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NEW  
ZEALAND

# BEEKEEPER

FEBRUARY 1964



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THE  
NEW  
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# BEEKEEPER

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## No Cure for Wind

REPORTS FROM BOTH ISLANDS on the honey crop for the current season are so divergent that it is difficult to provide an accurate assessment as these notes are prepared. Most of the country has had such unseasonal and unsettled weather from early spring that large numbers of foragers have left for work never to return. Parts of Southland are having the worst returns for thirty years and one Waikato estimate is for half crop or less. The picture is not, however, wholly disappointing, and some areas are reporting much better than average yields, whilst neighbouring apiarists are average.

The common cause for beekeepers' troubles this season has been the same from the Cape to the Bluff and can be summed up with one word: **WIND**. Unfortunately, the meteorological variety cannot be cured despite the plaintive denunciations of those most personally affected.

### Hard Labour

Thoughts of hard work in the harvest field reminds the writer of the meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association executive, held in Wellington last November. If any rank and file member should have preconceived ideas that membership of the executive is a sinecure and "a piece of cake", let me hasten to provide disillusionment. No self-respecting trade union would permit their members to work the hours these men put in, and the only relaxation was when it was time to eat!

Since confession is good for the soul, let it be readily admitted that my own expectant thoughts ran along the lines of a few pleasant days to spend in congenial company, exchanging pleasantries and discussing points of common interest to the industry of which we are all members.

In truth and fact the days started early and continued without break—except for meals—until bed-time. A return to normal working conditions and day-to-day routine seemed almost like a rest cure!

# Beekeepers Named for HONORARY DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture is pleased to announce the award of Diplomas in Apiculture without examination to persons over 40 years of age who have had at least 20 years' experience in beekeeping. Authority for the issue of these Diplomas by the Institute was obtained through an amendment to the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Act 1957. It is hoped that these senior citizens in Beekeeping will encourage younger men and women in the industry to study for and sit the examinations for this Diploma which is the only Beekeeping qualification available to this country. Anyone interested should write to the Secretary of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, P.O. Box 450, Wellington.

In reporting on his visit to the United Kingdom in 1952, the Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture stated that a National Diploma in Beekeeping was being considered by the Beekeeping Education Association which aims to have a Diploma of equal standard to the National Diploma in Horticulture granted by the Royal Horticultural Society and recognised by the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture as a suitable qualification for Horticultural advisory officers. Mr Greig then stated, "I feel the time has arrived when the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand in co-operation with the Horticulture Division should discuss a similar series of recognised qualifications for New Zealand Beekeepers from whom future Apiary Instructors could be recruited. Such a move will have my personal interest and support."

## APPROACH BY N.B.A.

In 1956 the National Beekeepers' Association decided to approach the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture with the object of establishing a Diploma in Beekeeping and the following year the Institute's Act was amended to cover Beekeeping as well as Horticulture. Discussions then took place between the Institute's Examining Board (under Professor H. D. Gordon), the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry and the executive of the National Beekeeping Association which culminated in approval of a draft syllabus in 1959. By taking the full course of study and gaining the practical experience required a candidate must have a minimum of six years practical experience in handling bees and then pass in nine written papers, three oral examinations, and submit a Thesis, before being awarded National Diploma in Apiculture, the hall mark of the all round practical Beekeeper. The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture has commenced to register students and to set examinations for this Diploma. On the establishment of such a Diploma it is customary and fitting to make awards, without examinations, to those of recognised standing and experience in the industry. The Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association has given this move its full co-operation and support.

The list of Honorary Diplomas hereunder is a complete list of such awards as authority to issue these without examination has now expired.

## HONORARY DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE

ABERNETHY, Roy Campbell, P.O. Box 69, Owaka.  
ADAMSON, William Henry, Wedderburn, Central Otago.  
ARMSTRONG, Frank John, 102 Dyers Pass Road, Christchurch.  
ASHCROFT, William James Cranshaw, 77 Te Mata Road, Havelock North.  
BALL, Endon Offwood, Hook R.D. 8, Waimate South Canterbury.  
BASSETT, Winston Gordon, 26c Maranui Street, New Plymouth.  
BENNIE, Ronald Daniel, Ranfurly.  
BENNETT, Alfred William, 6 Olwyn Terrace, Frankton, Hamilton.

BERRY, Percy, P.O. Box 16, Havelock North.  
 BOX, Leonard Ivo, P.O. Box 37, Heriot.  
 BRISCOE, Douglas Allenby, 10 Devon Street, Greerton, Tauranga.  
 BUSH, Horace, Old Renwick Road, Blenheim.  
 BUSHBY, Ralph Raymond, 193 Wairakei Road, Christchurch 5.  
 CALDWELL, William John, Roslyn Bush, No. 2 R.D., Invercargill.  
 CLOAKE, Harry, Fairview, No. 2 R.D., Timaru.  
 COOMBES, William Alfred, P.O. Box 42, Lumsden.  
 CROPP, Leslie Thomas, 5 Surrey Road, Richmond, Nelson.  
 CROPP, Thomas Arthur, 158 Queen Street, Richmond, Nelson.  
 DAVIDSON, Robert, C/o. Davidsons Apiaries, Hadlow, No. 4 R.D., Timaru.  
 ELLIOTT, Ernest William, Douglas Road, Amberley.  
 FORSTER, Ivor Wilfred, Department of Agriculture, Oamaru.  
 FORSTER, James, Spur Road, No. 4 R.D., Timaru.  
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 FRASER, John William, Ryal Bush, No. 6 R.D., Invercargill.  
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 HERRON, William Thompson, Greenvale Apiaries, No. 5 R.D., Gore.  
 HIGGINS, John Christopher, Bradford Street, Waihi.  
 HIGHT, Eric Benjamin Fletcher, 103 Thompson Street, Tinwald, Ashburton.  
 HILL, Clarence William, 125 Victoria Street, Rangiora.  
 HOBBS, Richard Hope, 8 Afton Street, Gore.  
 HILLARY, Wrexford Fleming, 8 View Road, Papakura.  
 HOLDAWAY, Harold Raynor, 24 Alamein Avenue, Onerahi, Whangarei.  
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 JOHNSON, Leslie Harold, 360 Ferguson Street, Palmerston North.  
 KNIBB, Harry George, 32 Hislop Street, Geraldine.  
 LLOYD, John, Main South Road, Manaia, Taranaki.  
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 McKENZIE, John George, Bathgates Road, Waimate.  
 MAIL, James William, Mawhitiwhiti Road, Normanby.  
 MARSH, Charles Leonard Samuel, Ethrick, Otago.  
 NELSON, William Wallace, 21 Seacliffe Avenue, Belmont, Takapuna.  
 NEWTON, Ronald Henry, 127 Alford Forest Road, Ashburton.  
 OLSEN, Maurice Hubert, No. 3 R.D. New Plymouth.  
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 TUCK, Henry Norman, Kihikihi, Waikato.  
 WALSH, Robert Sylvan, 8 Coleridge Street, Grey Lynn, Auckland.  
 WATSON, Jack Hocking, Gresham Street, Geraldine.  
 WHALLEY, Ernest John, No. 3 R.D., Wanganui.  
 WILSON, Herbert Stanley, Elderslie, 2 C.R.D., Oamaru.  
 WILTON, Frank Floyd, Waerenga Road, Otaki.  
 WINTER, Thomas S., 16 Tangahoe Street, Paekakariki.  
 WYNDHAM, Charles Frederick, 3 R.D., Balclutha.

# HONEY IMPORTER TO VISIT N.Z.

*H.M.A. to arrange Tour for Col Kimpton*

In a letter to Mr C. T. Gosse, General Manager of the H.M.A., the Managing Director of Kimpton Bros (Red Carnation) Ltd., London, writes that he is to arrive at Auckland on May 7, for an extensive tour of bee farming centres. To acquaint beekeepers with the purpose of the visit, the letter from Colonel Kimpton is reproduced in its entirety.

"IT IS NOW nine years since my firm was appointed as the Sole Agents for the sale of honey exported from New Zealand. During that time the whole of the exportable surplus of your honey has been disposed of, not only in times of world shortage as is the case this year, but also at times of glut of honey through world over-production.

When we took over the sole agency the price of your White Clover honey (to my mind the best honey produced in the world) was between £112 and £120 per ton landed terms in the London market. Very large quantities of your honey at that time remained unsold.

Over the last few years the price of this honey, because of our sole agency, has been raised on average between £165 and £180 per ton and this season as much as £200 per ton has been obtained. These higher prices have been obtained largely because of the sole agency — other small honey importing firms have thus been prevented from price cutting.

Our five full time executives are selling your honey to hundreds of buyers all over the United Kingdom and on the Continent of Europe.

In order that I may give a full account of our stewardship to the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority and to the beekeepers themselves throughout New Zealand, I am proposing to make another trip to New Zealand expressly for this purpose. I hope to arrive in Auckland on May 7th next and I plan to be in your country for just over a fortnight. **During that time I shall be glad if you will arrange for me to speak to as many meetings of bee farmers as you can fix up both in the North and South Islands, and I will look forward to meeting as many of them as possible and to answering any questions that they may like to put to me.**

I want you to work me hard during this visit — six days a week (not on Sundays), and you need arrange no recreation for me. I am coming for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to convince the beekeepers of New Zealand that Kimpton Brothers have done, and will continue to do, their utmost in the interest of the industry, in selling to the best possible advantage all honey available for the export market. At the same time I want them to know that it is because of this sole agency arrangement that the best prices have been obtained for their excellent honey.

In due course I shall look forward to receiving your suggested programme for my visit."

No details are yet available of the itinerary for Colonel Kimpton. Branch Secretaries will be contacted direct as early as possible.



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# "SILENT SPRING"

By Rachel Carson. Riverside Press, U.S.A. \$5

"Through all these new, imaginative, and creative approaches to the problem of sharing our earth with other creatures there runs a constant theme, the awareness that we are dealing with life—with living populations and all their pressures and counter-pressures, their surges and recessions. Only by taking account of such life forces and by cautiously seeking to guide them into channels favourable to ourselves can we hope to achieve a reasonable accommodation between the insect hordes and ourselves.

"The current vogue for poisons has failed utterly to take into account these most fundamental considerations. As crude a weapon as the caveman's club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life—a fabric on the one hand delicate and destructable, on the other miraculously tough and resilient, and capable of striking back in unexpected ways. These extraordinary capacities of life have been ignored by the practitioners of chemical control who have brought to their task no 'high minded orientation', no humility before the vast forces with which they tamper..

"The 'control of nature' is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology for the most part date from that Stone Age of science. It is our alarming misfortune that so primitive a science has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insects it has also turned them against the earth . . ."

The reader cannot help but be impressed by the writings of Rachel Carson, and to many it will be a shock to realise the incredible danger to which not only insect life, but the human race is exposed in handling everyday pesticides and herbicides so conveniently distributed through the nozzle of the aerosol or pressure spray.

