburg-Niendorf,
Germany,
October 30, 1962.

Mr R. A. Fraser,
General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Association
of N.Z. (Inc.),

P.O. Box 19,
Foxton.

Dear Mr. Fraser,

For some years I have been subscribing from the other side of the world to your apiarists' paper, "The New Zealand Beekeeper." The subscription expires in August, 1962, as you have kindly advised me.

I would like to continue subscribing to this interesting paper and would like to request you to forward it to me in the future for the DM 50.—I am sending.

My branch of business is the shipment of pure imported honey to many thousand private customers. In West Germany we have unfortunately not such productive yields that we can boast of great successes. The average yield amounts to 15 kilo per swarm. Our yield is rape, linden, clover, heather. However, we have a large annual consumption of honey at the rate of 700g. per person over a population of 56 millions. Last year Germany imported 37,000 tons, of which unfortunately only a small part originated from your country. Argentina, Mexico, Australia are our suppliers for large regular yields, whilst I still remember with pleasure the "Neuseeland Klec" (New Zealand clover) which arrived here a few years ago.

I would be happy if we could pass the next years in peace, now that the Cuban crisis has apparently come to an end.

With best wishes for your good health and for many more years' pleasure in our bees.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. KOGEL

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We thank Mr. Kogel for his interesting comments and we have pleasure in reciprocating his good wishes.)



Apiary of Nucleus Hives

Here we see George Gordon of Hastings checking his young queens before taking the nucleus colonies to out-apiaries to unite with the hives. Introducing nuclei to the weaker colonies is a steady job through the spring. Then more young queens are raised after the honey is extracted.

These three-frame boxes are made up of half-inch timber and when nailed up they are dipped into hot paraffin wax — both the body and the lid. This treatment reduces shrinkage to a minimum and the roof is thereby waterproofed sufficiently without iron or malthoid.

— Photo by Sefton Line

Blow the Bees Out

An article in the American Bee Journal by Walter Sunberg tells how he used an air compressor to remove the bees from the supers. The tank of the compressor had a capacity of 15 gallons, the pump capacity of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cu.ft. per minute and the gasoline motor was a $3\frac{1}{4}$ h.p. motor. The pressure of the air was between 50-60 pounds. The nozzle used is just an ordinary blow gun nozzle such as repairmen use in garages.

By tipping the supers on their end on top of the hive and blowing the air through from the top-bar side, the bees either dropped to the ground or flew into the entrance. No injury to the bees was noticeable and it did not seem

to anger them any more than usual.

"If the supers were full and burr comb bad," Mr. Sunberg says, "we always go to the yard the day before and crack the supers and put a lifter between them so as to let the bees clean up the honey, otherwise they would stick to the honey when blown through the super."

One advantage at least will be that there will be no danger of contaminating the honey even if it should take a little longer.

Mr. Sunberg suggested that there may be better systems for providing compressed air. Maybe a compressor could be found that would operate from a truck motor or a truck equipped with air brakes may have air volume enough to be used for this.

World News

International Congress

The XIX International Beekeeping Congress is to be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on August 12-18, 1963.

Australia

Two and a half years after Mr. Keith Mitchell suggested his two-point Honey Marketing Plan the Commonwealth Parliament has now passed legislation to implement the scheme. The two points are:—

(1) A levy of 1/2d per pound on local sales of honey to finance a sales promotion campaign in Australia.

(2) A regulatory non-trading authority to control exports in an effort to eliminate price cutting among Australian exporters.

M. J. Deyell Retires

"Gleanings in Bee Culture" announces the retirement of its well known Editor, Mr. M. J. Deyell. During his 28 years as Editor, Mr. Deyell made friends the world over and his writings, particularly his Talks to Beekeepers, contained not only a wealth of learning in beecraft but also a warm human philosophy which will long be remembered.

Mr. Deyell was the fourth in a distinguished line of Editors since Gleanings was founded in 1873—A. I. Root, E. R. Root, G. S. Demuth, and M. J. Deyell. The new Editor is Mr. J. H. Happ, already well known to readers of Gleanings.

In his retirement Mr. Deyell will have the designation of Senior Editor and Consultant for the Gleanings staff.

Death of R. E. Snodgrass

The well-known entomologist Robert Evans Snodgrass died on September 15, 1962, at his home in Washington, D.C.

It was typical of Snodgrass that, although over 80 years of age, he was still at work the day before his death as collaborator at the Smithsonian Institution preparing a handbook on insect morphology for students. He had over 80 books and articles published. Perhaps his most important book was "Principles of Insect Morphology" (1935).

In beekeeping circles he was best known for his book "Anatomy and Physiology of the Honey Bee." In this field he was regarded as a world authority and his drawings of honey bee anatomy appeared in almost all bee books.

