

THE
NEW
ZEALAND

BEEKEEPER

AUGUST 1964



The NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION of N.Z. Incorporated

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An Apology for Absence

UNAVOIDABLE ABSENCE from Conference at Hastings was a severe personal disappointment, but circumstances were such that attendance was impractical. A new posting from Christchurch to Auckland had of necessity to take precedence, and the opportunity of meeting so many members of the craft had to be postponed and will be a pleasure to look forward to in 1965.

Arrival in Auckland was almost immediately followed by a cordial invitation to attend an evening meeting of the Auckland Beekeepers' Club, Inc., a body of enthusiastic amateurs under the presidency of Mr. P. L. Muir. Their friendly company and the absorbingly interesting films shown of bees and their life cycle were very much enjoyed.

Branch secretaries are urged to obtain either or both of these wonderful colour films for exhibition to their members free of charge, for so much can be learnt from them. The film produced in Japan is obtainable through the Japanese Embassy, Oriental Bay, Wellington, and the American film through the Caltex Oil organisation. Both films are most valuable contributions to our knowledge, and tremendous patience, scientific skill, time and money must have been spent in their production.

Reported elsewhere in this issue are the comments made some time ago by Dr. Kenneth Adamson, Federal President of the Australian Dental Association, in a TV. quiz session, in which he categorically declares that natural sugar, as in honey, is not detrimental to dental health. Here is verbal dynamite which must be used by every beekeeper on every possible occasion. If every mother could be told of Dr. Adamson's considered opinion, and professional status, incalculable good to our industry would result, as well as to the health of our young people.

President's Report—Hastings—1964

GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to present to you the Association Annual Report for the year ended May, 1964.

For beekeepers generally the year has been a good one. Good crops have been the rule rather than the exception. The local market has been stable and overseas sales buoyant, all of which has no doubt given rise to a certain sense of security and satisfaction on the part of producers and a feeling of well-being and contentment which makes the future look bright without enquiring too closely into the reasons for the present position or prognosticating too seriously on what might happen tomorrow. The larger and more efficient producer is today enjoying benefits which he never thought possible a few years ago and the smaller beekeeper, (barring seasonal fluctuations) is at least enjoying a payable return for his labours by and large.

Gentlemen, the industry has developed in this country. It has grown despite change. In many respects it could be said that today it stands on the threshold of unprecedented opportunity. Whether it converts those goals which are now in shadow-outline to the substance of even greater success which stands tantalisingly close, will depend on the realism which we can show at this and future conferences in facing facts and meeting challenges.

PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

Our last Annual Conference opened under a cloud of apprehension. This was associated with renewed suspicion of certain production areas and of the fear that some undesirable nectar sources might be exploited by the honeybee to the detriment of the consistently high quality of N.Z. honey. In the ultimate this was unsubstantiated, although not before a considerable amount of worry, effort and expense had been incurred by both individuals and the association executive, not to mention the Department of Agriculture which was closely associated with the problem throughout.

Bee diseases have also been one of our continuing problems on which responsible producers, through the Association, have expressed desires for improvement, culminating in a specially called inter-departmental association study conference held late 1961. All beekeepers were appraised with the results and recommendations of that Conference and have endorsed them. From this stage the only problem has been one of implementation and this has largely been delayed by the necessity to effect new legislation and a re-gearing of departmental services. I am now pleased to state that the planned legislation is receiving attention and that the Department is re-planning inspection programmes to suit. Beekeepers will have to remember however that the new programmes which they have endorsed require a greater sense of responsibility on their part and more individual effort to achieve the required control. In the best interests of the programme and the furtherance of the industry's future prospects the Association will stand behind the Government in all of its legislative measures and their implementation, which we have asked for, on your instructions.

PRICES AND PRICE CONTROL

At the last two Conferences the industry has expressed a clear and overwhelming desire to rid itself of the protective shelter of price control which has inhibited healthy competition and that initiative which would inevitably result in a greater range of choice for the consumer, in quality and price. I must state quite clearly that your Executive has not in any way wavered from pressing your wishes in this regard but to date we have been unable to secure from Government any indication of its intentions. It is pertinent to observe however that while decontrol of prices has not been granted as yet, the proposal has not been rejected by Government. It is still under study! We are hopeful of a decision one way or the other before the new production season.

