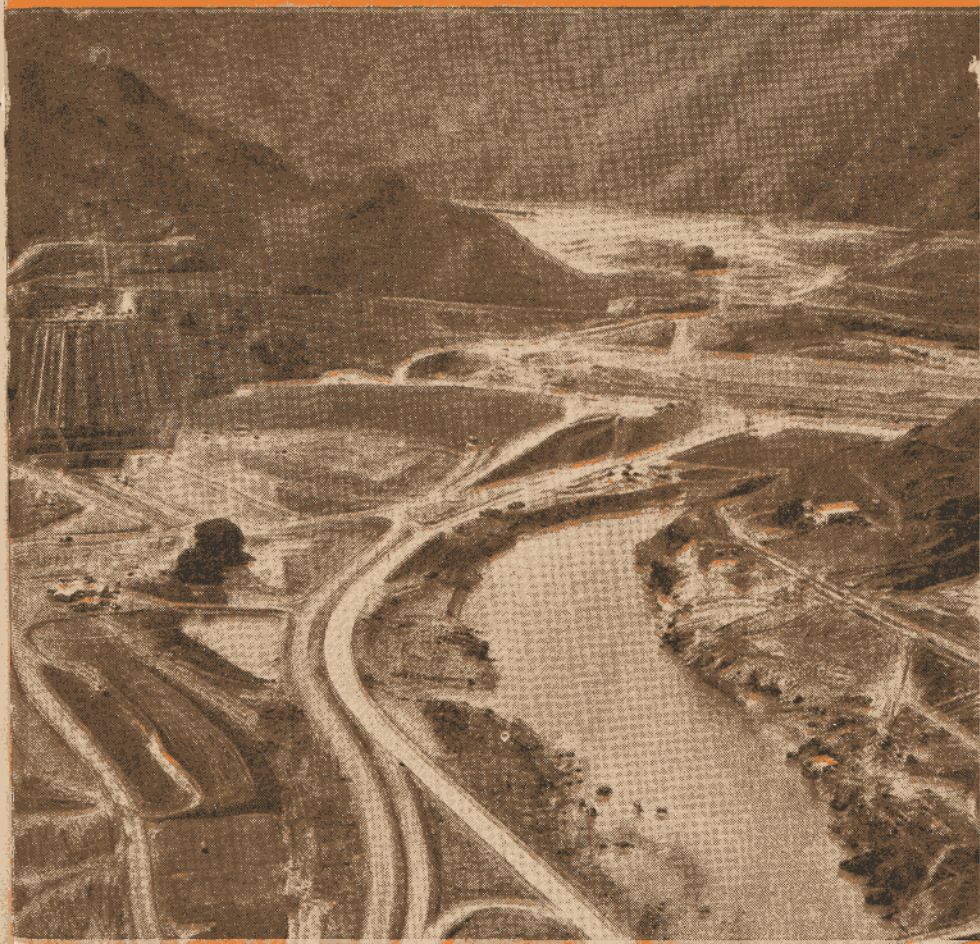


The
NEW
ZEALAND
BEEKEEPER

MAY, 1963



NORTH OTAGO'S BIG SHOW

The National Beekeepers' Association

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THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

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May 1963

Number 2

BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY ASSESSMENT

The significance of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand was considered at the special meeting held in Wellington on March 20, 21 and 22, 1963. The broad objectives of the meeting were:—

(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 this proper role.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Industries and Commerce, Federated Farmers, N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority, the National Beekeepers' Association, and Officers of the Apiary Section. The Director of the Horticulture Division, Mr. A. M. W. Greig, was in the chair.

In an atmosphere of frank and impartial discussion the learning and experience of all parties were brought to bear on the role of beekeeping in New Zealand. The resulting assessment will provide a guide to the leaders of the industry and to the Government in dealing with the problems of beekeepers in the future.

After the report of the meeting is available it is hoped that a further meeting, perhaps smaller in scope, will be held to consider the third objective of the survey, "to devise ways and means of ensuring that the industry makes its full contribution to the country's welfare."

NOTICE BOARD

Dominion Conference

The Annual Dominion Conference will be held in the R.S.A. Hall, Itchen Street, Oamaru, on July 24, 25 and 26, 1963. Further particulars are given elsewhere in this issue.

H.M.A. Election

An election of two producer representatives for the Honey Marketing Authority will be held during September, the retiring members being Messrs J. R. Barber and J. W. Fraser. Details of the election are given in this issue. Nominations close at noon on August 14, 1963. The Form of Nomination is laid down in the appendix to the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953. Copies are obtainable from the Authority's Office, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

Suppliers to Packers

Producers who wish to vote at the forthcoming H.M.A. election on the basis of honey supplied to packers will be required to furnish a declaration showing the amount of honey supplied. Declaration Forms are obtainable from the H.M.A., P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

Agricultural Chemicals Board

Mr. T. E. Pearson has been re-appointed as a member of the Agricultural Chemicals Board for a term of three years from April 1, 1963.

Dunedin Convention

The Annual Convention of Otago and Southland beekeepers will be held in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Hall, Moray Place, Dunedin, on Tuesday, June 4. At 1.30 p.m.: meeting of Commercial Beekeepers. At 7.30 p.m.: social evening and beekeeping topics.

Visitors from the north and all interested in beekeeping are cordially invited to attend.

PRICES FOR PLASTIC PACKS

Special authorities already issued to packers for honey packed in plastic containers are now cancelled and the following prices are approved on an industry basis.

	3lb. size	11lb. size
Maximum price that may be charged by a packer to a wholesaler: per dozen	15s. 2d.	24s. 2d.
Maximum price that may be charged by a wholesaler (including a packer) to a retailer: per dozen	16s. 4d.	26s. 5d.
Maximum price that may be charged by a retailer (including a packer) to a consumer: each	1s. 7d.	2s. 7d.

The conditions of paragraph 6, Clause 3, of Price Order 1894 (Honey) apply to the sales of honey in these containers.

(This Clause provides that the price of honey produced in one Island and sold in the other may be increased by an amount not exceeding ½d. per pound in respect of freight.)

Under Price Order No. 1894 the Maximum Prices for Honey packed in other Retail Containers are contained in the following schedule:—

Size and Kind of Container	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Packer to a Wholesaler	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Wholesaler (including a Packer) to a Retailer	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Retailer (including a Packer) to a Consumer
	Per Dozen	Per Dozen	
½lb. cartons	12s. 3d.	13s. 5d.	1s. 4d. per carton
12oz. glass jars	22s. 3d.	24s. 3d.	2s. 4½d. per jar
1lb. glass jars	26s. 3d.	28s. 9d.	2s. 9½d. per jar
1lb. cartons	21s. 6d.	23s. 6d.	2s. 4d. per carton
1¼lb. glass jars	29s. 9d.	32s. 6d.	3s. 2½d. per jar
1½lb. glass jars	35s. 9d.	39s. 3d.	3s. 10½d. per jar
2lb. glass jars	46s. 3d.	50s. 10d.	5s. 1d. per jar
2lb. cartons	41s. 9d.	45s. 10d.	4s. 7d. per carton
2lb. tins	46s. 3d.	50s. 10d.	5s. 1d. per jar
2½lb. glass jars	57s. 6d.	63s. 0d.	6s. 3d. per jar
2¾lb. glass jars	63s. 3d.	69s. 4d.	6s. 11d. per jar
5lb. tins	104s. 9d.	115s. 0d.	11s. 6d. per tin
10lb. tins	194s. 0d.	213s. 4d.	21s. 4d. per tin