A Honey Swindle

From Spain it is reported that four men who promised honey to 974 subscribers in their beekeeping company face sentences totalling 8000 years' imprisonment in Guadalajara for fraud.

The prosecution is asking the maximum penalty of three years in each case of deceit and nine years in each case of swindle.

It is alleged that the four men, who formed their company 14 years ago, defrauded the investors of nearly 5,000,000 pesetas (about £35,000).

To those who subscribed 700 pesetas, the company promised about 22 pounds of honey or its value in cash. For this the company needed 11,000 hives but never had more than 2,000, the prosecution alleges.

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A Cool Bee Veil

Last summer I accidentally stumbled upon an excellent system for keeping cool on hot days. I had been taking honey off for two hours and was dripping with perspiration. Under the veil, my face was sweating profusely, and the perspiration was pouring into my eyes making good vision difficult. I began to feel the early symptoms of a heat stroke coming on. The thought flashed through my scorched brain that maybe I should be following some line of endeavour less strenuous than bee-keeping. Finally I could not take any more. A little rest period would be necessary if I intended to survive the ordeal. I sat down in the shade alongside an irrigation drainage canal which flows past one corner of my bee yard. Reaching down, I splashed some of the cooling water on my clothing. Then it came to me, why not splash nice cool water on the veil also? I removed the bee veil and completely submerged it, hat and all, put it back on, and continued struggling with the supers. I want to tell all you bee men that a soaked veil will keep you many degrees cooler. Just the slightest breeze passing through the saturated screenwire and cloth material of the veil will keep you comfortable. A soaked veil is comparable to an open air cooler in that it functions on the same principles. The veil will have to be immersed about every 20 minutes to retain its cooling effects, but the extra effort required to do this is well worth the time. I sincerely hope that everyone who reads this article will try dunking their veils just once. Those who do will surely be pleased with the results. It certainly has made my toiling under the sun easier to endure.

—W. McKinley, in "Gleanings."

Late Branch Report

SOUTH AUCKLAND

The South Auckland Branch Field Day will be held at Opal Springs, Matamata, on March 16, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

Preliminary notice is given of a "Beekeeping School" on July 8. Further details in the next issue of the Journal.

The season in South Auckland has been below average to poor. Some areas are still getting a slow late flow. Good crops of bush honey are reported in some places. —Norman Tuck.



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Beekeeping in Greece

By G. SELIANAKIS

Conditions are very favourable in Greece for bees and beekeeping has been cultivated in our country since the very ancient years.

Today beekeeping occupies some 46,000 Greeks, of whom 10,000 professionally.

Greek apiculture disposes some 800,000 beehives of which at least 500,000 are of modern type (Langstroth).

The average yearly output of each of the above hives is approximately 12 Kgs of honey for the modern type and 5 Kgs for the old fashioned locally made. We thus have a yearly production of about 7500 tons of Greek honey.

QUALITIES OF GREEK HONEY

(a) The best Greek Honey is from thyme, which blossoms in the Aegean islands and Sterea Hellas, mainly in Attiki (the district of Athens) where there is produced the famous honey Hemyttus. (Hemyttus is the name of a mountain nearby Athens, covered with thyme).

Thyme honey goes to the wholesale market at approximately U.S. \$ 900 per ton. It has a light amber colour and a distinctive smell of thyme. It never granulates and it is considered the best honey in the world. The average production of this quality is about 800 tons yearly.

(b) Another Greek honey is that produced from various wild flowers appearing in different parts of our country. The average yearly production of this quality is estimated at 2000 tons. Wholesale price U.S. \$500 per ton.

(c) There is also produced the honey from coniferous trees and the fir tree. This quality is mainly produced in the island of Evoia, in central Peloponissos and in central Macedonia. Average yearly production 1400 tons. Average wholesale price U.S. \$400 per ton.

(d) Last comes the honey from arbut trees. Just about the same districts of production as the preceding one. Average yearly production 1400 tons. Average wholesale price U.S. \$300 per ton.

The above mentioned qualities are not often found in honey's pure natural

condition. Usually the various qualities of honey are mixed with each other.

BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS

On the basis of a Legislative Decree there exist today in Greece 94 Associations of beekeepers concentrating some 10,000 members. All these Associations are subordinate to two Co-operative Unions of Beekeepers Associations, one of which is MELISSOKOMIKI, which the writer has had the honour to direct since 1953.

APICULTURAL TRAINING

Although most Greek beekeepers have succeeded their parents in this profession, they are not quite familiar with the particular methods of modern beekeeping.

The State, the Agricultural Bank of Greece and Melissokomiki are making efforts to correct this point and it may be said that such efforts are giving excellent results. The publication of our journal *Melissa* is one of such efforts as almost all the material it offers is devoted to this purpose.