Pending decision, the Executive has followed and will continue to follow, the normal courses of seeking periodic adjustment to the controlled price, in

keeping with fluctuating production costs. Such an occasion arose in November last, when our representations were instrumental in securing an increase of 1d per pound for producers.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The National Executive has held only one full meeting between July 1963 and August 1964, because of the continuing problem of inadequate finance. Nevertheless, attention has been given to a wide range of important business associated with:—the Diploma in Apiculture, Training Seminars, the effects of 1080 poison on bees, H.M.A. Electoral qualifications and procedures, Honey promotion, pastoral developments affecting production potential, the Overseas Study Award and many other matters. The mere listing of work titles does not of course convey anything of the real nature and value of the business transacted but it is not the purpose of this report to traverse in detail every particular. I will say, however, without reservation, that much of considerable and lasting value has been achieved in this past twelve months. At the same time I am impelled to acknowledge that this has resulted from the unselfish dedication of a very few people rather than from any inherent strength in our Association upon which we could look with pride and have a confident anticipation for the future.

INDUSTRY ASSESSMENT

In February of last year, Government acceded to our request for a reconsideration of the industry's place and function in the country's economy and its reasonable prospects for future development within the dictates of government policy and the changing pattern of agricultural development generally. Government called together various specialists and industry representatives who were considered qualified to undertake such an evaluation, the resultant report from which was made available to all producers. In accord with the recommendations of the Assessment Meeting a further specialist meeting was held later in the year to give consideration to ways and means of overcoming some of those factors which were acknowledged to be impeding the industry's proper progress. This latter meeting held in June 1963, also covered some important ground within its limited scope of study and as a result of the conclusions reached at this stage, discussions were later held between the Director-General of Agriculture and representatives of the H.M.A. and Executive which were valuable to all parties. It is indeed pleasing to note that scientific work has received a stimulus in the past year with the appointment of additional government apicultural research officers. Also, the efforts being made by the Department of Agriculture to strengthen and enlarge the Advisory and Regulatory services to the industry. We have on many past occasions been highly critical of the Department and the services which it was able to provide for the Industry. Certainly there may still be some matters with which we are not entirely satisfied. But it may be well to remember at the same time that we as an industry body have done very little to help ourselves with active supporting programmes as other primary producers' organisations have and still are doing.

THE ASSOCIATION

For the Association this has been an "existence" year. The larger branches enjoying greater weight of members and less limited finance at local level have been able to carry out useful work although many of the smaller branches have not enjoyed the same success. Membership has held well, and been improved in some instances. But there continues to be disturbing evidence that a considerable body of beekeepers, many of them in the top commercial bracket, are not members of our organisation, never have been, and apparently have no intention of ever joining. This means that a large number of commercial producers are happy to enjoy all of the benefits of the Association's ever-extending work yet contribute nothing in the way of personal time and effort and nothing by way of finance.

As a responsible National organisation, the Association is impelled to assume an ever-growing work load to serve the interests of producers generally in the face of the demands of a more technically-exacting world in which we live. We have been expected to attend to urgent problems and crises whenever they

have arisen. We have been expected to provide new and greater services in advance of crises and as a means of consciously developing the industry by our own efforts. At the same time, the industry has tended to ignore or at least underestimate the demands of this role on the Executive, and has consistently failed to provide that finance which is desperately needed if we are to continue to serve the industry in an active role under increasingly exacting conditions. From the point of view of National Administration, the Executive has had a hopeless task.

Gentlemen, our industry has missed the boat somewhere along the line. We are, to my knowledge, the only national primary producers' organisation which does not at least provide itself with a full-time secretariat, and at least have, in that way, the essential genesis of an effective working administration. Let's face the fact that the honey industry is depriving itself of those essential services which are enabling other industries to forge ahead, and there is only one conclusion that one can reach: That is, that our basic thinking has been too shallow to foresee the results of our own lack of realism, with finance. **Government has made it increasingly clear to us over recent times that we cannot expect unlimited services out of the public purse** and that many important projects must be undertaken by ourselves if we consider them important, as is done generally today by other industries.