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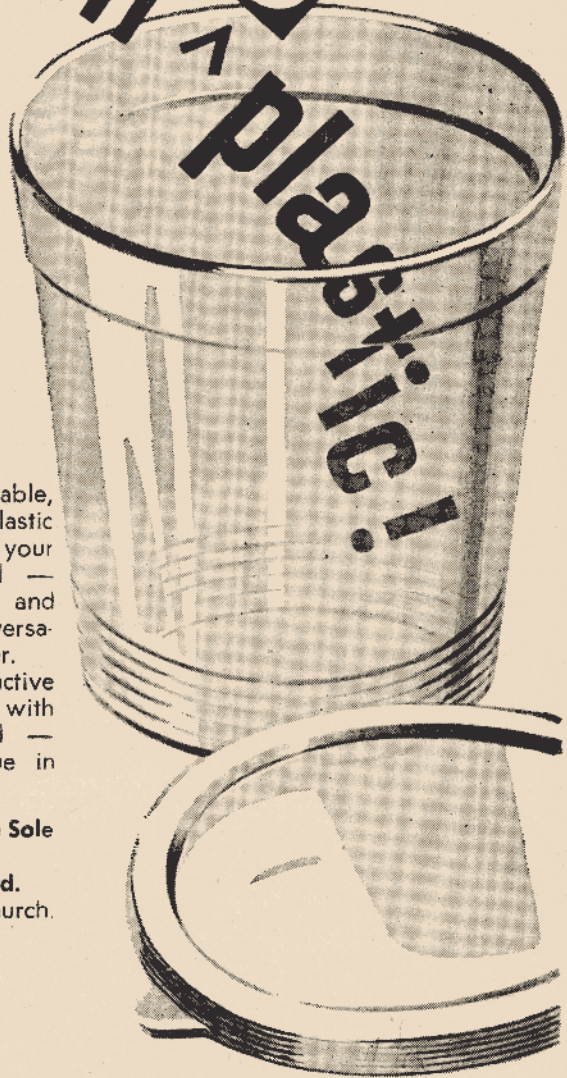
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MAY 1963

U.K. HONEY MARKET

During the last few weeks world honey prices have remained firm and supplies are still short, advises the London Office of the Bank of New Zealand, 11/4/63. Spot supplies of New Zealand honey are nearly sold out, and forward offerings, apart from clover, are still very limited.

Prices for Clover remain around 170s. to 180s., with extra light amber at 155s. to 170s., and light amber at 135s. to 145s. No medium amber is being offered. Australian light amber is now being quoted at 125s. to 126s 6d. c.i.f., with medium amber at 118s. to 120s.

Suspected Bee Poisoning

A case of heavy loss in bee stocks has been reported to the General Secretary from the Wairarapa district. The Department of Agriculture is making inquiries in the locality as well as laboratory tests of affected bees in an endeavour to discover the cause of the trouble.

Special Meeting Costs

The Executive acknowledges with thanks the following additional donations towards the cost of special meetings involved in the Industry Assessment:—

WEST COAST BRANCH £5 0 0

Personal

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Ward, Dannevirke, on the birth of a daughter. Blessed with the Christian names of Kirsty McKenzie and with three brothers older than herself we predict for Miss Ward the brightest possible future.

Obituary

Readers will learn with regret of the death on May 3 of Mrs. T. S. Winter, wife of our former Beekeeping Superintendent. Mrs. Winter was well known among beekeepers as a gracious lady and a loyal helpmate to her husband in his work. We extend our sympathy to Mr. Winter and members of his family.

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DOMINION CONFERENCE, 1963

Oamaru – July 24, 25, 26



Parks and gardens provide an attractive setting for the well appointed R.S.A. building, which is the venue for this year's Conference.

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION IMMEDIATELY

Ample accommodation is available and facilities for casual meals are adequate. However, should you require assistance in making bookings please contact the North Otago Branch Secretary, Mr. H. S. Wilson, 2C, R.D. Oamaru, telephone 577S, Oamaru.

The following is a full list of accommodation available.

Licensed Hotel:	Tariff:	Address:
BRYDONE HOTEL	36/6	Thames Street
Private Accommodation:		
NORTH OTAGO HOTEL	35/-	Thames Street
EMPIRE HOTEL	32/-	Thames Street
ANNE MIEKE GUEST HOUSE	D.B.B. 32/6	47 Tees Street
THOMPSONS GUEST HOUSE	30/-	42 Wharfe Street
RANGIMARIE GUEST HOUSE	B.B. 20/6	210 Thames Street
NEVADA GUEST HOUSE	B.B. 20/6	24 Coquet Street
O'CONNELL GUEST HOUSE	B.B. 20/-	299 Thames Street
Motels:		
DE LUXE MOTELS		475 Thames Highway
TUI MOTELS		469 Thames Highway
ALMA MOTELS		Mr. J. A. Martin,
(4 miles south of Oamaru)		485 Thames Highway
Motor Camp and Cabins:		
OAMARU MOTOR CAMP		The Caretaker, Oamaru Motor Camp

EDUCATIONAL

Slide Evening: The North Otago Branch has arranged a public slide evening to be held in the Conference Hall on Wednesday, July 24. Through the co-operation of beekeepers who have recently travelled overseas it has been possible to arrange a most interesting program.

ENTERTAINMENT

Visit to Benmore: A coach tour through the beautiful Waitaki Valley to the Benmore Hydro Project has been organised to leave Oamaru at 11 a.m. on

Tuesday, July 23. Those interested in this trip are requested to inform the Branch Secretary by July 1.

Scenic Flights: Flights by Cessna aircraft to South Island scenic attractions such as Mt. Cook, Milford Sound, Franz Joseph Glacier, etc., have been arranged with the North Otago Aero Club. Charges approximately £8 per hour for a party of three. Anyone intending to avail themselves of this opportunity should inform the Branch Secretary by July 1 in order that suitable parties can be arranged.

Social Evening: Members of the North Otago Branch, together with direct members from Central Otago and local officers of the Apiary Section, are looking forward to entertaining visitors at a social evening to be held in the historic "Homestead" at Oamaru on Thursday, July 25.

Ladies: A program of interesting activities will be arranged to occupy the ladies while Conference is in session.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the Dominion Executive was held in Wellington on March 19, 20 and 21, 1963. All members were present and the President, Mr. J. R. Barber, was in the chair. The General Secretary, Mr. R. A. Fraser, and the Editor, Mr. J. McFadzien, were also in attendance.

Assessment Meeting

The preparations for the joint meeting were reviewed and the matters included in the agenda were discussed. It was agreed that Messrs J. R. Barber and R. A. Fraser should represent the Executive and that the remaining members should also be in attendance at the meeting following the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. A. M. W. Greig.

The Executive recorded its sincere appreciation of the generous donations made by Branches and individuals towards the expenses of the meeting.

Price Order

An approach has been made to the Price Tribunal and the prices allowable for the new plastic packs are to be incorporated in the Price Schedule.

Importation of Bees

The matter of importing queens was again considered and it was decided to request the Department of Agriculture to investigate further the possibility of introducing new strains of bees in the egg stage, with a view to testing them against our existing strains.

Horticulture Division

Messrs A. M. W. Greig and E. Smaellie were welcomed to the meeting

and they reviewed the matters at present receiving attention in the Apiary Section.

Referring to honey grading Mr. Smaellie mentioned that Mr. Roberts had had to cease duty on account of illness and Mr. Walsh had resumed grading work temporarily. The general grading position is being reviewed and measures are being taken to train staff so that a panel of qualified graders will be available.

The Executive subsequently commended the plans of the Department in this direction and suggested that in view of the shortage of staff available the appointment of a female trainee might be considered.

In the control of Bacillus Larvae action is under way to obtain statutory authority to carry out the recommendations of the 1961 joint meeting. Several of the recommendations are already being implemented.

The recurring bee losses in the Auckland district have been the subject of close scrutiny and these losses are now attributed to bee poisoning from karaka trees. Beekeepers in the area have been advised of this hazard.

Before leaving the meeting Mr. Greig and Mr. Smaellie were thanked for their attendance and assistance.

Diploma in Apiculture

Consideration was given to a number of applications for the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture which had been referred to the Executive by the Examining Board of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture.

The Executive laid down a standard qualification along the lines of those used in other similar diplomas, and on

the basis of this standard its recommendations were forwarded for the information of the Examining Board.

Honey Marketing Authority

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and General Manager of the H.M.A. (Messrs G. E. Gumbrell, J. W. Fraser and C. T. Gosse) were welcomed to the meeting and discussed with members the operations of the Authority during the current year.