The author is a graduate biologist of the John Hopkins University, where she studied genetics, later joining the staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a biologist and editor. She is a scientist with a profound understanding of her subject and possesses that rare but invaluable ability to pass on to non-specialists the results of her knowledge and study.

Beekeepers, with their close and everyday association with a minute division of the insect world, know more intimately than do some other sections of the community of the wonders of nature and how little we really know of its ways and workings.

New Zealand has not experienced the mass drenchings of lethal poisons from the air, as has been the case in America and elsewhere, and it is to be devoutly hoped that indiscriminate distribution will be prevented by the Agricultural Chemicals Board and other authorities, and proper and careful consideration be given to "reason in all things". The relation of life to its environment is of absorbing interest, and must be studied and treated with the greatest respect.

The use of poisonous substances in agriculture and animal husbandry is undoubtedly an economic necessity, but let us all be aware of the dangerous substances so readily available and ensure that their application is within the realms of reason.

It is indeed a paradoxical situation when one considers that safeguards and formalities are essential to obtain a poisonous substance from the chemist's shop, whereas equally dangerous canisters of poison under pressure, can be obtained from the food store or grocer's without signature or even an undertaking to take elementary precautions to keep away from unskilled hands.

Rachel Carson's "SILENT SPRING" is food for thought in enormous quantity, and is undoubtedly timely. If you have not read this now famous work, you are earnestly recommended to do so.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



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# BEE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

THREE NEW REPRINTS from the Bee Research Association, England, were received just prior to Christmas and will make welcome additions to the Association's Library.

Of particular interest to all practical beekeepers is the lecture given by Dr A. W. Frankland, a leading allergy specialist in England, on the Treatment of Bee Sting Reactions.

Dr Frankland works at the Wright-Fleming Institute of Microbiology at St Mary's Hospital, London, and has a wide experience of treating beekeepers who have developed a sensitivity to bee stings.

Dealing with treatment of local reaction for bee stings, Dr Frankland points out the error of grasping the projecting end of the sting with forceps or fingers to avoid greater introduction of venom from the poison sac, and reminds his readers that whilst there are many first aid treatments for bee stings, their efficiency is based more on folk lore than fact. Whilst any locally applied cooling agent is soothing, and a blue bag, dilute vinegar, cold water, eau de cologne or an ice pack will all give relief, the modern treatment is to rub into the swollen part an antihistamine ointment. These ointments are the same as those sold for mosquito or midge bites, and may have a local anaesthetic as well as an antihistamine effect. (Histamine is the substance largely responsible for the itch and sting from the common nettle.)

The majority of Dr Frankland's patients are beekeepers who, instead of becoming immune to bee stings, unexpectedly develop an increasing sensitivity to such a degree that they have to seek medical assistance. Many patients are sensitive to bee protein rather than the venom, and may have no other allergic complaints.

Within five minutes of receiving a sting an intense burning and itching of the skin is experienced, the eyelids and lips become very swollen, and so may the soft tissues of the throat. Breathing is difficult and the pulse can be heard beating in the ears. The patient feels faint, and unless he lies flat nature will put him in this position — in a faint. Consciousness may remain in that the patient can hear but not see what is going on around him. Three of Dr Frankland's patients actually heard someone bend over them and express the opinion that they were dead!

Subsequent stings bring unconsciousness in less than five minutes, and it is obvious that when such a dangerous degree of sensitivity has developed, beekeeping must be given up. As a consolation, let it be emphasised that of the dozen people who die every year in Great Britain from the effect of stings, the usual cause is from wasps and not bees.

Those who are unfortunate enough to become dangerously sensitive to stings are recommended to carry antihistamine tablets with them when travelling or away from home, and for those who are hypersensitive, an injection of adrenaline.

Dr Frankland's lecture is absorbingly interesting and detailed, although it could provide the basis for a first-class nightmare for the average apiarist, who regards stings with as much concern as the energy needed to scratch the head. May it ever be thus for you all.



A BEEKEEPING VISIT to the Soviet Union, by Dr Eva Crane, provides an interesting account of Dr Crane's attendance at the Third International Beekeeping Congress of Socialist Countries, held in Moscow, in September, 1962.

A detailed account is given of the extent of beekeeping in the Soviet Union, and it is interesting to note that an estimated total of 5,500,000 colonies are managed by state and collective farms, and a further 5,100,000 in private ownership. A total of 10,600,000 colonies represents a lot of hives in any country's language, and it is indicative of the size of the country when one realises that a quarter of the world's hives are situated there.

The average surplus honey extracted is given in official statistics as 22-26lbs per colony, which compares well with the estimate given thirty years ago by Professor Phillips, who quoted 22lbs.

Honey produced by collective or state farms is passed to the appropriate Government trading organisation or co-operative for bottling and sale in the state owned shops. A state farm does not sell honey in the accepted sense, but receives a payment 15 per cent less than the amount for which the co-operative sells it.

Private beekeepers — who produce 50,000 tons of honey between them each year — can dispose of their crop in several ways. They can sell direct to the co-operatives and receive the state farm price; may bottle and label their product, and sell it direct to the state owned shops, or may sell it 'privately' direct to neighbours or fellow workers. A further outlet is through the unofficial markets that exist in every town for the sale of agricultural produce resulting from private enterprise! Honey thus sold must not be labelled, since labelling denotes sale through recognised Government channels.

Providing a comparison of retail selling price is difficult because of the artificial rate of exchange. At the official rate, the rouble is approximate to the U.S. dollar, but Dr Crane explains that this is too high for many purposes.

As a guide, however, the state shops sell — or rather offer for sale — honey in 10½oz and 21oz glass jars (300 and 600 grams) and the price varies from place to place from 2.40 roubles per kg. in Moscow and 1.80 roubles further east in Ufa. Sugar costs 0.90 roubles per kg.

Dr Crane was particularly impressed by the types of honey bee in the Soviet Union. Indigenous bees of the North or Central European race (*A.m. mellifera*) occur over a wide range of latitude and altitude, and there is a special reserve for a dark forest bee noted for its hardiness which exists in the Bashkir in the Urals. Other strains of bee are prohibited within the area to ensure purity of strain.

A detailed and comprehensive report is provided on Soviet bee research and research publications, and it is evident that Dr Crane thoroughly enjoyed her tiring and exacting journeys, particularly to Georgia, where the hospitality had to be experienced to be believed.

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**FROM THE RAW Material to the Finished Product: HONEY** is from a paper read by Dr Anna Maurizio at the Bee Research Association Conference on 'Flower-bee Relationships,' in July, 1962.

Dr Maurizio has been engaged for over thirty years on various problems in this field, including pollen analysis of honey, and bee nutrition in relation to pollen consumption, and she based her lecture on the subject on which she is at present working; the effects on honey of the various processes the raw material undergoes in the plant itself, in the bodies of the foraging bees, and the house bees, in the cells of the comb, and in the vessel in which the honey is finally stored.

Much of the work is so new that it is not yet widely known, and publication of the lecture as a reprint by the Bee Research Association will ensure a world wide readership.

Dr Maurizio hales from Switzerland, and reminds readers that whereas the word 'honeydew' is in bad odour in the English speaking world, and in many countries of Northern Europe, that in extensive regions of central Europe, honeydew is the main honey source, and forest honeys are often more highly prized than flower honey.

Whilst the contents of the lecture are the result of highly technical and scientific observation, Dr Maurizio is able to pass on her knowledge in an easily understandable and assimilable form for the practical beekeeper and everyone remotely interested in bees and their wondrous ways.

The three reprints reviewed on this page may be obtained on loan from our Association's Honorary Librarian, or if required for personal reference and retention may be purchased from the Bee Research Association, Woodside House, Chalfont Heights, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, England at a cost of 1s 0d, 2s 6d, and 2s 0d, respectively.

# COMMENTARY

## from the Editor's Desk and Mail



### REAL HONEY OR SANDWICH SPREAD?

IT IS JUST as well that our tastes are so wide and varied with each individual, otherwise there would be so little to argue about and no solid basis on which to stake a claim.

A visiting beekeeper to my home sampled the honey on the table provided for breakfast toast, and was obviously not impressed by the grain or the flavour, and apparently preferred a malt extract for flavouring the second slice. Pressed as to his opinion, the answer was evasive for courtesy's sake, but in passing, the impression was unmistakable that the only honey really worth eating was the white clover variety.

But is this, in fact, true? Making allowances for the courage of our own convictions that our own particular line is best, is justice being done to the darker and coarser grained honeys?

As a prodigious eater of all classes of honey, my own particular preference is for honeys other than those which are messed about to such an extent that they become sugary syrup or paste. The customer is always right, and the supply must necessarily be for the greatest demand, but it does seem a pity that so much good honey nowadays is processed to such an extent that it becomes another sandwich spread.

It could well be that my taste buds are jaded and in need of the stronger flavours, but for my money, the honey as extracted from the frames and simply strained for extraneous particles is the right choice. Quite frequently, during the course of the year, strangers who know of the whereabouts of my hives in the district telephone to inquire "Have you any real honey for sale."

Perhaps we should all establish as a New Year resolution to be ambassadors for the honey bee and resolve to extol the merits of nature's bounty to all who will listen. There must indeed be fertile ground for education among those with whom we come into contact, and it is interesting to note that recent figures give the per capita honey consumption in the United States as 1½ pounds per annum. ONE AND A HALF POUNDS PER PERSON PER ANNUM! This writer averages two pounds per WEEK. If our own population consumes honey on a similar basis as elsewhere there is obviously a great deal of propaganda work to be done!

The estimated figure for the British Isles is as low as 1/3rd lb. per head, and in Europe, honey as a food is gaining in popularity.

America's average production was 49½lbs per colony, but despite the appallingly low per capita consumption at home, they exported 3,276,000lbs to France in 1962.

## BY REGISTERED POST

A NOTIFICATION CARD from the post office that a registered packet was awaiting collection caused some speculation in the writer's household just a few days before Christmas. Thoughts ranged from visions of an unexpected gift to the possibility of a summons for some heinous offence against the highway code.

All accounts had been paid on due date, the telephone and electricity supply was still on and no knowing offence had been wittingly caused to neighbours or business acquaintances.

With some considerable curiosity, therefore, the card was presented at the postal desk, and in return for the customary signature on the receipt slip, a registered letter was handed over which, on examination of the stamps, proved to have emanated from behind the Iron Curtain in Roumania.

Enclosed in the unsealed envelope—a fact which caused no little concern to the postal clerk at this end—was a greetings card from the Asoclatia Crescatorilor de Albine din Republica Populara Romina, wishing us success and happiness in our beekeeping activities.

Certainly a pleasing and happy thought, sincerely reciprocated to our Roumanian counterparts and beekeepers everywhere throughout the world.

## THE BIRDS and THE BEES

FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT by a ratepayer that bees had fouled his wife's washing and paintwork, the Auckland City Council has adopted a New Zealand Standard Code bylaw, whereby the keeping of bees within Council area is controlled.