DISEASES OF BEES

During this year, science had success in defending bees and beekeepers from one of the most destructive diseases of the bee: Nosema. The loss suffered by Greek beekeeping from this disease last year is estimated at U.S. \$700,000. The research and public relations department of Melissokomiki which attempted a thorough research in this connection proved that the disease is mainly caused by the following conditions: (a) Old-fashioned and long-used equipment (beehives, honeycombs, etc.); (b) Delay in identifying the disease, being the result of inadequate experience and training of beekeepers. (c) Nomad beekeeping, which occupies many beekeepers in Greece.

The extent of losses from diseases is tightly connected with the question of insurance of the apicultural capital, which has been the subject of a report made by the writer to the International Beekeeping Congress of 1961 in Madrid, Spain.

TRIP TO MEXICO

By Percy Berry

There have been times in the past few months when most of us would have been pleased to see the sun from almost any angle, but to stand in the middle of one's own shadow in July and August is a pleasure indeed for New Zealand beekeepers. To do so in Mexico and to enjoy the hospitality of the folk of Miel Carlota is surely one of the richest rewards any beekeeper could wish for.

Last June we mortgaged the big honey crop that the law of averages was bound to provide in the coming season and my youngest son and I bought our tickets for Mexico. On the afternoon of June 30 we boarded the Oriana at Auckland and settled comfortably into our cabin. Russell required a few days to find his sea legs but after a day at Suva, which provided him with quite a thrill as an introduction to shores beyond our own, he was ready to enjoy the sea in all its moods. For my part I suspect that my inability to conceal the good fun I find in rough

sailing must draw me little goodwill from those less fortunate passengers one would seek to console. However, the outward journey in 42,000 tons of new ship was smooth, fast and comfortable.

The U.S.A.

Soon we are abreast of U.S.A.'s fiftieth State where East and West have met in peace, harmony and progress. A taxi takes us from the ship to a hilltop. Before us lie historic Pearl Harbour, Honolulu Airport (looking like a strong hive in the main flow), a large and well kept War Cemetery, and beautiful Honolulu city with its population including 37 per cent Japanese. The mind searches for the meaning of it all and for a pointer to future developments in international relationships — universal federation perhaps. But we are on holiday, heading for Mexico via Vancouver, San Francisco and Los Angeles to Acapulco.

Mexico

Twenty days out from Auckland we satisfy the Mexican officials that New

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Zcalanders are British from somewhere down under, say our farewells on board the Oriana, and become the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wulfrath at Acapulco. It was to these good people that two inexperienced travellers owed thanks for comfort and peace of mind. To enumerate the differences between Mexico and N.Z. would gum up the whole Journal, but to converse successfully, to eat safely, or just to "get through" the first few days could place quite a strain on the uninitiated. As it turned out we were able to enjoy these differences. The Wulfraths, in addition to speaking their native tongue, German, speak English and, of course, Mexican, and I should think would get by in many lands without difficulty.

Miel Carlota

The new living quarters of Miel Carlota at Acapulco are situated on a hillside and open to a view such as only the tropics can provide. Higher up the hillside were the foundations for a tremendous honeyhouse where gravity

would be used in honey processing. Below the house was a large building for storage, and further down, by the front entrance, a shop to be stocked with honey and other products of Miel Carlota.

On our first day in Mexico we were taken to see outyards both to the north and to the south of Acapulco. The bees appeared identical to our best in N.Z., but there all similarity ceased. The hives were different and there was no source of nectar which could be compared with any in this country. The hives have deeper brood chambers and shallower honey supers, while more emphasis is placed on bright and varied colours as an aid to drift control. Rapid tropical growth requires regular clearing but with about eight men working in each of the outyard teams such tasks present no great problem.

The following day we motored to Cuernavaca, the hub of this mammoth beekeeping enterprise. We halted briefly at Taxco, a town which abounds in souvenirs. Russell and I nursed our dollar funds with a number of

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interesting purchases in the dollar-a-piece range, and with Mrs. Wulfrath's help I was able to select something appropriate for my wife—a Mexican topaz stone.

Cuernavaca

At Cuernavaca our hotel, which provided every comfort, was handy to the Miel Carlota establishment. The clear warm atmosphere of these parts provides a welcome change from the high temperatures and high humidity of Acapulco on the Pacific coast. The Miel Carlota business extends to Veracruz on the Atlantic coast. So we had reached the centre of what is by far the largest beekeeping enterprise in the world—50,000 hives producing a quantity of honey approximately equal to our own country's total production. The buildings were of concrete and very large. On the top floor of the honeyhouse nine fifty-frame radial extractors clear the day's intake, and the following day the extracted honey is ready for shipment via Veracruz, mainly to Europe, or for processing and packing for the nearer markets. The production of comb foundation and of a great variety of wax candles occupies a separate building, and the wood-working plant yet another. The offices and shop occupy a further building, and service in addition to the beekeeping business the largest nursery in Mexico. The nurseries are centred in the same grounds and this side of the business was established earlier than the beekeeping.