Hive Registration Fee

Mr. D. L. Ward reported on the survey carried out in his district to ascertain the degree of support for the introduction of a hive registration fee. Members felt that the support given was sufficient to justify further investigation and it was decided to examine the comparable procedure followed in the poultry registration system.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Central-Southern Hawkes Bay Branch for its work in conducting the pilot survey.

N.B.A. Library

Arising from a suggestion received from the South Canterbury Branch, it was decided to establish a National Beekeeping Library, to be the property of the Association and to be available for the use of members. Some books have already been offered for such a library and it is felt that in time a valuable collection could be built up. It was unanimously agreed that the offer of Mr. Chris Dawson, of Timaru, to act as Honorary Librarian should be gratefully accepted.

Bursary Scheme

Mr. Wheeler reported further on the proposed Bursary Scheme. The proposals were approved in principle subject to finance being available—up to £400 would be required every three or four years. Mr. Wheeler and the South Auckland Branch were accorded a vote of thanks for their investigations.

The Secretary was authorised to approach commercial organisations allied to the industry, inviting their support in establishing the bursary.

Educational Courses

The Executive extended a vote of thanks to Mr. J. W. Fraser for his

further report on Educational Courses for beekeepers. In discussion on this subject it was suggested that a course might be arranged in one Island each year, alternating with the Dominion Conference. As a trial it was decided that Mr. Wheeler be nominated to act with his local Branch President and Apiary Instructor in organising an instruction programme over a three-point itinerary in the North Island during the coming winter.

Agricultural Chemicals Board

Members expressed appreciation of Mr. T. E. Pearson's service on the Agricultural Chemicals Board and his valued reports to the Association. The Executive reaffirmed the appointment of Mr. Pearson as its representative and Mr. J. K. Bray as his deputy.

Returns for Dark Honey

Consideration of the unsatisfactory returns for dark grades of honey was deferred until the outcome of the beekeeping industry assessment is known.

Comb Honey

The Comb Honey Producers' Association applied for affiliation with the National Beekeepers' Association. It was pointed out that the Rules of the N.B.A. did not provide for affiliation with such a group, but it was decided to support the Association as far as possible in its efforts to foster the comb honey trade.

After discussing the promising export trade in comb honey and the importance of maintaining a consistent quality, the meeting resolved "That this Executive considers the expanding comb honey market could be jeopardised if undesirable flavours such as kamahl are approved for export."

Secretarial Position

The position of the General Secretary was discussed at some length and although the work involved is appreciated by the Executive it was agreed that the Association is unable at present to increase the administration fee for secretarial services. The Secretary was asked to continue in the position at the existing rate under a limited schedule of duties, and Mr. Fraser agreed to this proposal.

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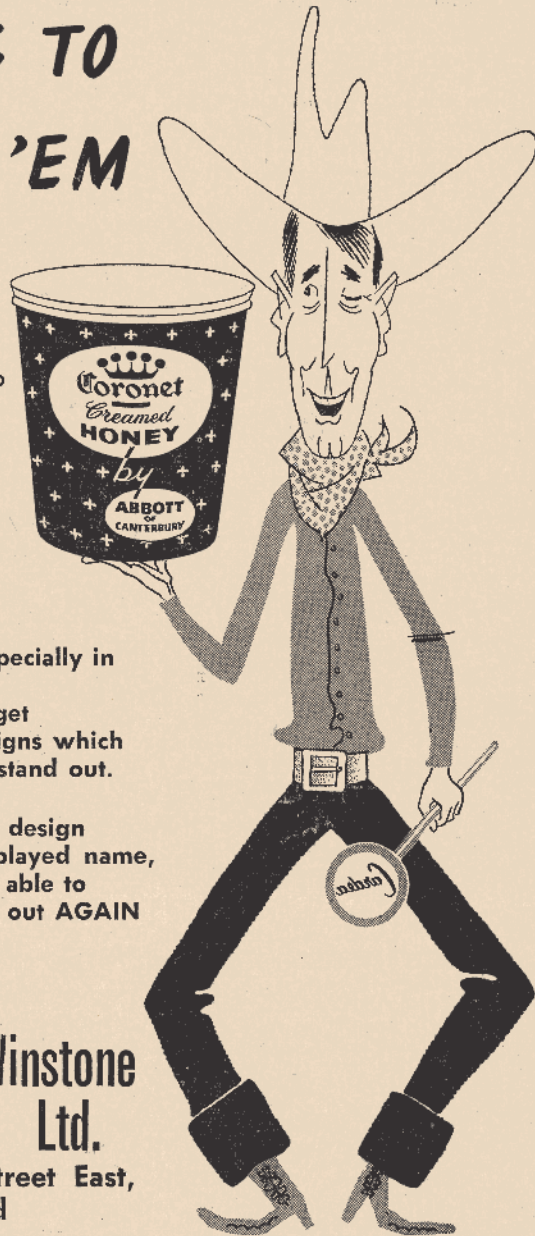
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Honey Marketing Authority Election, 1963

The Returning Officer has advised that in accordance with the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1953, copies of the roll of producers qualified to vote will be deposited at the Department of Agriculture, Head Office, Wellington, and at Auckland, and at the following Post Offices:—

Alexandra	Balclutha
Amberley	Blenheim
Ashburton	Christchurch
Cromwell	Motueka
Culverden	Napier
Dannevirke	Nelson
Dargaville	New Plymouth
Dunedin	Oamaru
Eketahuna	Palmerston North
Geraldine	Rotorua
Gisborne	Roxburgh
Gore	Tauranga
Greymouth	Te Aroha
Hamilton	Timaru
Hastings	Waimate
Hokitika	Waipukurau
Huntly	Wairoa
Invercargill	Wanganui
Kaikohe	Warkworth
Kaikoura	Whakatane
Kaitiaki	Whangarei
Levin	Westport
Masterton	

The rolls will be open for public inspection during ordinary office hours for 14 days from July 24, 1963.

The Returning Officer has advised that any person who is remote from an office where a roll is available for inspection may write to the Returning Officer for verification that his name is on the roll. The full name of the person concerned should be supplied and the enquiry should be made during the period the roll is open for inspection.

The attention of incorporated companies is drawn to Clause (3) of the Schedule to the Regulations. This clause reads as follows:—

“Any producer being a corporate body may, by writing under its corporate seal delivered to the Returning Officer, appoint some person whose name shall be entered on the rolls as voter on behalf of that corporate body.”

Provision has been made in an amendment to the Regulations for the issue of special voting papers where a voter's name has been omitted from the roll. Any such voter should make application direct to the Returning Officer.

The number of votes which may be exercised by a voter is now based upon the amount of honey supplied and/or the amount of levy paid over the preceding two years. This is provided for under Amendment No. 6 to the Regulations.

Suppliers are advised that in order to qualify for votes consignments of honey must reach one of the Authority's depots by June 30, 1963.

The address of the Returning Officer is:—

RETURNING OFFICER,
Honey Marketing Authority Election,
C/o. Department of Agriculture,
Private Bag,
AUCKLAND.

Declaration forms in respect of the supply of honey to packers may be obtained from the office of the Authority, P.O. Box 2615, Auckland.

C. T. GOSSE,
General Manager,
N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority.

April 22, 1963.

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Honey Marketing Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

The Hon. B. E. Talboys,
Minister of Agriculture,
Parliament Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

P.O. Box 2615,
AUCKLAND, C.1.
March 14, 1963

Dear Sir,

It is my privilege to submit to you in accordance with Section II of the Primary Products Marketing Act, 1953, the Ninth Annual Report of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority. This report is in respect of the financial year ended August 31, 1962.

Members of the Authority

There was no election for membership of the Authority last September so the members are the same as before.

Conditions of Supply

The advance pro-rata payment for graded honey was increased to 11d. per lb. In order to obviate certain disadvantages to producers who deliver to Depots other than Auckland, an advance of 30/- per tin was made on receipt into the Depot. Besides giving producers a worthwhile payment this removed the urgency for immediate gradings and so helped the Honey Grader when he was working under pressure.