I can see only one possible solution and that is the same one which all other producer's bodies have had to adopt, however reluctantly, as the only positive method of providing realistic finance: **A levy on produce.**

APPRECIATION

Without the able support and assistance afforded by your Vice-President and Executive officers, my tasks of office would have been even more difficult. I do appreciate their help and extend to them my sincere thanks.

It is not until one is as closely associated with our General Secretary as I have been over the past year that his real value to our industry can be appreciated. The high regard that our organisation enjoys is mainly due to his efforts. His constant interest in the affairs of our Association is valued and to him, I give my own sincere and personal thanks.

All branch offices, the Editor and members who have assisted with the Association and branch activities, merit your appreciation and thanks for the good work.

With the prospects of extended use of agricultural chemicals we are indeed fortunate to still have the services of Mr T. Pearson to represent our industry on the Agricultural Chemicals Board. May we again thank him.

The close relationship between the Honey Marketing Authority and your Association continues and is, I believe, essential to both bodies. On several occasions during the past year, we have been associated together on mutual problems and this working together, has given double strength to our individual efforts. May this close relationship continue to the betterment of the industry.

To the Director General of Agriculture, the Director of Horticulture, the Superintendent of Bee-Keeping, and other departmental officers, for the assistance and advice so freely given, may we again express our appreciation and thanks. It is our wish and hope that the harmony which has existed over some very troublesome periods in the past years will continue in the future.

CONCLUSION

At the time of accepting the office which you have given me, I did so with the optimism and enthusiasm of the uninitiated. But I can tell you now, that the task which you so trustingly give to your National Executive, is a completely unfair one. Irrespective of who you elect to office in this coming year, I should warn you that unless you give your national body the financial ability to function, this may well be the last Annual Report which can speak of any achievement in furthering the welfare of honey producers in this country.

H. CLOAKE, Dominion President

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

**ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. G. E. GUMBRELL,
AT THE HASTINGS CONFERENCE, AUGUST, 1964**

MR. WEBB, MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the fourth time I have been privileged to address you at your Annual Conference and I would, once again, like to say how much I appreciate the opportunity of acquainting you with the current marketing problems, and, what is perhaps even more important, giving an account of my stewardship; in fact it would indeed be difficult to discuss intelligently the many remits on marketing that you have on your formidable agenda if you were not able to glean the necessary background information from the Honey Marketing Authority. Each year usually brings forth its crop of problems and I can assure you that the past year has been no exception.

VISIT OF LT.-COL. A. C. W. KIMPTON

Last May we received a visit from the managing director of our London agents, Messrs. Kimpton Bros. (Red Carnation) Ltd. While in New Zealand the colonel made a tour of the Dominion and addressed six meetings of beekeepers. It is regrettable that time did not permit a more extensive visit and I know that many beekeepers had to travel long distances to attend a meeting. However, the meetings were well attended and an effective and complete answer was given to the critics who want to destroy what has been so painstakingly built up. The industry has already benefited financially by the adjustments in the contract that have been agreed to, and I have no doubt whatsoever that the visit will be to our mutual benefit.

SUPPLIES, RETURNS AND CONDITION OF SUPPLY

This year has seen the publication of the Authority's Accounts and Reports in an entirely new form. Work commenced on this as far back as September, 1962, and what we have today is the result of much effort and planning. No longer is there any need for imaginative speculation or any room for doubts; everything is clearly set out and all the necessary information is available to anyone who cares to study the report.

The intake of honey as at July 31, 1964, was 1,437 tons, a decrease of 63 tons on last year. However, there is yet an unknown quantity of honey to come in by way of special purchases and by August 31 the figures quoted will not be absolutely accurate. To all intents and purposes we have maintained a very satisfactory rate of supply, the main decrease being in the medium amber range. Once again we have a big tonnage of white clover and there is a bigger volume than usual of the lighter grading honeys in the North Island. Other fluctuations are due to seasonable conditions and it is pleasing to note that the supplies into the Christchurch depot are treble those of last year and that the Timaru depot is only slightly behind last year's record total.