The bylaw was recommended by Property and Health Committee, but the wisdom of the decision was queried by one councillor who stated that he had been a beekeeper for several years and could not see much merit in the suggestion. Referring to the alleged nuisance, he asked when the Council would be turning its attention to similar acts by sparrows.

## CASE MOTH CONTROL

MR T. E. PEARSON of Darfield, the National Beekeepers' Association representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board pointed out in a statement to the press that the application of Toxaphene and DDT emulsion for the treatment of case bearer moth in white clover was a tricky problem for farmers and beekeepers alike, in that to be effective, the chemical must be applied to clover in flower.

The axiom "Do not apply toxic material to plants in flower, which are attractive to bees," is by now a widely known and safe guide, pointed out Mr Pearson, but in the case of bearer moth control, effective operation was directly opposed to this direction.

Great care had to be taken by farmers to prevent heavy loss of field bees and ruination of the colonies concerned through partially affected bees carrying the poisonous material back to the hive.

To avoid or minimise the possibility of damage, clover had to be sprayed in the very early morning or late evening, or on dull and overcast days when bees were not working the clover crop.

Emphasising that DDT dust should not be used, Mr Pearson explained that in emulsion form this insecticide was less toxic to bees and had a slightly repellent action.

"Once applied, the danger period is short. By the time the repellent action has disappeared, the greatest danger of damage to bees has passed."

**"In the interests of good pollination and preservation of honey bees, spraying operations must cease immediately bees are seen on the crop."**

(continued on page 13)

# CURRENT PRICES

for

# BEESWAX

If you have pure, clean beeswax take this opportunity of cashing in on today's top market prices.

Dont' delay — write to us **NOW**  
stating the quantity available

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## ITALIAN QUEENS FOR AUTUMN 1964

Bred for **HIGH PRODUCTION (300lb. plus),**  
**. . . VIGOUR . . . GENTLENESS**

A Limited Number will be available from Mid-February  
at 12/6 each. Cash with order, please.

**REMEMBER —**

*A hive is only as good as its QUEEN and  
OLD QUEENS COST MONEY*

*Write :*

**ALLAN M. WARD**

**HAWEA FLAT — CENTRAL OTAGO**

or telephone Hawea Flat, 625

## HOW MANY BEES ARE KILLED?

Reference to Mr Pearson's comments on the chemical treatment of case moth in clover encourages the thought that — despite the utmost care by a sympathetic and intelligent farmer, who recognises and appreciates the good service which bees will render to his crops — incalculable damage must be done to foraging bees by toxic sprays.

The recommendation to farmers is quite specific, and warns them to stop spraying and treating the clover immediately it is noticed that bees are foraging. How many bees would be affected partially or killed completely before spraying stopped? It's an interesting and frightening thought. The proverbial "barrel full of bees" could soon be reduced to a mere keg-ful by a single spraying operation.

A review appears elsewhere in this issue of the book *SILENT SPRING* by Rachel Carson, published in America. We can only hope and trust that massive spraying operations along the lines described by Miss Carson as everyday events in the United States, never occur in New Zealand. Indeed, it would be unfair to the Agricultural Chemicals Board to suggest that they might.

Some of the "case histories" detailed by the author lead the reader to the inevitable conclusion that the Government agencies which permitted the torrents of poison to be sprayed from aircraft and by other means were guilty of culpable incompetence, and the final results of their negligence may take a long time to show to the full.

We must not lose sight of the fact, however, that America is a vast country, and that operations are carried out on a parallel scale, whereas New Zealand is small by comparison.

The author of *SILENT SPRING* is a highly qualified research scientist, and if the man-in-the-street is unable or unwilling to be thoroughly alarmed and frightened at her warnings of damage and destruction through the indiscriminate usage of insecticides and weedicides, food for thought is at least provided which encourages care. Many who read this book with an open mind will at least have much greater respect for the contents of the commonly used aerosol which most of us have handy in the kitchen to deal out death to flies.

Whether we like it or not, chemicals are part and parcel of agriculture today, and the prosperity of the farmer is dependent on them to a considerable extent. As with all good things in life, there must be moderation and consideration for the rights and claims of others.

## SCOTTISH HONEY 4/9 A POUND

The retail prices for Scottish honey recommended by the Honey Producers' Association are 4/9 per lb size and 2/9 per half lb. These seemingly high prices are, of course, a reflection of the severe winter and poor honey season now passed, but any beekeeper or packer with stocks from previous years would certainly be making hay now, even if the sun was not shining.

Scottish honeys have many parallels in New Zealand flavours, and it is to be hoped that shippers' demands will be amply filled at good prices from these shores with the crop now being gathered as these notes are prepared.

Severe conditions and poor crops were not, of course, restricted to Scotland, for the whole of Great Britain and the majority of Europe suffered similarly to a greater or lesser degree.

A Mr H. J. Wadey, writing to the "British Bee Journal," said that he could not recall a more dreadful honey season in 47 years of beekeeping; more than the average "lifetime of beekeeping" to which reference is so often made.

Whilst the weather can justifiably be blamed for some of our misfortunes in the form of below average crops, one cannot help but wonder if other causes should also receive an allocation of blame.

Our own management — or mismanagement — is a factor which should never escape attention, although it is always easier to find a scape-goat further away from home or one that is unable to answer back.

# LETTERS to the EDITOR

Correspondence on any subject of interest to beekeepers is cordially invited. Publication does not necessarily imply agreement with the views expressed.

Hawkes Bay,  
January 24, 1964

Sir,

Whilst it is realised that ignorance of the law is no acceptable plea or excuse for misdemeanour, it was not until I received a hand-out from my local equipment supplier that I realised I had unwittingly joined the ranks of the criminal classes by moving a hive for a distance in excess of two chains without official permission.

I bought my first hive last autumn from an acquaintance who was leaving the district, and had no idea of the formalities that were required. The seller certainly did not tell me. Am I likely to be prosecuted when the situation becomes known?

I am enclosing a copy of the hand-out referred to and sign myself in anonymity:

**"Just a Beginner"**

Our correspondent was advised to contact his Apiary Instructor immediately and to register his hive without further delay. An explanation was also given for the necessity of every beekeeper to comply with the Act. The hand-out to which reference is made is a commendable instruction sheet for the beginner prepared by S. Line, of Hastings, in which sound and easily understood instructions are given for hive management, and the rudimentary obligations of every beekeeper. It would be a great service to the industry if every beginner could be made aware of his responsibilities in nurturing and maintaining disease free stocks.—Editor.



Ryal Bush,  
Invercargill.  
January 17, 1964

Sir,

Any discussion of the issues raised by Mr. Berry in his advertisement in your last issue should take into account the full facts of the matter. As a member of the Executive 1953-62, and a member of the Authority 1956-63, I am perhaps as well placed as anyone to put them on record. Out of consideration for your space I forbear quoting from the records, but I have them before me as I write so am not relying on memory.

The Authority, at its first meetings in 1953-54, reaffirmed the principle of a sole agency for export sales, and in fact took steps to widen the application of this principle, previously followed by the Honey Marketing Committee in the United Kingdom, to the Continent.

The sole agency principle has never seriously been challenged at Conference or during the investigation conducted by the Honey Marketing Investigating Committee in 1959-60. In fact, this committee had this to say: **"The Authority has the sole right to export honey and in our view should retain it. . . . The Authority has established good connections overseas . . . has an excellent agent for the U.K. and Europe."**

Having determined to follow this principle, the Authority made exhaustive inquiries into the best possible agency for carrying it out. As a result of these inquiries, made through the Trade Commissioner in London, among others, a contract was entered into with Kimpton Bros. in December, 1954.

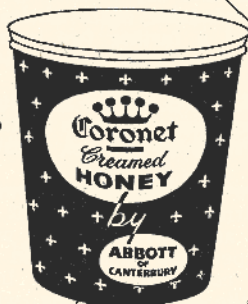
Since the initial contract was signed, four members of the Authority have visited our agent in London. All have reported favourably on the activities of



# IT PAYS TO BRAND 'EM

Don't sell your  
honey blind!  
If you want people to  
buy your honey —  
not just any honey  
— you must  
mark it with your  
brand or name.

- Branding pays, especially in CARDEA cartons because you can get bold striking designs which make your name stand out.
- With a distinctive design and a boldly displayed name, customers will be able to pick YOUR honey out AGAIN



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(Merchants) Ltd.**

**71-79 Customs Street East,  
Auckland**

**SOUTH ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE: P. G. COLLINGS**

33 Charlott Street, Christchurch

Phone 29-062

**Letters to the Editor — (continued)**

Messrs. Kimpton Bros. In addition, the last Wellington Conference was assured by the then Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Prime Minister, the late Mr. Skinner, who had just returned from London, that our affairs were in good hands. I could quote at length, too, from the pages of your issue of February, 1956, when Mr. Nelson was reported to have addressed the newly-formed Bay of Plenty Branch of the N.B.A. In reviewing the operations of the export market, he spoke in very appreciative terms of the services rendered by Messrs. Kimpton Bros. "... it can now be said that his firm has accomplished far more for us than was promised by Colonel Kimpton or anticipated by the Authority. Our agents have frankly admitted that the factors that have made possible their success with our honey are our grading regulations, coupled with our export control regulations. It is obvious that any weakening of these regulations would react against the interests of the industry as a whole. I am happy to say that the Authority has just concluded a further two year agency agreement with Kimpton Bros. on terms which I am sure everyone will regard as favourable to us."

While I believe that generally that is as true today as when Mr. Nelson spoke in 1956, that is not to say that there have not been irritations and disputes on both sides, most of which have been resolved by time, consultations, compromise and mutual agreement.

The whole question of a review of the Agreement was one of the prime reasons why the Authority sent the Chairman overseas in 1962. I have the terms of the original agreement before me as I write, and I would emphasise that the agreement has never in my experience been a rigid instrument, but has been subject to constant changes as conditions dictate. In fact, the first variation occurred within six months of the original signing, when our agents offered to reduce the commission payable on the over-price, as prices had risen to levels which, as Mr. Nelson said in 1956, neither Kimptons nor the Authority had anticipated. The point here, of course, is that we did not have to wait twelve months for any alteration to our benefit, and that has been the story throughout.

It has been said that the agreement is a "secret" one. I cannot understand this. The terms of the agreement were made known to the Executive at the time, and have been communicated to beekeepers by members of the Authority at meetings at which I have been present. In my seven years as an Authority member, I was never once asked a question as to the details of the agreement.

At the same time, there are two parties to every agreement, and it certainly would not be helpful to our agents for the terms of the agreement to be published.

Following the return of the Chairman from overseas, the Authority was engaged, in consultation with Kimpton Bros., in a general revision of the contract agreement in the light of our nine years' experience of its operation. (It is perhaps a tribute to those original members who drew it up that the agreement should have lasted so long without the need for just such a revision.) These discussions were naturally confidential, but the new terms would, and I am sure will, be made known when finally agreed upon.