Honey Supplied to the Authority

An increase of some 300 tons of honey in the supply to the Authority fully taxed our resources. This increase was confined to honey from the Auckland district and was mainly of Light Amber quality. Apart from Southland, the white honey crop was well below average. Despite this partial crop failure, white honey supplied to the Authority was practically the same as for the previous year and supplies of Extra Light Amber honey showed a marked increase. The average grading was 85.09 pro-rata points which is the lowest recorded in the Authority's trading activities. The annual receipts from suppliers since 1953 are as follows:—

1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	1961/62
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1,125	2,206	1,669	1,571	1,104	494	827	1,002	1,326

Marketing

Last April the Authority sent me, as its Chairman, on a trade mission to British Columbia, United Kingdom, Europe, Nairobi, Singapore and Sydney and I was able to do some very useful work in connection with honey marketing, both bulk packs and retail containers; and at the same time assess what the repercussions of the European Common Market on our honey export industry would be. This visit was very worthwhile and our stock position today is very satisfactory. Altogether 927 tons were exported in bulk during the year. At balance date 201 tons remained unsold but since then an excellent clearance has been effected. Honey exported in retail containers accounted for 33 tons. The local market absorbed 201 tons in packed lines up until balance date, but since then sales have shown a sharp increase. In addition 97 tons were sold locally in bulk.

Honey Seals Levy

A decrease was recorded here as at balance date but revenue from this source since then would indicate that there could be little change in the overall revenue. The tightening up of the regulations should record an increase in the revenue for this year. Following are comparative figures:—

1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	1961/62
£15,893	£15,377	£15,883	£20,718	£20,226	£18,989	£20,228	£21,793	£19,185

Depots

Suppliers in the Hawkes Bay area satisfied the Authority that a depot in their area was justified. It was too late to make satisfactory arrangements for the conventional type of depot but a "notional" depot was created and this received considerable support.

Payments to Suppliers

Experience gained overseas together with accurate costing details made it very evident that some adjustments to the method of arriving at the final payouts were long overdue. The practice introduced last year of dividing honey into categories was extended to seven categories and while the top category payout remains as before the other categories are progressively reduced. These categories on a pro-rata basis are in keeping with realisations but the higher grading honeys are still subsidising the payments on the lower grades.

A new feature introduced is a pro-rata scale for Kamahi honey that grades below 85 points for colour and/or flavour and the advance payments on these honeys for the coming season will be based on this scale.

The final payment for Manuka was reduced by ½d. per lb. flat.

For the coming season the advance payment for all honeys grading below Extra Light Amber standard will be reduced to 10d. per lb. pro rata the same minimum points for colour and flavour will apply.

Payments for Graded Honey Excluding Manuka and Special Lines

Year	Quantity Supplied, lbs.	Average Grading	Pro-Rata Advance per lb.		Contract Premiums per lb.		Final Payment per lb.		Overall Average Payments, per lb.	
			d.	£	d.	£	d.	£	d.	£
1953/54	2,156,913	89.75	8	64,533	¾	4,333	3½	flat	31,455	11.16
1954/55	4,425,505	85.22	9	141,268	¾	7,550	3¼	"	59,928	11.32
1955/56	3,442,262	88.70	9	115,502	¾	8,964	3	"	43,028	11.60
1956/57	3,252,935	89.93	9	109,707	¾	8,024	3¼	"	44,050	11.93
1957/58	2,323,404	86.33	9	75,219	¾	6,136	3¼	"	31,463	11.65
1958/59	889,163	91.02	9	30,348	¾	2,188	4¾	pro rata	16,017	13.10
1959/60	1,622,519	86.47	10	58,463		Nil	4½	"	26,308	12.53
1960/61	1,910,861	87.39	10	69,585		Nil	†5	"	31,642	12.71
1961/62	2,763,713	85.09	11	107,784		Nil	†4	"	20,227	11.12

† Final payments vary according to grading categories. The figure quoted is for the top category only.

Plant

Profiting by information received when overseas and taking advantage of experience gained, it has been possible to modify and improve the plant and we are constantly striving to increase our efficiency in this direction. The large intake severely taxed our physical resources and it became necessary to purchase a second fork lift truck and to hire outside storage.

Staff

Once again we faced the usual number of problems with which we have effectively dealt and my fellow members and I are fully conscious of the help and support we are receiving from the General Manager and the Staff in general and the various Government Officers who are connected with the running of the Honey Industry.

Yours faithfully,

G. E. GUMBRELL, Chairman,
New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT AUGUST 31, 1962

1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £	1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £
LIABILITIES			
Bank Overdraft:			
41,884		Reserve Bank of New Zealand	99,990
Sundry Creditors:			
5,585		Trade Creditors and Accrued Expenses	8,048
34,149		Honey Suppliers, Final Payment	21,588
	29,636		
Mortgage:			
88,664		State Advances Corporation	90,000
		Less Principal Repaid	2,741
40,000			87,259
1,336		Stock Fluctuation Account:	37,282
22,850		Mortgage Redemption Reserve:	2,741
1,720		Accumulated Funds:	22,850
		Appropriation Account:	—
<u>£236,188</u>			<u>£279,758</u>
ASSETS			
Bank (Current Account):			
	3,569	Bank of New Zealand, Auckland	2,653
Sundry Debtors:			
	3,444	Overseas Account	7,978
	17,314	Current Accounts	16,637
			<u>24,615</u>
Honey Stocks (at standard valuation)			
	104,280		129,644
Packing Materials (at cost)			
	4,723		15,127
Stationery (at valuation)			
	295		714
Air Travel Deposit Account			
	58		89
Land and Buildings (at cost less depreciation)			
	83,440		84,502
Factory Plant (at cost less depreciation)			
	15,860		19,223
Office Furniture and Fittings (at cost less depreciation)			
	1,722		1,566
Loose Tools and Equipment (at valuation)			
	1,483		1,625
<u>£236,188</u>			<u>£279,758</u>

The Audit Office, having made such examination as was considered necessary, certifies that in its opinion the above balance sheet and accompanying accounts are correct.

A. D. BURNS — Controller and Auditor-General.
C. T. GOSSE, F.C.I.S., A.R.A.N.Z. — General Manager
December 4, 1962.

**NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY
GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1962
NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY**

1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £	1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £
Honey Stocks on Hand, 1/9/61:			
New Zealand	77,958	53,010	50,783
Overseas	26,322	49,978	108,138
	104,280		158,921
Payments to Suppliers:			
Advance Payments	113,177	1,013	1,298
Final Payment	21,583	776	175
	134,765		1,473
Freight and Cartage Inwards			
Store Costs:			
Oil Fuel, Electricity and Fac- tory Expenses	2,378	19,667	16,606
Storage and other Depot Expenses	872		
Packing Materials	11,063	77,958	81,991
Wages	7,129	26,322	47,653
Depreciation on Plant and Equipment	1,930		
	23,377		129,644
Local Sales Expenses:			
Commission	1,464		
Freight and Cartage Out- wards	1,492		
	2,956		
Export Expenses:			
Freight, Landing Charges and Cartage	16,836		
Commission and Incentive Payments	5,829		
Insurance	340		
General Expenses	62		
Warehousing	367		
	23,434		
Balance:			
Transferred to Appropriation Account			3,034
			3,034

N. N. B E E K E E P E R

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT — continued

M A Y 1 9 6 3

5	Advertising Expenses, Overseas	82	23,516
	Premises:		
740	Rates	898	
74	Maintenance	115	
813	Depreciation on Buildings	823	1,841
	Interest:		
4,478	State Advances Corporation	4,399	
119	Reserve Bank of New Zealand	590	4,989
	Administration:		
71	Cleaning	126	
297	Printing and Stationery	388	
	Salaries and Superannuation		
5,781	Contributions	5,361	
1,059	General Expenses	1,089	
	Telephones, Telegrams and Postages	646	
353	Insurance	317	
382	Maintenance of Office Equipment	26	
33	Depreciation on Office Equipment	190	
202			8,143
			1,733
1,126	Advertising		
	Marketing Authority:		
1,225	Members' Honoraria	1,200	
	Members' Travelling Expenses	1,842	
884	Election Expenses	-	3,042
31			
	Surplus:		
	Transferred to Appropriation Account		-
3,056			
<u>£ 228,729</u>		<u>£ 309,678</u>	<u>£ 228,729</u>
			<u>£ 309,678</u>

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NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY
HONEY LEVY ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1962

1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £	1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £
1,126	1,579	21,793	19,185
1,000	1,000		
19,667	16,606		
<u>£21,793</u>	<u>£19,185</u>	<u>£21,793</u>	<u>£19,185</u>
		Revenue from Honey Levy	

NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY
APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1962

1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £	1960/61 Amounts to nearest £	1961/62 Amounts to nearest £
1,336	3,034	3,056	1,720
1,720	1,404	-	-
<u>£3,056</u>	<u>£4,438</u>	<u>£3,056</u>	<u>£4,438</u>
		Balance brought forward	
		Surplus from General Revenue Account	
		Transfer from Stock Fluctuation Account	
		Balance brought down	

N. Z. B E E K E E P E R

NEW PLASTIC HONEY CONTAINERS

NEW DESIGN

— A new attractive container designed specially for honey.