The category payment system has been continued and it is highly satisfactory to report that each category is now self-supporting and no longer are some grades of honey subsidised at the expense of other honeys. This state of affairs has taken time to achieve and is the outcome of a sound and balanced trading policy and the benefits of this accomplishment will have a lasting effect on the economics of the industry; in fact without this achievement there could be no real stability.

PLANT

During the year several minor alterations to the plant have been made and we now have a satisfactory way of pre-warming bulk honey and have developed an efficient cooling unit for the honey as it comes from the ovens. Bottlenecks that previously existed have been largely eliminated and a very satisfactory standard of efficiency and output has been maintained.

MARKETS

A. Export

Once again I am pleased to report a highly satisfactory year on the export

market with again almost a bare "floor" before the new crop started to come in. Despite big surpluses of Argentine and Mexican honeys that were being quoted at considerably reduced prices, our London agents have been successful in obtaining premiums for our honey and by prudent timing of exports and forward selling they have proved the value of our trading policy. While there has been some shading of values, the overall position is healthy. Overseas sales of packed lines afford a consistent and useful avenue of disposal and although it would not be wise to look for any substantial increase in returns to producers, there is most certainly no need for pessimism.

B. Local Market

Despite the higher than usual prices that were offering for light amber honey on the export market, the average returns on the local market were in excess of average overseas realisations and your Authority adopted a selling policy that has been favourably reflected in the returns to producers of this grade of honey.

The total sales on the local market, both retail and bulk, up to July 31, 1964, amount to 332 tons, which is made up as follows:—

Honeygold	136 tons
Imperial Bee	120 tons
Bulk for Manufacturing	76 tons

During the past year there has been some criticism of the Authority's trading policy on the local market. It is significant that nearly all of the criticism has come from packers and/or from producer-packers who do not normally supply the Authority. We make no apologies for the fact that our activities have been instrumental in raising the "pay-out price" to suppliers. We have no power to direct production to any market, but if we are to succeed and be a force in the industry we must, of necessity, be competitive. We will continue to strive for the best possible returns to producers, and it must be remembered that the responsibility for ensuring a healthy local market rests JOINTLY on producers, packers and the Authority.

SEALS LEVY

It was confidently expected by some people that the new Regulation governing the seals levy would be instrumental in a very considerable increase in this levy. So far this has not been the case and at July 31, 1964 the levy for 11 months stands at £17,036, which is £874 more than at the same date last year. This figure cannot be accepted as an accurate guide as experience has shown that even one month can materially alter these totals.

ADVERTISING

In view of the improved export prices ruling for light amber honey and the reduction in tonnage received into the depot, your Authority decided to reduce the Honeygold advertising appropriation and to carry on with a planned advertising scheme for honey in general, and a sum of £3,000 was again set aside for this purpose. We have also sponsored beekeepers' displays at shows and among these the effort of Auckland Central Branch at the Auckland Easter Show is worthy of favourable comment.

The benefits of advertising are not always obvious and are often manifest in an indirect or abstract form. This being so it is pleasing to record the entry of new producer-packers into the light amber honey market. These producers were previously suppliers to the Authority but they have now entered a market that has been fostered and developed by the Authority's activities with their Honeygold pack.

GIFT PARCEL SCHEME

This continues to flourish and last year 2,342 parcels were handled. In order to save costs the packing is now done in New Zealand and the parcels conveyed in seavans to the United Kingdom where they are posted to the various recipients. We had some "teething" troubles but these have now been overcome.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF STATUTORY BOARDS

The main activities of the Joint Committee have been directed to a survey of shipping and freight costs and the formation of a Shipping Council to watch the interests of primary producers. The matter of coastal and inland freights has been taken up at top level and we are hopeful of some redress in respect

of the anomalies that exist. Once again I would remind you that a saving in cost is equal to an increase in gross returns.

TRADE PROMOTION COUNCIL

At times I have heard criticism concerning my activities on this Council. Although my appointment was undoubtedly influenced by my position on the Authority, I want to make it quite clear that all expenses connected with this Council are paid for by the Government and are in no way a charge on the beekeeping industry.