This, Sir, is briefly the history of the principle of the sole agency, the Agreement drawn up under which it would operate, and the implementation of that Agreement by the firm who were the selected instrument.

Over the years it has secured for us a premium over the whole range of our honeys, perhaps the most spectacular being the increase in returns for the lighter grades. In 1954 the category "A" price was agreed upon at 116/-. I understand that sales have been made at 200/- recently.

I have the greatest respect for Mr. Berry personally, as for his abilities and his achievements. He says that he is convinced that termination of the Agreement is essential to our best interests, and I look forward with interest to learning the reasons which lead him to such a belief, but in the light of my experience of the operation of the system as it has operated, I am afraid I cannot accept the mere statement of his conviction.

**J. W. FRASER**

## BOOKS ON BEEKEEPING

**ABC & XYZ OF BEE CULTURE** 41/6, post paid  
The A. I. Root Company

**THE HIVE AND THE HONEY BEE** 46/6, post paid  
By Roy A. Grout, Dadant and Sons (Inc.)

We can arrange subscriptions for:

**AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER** £1 per year

**AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL** and **GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE**  
Subscriptions: 1 year, £1/5/-; 2 years, £2/5/-; 3 years, £3

## B E E S W A X

## B E E S W A X

We are paying top market rates for beeswax in any quantity. Send yours as soon as it is ready, and advise us of despatch. Proceeds can be paid by prompt cash or set against goods.

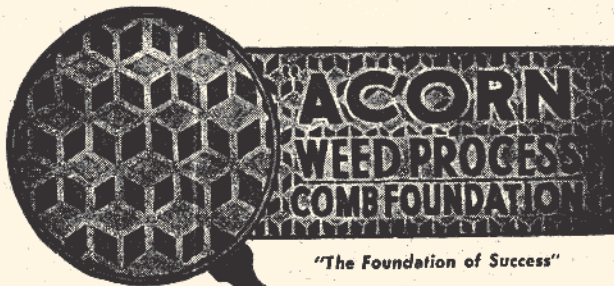
When packaging your honey for local sale remember an attractive container will sell your honey for you. Plastic containers will give your honey the appearance that will make it sell. 1lb. and ½lb. Polypropylene Plastic Containers available ex stock.

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Telegrams: ACORN, Christchurch  
Telephone: 48-230

P.O. Box 5056,  
PAPANUI



## A Story of the Bees sent to PITCAIRN ISLAND

By Phil Muir, Auckland



Newspapers, radio and TV services gave extensive coverage to the despatch of bees to Pitcairn Island last July, when Captain Jones, Commodore of the Shaw Savill Line and Master of the "Corinthic", made his last voyage home to England from Wellington.

**CAPTAIN A. C. JONES** has aptly been described by Pitcairn Islanders resident in Wellington as "a father to all of us", for he has for many years taken a keen interest in the welfare of the island, and has hove to in his journeys across the ocean to deliver stores, plants, trees and a variety of goods required for the islanders' needs.

Mr John Christian, the present head of the island and a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian of "H.M.S. Bounty" fame, expressed a wish to establish a stock of domestic bees on the island, and Captain Jones undertook to deliver my nucleus to the whaleboat which would be waiting off shore. He expressed great interest in the project and made arrangements for the hive to be stacked in his wheelhouse where he could personally sprinkle water each day over the top of the hive.

For purposes of ventilation, incidentally, the entrance was blocked over with wire gauze and on top the equivalent of a half super with a wire gauze top was stapled to the hive with those wide box staples which are useful in transporting bees.

Captain Jones, who had "adopted" Pitcairn over a lifetime in Shaw Savill, said the Islanders were wonderful boatmen and never failed, regardless of weather, to meet his ship.

This particular trip a heavy storm had been blowing round the Island for days and to make sure of meeting the "Corinthic" the Island's two whaleboats put out to sea and rode the storm for some eight hours waiting for the "Corinthic" to turn up. They knew Captain Jones would have mail and all sorts of luxuries for them including the hive of bees as a result of months of long term correspondence with John Christian, who wanted the bees

primarily for pollination of their fruit trees.

Actually, there was no one on the Island with any knowledge of beekeeping, and where to commence to guide them was another matter, so a copy of Bulletin N.Z.267, "Beekeeping in New Zealand," issued by the Department of Agriculture, was sent them with a long covering letter. Additionally a supply of foundation and frame wire was packed into the lid to give them ability to make more frames. The lid was separate as the hive had to be specially ventilated.

I had often wondered how the hive fared as apart from meagre advice from Shaw Savill that, in spite of the storm the hive had been off-loaded from the "Corinthic", no news had been received from the Island until just before Christmas, when a letter came from the Pastor of the Seventh Day Adventists.

### Bees Overboard

It appears that when the boats returned to Bounty Bay in the heavy seas, the boat with the hive struck a rock and overturned. On being washed up on the beach the top half had come loose and the bees must have gone "mad", stinging several of the Islanders or "biting" them as they expressed it.

One of the Islanders was badly stung and evidently the hive was left on the beach to quieten down.

The letter gave little detail except to say that the hive had not survived the immersion. Poor bees, was it any wonder?

I am still interested and am waiting for a letter from John Christian as to whether they still want bees on the

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Island now that they have had "some" experience in beekeeping!

It is a great pity that this first experiment to establish bees on the Island failed, and it is to be hoped that some other kind-hearted seafaring man will assist the Pitcairn Islanders by co-operating in another attempt.

Captain Jones was presented with an inscribed silver tea service by Islanders resident in Wellington prior to his retirement sailing. Incidentally, Captain Jones was not afraid of bees, and it is reported that when a swarm settled on one of the ship's derricks whilst in port in Melbourne, Australia, he was asked what he intended to do about them. Remarking that they were worth money, he hived the swarm into an empty box and gave them to an apiarist at the next port of call in Adelaide.

## GOLDEN BEESWAX

The first beekeeping officer to be appointed by the Nyasaland Government is Mr T. W. Reynolds and he has commenced his duties with the Forestry and Game Department at Lilongwe.

Mr Reynolds has had wide experience in African beekeeping in Tanganyika, where beeswax to the value of £300,000 was exported in 1961.

A Nyasaland Government spokesman pointed out that a pound of high quality beeswax was worth twice as much as a pound of copper, and whereas copper had to be mined at great expense and by a large labour force, beeswax was there for natural production by those who knew how to exploit it. Great quantities were thrown away every year due to lack of knowledge, and it was intended to prevent this waste through education and instruction of native beekeepers.

On the basis of bees producing 15lb of honey for every pound of beeswax, and a pound of honey being worth twice as much as a pound of tobacco, there is a great potential.

When native beekeepers have been taught how to produce clean beeswax, it is hoped that the Farmers' Marketing Board will be able to market the crop, and export from Nyasaland a product of sufficient quality to satisfy the export market.

FEBRUARY 1964



# ITALIAN QUEENS

1963-64

UNTESTED	1 to 5	9/- each
	6 to 10	8/- each
	11 to 19	7/9 each
	20 and over	7/6 each

SELECT UNTESTED  
1/- extra per queen

TESTED 30/- each

SELECT TESTED 35/- each

DELIVERY: November to April

TERMS: Cash with order  
Cheques to have exchange added  
Telegrams 2/- extra

Orders of 20 and over AIRMAILED  
free on request

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*The development of these Queens extends over a period of 20 years, resulting in the creation of a hard working, high producing and non-swarming strain of gentle temperament. Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.*


Apply to -

## F. D. WHITE

Commercial Queen Breeder,

P.O. Box 32,

KAMO, NORTHLAND



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In order that my honey marketing policy shall be correctly interpreted I give here the full text of my policy statement forwarded to electors of the Honey Marketing Authority prior to my recent election to that body.

## **AS I SEE IT . . .** by Percy Berry

### **OUR MARKETING PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTION**

As long as the Authority accepts the sole right of export, it must also accept full responsibility to see that the local market is neither under-supplied nor over-supplied. The local market has been over-supplied for years now while the Authority has failed to export enough honey, and has prevented others from exporting in spite of their strong desire to do so.

### **KIMPTON BROS. CONTRACT**

Overseas trading must be freed from the restrictions imposed by the conditions of this Contract. The Contract should be terminated as soon as possible. If the Authority decides to continue to sell through Kimptons it could do so without a contract, but it should not be tied to do so as at present.

At the Oamaru Conference, I had considerable difficulty in getting answers to what appeared to be reasonable questions relating to the Contract. However, after extracting information by a painfully slow process over a period of three days, I feel sure that any doubts about the wisdom of terminating the Contract were finally and emphatically dispelled from the minds of nearly every person present.

If there are advantages in selling consistently through one commission agent, then it will presumably be that agent's privilege to handle our business. But to favour that agent with a one-sided contract as well, is ridiculous.

I understand the Contract can be terminated in the month of December of any year with not less than one year's notice. (No doubt it could be reinstated at any time with any agent within a few hours.)

The Honey Marketing Authority must exercise its authority and accept its responsibilities instead of just handing to a commission agent a monopoly of our overseas trading. I regard this as an issue of Principle, and would ask electors to regard any vote cast in my favour as a clear indication to me and to the Authority that termination of the Contract is desired.

### **PRESENT CONDITIONS**

In accordance with normal prudent marketing procedure, the Authority should make every effort to anticipate possible fluctuations in the overseas markets. Early this year there was ample evidence of a shortage of honey supplies (as

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well as a world shortage of sugar). A letter from London written to our Company on February 5, 1963, refers to "almost a blank production season in Europe" and "utmost difficulty in securing supplies of Australian honey." The letter also gives details of substantial rises in price of Australian light amber and Canadian white clover.

In spite of this, the Authority has recently sold large quantities of honey at very low prices on the local market—the shops are still full of it.

Kimptons of London now supply this information which we read in the B.N.Z. Produce Circular of 12/7/63: "In addition to the darker honeys, stocks of New Zealand light amber grades have now been cleared and there will be no further supplies coming forward until next season."

"Australian light amber quotations range from 144/- to 150/-" ( a rise of approximately 50 per cent since December).—Full report in August issue of N.Z. Beekeeper.

So here we have a situation in which the Authority has grossly overloaded and substantially depressed the local market with Honeygold pack, and left the best market that has ever been available to us completely bare of our product. In my opinion, this situation adds up to unpardonable bungling at very heavy cost to our beekeepers.

#### **FUTURE PROSPECTS**

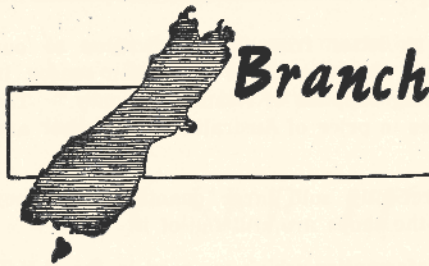
By world standards, New Zealand beekeepers are very favourably placed to produce good crops per hive of high quality honey. By far the greater part of our production is consumed in this country, where wages are high and the purchasing power well spread among our people. Under these circumstances, the hourly rate of beekeepers' earnings should be much higher than they are. Undoubtedly, faulty marketing procedure is the only obstacle between New Zealand beekeepers and their prosperity.