NEW MATERIAL

— Now manufactured of polypropylene, which unlike polystyrene, is virtually unbreakable in normal use.

NEW COLOUR RANGE

— A variety of attractive colours including clear available.

NEW LIDS

— Tight fitting, easily applied lids in several different colours.

NEW DEMAND

— Housewives buy honey in plastics for the after use of containers.

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*Exporting
Comb
Honey*

**A Stack of Section Honey
in Cartons Prepared
for Fumigation.**

Before comb honey may be exported it must be fumigated in the packaged condition to kill wax moth in all stages. Here the stack is covered with a voluminous polythene sheet which is pressed to the floor with long "sausages" of sand. Methyl bromide is injected under the polythene and as the gas is dangerous the room is then vacated. After 24 hours the cartons are packed in export cases. The picture on right shows an export crate as described in our February issue. A wineglass on the top left corner is the international symbol for "fragile." The number at top right is the serial number of the case and the letters are MA for medium amber (manuka), DJS7367 for shipping brand and HAM for destination Hamburg. The sections having passed examination for weight (13oz.) and quality, the crate is stamped on all sides with a Government stamp. —Photos by Sefton Line.



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EXPORTING COMB HONEY

Attitude of H.M.A.

P.O. Box 2615, Auckland, C1,
April 18, 1963

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

Export Standards for Comb Honey

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge your letter of April 8
on the above subject.

Although the Authority is not taking
an active part in the export of comb
honey it is watching the position very
closely. All shipments of comb honey
require an Export Permit from the
Authority and under normal circum-
stances this permit is freely given. We
do now have an arrangement with the
Department of Agriculture whereby we
will not issue an Export Permit until
the honey has been graded. This action
was taken to prevent the possibility of
any ungraded honey being exported.

This practice can therefore be applied
to also cover the possibility of unsuit-
able honey being exported. If the
Grader recommended that a line of
comb honey should not be exported
then we would not issue the permit.
Under the Honey Export Regulations
the Grader has power to reject such
unsuitable lines so we feel that the
position is adequately covered as long
as the standards are recognised and
enforced by the Honey Grader.

Yours faithfully,

C. T. GOSSE,
General Manager.


THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER

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MAY 1963



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1963-64

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SELECT TESTED 35/- each

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*The development of these Queens extends
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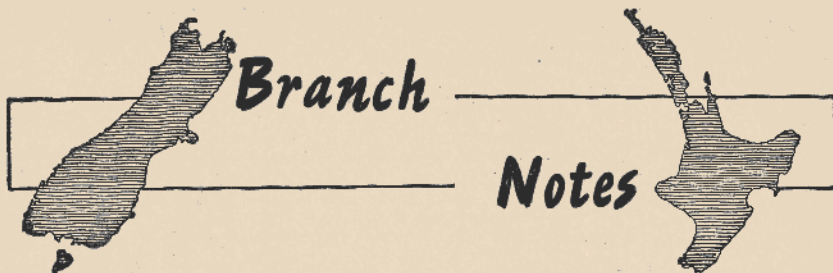
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Branch Notes

SOUTH AUCKLAND

At a Branch meeting recently further arrangements were made for our Beekeeping School to be held on July 8 at Okoriorie, via Tirau, commencing at 10 a.m. Opening address by Mr. Geoff Sim, M.P., and competent speakers will lecture on the following subjects:

Comb Honey Production

Budgeting and Beekeeping Accountancy

Nectar Sources and Recognition of Plants

Packing, Handling and Marketing of Honey

Anatomy of the Honey Bee

The programme will be finalised soon and copies distributed. Registration fee 10s. Light luncheon and afternoon tea will be provided. Anyone wanting programmes is advised to apply to the Secretary, South Auckland Branch—H. N. Tuck, Kihikihi, Waikato.

BAY OF PLENTY

A large number of beekeepers and their families were present at the Bay of Plenty Branch Field Day held at Kulim Reserve, Otumoetai, on February 16.

It was quite obvious that many beekeepers had not seen each other for a long time, and on arrival at the reserve effusive greetings were extended. Deteriorating weather conditions drove the gathering into the Buretta Road Church Hall soon after lunch.

The Field Day started with a welcome by Branch President Don Barrow. This was followed by a demonstration of a

honey loader, by Mr. J. H. Lowe, of Pyes Pa. It lifted two heavy men on to a truck tray without effort. Mr. J. R. Barber, our National President, was also present, and spoke on production of honey and overseas trade.

A widely travelled man and one of New Zealand's biggest beekeepers, Mr. P. Berry, of Havelock North, spoke on his recent trip to Mexico, where he visited Mexico's largest beekeepers. He said the Mexican apiary turned out 200lb. of honey per hive, compared with New Zealand production of around 70lb. The two Germans who ran the establishment had 50,000 hives which were maintained by a strong force of Mexicans working for a modest wage.

Other talks were given by Bay of Plenty Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. A. Briscoe, who spoke on "Honey Granulation," and Mr. A. H. Dickson, an accountant, spoke on "Taxation and the Beekeeper." Another "popular" with beekeepers was a frame drilling machine which fed through end bars and drilled three holes at a time, displayed by Mr R. A. Parkes, of Welcome Bay. Other time savers included a compressed air blower, demonstrated by Mr. J. C. Higgins, of Waihi, for removing bees from supers of honey, and Mr. R. Mossip demonstrated a very useful pair of slip-on mud chains for a truck.

At this stage President Don Barrow thanked all those who had taken part in the Field Day, saying how pleasant it was to see so many present from the Waikato. Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Paterson, who are now retired in Tauranga, then invited beekeepers and their wives to afternoon tea and refreshments at their new home, and so brought a most successful Field Day to a very pleasant conclusion.

—Don Barrow.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

HAWKES BAY

Despite adverse weather forecasts, the day dawned bright and clear for the Hawkes Bay Autumn Field Day, held at Arataki Apiaries, Havelock North, on April 20.

A representative gathering of beekeepers from all over Hawkes Bay listened to a very interesting address on honey grading and blending given by Mr. Walsh of Auckland.

Mr. Muir, also of Auckland, followed with an interesting discussion on the workings of the Auckland Beekeepers' Club, which operates in the Auckland City area with a membership of 120, all amateur beekeepers.

Dudley Ward, well known central Hawkes Bay beekeeper, then gave a brief outline of his recent visit to Wellington, as a member of the National Executive.

John McFadzie, our well known editor, followed with "Some Impressions Gained After 13 Years as Editor of 'The N.Z. Beekeeper'."

After the pleasant afternoon tea break, visitors were taken into the spacious honey-house and packaging

plant to see a demonstration of packaging section honey for the export market, in Britain and on the Continent.

We then moved on to the workshop to see Mr. Ian Berry demonstrate the use of a small double nucleus box, designed on a pattern seen by Mr. Berry Snr. while on his recent visit to Mexico.

A plant made and designed by Russell Berry for the preserving of supers, by the use of boiling paraffin wax, created great interest.

Finally, a demonstration of the use of various types of bee brushes for clearing bees from combs, ably demonstrated by Sefton Line, brought a very interesting afternoon to a close.