Management

The two directors of Miel Carlota, Arturo Wulfrath and Dr. Hans Speck, have their homes nearby. Fabulous and relaxing homes in which we spent many pleasant and educational hours.

What were the main factors behind the building of such a business by these two men in little more than 20 years? There appeared to be many — prolific nectar sources, adequate labour at comparatively low cost, favourable climatic conditions, the keen business sense of stocky, jovial Arturo, and the scientific approach to problems by the tall, learned Doctor. I suspect, however, that the greatest single factor contributing to the success of Miel Carlota is their human approach to the employment of Mexican staff. Many Mexicans are among the sadly underprivileged and perhaps not all employers, particularly in those parts, respect human values as do those of Miel Carlota.

Further, they have some very able foremen from Germany. It was our good fortune to be guided on several occasions by one of these men, not only through the plant and outyards, but also to points of interest in surrounding districts. He was a strong young man with a love of the hills and of hunting. If he visits N.Z. Russell will be ready to guide him in our mountain ranges.

It seemed strange to us that in Cuernavaca, north of the Equator, the extracting season is approximately the same as our own. In the huge Acapulco plant now in operation extraction will continue most of the year.

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And what of marketing? In a recent letter Arturo mentioned that extraction at their Cuernavaca plant had passed the thousand ton mark with no accumulation of unsold stocks. Their marketing system is organised but not over-organised. I think a comparison between the marketing methods of Miel Carlota and those of N.Z. would provide food for thought. If our friends from Mexico visit this country, and I am doing my best to ensure that they do, then when we have shown them N.Z. it would be interesting to have their opinions on our set-up over here.

But this story is becoming too long. Perhaps on some future occasion I may be able to give some points of interest on beekeeping methods in Mexico, or of typhoons off Yokohama and cheap cameras in Hong Kong, or of the good new look about the old home when travellers return.

Drifting of Bees

In the November, 1962, issue of the Journal of Agriculture an interesting article by V. A. Cook, Apiary Instructor at Oamaru, discusses factors affecting drifting of bees. Mr. Cook describes experimental work which he carried out to see whether drifting is reduced when hives are placed in a circle with entrances facing inward. In this position the beekeeper when manipulating a hive need never stand in the line of flight of bees from any other hive. A vehicle can be parked at any point on the outside of the circle without confusing the bees, as they will fly over it.

The results of the experiment indicate that bees from hives placed in a circle, with entrances facing inward, drift much less than when hives are placed in two rows with entrances facing in the same direction.

THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

Published by Messrs. Pender Bros. Pty Ltd. Subscriptions: Australia and New Zealand, 16/- per annum (in advance) (post paid). British Isles and British Dominions, 20/- per annum (in advance), post paid. Other overseas countries, 23/- per annum (in advance), post paid.

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THE EDITOR, P.O. Box 20,

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FEBRUARY 1963

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TENDERS are called for the sale as a going concern of the beefarming and honey making business carried on for many years by the late T. J. Mannex with business headquarters at Third Avenue, Waihou.

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- (2) 5 pieces of freehold land as follows:—
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 - (b) 4 acres 38 perches part Maungatapu Block as shown on D.P. 21064 situated in Block III, Maungakawa Survey District.
 - (c) 2 acres being Lot 1 of Part Lot 34 of Block XIV Wairere Survey District.
 - (d) 9 acres 3 roods 8.5 perches being Section 67 Parish of Tahawai, Katikati Survey District.
 - (e) 2 acres 1 rood 27 perches being all D.P. 26345 part Section 10A Block XVI Maungakawa Survey District and portion Te Pae-o-tu-Rawaru No. 2 Block.
- (3) Plant, implements and stock in trade (excluding extracted honey) on property at Waihou.
- (4) 1943 2-ton Chevrolet Truck.
- (5) 1955 Holden Car.
- (6) All beehives owned by deceased. So far 925 hives have been located and the purchaser of the going concern will have the option of purchasing any further hives located. Tenders may be lodged on the basis of a price per hive with minimum and maximum numbers and location specified if

desired. This season's honey has been extracted from a limited number of hives but the majority of hives contain the season's crop. No further honey will be extracted after the first appearance of this advertisement.

The Administrator prefers to dispose of the whole of the above assets as a going concern but is prepared to consider tenders for the individual items if an acceptable tender for the whole is not received. Two or more persons may jointly tender for the whole of the assets on the understanding that each will contribute named amounts for individual specified items.

The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

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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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