Let's remove the obstacle now by—

- (1) Exporting the right quantity.
- (2) Terminating the Kimpton Bros. Contract
- (3) Prudent timing of exports.

It does seem certain that the future welfare of our industry is at stake, so be sure to record your vote in time.

(Advt.: *Extended Report, published by arrangement*)



### WAIKATO

Previously designated as the South Auckland Branch, the title has been changed to Waikato.

Following perfect weather for the barbary flow, which gave a box or more in places, hives built up well only to be depleted by continuous westerly winds. It has been one of the driest springs on record, with clover blooming well as early as November.

With the advent of rain in mid December and floral sources secreting well, every indication looked favourable for a really big crop when the weather improved. Unfortunately, however, we are still having near gale-force westerlies with cloudy skies and one or two showers of rain every day here in the middle of January, and the end seems as far away as ever. Pastures are making a great deal of growth, and it is feared that we may already have all we are going to get!

Crop prospects are for half crop or less at present, with better yields in some of the sheltered inland areas. Tawari was very poor; in fact, the weak hives left behind have a lot more honey on them than those shifted into the ranges!

To those new chums in the game of chasing Tawari "next year" or the year after that, "you should have been there last season".

Never has a year been known for so much continuous wind, as from early spring nearly every day strong westerly winds blew, and they are still blowing hard. Incidentally, no passion vine hoppers can be found. Have they been blown away?

Our Field Day is on March 7, at Opal Springs, Matamata, and all beekeepers on holiday will be welcome.

—Reported by Cliff Bird, Matamata.



### NORTH OTAGO

There was a very good attendance at the pre-Christmas meeting in December, when Mr Palmer Jones of Wallaceville gave an interesting address of general interest, followed by a first hand account by our President, Mr G. E. Winslade, on N.B.A. affairs and the Executive meeting held at Wellington in November.

The branch has arranged for a Field Day to be held at Camp Iona on Saturday, February 15, at which practical demonstrations and advice will be given by experienced men.

Prospects for a good honey crop this season are extremely poor at the present moment, and the weather has been very cold for mid January. It would indeed be nothing short of a miracle for us to obtain crops equal to last year, and the constant cold winds which have been blowing for months have accounted for large losses in bee population. Snow has already settled on the foothills and crop prospects are bleak.

—Reported by Stan Wilson, Oamaru.

### NELSON

The honey crop for the Nelson Province appears to be an average one this year, despite the fact that there is considerable snow on the ranges at the time of writing in early January.

Our Field Day in November was very disappointing because of the poor attendance, but those who were wise enough to come enjoyed the talks given by Mr. J. A. C. Bell on comb honey production, and by Mr. T. A. Cropp on swarm control.

On the social side, I am pleased to report that the Nelson Beekeepers'

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



Association proved that they were not too old to really enter into the spirit of a "tin kettling" evening in honour of our member, Mr. Gunnion, who recently married a charming Australian lady.

The final meeting for 1963 was highlighted by the screening of the Moody Institute of Science film, "City of the Bees", and we would sincerely recommend this wonderful production to any branch able to procure it.

Honorary Diplomas in Apiculture were presented to Messrs. L. T. and T. A. Cropp.

The Branch is still awaiting with pleasurable anticipation the appointment of the promised resident Apiary Instructor for Nelson.

Reported by—Mrs. Ila M. Cropp

### SOUTHLAND

The story here is a brief one: continuous strong winds and low temperatures extending through October, November, December, and January to date. The season has been the worst for thirty years, perhaps longer, and no matter what happens from now (mid-January) onward, the crop will be below average. The conditions have caused heavy losses of field bees, and even where stores were adequate prevented the gathering of pollen, the importance of which is shown up in a season such as this.

There is plenty of clover and thistle, IF THE BEES COULD ONLY GET AT IT.

Reported by—J. W. Fraser

### FAR NORTH

At the December meeting of the Branch Mr. Colin Rope, the apiary instructor, gave an interesting and informative lecture illustrated by colour slides on the subject of bee diseases, some of which were taken by him at various apiaries throughout the Auckland and North Auckland districts.

The Branch passed an early remit for the attention of Conference, worded as follows: "That the National Beekeepers' Association requests the Dept. of Agriculture to investigate whether the Apiary Section would be more suitably placed in a division of the Department other than in the Horticulture Division."

By way of explanatory note it should be pointed out that New Zealand is the

only country where beekeeping is administered by a horticultural division. The technicalities of beekeeping may be better understood, and its problems most efficiently solved by a division with a background of animal health and husbandry, rather than one concerned solely with vegetation, and by a division with activities reaching out to every inch of the productive areas of New Zealand, rather than by a division with activities concentrated near consumer market areas of New Zealand.

Reported by—D. D. Matthews

### WEST COAST

There may well be truth in the statement, "Believe half of what you read, and a little of what you are told (second-hand)." Despite reports in some newspapers and otherwise, and in spite of climatic abnormalities, the Coast has not fared so poorly as some would have us believe.

Whilst admitting that none had to resort to very heavy or prolonged feeding, the month of November did cause most of us unwelcome work. There was some feeding and some swarming, but worst of all was the unsatisfactory mating: or was it damaged queens? Maybe that is not the complete answer, because one report was of poor acceptance of foreign (N.I.)\* queens.

Most of December was without worry—good colonies gathered winter stores and some to spare, though some of my own have gone back since then. There has been plenty of flora, but very few hours of sunshine during the past few weeks.

"Wringer, bees, for the use of." Does anyone know where such equipment can be found? Perhaps frogmen suits would be a better proposition!

Crop prospects are for below average yields, and unless Old Sol loses his hat, and that very soon, several extractors will be a bit rusty when it is time to use them again—maybe in 1965?

There is a small show of rata, and it may yet be of some use. There is plenty of mahoe, blackberry and cats-ear and cloves, and with some good weather all will be well.

\* The Editor is neutral!

Reported by—Tom Holland, Greymouth

## CANTERBURY (Domestic) BRANCH



Hard-working Frank Armstrong in the Canterbury (Domestic) Branch apiary. Each double brood chamber, three-supered colony started from a nucleus this season.

The domestic group of this branch have inaugurated a self-help scheme to ensure practical instruction for new members, by commencing a group apiary on an ideal situation at Halswell, a few miles from the city centre.

Unfortunately, however, the self-help scheme has in reality been too well named in so far as a small handful of members are concerned, and the few have had to do the donkey work for the many.

Following the Tai Tapu field day, three commercial men generously offered to help the domestic group by donating to them a nucleus each, and on October 12 the three nuclei were duly installed. Here, the bees quickly built up into a worthwhile force and were transferred to supers in a very short time. A second super was added on December 28, and the colonies have taken full advantage of nearby fields of clover and have given a very good account of themselves from such a small start.

The chairman of the group, Mr. F. J. Armstrong, and a few other stalwarts have worked very hard assembling the hives, foundation, etc., have hand-scythed the grass on the site and erected an excellent weather and bee-proof honey house from a converted car case. This miniature apiary is neat and trim and in an ideal situation for demonstration and instructional purposes, so that it is very

much hoped that practical assistance and support will be given by other members.

The aims and object defined at the group's formation were to: (1) Cater for the beginner and hobbyist; (2) encourage domestic beekeepers to look after their hives and thus avoid ill-feeling amongst other beekeepers and the general public; (3) co-operate in the promotion of social and educational activities; (4) publicise the value of bees.

It will soon be time to complete extracting the harvest from the site, and to offset the income against the equipment purchased. The scheme was conceived to help others, and it is certainly deserving of every support.

### WEST COAST EXPORT ORDER —

A consignment of honey exported through Greymouth en route for Germany, earned nation wide newspaper comment before Christmas.

Believed to be the largest consignment to leave the province for a long time, the honey was supplied by 10 different producers, and totalled 27 tons in 462 cases.

Average shipments recently have been in the vicinity of 200 cases, stated the report, and the highest figure was reached two years ago with a shipment of 1300.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

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*"The Foundation of Success"*

# **HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY**

## **A STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. G. E. GUMBRELL**

Beekeepers throughout New Zealand will be aware of the pressure for termination of Kimpton Bros.' contract that is being brought about by the newly elected H.M.A. member, Mr. Percy Berry.

In view of the record of trading over the past nine years it is hard to appreciate the motive behind this thought. Unfortunately a lot of Mr. Berry's statements are not factual. This is typified by his statement in his election manifesto when referring to light amber honey that "we have left the best market that has ever been available to us completely bare of our product" when in actual fact, during the year under review, we have sold a record tonnage of 624 tons on the overseas market at record prices and suppliers have benefited considerably by our activities.

The functions of the Authority are planned to the best of our ability; detailed costings are carried out on all our activities and these costings have been placed before every member of the Authority. Mr. Berry has never challenged these figures but still maintains faulty marketing is paramount in the Authority's workings. The alternative plan for marketing suggested by Mr. Berry is one that is certain to be a retrograde step and is fashioned on trading practices that exist elsewhere and are acknowledged to have inherent weaknesses. This was obvious to me when I saw these very methods of trading in operation when I went overseas on your behalf in 1962.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SOLE SELLING AGENT**

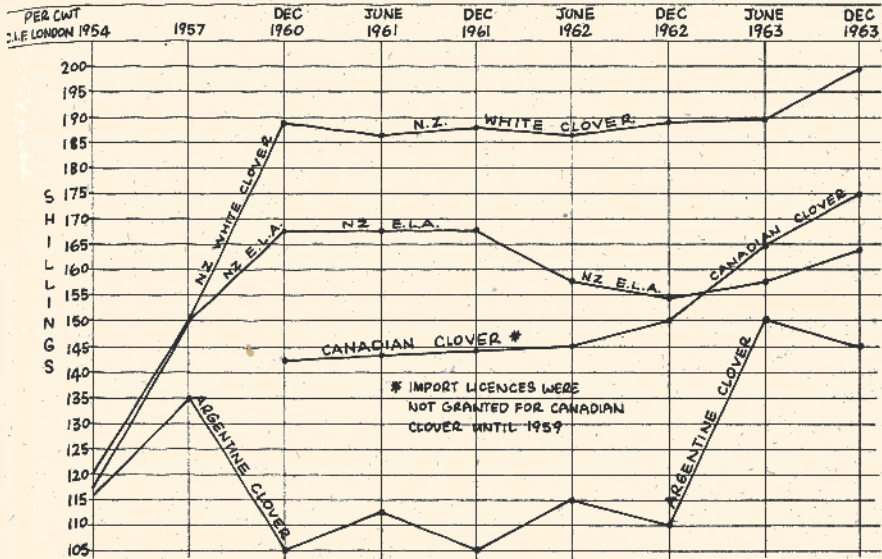
In support of these statements it is well to remember that in 1954 the Authority appointed Kimpton Brothers (Red Carnation) Ltd., London, a company with world-wide honey marketing interests, as its sole selling agent for the United Kingdom and Europe, agreeing to make available to the company all exportable honey with the exception of small quantities for other markets. The "commission and over-price" arrangements that have been written into the agreement have provided the company with the incentive to hold out for the highest prices. With the protection given to them by the sole agency, they have been able to attain premium prices consistently, and the results have been to the advantage of the New Zealand honey industry as well as to the company. Because of the increased returns from our lighter grades of export honey, the Authority has been able to increase payouts to suppliers, and maintain these increases. Those who supply packers have benefited indirectly, because the packers have had to increase their purchase prices to match the Authority's terms. Admittedly the position with the light amber grades has been different in view of the fact that this is a grade which must compete on a very competitive world market with Australian and Mexican honeys. In the course of the last three years prices for this grade of honey have ranged from 106/- to 175/- per cwt. depending on the state of supply to the world markets. The attached chart, however, shows that New Zealand honey, even when receiving its lowest returns still commanded a considerable premium over the prices ruling for comparable honey from other origins.