—F. D. Maultsaid, 22/4/63.

WEST COAST

The crop has been of good overall quality and from light average down to poor in quantity. In the writer's experience colonies of black bees have given a good normal return but the results from Italians have been poor—in a few cases not enough to winter on.

There is plenty of rata vine flowering at present, late April, and it would not

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be surprising to hear that some have made a late extraction. Last year a Coast beekeeper took off a full box all round from a late flow.

In early March we reluctantly bid farewell to our Apiary Instructor, Mr. Dick Hobbs. Dick was energetic and thorough in his work and was a good cheery friend to the West Coast beekeepers. We extend to him our best wishes in his new sphere.

—Tom Holland.

CANTERBURY

On February 19, 1963, the Committee of the Canterbury Branch met a section of the hobbyist members to discuss the merits of forming a Domestic Group within the Branch. President David Penrose pointed out that whilst it had been the Committee's policy to provide a program for all sections the smaller beekeeper missed out on those educational discussions and demonstrations which he felt were necessary to stimulate interest and provide for better beekeeping.

The proposal met with immediate and unanimous approval and accordingly a Domestic Group of the Canterbury Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association was formed with Mr. F. J. Armstrong as President and Mr. A. R. Eagle as Secretary. The following aims and objects were set out:—

(1) To promote better beekeeping amongst beginners and hobbyists.

(2) To encourage the domestic beekeeper to look after his hives properly and so avoid ill-feeling amongst other beekeepers and the general public.

(3) To co-operate in the promotion of social and educational activities of all beekeepers.

(4) To publicise the value of bees.

To set the ball rolling a Field Day was held on March 10 at the apiary of Mr. Armstrong when about 40 people attended, and the enthusiasm of all was a credit to the organisers. Mr. Armstrong has an apiary which would put many a commercial beekeeper to shame.

Regular monthly meetings are being held with outside lectures, the first being "The Anatomy of the Honey Bee" by the Apiary Instructor, Mr. Griffin.

Most beekeepers were well satisfied with the final crop. A late flow did eventuate and this filled the broodnests nicely. Wintering has been easy this autumn, but we are glad to be finished.

—J.K.B.

OTAGO

At a recent Branch meeting members bade farewell to our Apiary Instructor, Mr. Gary Jeffery, who has left the Department and will be keeping bees commercially in North Otago. Gary was a conscientious, energetic and capable man whom we are indeed sorry to lose. As his successor we welcome Mr. R. Hobbs, formerly of Greymouth.

We record with regret the recent death of Mr. M. W. Brooker, a keen student of apiculture and an esteemed member of our Branch. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Brooker and her family in their bereavement.

— A. J. Shaw

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.I., New Delhi 12, India.

N.B.A. Library

The Dominion Executive has decided to set up a library of beekeeping books and it is hoped as time goes on that this will become a valuable source of information for the beekeepers of New Zealand. Mr. Chris Dawson, of 11 Cain Street, Timaru, has agreed to act as Honorary Librarian.

A set of rules for the operation of the Library is being drawn up and full details of the scheme will be announced at the Oamaru Conference and published in the August Journal.

A small collection of books has already been given to establish the Library. It is possible that in the future some revenue may be available to make selected purchases. In the meantime donations of further books will be welcomed and will be fittingly acknowledged.



Notes for Beginners

Winter is Coming

In preparing your hives for winter, attention should be given to four factors that influence colony morale and health: Food, Ventilation, Housing, Queens.

For food, one full-depth super of stores is necessary in most parts of New Zealand. For ventilation, the front entrance and top ventilation need to be sufficient to allow the voiding of foul air and to prevent the accumulation of dampness inside the hive through condensation. (The winter cluster does not use fanning to preserve ventilation). For housing it is necessary: (1) That the bottom-board should be free of cracks and holes where mice can get in; (2) that the supers be free of broken corners and gaps where rodents and weather can get in; and (3), that lids should shed all the rain.

Some beekeepers remove the hive mats (or inner lids) to allow ample winter ventilation, but care is necessary here to ensure that wasps cannot cause havoc.

While preparing for winter is an excellent time to check the condition of the queen and if there is no sign of brood and the queen cannot be found, I would be tempted to assume the queen was missing and would take suitable measures.

This is also an excellent time to remove faulty frames and combs. Any frames with faulty lugs, sides or bars should be set aside and any very old and heavy combs or comb with patches of drone cells can be prepared for melting down.

Choose Breeders Now

This is the best time of the year to select your two Breeder Queens for next season—the best one for use and the second for emergency. Having seen the crops they produced and having

noted the desirable characteristics of their progeny, you will choose those queens which give the best chance of obtaining desirable stock. Some guidance on this subject will be found in "Skep" notes for August, 1961.

If a colony is strong in drones at this time of the year, I would spend whatever time was necessary to find the queen. She is probably missing and a queenless colony carried through the winter is worse than useless in the spring.

Surplus Crop

Now that your honey crop is extracted you will know how much you have to sell. Be sure to secure full price for it because it is worth it. Most domestic beekeepers do not have any difficulty in obtaining full price because they have friends and customers who are anxious to buy from sources they know. The Honey Marketing Authority is your own buying and selling organisation and it will be pleased to hear of any honey available.

Seasonal Work

The next few weeks are known as the Beekeeper's Holiday but the wise beekeeper sometimes finds it the busiest time of the year. There is much to be done and especially if expansion is contemplated is this so. There are supers to be primed, nailed together (28 nails to each super) and painted; there are frames to be made up and wired (six nails to each frame—two in top bar, two in sides and two in bottom rail); there are bottom boards to be made up and weatherproofed and lids to be made. When this is completed, all the frames of comb in storage will need to be sorted and faulty ones put aside for repairs or melting. Other equipment needs to be cleaned, painted and prepared for a new season's work.

What beekeeper is satisfied with his housing? There is always a bit more room needed for something and now is the time to provide it. Just one job I could wager my last dollar won't get done—cleaning out the smoker! Just why so many beekeepers seem to enjoy carrying around the extra weight of a liberal coating of carbon in the smoke chamber I cannot understand. If the bellows need repairs, it is not difficult to remove the metal binding and replace the leather. There are other materials available now for this purpose and they probably give a longer life than the conventional materials.

Mouse Fences

For a mouse, a beehive makes a palatial winter residence. Nowhere else can he find for his family a centrally heated bedroom and a dining room stored with plenty of food. Safe from his natural enemies he can make havoc and live comfortably.

In some localities, the damage caused by mice is considerable and because of this, some form of guard must be provided. While the providing of a mouse guard is necessary, it is also necessary to avoid reducing too greatly the front ventilation and therefore the form of the mouse guard is important. If a strip of wood is nailed across the entrance leaving a $\frac{3}{8}$ in gap, insufficient space is left for the winter cluster to be ventilated. A mouse will not go through a $\frac{1}{2}$ in round hole but will go through a $\frac{3}{4}$ in hole. If a strip of netting wire having $\frac{1}{2}$ in holes is stretched across the hive entrance, the mice are kept out, the ventilation is allowed in and out and the bees have free access.

My choice for a mouse fence is a strip of all-wire Queen-excluder one inch wide and cut to 16 inches long. This can be stapled permanently to the bottom board and if placed at the correct height will leave free access for bees, queens and drones to come and go while at the same time keeping the rodents out.

Now That's a Good Idea —

Moving Hives

This can easily be done if you have hive lifting and moving equipment or if there are two people to work at it but when you want to do the job on your

lonesome, it is more difficult. The following method makes it possible for one person to move hives easily any distance.

For each super to be moved, it is necessary to have a piece of scrim of a size not less than 30 inches wide by 70 inches long.

After the scrim has been spread on the ground close to the hive, the top super complete with frames, honey, bees and brood is carefully lifted and placed midway on the scrim which is now wrapped around the super somewhat like a pound of butter in its wrapper. The second super is wrapped likewise and as each super is prepared, chalk on top the hive number and super number. The floor of the trailer should have strips of timber placed so that when the wrapped supers are placed in position, the timber, while holding the scrim in



Supers Full of Bees Wrapped in Scrim.