HONEY GRADING

The new honey grader is installed and the new system of grading for flavour is in operation. This system appears to be working well and should do away with at least one health hazard that was associated with honey grading.

MR. P. BERRY'S SUBMISSIONS TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

It is safe to say that there can be no one in the beekeeping industry who is unaware of the controversy that is raging between Mr. P. Berry and the other members of the Authority, and some comment by me is rightly expected.

It must be unique in the history of statutory boards that a member has thought fit to ignore democratic procedure, defy accepted business etiquette and principles, and to foster suggestions of deceitful practices at top administration level. To make separate representation to the Minister was in itself unorthodox, but to publish minutes of Authority meetings, quote reports and extracts from reports, often out of context, was a breach of trust that is hard to condone.

The Minister of Agriculture forwarded Mr. Berry's submissions to the Authority and asked for comments. After due deliberation the following conclusions were reached to a four to one majority:—

1. The submissions were NOT soundly based.
2. The industry has NOT been misled.
3. There does NOT exist a "policy of deceiving the Industry".
4. The Government was NOT "unjustifiably ineffective" in failing to direct its representative.
5. A lot of reasoning is fallacious.
6. Some of the conclusions reached are the result of elementary mistakes in calculating averages without knowledge of the quantities involved.
7. The analysis of Honeygold returns proves conclusively that Mr. Berry's contentions regarding this item are completely wrong.
8. The overall policy adopted by the Authority has been in the best interests of the industry which is borne out by sales and maintenance of premium prices.

The full report was quite a lengthy document but the foregoing covers the main points at issue.

Whilst "rugged individualism" may have merit as a poetical phrase, it does not benefit anyone in a material sense. It is an inescapable fact that prestige, integrity and efficiency are inseparable partners in any progressive business enterprise, and it is therefore quite obvious that producers must guard zealously the valuable assets that they have created and not be misled by seemingly attractive alternatives. The Minister has formally acknowledged receipt of this report, and has made his answer to Mr. Berry. Minority opinions have never been denied the right of expression, but until such minority becomes the majority that minority is expected to work for the good of the industry and not indulge in a spate of mis-statements that can only serve to confuse the industry, destroy confidences and frustrate the general manager in his efforts to conduct efficiently the affairs of the Authority. It is indeed regrettable that such a state of affairs should have eventuated, and it is my honest opinion that never again will producers support a candidate whose outlook is incompatible to the broad principles of efficient industry development and progress.

OURSELVES

During the year under review the Authority has held three three-day meetings and two one-day meetings. We have done our best to visit as many branches of the N.B.A. as possible. The general manager and I attended Convention in

Dunedin and made a one-day visit to Greymouth. Once again we have failed to reach the far north, but perhaps next year will not be so busy.

It is impossible to travel without spending money, and we have endeavoured to keep expenses down as much as possible. However, travelling is necessary if producers are to be kept informed, and I feel that the time and money is well spent.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The staffing position is very satisfactory. The factory runs along smoothly with the very minimum of "hold-ups" and the office copes effectively with the work and problems that arise.

During the year Mrs. Brown, who had been with us for six years as shorthand-typist, has retired and her place has been taken by Mrs. Lay. Mrs. Barker has left us to remarry and will be replaced when a suitable candidate is offering.

Once again the overall position can only be described as "highly satisfactory", and reflects the efficient manner in which the general manager is administering the Authority's affairs.

MYSELF

Six years ago you honoured me by electing me to the Honey Marketing Authority, and two years later I was elected chairman. Since then I have been privileged to lead the industry through what must to date be the most progressive and satisfactory stage of its career.

In my election manifesto in 1958 I told you that "I cannot see, neither can I offer, any short and easy way to self-sufficiency and prosperity. With more efficiency in marketing will come real progress", and I promised you "a policy of efficiency and real progress".

Without wishing to appear egotistical I do not think I have let you down. It has been a team effort, I have merely been the leader. It is not without some satisfaction that I can state that the affairs of the industry have never been in better order and the future has never looked so secure as it does today.

I will not be seeking re-election in September so the time will soon come for me to hand over my office to my successor. I do earnestly entreat you all to guard and cherish the efficient marketing system that has been so painstakingly built up; exercise your democratic rights of franchise and cast your vote with wisdom and understanding at the coming election.