This state of affairs would not have been possible but for the sole agency agreement. The Authority is now being urged to terminate this agreement. If it did so, this would open the way for any person to appoint his own agent in the United Kingdom or Europe, and apply for an export permit. There are stringent grading, packing and other requirements to be met in exporting, and it is unlikely that the average producer would want to enter this field and export on his own account. Some packing companies, export companies and speculators, however, would undoubtedly be interested as long as overseas prices remained high.

Let us suppose that the Authority, having terminated the sole agency agreement, was faced with applications from two or three companies to export

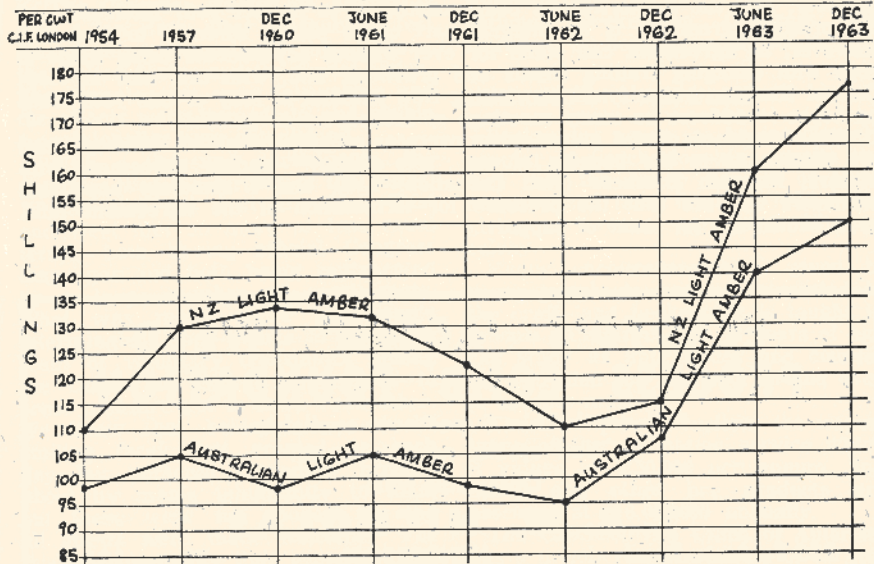
COMPARISON OF OVERSEAS REALISATIONS 1954-1963

NZ WHITE CLOVER · NZ EXTRA LIGHT AMBER · CANADIAN CLOVER · ARGENTINE CLOVER



COMPARISON OF OVERSEAS REALISATIONS 1954-1963

NZ LIGHT AMBER - AUSTRALIAN LIGHT AMBER



large quantities of honey to the United Kingdom. The honey would be for consignment to reputable agents at reasonable prices, and the Authority would have no grounds for objection to permits being issued. Once it became known overseas that New Zealand honey was available from two or more independent sources, however, buyers would naturally hold back to obtain the most advantageous buying prices, and we would find agents for New Zealand honey competing for sales. The Authority and the exporting companies would soon discover that under those conditions the premium prices could not be maintained. The proceeds would fall and the producers' payouts would be reduced. At that stage, the exporting companies having made their initial gains, could retire from the export field, leaving the Authority to carry on and dispose of the surplus crop overseas as before. By that time, of course, the damage to our market would have been done. The only way in which the Authority could hope to retrieve its position would be to enter into another sole agency agreement, but this would be difficult in view of the loss of confidence that undoubtedly would have resulted from the termination of the present agreement.

### WHO WILL GAIN ?

Before associating themselves with any pressure to terminate the agreement, producers should ask themselves who will gain from its termination. The Authority, the industry, and individual producers generally will all stand to lose; some large packers and/or speculators might make temporary gains, which might (or might not) be shared with their suppliers.

It is easy to make statements, but it is not always so easy to justify them. However, the charts show how well the Authority's policy has benefited producers in New Zealand compared with their counterparts in, say, Australia, Canada or the Argentine.

I have sufficient faith in New Zealand beekeepers to realise that they know the truth when they hear it and that they are not likely to throw away the advantages that have been so hardly won over the last nine years.

To some people the term "sole agency" has an objectionable sound—it smacks of restrictive trade practices and other unpleasant things. You must remember, however, that the Authority has been constituted to protect your interests, and the present agreement is an integral part of its policy, directed to that end. However, no agreement can stand for ever without adjustments being made to cope with changing trading trends and practices, and, with this aim in view, Colonel Kimpton himself will be visiting New Zealand in May of this year when he hopes to address as many meetings of beekeepers as possible.

The experiences that I gained when overseas on your behalf in 1962 confirmed my opinion as to the benefits of our "sole agency" trading agreement with Messrs. Kimpton Brothers (Red Carnation) Ltd., and I sincerely hope that producers will see that the pressure for termination of the agreement fails, as it should do, for want of support.

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Motto of the International Beekeeping  
Congress in Prague:

**“APICULTURE UNITES  
the WORLD in PEACEFUL  
CO-EXISTENCE”**



DR. EVA CRANE, the Editor of “BEE WORLD”, was a participant in the meeting of the 19th. International Beekeeping Congress held in Prague in August last, and her report on the reception of apiarists from our side of the Curtain by Czech and Slovak beekeepers makes interesting reading.

Dr. Crane is an inveterate traveller wherever there is anything to learn of bees or beekeepers, and a review is published elsewhere in this issue of Dr. Crane's journey to Soviet Russia in 1962.

The Congress in Prague was apparently very well organised and the weather co-operated to make visitors comfortable with warm, balmy, summer weather. Dr. Crane writes:—

“The Congress started on August 12 only a few days after the nuclear test ban treaty was signed by Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. The climate was very favourable and the effects were immediate and visible—occasionally even astonishing.

“With a thousand participants, the Congress was the largest of the series. It was also the first at which East and West met on more or less equal terms, both having official Congress languages and both being represented by a large number of participants. What was more, these participants intermingled, and—thanks to the large team of voluntary translators among the Czech and Slovak beekeepers—in some measure got to know each other. We knew that behind some of the smiling faces that greeted us each day lay personal tragedies, brought about by man's inhumanity to man, but these were not spoken of, and all guests were made welcome. For this we were more than grateful. The motto chosen for the Congress was ‘Apiculture unites the peoples of the

world in peaceful co-existence’ and for the short time we were together, it seemed that these words could really hold a core of truth.

“Many aspects of the XIX Congress were organised in a highly efficient yet kindly and personal way, and it is difficult to believe that the XX Congress will be able to surpass or even match it. When the time came to decide where the next Congress should be held, the choice lay between Rumania, Yugoslavia and the United States (acting jointly with Canada), all of which had sent firm invitations. At the first vote Rumania and the United States tied; at the second there was a bloc vote from the socialist countries, and other votes were also switched so that Rumania won the day. The XX International Beekeeping Congress will therefore be held there in 1965.”

#### BEEKEEPING POPULAR

Beekeeping seems to be inordinately popular in Czechoslovakia, despite the fact that the honey flow is of short duration and lasts for only 10-20 days, giving an average surplus of 10lb per colony.

Every encouragement is given to young people to become interested in the craft, and beekeeping is taught in schools. Children over 14 years of age can study as apprentices and courses are provided for adults of 18 and over to become masters.

The Government realises the importance of the pollination service which it values at £50,000 per annum, and honey and other bee products are assessed at £6,050,000 annually.

The Czechoslovak Union of Apiarists has a membership in excess of 117,000, and their monthly journal has a readership of 54,000.

# NEW HONEY PRICE ORDER

Following representations from the National Beekeepers' Association to the Price Tribunal, a new Honey Price Order was promulgated on December 5, 1963, increasing the permissible price at which honey may be sold at wholesale and retail levels.

The Association Secretary forwarded a circular to all members of the Association owning sixty or more hives, and to all Branch Secretaries and Presidents full details of the increased prices, thus enabling members to be notified at the December meetings.

Commercial producers who are not members of the Association are reminded that prompt notification of vital information is always despatched immediately by the General Secretary of the Association to members and branches. **One service of this nature more than repays the small cost of membership, and, as with our bees, unity is strength.** If you are not a financial member of the Association, you are earnestly recommended to join without further delay.

## SCHEDULE

### MAXIMUM PRICES OF HONEY PACKED IN RETAIL CONTAINERS

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 s. d.	Per dozen s. d.	s. d.
½lb. cartons	12 9	14 0	1 4½ per carton
½lb. plastic containers	15 8	17 2½	1 8½ per container
12oz. glass jars	23 0	25 3½	2 6 per jar
1lb. cartons	22 6	24 9	2 5½ per carton
1lb. plastic containers	25 2	27 8	2 9 per container
1lb. glass jars	27 3	29 11½	2 11½ per jar
1¼lb. glass jars	31 0	34 1	3 4½ per jar
1½lb. glass jars	37 3	40 11½	4 1 per jar
2lb. cartons	43 9	48 1½	4 9½ per carton
2lb. glass jars	48 3	53 0½	5 3½ per jar
2lb. tins	48 3	53 0½	5 3½ per tin
2½lb. glass jars	60 0	66 0	6 7 per jar
2¾lb. glass jars	66 0	72 7	7 3 per jar
5lb. tins	109 9	120 8½	12 0½ per tin
10lb. tins	204 0	224 4½	22 5 per tin

Dated at Wellington this 4th day of December, 1963

A. B. McLAUHLAN, Director of Trade Practices and Prices Division



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*Re-queen this autumn with high-producing Italian stock, and prepare for that big season next year.*

### PRICES FOR AUTUMN

1 - 5	10/-	20 and over	8/6
6 - 10	9/6	Tested	add 4/-
11 - 20	9/-	Nucs	£2

Our crop average over last four seasons: 5 tons per 100

## BATES' APIARIES

R. D. 2, MATAMATA

# News from Australia

## BEE THIEVES BUSY IN N.S.W.

The "Australasian Beekeeper" contains a plea from a reader for the appointment of an inspector who would be able to carry out detective duties additional to those normally associated with apiary work.