Trailer Load of Wrapped Supers Ready for Moving.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

position at the ends of the supers, allows ventilation through each super from bottom to top.

They will travel long distances quite comfortably and when placed on their new site will settle down almost as quickly as if they had been moved complete with bottom boards and lids.

Beekeepers' Friend

"THE HIVE AND THE HONEY BEE." This book of 650 pages is the modern version of that which appeared 110 years ago entitled "Langstroth on the Hive and the Honey Bee—A Beekeepers' Manual."

Each of the 23 chapters is written by a world authority in that particular field and to assemble the writings of such a galaxy of beekeeping stars is certainly no small accomplishment. To the editor of this book, Roy A. Grout, the beekeeping world owes a considerable debt especially as all the articles are written in language that Mr. Average can read, learn and enjoy.

Copiously illustrated and with excellent drawings, the 1960 edition should be on every beekeeper's shelf.

A book of reference that both commercial and domestic beekeepers will find a life-long friend.

Bees on Great Barrier

Beekeeping in the good old days on Great Barrier Island is recalled in an article by Dorothy Wiseman in "The Auckland Weekly" of 13/3/63. The article features Captain Adam Blackwell, 87, now living at Panmure and still operating his sturdy launch Rosella from the Tamaki River estuary.

Time was when all Auckland knew the Rosella as the "honey boat" and citizens simply "swarmed round her" when she came in sight. Her honey was sold for 2/6 a 5lb tin.

It was after the Maori Wars that Adam's father, George Blackwell, was allotted a 40-acre section—in common with other war veterans—on Great Barrier Island in the vicinity of Tryphena.

On the Great Barrier, George Blackwell and his fellow-settlers realised after a few years that their 40-acre sections were much too small for effective farming, and with some others who were also "game to give it a go,"

Blackwell therefore decided to try beekeeping as offering better possibilities, perhaps, for making a living.

Nine years after they had begun the Blackwells possessed 500 hives, and their flourishing business included their own sawmill for making frames, boxes and so on. In six weeks, in the 1895 season—a typical example—they procured and canned 10 tons of honey, a goodly quantity of which was exported to England. They also distributed foundation wax comb all over New Zealand, and were it is thought, the first people to import a foundation wax imprinting machine from the United States. The machine is still in the possession of the family.

"We were among the first in New Zealand to import queen bees from Italy," said Captain Blackwell, "and before long we were sending queens all over New Zealand, and also to some of the Pacific Islands."

Steadily the Great Barrier built up a reputation as an excellent honey-producing area—the beekeepers in the main being about 10 of the original families and their descendants.

Adam Blackwell was born on the Great Barrier and takes pride in the fact that he is now the oldest surviving member of the island's second generation of pakeha settlers. "And every-one of my contemporaries has lived to a great age," he smiled.

"It's my belief it's the honey," he said, "for there's no doubt it's a food with wonderful life-sustaining properties."

Milk and Honey

Welcome to New Zealand

New Zealand should sell itself abroad as "the land flowing with milk and honey," an Australian temperance leader, Mr. E. Steed, said in Auckland recently.

He suggested every visitor be met by "attractive lasses with buckets" and handed a container of milk and a small pot of honey.

"You have this magnificent milk and honey, so why not exploit it?" said Mr. Steed.

"Just as many of the Pacific islands are known for their leis and kisses on the cheek."

—P.A., 29/3/63.



The Derelict Hive

The despair of an Apiary Instructor. In this case an arrangement was made for another beekeeper to take over the colony, transfer the bees to his own sound equipment, and burn the derelict material. —Photo by Sefton Line.

Management of Weak Colonies

From an article by Mykola H. Haydak, University of Minnesota, published in 'Gleanings.'

As soon as the weather becomes warm enough to work with bees, we inspect the colonies for disease and at the same time we judge their strength. The hive bodies of stronger colonies are reversed. When a weak colony, having a half or one frame of good brood, is found it is placed over a queen excluder above a strong colony in the yard. The entrance is provided toward the front of the hive by placing two strips of wooden shingles over the sides of the queen excluder. The weak colony is helped by the warmth from the supporting colony and by the nurse bees coming from below through the queen excluder. The supporting colony has its hive bodies reversed at weekly intervals, until both stories are full of bees and brood and the colony may be ready to start queen cells. Then the supporting colony is moved out to the new stand, an extra hive body with dry combs or foundation is given on top. On the old stand a hive body with dry combs is placed on the bottom board, the former weak colony is placed over it with the middle entrance provided

by two strips of shingles and another hive body with dry combs is placed on top.

Such removal of the supporting colony should be done not later than three preferably four weeks before the main honey flow starts. The result of such management can be very gratifying. As an illustration, one such weak colony, having half a frame of brood on May 15, produced 295 pounds of surplus, while the supporting colony gave 140 pounds, the combined supplies being equal to 435 pounds.

It may also happen that on the next examination, after the weak colony has been placed on top of the strong colony, one discovers that the upper queen has disappeared and only a few bees are left in this part of the colony. Then both parts should be united. No harm is done in this case either because such a weak colony should have been discarded anyway, since it very rarely provides for its own wintering.

We have also installed packages on top of strong overwintered colonies, and compared their production with that of the packages hived in the conventional manner. The packages are hived over a double screen or a screened inner

cover. The entrance is provided toward the front of the hive using two strips of wooden shingles. We introduce our packages by the direct release method. About four weeks later when the brood nest in the package colony has been established, the screen is removed and a queen excluder is put in its place. Another hive body may be added on top if needed. The entrance is retained. The reversal of the hive bodies of the supporting colony is continued until the signs of overcrowding appeared. Then the supporting colony is moved out to the new stand and the same procedure as in the case of weak colonies is applied. Last year the average production of packages introduced in this way was 164 pounds, while that of packages hived in the same yard in the conventional manner was 103 pounds. The supporting colonies gave an average surplus of 94 pounds which was about equal to the average production of 100 pounds for normal colonies in the same yard.

The importance of moving supporting colonies at least three to four weeks before the main honey flow has been strikingly demonstrated by the experiments in the season of 1960. Those supporting colonies which were moved out about four weeks before the main honey flow produced 175-200 pounds surplus honey. Those which were placed on a new stand shortly before the main flow gave an average surplus of only 37 pounds. When supporting colonies are moved out they lose all their field force. Consequently the colonies moved out shortly before the main flow could not utilize the potential strength of their brood as was the case with the colonies of the first group.

Recent Research

INCREASING BEE SIZE BY USING LARGER CELLS IN FOUNDATION

The idea of increasing the size of a bee by increasing foundation cell base size was suggested several years ago, however experiments undertaken to prove the point were unsuccessful. The author re-did some of these experiments using a larger number of colonies. The work of Alpatov was accepted in which it was found that the bee's body size decreased from south to north.

The author found that a queen will lay fertilised eggs in cells up to 1.2775 times the normal cell diameter. Any cells larger than these would get unfertilised eggs. Normal foundation has cells 5.35mm. in diameter. In this experiment three larger cell base sizes were used: 5.65mm., 5.85mm., and 6.00 mm. A swarm from the colony with 6.00mm. diameter foundation also drew combs with abnormally large cell diameters (5.44mm.) whereas swarms from control groups drew combs with (5.28mm.) diameter. Bigger cells produced heavier bees (9mg.) The tongue was found to be 1.6 per cent longer than normal. Wing length increased from 1.3 per cent to 1.7 per cent. The wax gland mirror was found to increase in size from 2.4 to 3.9 per cent. The bees from the larger cells carried 34 per cent more nectar per load.

In an eight year period in tests involving 1600 colonies over the entire Soviet Union, the colonies with foundation in the 5.65-5.85 range produced 17 per cent more honey than normally expected. The author suggests that the larger foundation be used in northern sections of the country. By N. M. Glushkov.