If the last four years have been exacting, they have also been rewarding and I do thank you one and all for your forbearance and your support.

A PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM THE H.M.A. CHAIRMAN

I WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity of sending a short message to the beekeepers of New Zealand. The decision I have taken regarding the forthcoming election has not been reached without careful consideration and I have no intention of reiterating statements I have made in my address to Conference, but I would be failing in my duty if I did not make a clear and concise statement concerning the issues that are at stake when you fill in your voting papers.

There is ample proof that the present state of efficiency that the industry now enjoys is attributable to the Authority's proven trading policy. Any drastic changes in policy should be avoided if the industry is to take advantage of the many opportunities that lie ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support that has been given me over the years and I do sincerely hope that when you vote at the forthcoming election you will give your support to the candidates who you know will continue to direct the affairs of the industry in the manner that has proved so efficient and satisfactory over the past years.

Once again I thank you for your support and wish you well for the future.

(Signed) G. GUMBRELL, Chairman

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

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Report of the DOMINION CONFERENCE

Held at Hastings, August 5-7, 1964

THE PRESIDENT, MR. H. CLOAKE, was in the chair and there was a representative attendance of about 80 delegates.

The proceedings opened with the Conference Prayer, and the Mayor of Hastings, Mr. R. V. Georgi, extended a cordial welcome to visiting beekeepers.

Official Opening

The Conference was opened by the Director-General of Agriculture, Mr. D. N. R. Webb. In his address Mr. Webb surveyed the current work of the Department and outlined administrative changes which had been made to cope more effectively with production problems.

Mr. Webb emphasised that the role of producers' organisations in this country has become an increasingly important one. New Zealand, he said, has developed to a stage where expansion is rapid and the demands on primary industries to keep pace with local and world trends are heavy. Improved production techniques, research and market investigation, things which were unheard of 20 years ago, are now regarded as essential. But the demand for such facilities in every primary industry far outstrips the capability of Government even though a tremendous amount of additional work in these fields has been assumed by departmental agencies. The industries which are now making the most spectacular progress are those which are to some measure filling the gap with additional work projects of their own or are encouraging increased Government assistance by financing part of the cost of projects out of levies on produce. There are few if any producers' organisations, however small, which are not now actively helping themselves by such means. While the Department will continue to provide such services as it is able to do, the Association would be well advised to consider strengthening its own position and

capability along similar lines. Levies for such purposes should be regarded by producers as part of their essential cost-of-production on which future prosperity will largely depend.

Mr. Webb declared the Conference officially opened.

An apology was read from Mr. D. McIntyre, M.P., who was unable to be present owing to Parliamentary duties. Apologies were also received from Messrs. L. Goss, E. Smaellie, R. S. Walsh, E. D. Williams and A. Winstone.

The chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, addressed the Conference, reporting on the operation of the Authority during the past year.

At the conclusion of Mr. Gumbrell's address Mr. P. Berry replied to the reference to himself in the report and quoted a responsible authority to show that the action taken by him during the year had been ethically and procedurally correct. He reminded the Conference that he had acted in the terms of his election manifesto and he affirmed that he had not only a right but also a duty to follow the course he had taken.

The President presented the annual report, the secretary read the annual statement of accounts, and on the motion of the president these were adopted.

Mr. T. E. Pearson, the Association's representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board, addressed the Conference on recent activities of the Board.

Remits

(Note: The remit numbers correspond with those appearing on the order paper. In some cases the original wording was altered slightly by the unanimous agreement of Conference. Remits not mentioned in this report were either withdrawn or lapsed for want of a seconder.)

(1) (L. Cropp/R. V. Glasson.) On the motion of Mr. D. Penrose, seconded

by Mr. G. E. Winslade, the remit was amended to read "That this Conference recommends to the incoming Executive the revision and reprinting of the Association's constitution and that copies be sold at cost to members." The amended remit was carried.

(3) "That the N.B.A. take steps to become a member of the Bee Research Association." (E. O. Ball/R. V. Glasson.) Carried.