The substance of his complaint is that eight double hives of selected colonies were stolen from his out apiary last year, and following a call to the police was advised that in the absence of a suspect, there was little they could do to trace the thief or thieves. Notification to the Department of Agriculture evinced complete silence, without even an acknowledgment of the complaint.

The victim has now been well and truly stung to action because precisely the same happening has occurred again this year. With justification, the complainant points out that he pays £6 per year for the privilege of using a forest site, and to have £40 worth of bees, plus a special queen, stolen each year is not a very profitable investment.

The question is asked as to the advantage of full-time inspectors who only operate from September to March and miss some districts entirely, and points out that inspectors should be in a position to know every registered apiarist in his district, the location of hives, and able to assist in the identity of materal.

★ ★ ★

Speaking to the Victorian Apiarists' Association's 64th Annual Conference, an Apiculture Research Officer pointed out that the incidence of American brood disease this year had been slightly higher than in the preceding 12 months, and that 161 hives had been destroyed. Approximately one per cent of registered colonies had been affected, which was better than world average.

Allegations by a fruit growers' association that bees were responsible for the spread of brown rot in fruit had been disproved. Tests showed that bees feeding on damaged fruit collected some spores of the disease, but the Department of Agriculture

biologists who had conducted the tests were satisfied that the bees did not cause any injury to sound fruit, and there was no indication that incidence of brown rot had been increased by bees. Mr Langridge added that several species of insect were capable of spreading the disease in orchards, but bees were not among them.

★ ★ ★

MR. C. ROFF, Beekeeping Advisor in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, reported recently that prospects of a successful honey harvest in Queensland faded with the failure of major honey producing trees in spring and early summer. Migratory beekeepers might win out in some areas with late honey producers such as scrub box, but the general outlook was poor.

★ ★ ★

IN A REPORT published in "THE AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER," the secretary of a surf life saving club pays tribute to the use of beeswax in impregnating surf lines.

Perhaps secretaries here might like to know that the  $\frac{3}{4}$ in cotton line with a breaking strain of 600lb is treated in the following manner.

A length of 524 yards of line is thoroughly stretched for 48 hours until the eventual length is 543 yards, and is passed slowly through a box containing melted beeswax. The wax is heated with a thermostatically controlled immersion heater, and is slowly wound from one reel to another and all excess wax wiped off with a clean rag as it emerges from the bath.

After drying for 30 hours the process is repeated and provides a smooth round coating of wax to the line. Water is thereby prevented from saturating the line and making it heavy for the surfer, and the line floats cleanly on the surface giving a great advantage to the beltman.

Whereas paraffin wax used for the same purpose cracks after one season, allowing the line to absorb water, beeswax gives a much longer life and a superior finish.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

# American Honey Packers Jubilant

The honey packing firm of R. B. Willson, Inc., New York, who claim as their slogan "We Sell Honey to the World," published a heartening advertisement to producers in the August issue of "American Bee Journal" headed "Good News—The Price of Honey Is Up" and the copy matter detailed:—

"If this announcement reaches your eye in the midst of the toil of extracting your crop—take heart—for your honey is worth more this year than last. Reason? The export market is strong, stronger than for years, and stronger than it has been since the export subsidy programme was discontinued.

"And what has caused this? For the first time there has been a world shortage of honey unrelated to a shortage of sugar. It became obvious last December that crops in certain very important exporting countries of the world, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Chile and most of Mexico, would be short, which coincided with one of the most severe winters on record in Europe—excellent of course for honey consumption.

"In the meantime, fair to good crops have been produced in Spain, Yucatan, Florida and Arizona, and most of the production moved

readily into the export market at very good prices.

It is our firm belief that most European buyers have a long way to go before their requirements for the big consuming season ahead will be covered, even though at the time this advertisement is written (July) they are very quiet (vacationing to Europeans is a sacred rite).

"Only from the U.S.A. and Canada can those requirements now be filled principally from California and from our wide flung clover producing area from Idaho to New York . . ."

The advertisement continues in similar encouraging and optimistic terms inviting truckload or carload producers to forward samples for tasting and testing and information on packaging, etc.

New Zealand producers will certainly wish their American counterparts well in their harvest and disposal efforts, and cherish the thought that when the Northern Hemisphere is wrapped in its mantle of snow and ice, howling cold winds and winter discomfort, that we of the sunny south will be reaping an even bigger and better harvest to satisfy our home and export markets at a sound and sensible price.

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## WHO IS OLDEST BEEKEEPER?

It would be interesting to know the identity of the oldest practising beekeeper in the world; perhaps his testimony to longevity could be employed to good purpose in eulogising the health giving merits of the nectar of the gods, and thus increase demand for honey.

Is there any claimant in New Zealand or amongst our overseas readers who can better the record of Mr Glover of Hulland, Derbyshire, a mere 97 years young, who looks after

his own hive and regularly reads beekeeping literature without the aid of spectacles?

An honorary life member of the Derby Beekeepers' Association, Mr Glover has been actively engaged in apiculture for 85 years, owning his first skeps at the age of 12 years, and it will be difficult to establish a longer claim to association with our hard working friends.

Mr Glover recalls in the British Bee Journal that he used to buy skeps from villagers who had changed their mind on the merits of beekeeping for the princely sum of 1s. 6d. each, and he can also show visitors elaborately illuminated prize cards for the years 1887 and 1888!

# Notes for Beginners

## HOW TO HANDLE BEES WITHOUT BEING STUNG

By 'GENE HINSDALE, Seattle, Washington

This interesting article for the amateur and beginner is written by a practical beekeeper in the United States. Mr. Hinsdale is 82 years young and is a wealth of information and suggestions to improve beekeeping and production figures, and although some of his recommendations are unorthodox, they have all been tested and tried and are worthy of our own investigation. Mr. Hinsdale welcomes correspondence at his home, 4217 So. 116 Street, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

**YOU CAN HANDLE** bees without being stung by donning protective armour that encases your entire body and defy the bees to reach you with their stings. This is the method that must be employed in cases where thoroughly enraged bees have to be brought under control. Under such conditions the operator's clothing will be white with the stings of the suicide-bent bees.

When bees go berserk with anger it is a fearsome sight; clouds of them fill the air, stinging any moving thing. Chickens and small animals are stung to death. They have been observed attempting to sting such an inoffensive thing as a stovepipe. Let us hope we never have to face such conditions!

### A SMALL PRICE

To many of us, handling bees means getting some stings, so why worry! Take the stings as a small price to pay for the honey.

This article wishes to point out the desirability of learning how to handle bees without making them angry, and in a way that will result in getting few or no stings!

To handle bees with pleasure and profit one must know how to avoid being stung!

After you have learned the secret, if you want to break a few rules, at the cost of a few stings, that is your decision. But, unless you do learn enough of how bees behave, so you can open a hive and handle frames

without getting any stings, you cannot hope to become a bee master. And you should do it wearing neither veil nor gloves, and without smoke! Of course you won't do it every day or make a regular practice, but you will get a great satisfaction in proving to yourself, you know your bees, and as a demonstration to show that a bee master really can handle bees!

### USEFUL TIPS

It is easier than you think. Here are some tips:—

If a colony of bees has been aroused and allowed to sting viciously, they will be "mean" for a good many days afterwards. Wool clothing is bad, so are dark colours, especially brown. Heavy perspiration, strong body odour, and liquor on the breath, all seem to invite stings. Many a sting comes from failing to prevent the bees from crawling up inside the trousers. With these negative things taken care of, we will take up the positive.

Put on a good veil. Do NOT put on gloves. It is a good thing to roll up your sleeves so that no bees will crawl into the open spaces around the wrists. You will be safer than with the sleeves down! If that appears dangerous, use a rubber band at the wrists.

However, if you follow instructions, few bees will fly when you open a hive. You should attempt to keep every bee quietly on the frames and

to avoid having them fly at all. If you do that you will be safe!

**HOW TO BEHAVE**

And it is easier than you think, if you will learn how **YOU** should behave when you open a hive, for upon how **YOU** act will depend the quietness of your bees!

The largest smoker is the best. The smoke is cooler, there is a larger volume of smoke, you don't have to replenish the fuel so often, and there is complete absence of the irritating blast of hot air that follows the smoke in the small smokers. Your success depends on the correct use of your smoker. Have it always ready for action. Most of the serious stinging of beginners happens because they forgot to keep it going.

**Keep your bees gentle by being gentle yourself!** Don't jar the hive or make the inner "snap" when you break the propolis seal.

Insert the hive tool and a steady, increasing pressure will make the seal "give" and separate without a "snap".

Don't stand in front of the hive. After gently breaking the seal, lift the inner cover, on the side away from yourself a tiny crack, too small for any bees to get out. **WAIT a few seconds!** If the bees see nothing alarming through this tiny crack, you may be able to lift the inner cover, slowly, and remove it without a single bee taking flight!

Lay the cover in front of the hive with the bees up. Don't jar them off!

Now, if you are working without smoke, you need confidence, self-assurance, and freedom from nervousness or fear. If you are afraid, you will be nervous, and the bees will sense that fear. Then they will most certainly sting you. **Show no fear and keep your smoker going!**

**Don't hurry**, and above all don't make **quick motions**, especially over the open hive. Again, **WAIT a few seconds!**

Getting the first frame out is probably the worst. It may be hard to break away, and the bees may be still undecided if you are a bear about to break up their home, or just some minor annoyance that will soon pass.

**AVOID SHADOWS**

In reaching out to remove the frames, avoid passing the hands over the top of the hive. Instead reach for the ends of the hive with the hands below the line of sight of the bees, and gently come up over the ends of the hive to slowly grasp the frames.

When you see a bee master, with his sleeves rolled up, and without gloves, veil, or smoke, do this, you may gasp and say you wouldn't do it for quite a sum!

But these tips tell you how he does it, and you can do it just as easily! If you do just what he does.

In using smoke, experiment a little to learn what a tiny amount will drive the bees down between the frames.

Using these bee master's tricks and a little smoke you will find it is a pleasure to work with bees!

**THIS FORM MAY BE YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS**

Payment of the small sum of TEN SHILLINGS as a subscription to the NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION entitles you to the privileges of membership, as well as receiving copies of THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER every quarter. You will derive great help and benefit from becoming a member of the Association, and fellow members will willingly assist you.

Forward your name and address today to :

The General Secretary, NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z. (INC) P.O. BOX 19, FOXTON, enclosing your payment of 10/-. The address of your local branch, and full information will be forwarded to you, and your name added to the mailing list of THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER.

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....No. of Hives.....

## Part One of a New Series . . . .

# BEGINNING the BEGINNER

By Chris Dawson of Timaru

Since the arrival of Miss Bumby on March 13, 1839 with the first bees to be introduced into New Zealand, the "Beginner with Bees" family has grown steadily until today it must amount to thousands.

This column endeavours to help that family, and although some of the articles are more suitable for beginners who have travelled some way along the beekeeping road, that road is a long one and the beekeeper often realises he is just a beginner.