—Reviewed by Cyprian Zmarlicki in 'Gleanings'

Temperature and Bumblebee Flight

In the Arctic, bumblebees have been observed to fly at very low temperatures. One observer recorded flight when the temperature was 20 degrees fahrenheit. Sometimes when it is too cold for them to fly, they have been observed crawling from one flower to another. In this way arctic species of bumblebees are both able to feed and to pollinate the plant saxifrage. In arctic areas bumblebees are large and they are covered with long shaggy hairs. It is presumed these bees are able to generate body heat easily and keep warm and active because they are well insulated. These and other interesting observations about bumblebees and other arctic insects are contained in a recent article by J. A. Downes in 'The Canadian Entomologist.'

—From a review by Dr. Roger A. Morse in 'Gleanings'



Reflections from the Editor's Desk

Nosema

In America Nosema is regarded as one of the most serious diseases of the honeybee, especially as a cause of queen loss in package bees and as a problem in over-wintering colonies. Treatment with Fumagillin is carried out extensively by some beekeepers.

In Australia entomologist K. M. Doull of the Waite Agricultural Institute considers that Nosema is the greatest single cause of loss to the beekeeping industry. By good bee husbandry it can be kept under control, but only to a limited degree.

We know that Nosema has been present in New Zealand for many years and serious losses have occasionally been reported. Milder cases, or suspected cases, seem to be quite widespread. If the total damage caused by the disease could be accurately assessed it would be enlightening and it would probably amount to a surprising figure. Fumagillin has not been proved as a treatment in this country and in any case its price, if it were obtainable, seems to be almost prohibitive.

Beekeeping in the Future

An appraisalment of the economic value of bees is an important matter in the administration of our industry but it can hardly be considered the last word on apiculture in New Zealand. There is room in this country to expand the production of honey, especially in the amber grades, and there is a dire need in many parts of the world for all that can be produced. If we have a responsibility to supply this need it is apparently a responsibility which is not recognised in the field of economics.

Again, the money value of pollination by bees can be computed from the

value of the seed and fruit crops produced, but if the crops failed for want of bees the actual loss would be incalculable. The extent of the possible loss is envisaged by biologist Gary Webster in his book "Codfish, Cats and Civilisation" when he says: "Without the pollinating of bees as many as 100,000 species of flowering plants might disappear from the earth."

If Webster's statement is realistic he he certainly justified in making his further comment: "Taking the long look at the planet," he says, "we might well ask: Do men really keep bees, or do bees keep men?"

Winter Brood Rearing in Maine, U.S.A.

Do bees rear brood during the sub-zero weather in the northern states? The answer is an unqualified 'yes.'

During the winter of 1960-1, after 18 consecutive days of sub-zero temperatures, the cold snap suddenly ended on February 9, and the mercury climbed to 40 degrees.

Seven colonies of bees were examined and all of them had brood in various stages of development from eggs to sealed pupae, in from two to four frames. These patches of brood were about the size of one's hand. Until April at intervals of about two weeks these colonies were examined and always found to have approximately the same amount of brood. The temperature was always above 30 degrees and usually about 40 degrees when they were examined.

In previous years when an examination of all hives was made during the last of March, there appeared to be more bees in the hives than there were in October. Now the reason is obvious.

In 1961 my colonies averaged 155 pounds.

—S. L. Loyer in 'Gleanings.'

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

CORRESPONDENCE

A New Problem

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am confronted by a problem with which, by nature and training, I find myself ill-fitted to deal. Possibly you, or one of your readers, may be able to spare a crumb from your store of accumulated wisdom.

I have an apiary site near Invercargill, well sheltered and isolated, from which I have secured many good crops. I now learn that the site is under offer to a naturists' club, which I understand implies nudity. In the event of this sale being completed, sir, what action do I take?

Yours faithfully,

J. W. FRASER.

(Editor's Note: In our opinion the bees will not be unduly affected by the change of ownership and good crops are likely to continue as before. From the beekeeper's point of view there could be some difficulty in reconciling the business of the apiary with that of the club, and in contemplating the matter we recall the old saying "When in Rome do as the Romans do." Perhaps if Mr. Fraser were to divest himself of his bee veil and other extraneous sartorial paraphernalia he might be welcomed into the naturist

community and the activities in the bee yard might well add a new piquancy to the atmosphere of the club.

P.S. On referring Mr. Fraser's problem to a North Island Apiary Instructor he suggested that the next Southland Field Day be held at that apiary and that it be advertised throughout the country.)

International Congress

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

Prague, a city of one million inhabitants, rich in history, art and learning, and the beautiful Czechoslovak countryside with its 100,000 beekeepers and over 1,000,000 colonies of bees, will be ready to welcome visitors to the Congress. An extensive agenda as well as sightseeing tours are being arranged and it is hoped to generate a feeling of friendship as expressed in the motto of the Congress: "Apiculture unites the nations in peaceful co-existence."

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Janet and John Visit the Honeyhouse

Thirty seven-year-olds at the Havelock North School recently wrote 30 letters to Mr. W. J. C. Ashcroft to thank him for showing them through the honeyhouse. Frankness and sincerity were well to the fore in all the letters.

"Dear Mr. Ashcroft, Thank you for letting us go to your honeyhouse to see the honey man and how you work it. From Shelley."

"Dear Mr. Ashcroft, I liked the honey going around. Thank you for showing us the beehives. From Janet."

Brent, a practical chap, turned his attention to the economics of the industry. "We all liked to see your pots of honey," he remarked, as the main point of interest.

Apparently the cool room impressed Adrienne most, and she said so. "I

liked the freezing works," she wrote boldly, in letters two inches high.

Of all the apiary attractions the queen bee was an easy favourite. Nearly all the writers mentioned her and Dougall, Christine, Lynne and Jennifer definitely liked the queen more than anything else.

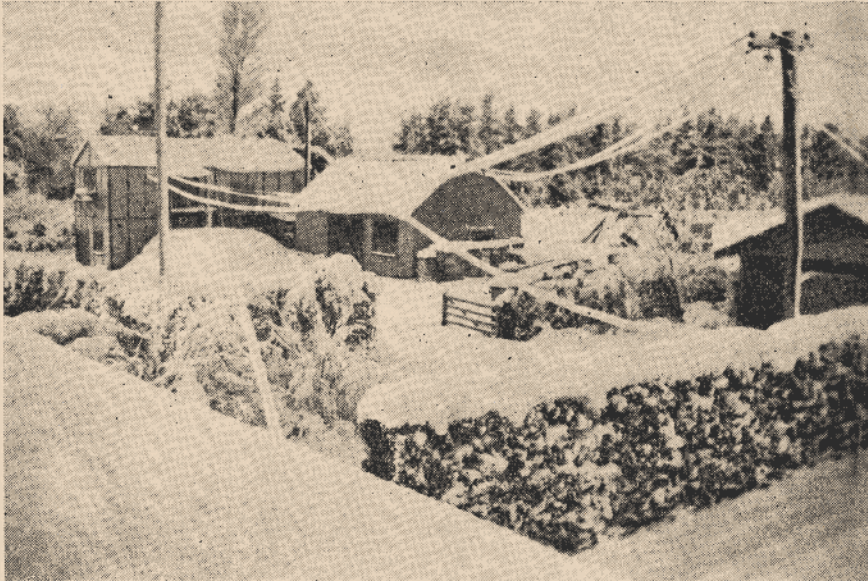
To John the wonders of nature are all very well, but one must keep one's sense of proportion. "I am glad you showed us everything," he wrote. "I liked the spoonful of honey best of all."

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Winter in the South

With Conference being held in Oamaru this year the time is opportune to publish this photo of a winter scene in the South Island. The picture shows the apiary buildings of Mr. T. F. Penrose, Leeston, taken at the time of the Christchurch Conference in July, 1945.

The Way They Do It In Queensland

A Field Day on the grand scale was held on March 23 at Darra, in Queensland, Australia. Vehicles in the parking area numbered 298 and the attendance was 803. The list of speakers (30) and topics (23) resembled a "Who's Who" in beekeeping, and there were displays, a sale of queen bees and a mobile canteen to cater for the crowd.

If there were such a thing as a world record Field Day this would probably be it.

At the conclusion of the day a barbecue was provided by the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. John Guilfoyle, for the organisers, demonstrators, co-operators and special inter-State visitors.

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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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The Benmore Project. A visit to this huge undertaking will be one of the highlights of the Oamaru Conference in July.

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