Most of the beginners with bees do not begin beekeeping to get honey, but have made a chance acquaintance with this intensely interesting domestic insect, and have then been fascinated to such an extent that they determine to have a colony of their own.

Beginning with bees is just as exciting as the start of any journey into an unexplored country and, as on all journeys of exploration, it pays to be adequately prepared and equipped.

The preparation of the prospective beekeeper and the purchase and manufacture of some equipment needs to take place before the bees are obtained.

### PREPARING THE WOULD-BE BEEKEEPER

Preparation of the beekeeper consists in the study of a few books on the subject. First must come "Beekeeping in New Zealand" by J. W. Winter (published by the Department of Agriculture) which answers most of the questions a beginner would ask. "ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture" contains a fund of information that beekeepers of all grades find useful. To own a copy of "The Hive and the Honey Bee" edited by Roy A. Grout, is to have handy, answers to thousands of queries that will arise. To make all this technical information easily digested, a study of such books as "The Lore of the Honey Bee" by Tichner Edwardes and "The

Life of the Bee" by Maeterlinck will make the first three books much more enjoyable.

The reader who is anxious that his knowledge should grow with his experience would find such a library a constant source of reference and study.

### EQUIPPING THE BEEKEEPER

The preparation and purchase of equipment to handle the bees needs to be done carefully.

Clothing to be worn while handling bees needs to be bee-tight and a white boiler suit fitted with a long zip fastener is a good start. Khaki drill overalls can also be used but not blue denim or anything with a hairy surface, as these seem to make the bees angry.

There are several types of veil on the market, but the one that gives best results is made of wire or plastic gauze and, fitted on a comfortably fitting stiff-brimmed hat, will give the protection necessary. Leather gloves with canvas gauntlets might be needed at first but usually after the beginner has had some experience, these can be dispensed with; more beginners' gloves rot away than wear out.

As further safeguards, the beginner can wear boots and tie the legs of the overalls around the boot tops.

Although the best-fitting clothing will appear to be bee-tight, it is amazing how the occasional visitor finds its way in and makes its presence felt.

One beekeeper tells of an unforgettable experience with a newcomer to both this country and its beekeeping.

Hans was helping to move some bees and although he liked the bees and said they were "prettie leetle tings," he stood a little further away when they began to fly. As he stood near the fence a strange expression stole over his face and he quietly said: "I tink I haf one" then a little louder "I haf got one!" and then much louder still

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"Yes! I haf got one !!" With this exclamation, he hastily worked on his buttons and down came his trousers at high speed. "Shoosh! Shoosh! leetle bee!" said Hans to the preetie leetle ting and then he very hastily covered up his bare thighs as he suddenly realised there was considerable danger from other directions.

No beekeeper ever expects to handle bees without an occasional sting, but most people become immune to its effect during the first season.

#### TOOLS FOR A BEECRAFTSMAN

In addition to clothing, the keeper of bees needs a smoker and hive tool. These two articles of equipment are most important and the learner is inclined to save a few shillings here and throw the equipment away after he has realised his mistake. Start with a good smoker and you will never regret it.

My choice is a 3½ inch brass or 4 inch copper smoker with shield. The 3½ inch smoke chamber is roomy enough to be easily lit and to hold enough fuel to do most jobs. Also, it keeps alight better than small models.

Some hive tools on the market are fit only for use to poke the fire. To be of any use the hive tool must be of good steel.

Care in selecting clothing and tools will be amply rewarded by greater ease in working and they will last longer. By using that same care in purchasing or making the housing, better results will be assured.

#### HOUSING THE BEES

All equipment can be purchased in kit-set form and is easily assembled, but the handyman likes to build his own and it will serve just as well if one important rule is always followed.

#### Measurements are most important.

By following the measurements in "Beekeeping in New Zealand" for all hive equipment, the beginner will be making the same equipment as that used by the biggest beekeepers in New Zealand and hundreds of domestic beekeepers. It has been tested and tried and there is none better for our conditions. If you want to try to improve anything, try your skill on beekeeping management but don't try on the equipment. When you build, remember that measurements are most important and a variation of one sixteenth of an inch can cause lots of trouble. If you understand, through your reading, the principle of "bee space" you will understand why measurements must be just right.

A really good circular saw is a must if you wish to make correct equipment. All cutting must be clean and accurate and cross-cuts must be at right angles.

#### THE HIVE PARTS

Bottom boards need to be solidly constructed and weather proofed. If you build of one inch timber and mount on 3in x 2in hardwood rails, the extra first cost will prove a wise investment. Bottom boards of incorrect timber can become eaten into holes in two years.

The best water-proofed bottom boards I have ever see were those made by Stan Wilson at Oamaru. Into a cauldron of boiling tar, he plunged his newly made bottom boards and when dry, they were ready for use for forty years or more. He has in use some bottom boards treated this way and they are older than himself.

Hive bodies need to be built out of knot-free and crack-free timber. The

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beginner would probably not have available the equipment to build "lock-cornered" hive bodies but they are sold by all the beekeepers suppliers. My preference is for "Commercial" type hive bodies, without metal rebates, and to manufacture these is not difficult with a circular saw. They serve just as well as the best of any other type and when properly assembled, are strong enough to hold storeys full of bees and a full crop of honey—what more do we want? Measurements for these are given in "Beekeeping in New Zealand" make them out of 10 inch timber and do not cut them to the 9½ inch way until the storey has been nailed together and thoroughly dried by leaving out in the weather for about a week. Before nailing together, paint the rebates and the ends that fit into the rebates with a good priming paint. When cutting the hand grips, be sure they are big enough to allow big fingers to obtain a firm grasp. When full of honey, these storeys can weigh close to one hundred pounds and that weight calls for a hand hold that is deep and wide enough to give a firm grip.

#### FRAME TYPES

Frames are of two kinds: "Hoffman" and "Simplicity." "Simplicity" frames are easily made but I would not have one in any beehive. They are just a nuisance when it comes to the busy time of the year because every time they are used, they have to be spaced by hand.

Because of their shape and the need for very accurate manufacture, "Hoffman" frames are difficult to make and accuracy here is absolutely essential. There are many beekeepers who make all their own hive bodies, bottom boards and lids but buy all their frames in kit-set.

Lids can be made to many different specifications and still serve their purpose quite satisfactorily but to make them last a long time, they need a metal covering which reaches down each side all round and they need to be painted before being assembled. The roof not only has to cast the moisture from the outside but it may have to contend with moisture on the inside if ventilation is not correct.

When the hive bodies (often called supers), bottom boards, lids and frames

are made the next requirements are wire and wax foundation. I am quite sure that 26 gauge wire is better for wiring frames than the 28 gauge usually supplied. It is a little more difficult to stretch into the frames but it will remain taut longer and not sag.

For wax foundation, my choice is "Extra heavy brood" (6 sheets to the pound). This makes a stronger comb when drawn out and completed by the bees and does not split or fracture easily.

#### NAILS

Last of all, you need nails and these all should be galvanised or cement coated. Ordinary nails rust too soon.

When nailing hive bodies, use 7 nails at each corner (three 2½ inch and four 2 inch) and in the frames use at least two 1¼ inch on each top corner and one 1¼ inch on each bottom corner. To fix wire in frames use ¾ inch boot-makers hand tacks.

#### SUMMING IT ALL UP

In brief, to get started in Beekeeping you need the following:

- 1 book "Beekeeping in New Zealand."
- 2 hive bodies,
- 1 bottom board,
- 1 lid,
- 20 frames,
- 20 sheets of foundation  
wire, nails, smoker, hive tool, veil,  
boiler suit.

And last of all, you need somebody with whom you can "talk bees."

In all the main centres, there are branches of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association and you will find the members are wonderful fellows who are delighted to be helpful.

When you have your equipment assembled, before buying your first bees, contact the Apiary Instructor at the Department of Agriculture and ask him to inspect your proposed purchase to see if it is free of disease. It is also necessary for you to register your apiary (even if you have only one small hive) and your Apiary Instructor will do this at the same time. This service is available to you free of cost, and you will find the Apiary Instructor has many ways of being able to help you understand and manage your bees.

To be continued

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## Queen Excluding Cell Bar Frame

Dudley Ward and Bas Jones, Dannevirke, have had occasion to construct and use a frame, flanked with queen excluder, for the finishing of queen cells. This frame is so successful it is recommended to beekeepers because of its convenience and simplicity of operation.

The frame was fully illustrated in "Gleanings," March, 1962, and is constructed as follows:—

Use timber of  $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thickness and nail up a frame with the outside dimensions of the Hoffman, but making the frame about 2in. wide. To one side nail a piece of excluder  $17\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 9in. and to the other side it is attached a similar piece of excluder but this piece is hinged at the top, and latched with a

bent nail at the bottom. Three slots are cut down each side of the inside of the frame.

The convenience of this frame means that started cells may be placed inside the frame and the frame placed in the centre of a queen-right colony. There is no need to shift or raise brood, no brood is separated from the queen, and hence no cells are started. Although the queen will range within very close proximity to the cells this does not appear to affect the finishing of them.

This device has particular application to the commercial beekeeper or other large-scale breeder of queens, and is a time and back-saver.

Try it and be pleasantly surprised.

## BEEKEEPERS TECHNICAL LIBRARY

### Life Member Enrolment:

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The following books have been added to the library:—

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| C. G. Butler 32 p. 1957   |   |
| Diseases of Bees  | C |
| H.M.S.O. 48 p. 1959   |   |
| Honey from Hive to Market   | C |
| H.M.S.O. 52 p. 1963   |   |
| Bee Hives   | C |
| C. G. Butler 32 p. 1952   |   |
| Survey of Bee Health and Beekeeping<br>in England and Wales, 1962 | C |
| H.M.S.O. 24 p. 1962   |   |

### Bee Research Association Publications Received:

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| A Beekeeping Visit to the Soviet Union                 | C |
| Eva Crane 32 p. 1964                                   |   |
| Treatment of Bee Sting Reactions                       | C |
| A. W. Frankland 4 p. 1964                              |   |
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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. L. W. Goss, 78A Moncks Spur, Redcliffs, Christchurch, 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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## Sit Down — Make Yourself Comfortable!

Park benches may be uncomfortable and horizontal versions of five-barred gates, but in busy cities they are notorious as havens of rest for the aged and infirm, for the sore footed, for tired mothers keeping a watchful eye on excitable brood, and for younger members of the community to find refuge from the milling crowds to plight their troth and cling in warm embrace.

### PEACE and QUIET

A public place is hardly private, but there can be few indeed—in the cities at least—who have not at some time been pleased and happy to exchange the fireside chair and family gaze for a parkside bench.

Clinging in warm embrace is not, however, the prerogative of the human race, and pictured here are some 50,000 sisters and their mother in a close swarm waiting to be collected or directed by their scouts to the site of a new home.

Should circumstances dictate that you require the sole and only seating accommodation on a parkside bench, it might be useful to take a swarm of bees with you.

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