(4) "That elections for Life Membership be taken earlier in the Annual Conference (possibly before the remits) and not left to the dying stages of the session." Carried by 30 votes to 23.

(6) "That this Conference views with concern the fact that no action is taken to implement resolutions passed at Conference."

Mr. J. K. Bray protested that the remit might be construed to mean that no resolutions have received any attention after any previous Conference. The remit was carried.

(13) "That this Conference supports the principle of organised marketing by the H.M.A." (N. Tuck/R. Davidson.) Carried unanimously.

(15) "That Conference is of the opinion that the H.M.A. should take steps to free itself from the restrictions imposed by the sole agency agreement for the marketing of our exportable honey." (P. Berry/G. F. R. Gordon.)

Delegates supporting the remit claimed that New Zealand honey has always earned a premium over other honeys and that the Authority should be free to decide for itself the best current selling policy. Speakers opposing the remit pointed to the satisfactory results obtained under the present system and to the strength and stability of the Authority's present marketing position. Replying to the debate, Mr. Berry said that implementation of the remit would not prevent the H.M.A. from selling through one agent if it so desired but it would no longer be committed to do so. The remit was lost on a delegates' vote by 845 votes in favour to 1,555 against.

(14) "That Conference pass a vote of confidence in the Honey Marketing Authority and its marketing policy both overseas and in New Zealand." (R. W. Blair/R. N. McKenzie.)

An amendment, moved by R. Davidson, seconded by L. Holt, deleting the words "and its marketing policy both overseas and in New Zealand", was

defeated, and the original remit was lost by 27 votes to 31.

(16) "That the H.M.A. in negotiations with Kimpton Brothers limit the sole agency for New Zealand honey to the United Kingdom and Europe." (L. Holt/C. Hill.) Carried.

(17) "That Conference supports the policy of the H.M.A. on the issue of licences for the export of honey, to prevent the devaluation of New Zealand honey overseas." (J. W. Fraser/J. Gynn.) Carried.

(19) "That the Authority utilise the seals levy as an equalising fund as recommended by the Investigating Committee in 1959, by refunding seals money to suppliers to packers when the Authority is in a position to pay out more than local parity." (D. F. Penrose/J. K. Bray.) Lost.

(20) "That Conference affirms the view that our local market offers the best prospect in the long run and to avoid the danger that the H.M.A. may become a monopoly to the detriment of our local market when the debt on the assets of the Authority is finally paid off, plans be made now to secure an amendment to the Act constituting the Authority to provide that the assets when free of debt pass to the ownership of a limited liability company to be formed by the suppliers and the seals payers, their shares to be allotted proportionately to their contributions to debt repayment." (D. F. Penrose/J. K. Bray.)

With reference to this remit Mr. C. T. Gosse read a letter from the Minister of Agriculture dated July 19, 1961, intimating that before considering the matter the Government would have to be convinced that beekeepers understood the implication of the proposal. The present constitution should be a source of strength to the industry and the Minister did not support the suggestion. Speakers also pointed out that some of the concessions at present enjoyed by the Authority might be denied to a limited liability company. The remit was lost.

Notices of Motion

Notice having been given after presentation of the annual report, Mr. H. Cloake moved and Mr. T. S. Wheeler seconded the following motion on behalf of the General Executive:—

"That in view of the serious financial position disclosed in the annual report

and accounts of the Association and developments subsequent to our balance date, this Conference adopt the following proposition as the only positive and realistic method of providing adequate finance for continued functioning of our national organisation:—

1. That a levy of one-tenth of a penny be invoked on every pound of honey produced in New Zealand and marketed through normal trade channels, both local and overseas, such levy to be known as the 'National Beekeepers' Association Levy'.

2. That the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority be requested to collect such levy on behalf of the Association (a) by way of deduction from the returns of suppliers of honey to the Authority, and (b) by addition to the accounts current of seals purchasers, AND that the Minister of Agriculture be requested to authorise the imposition of such levy and its collection by the Authority by way of appropriate legislation or amendment to existing regulations.

3. That the present basis of branch representation and voting strength at general meetings or conferences of the Association be retained on a hive-holding basis meantime, pending complete revision of the Association's rules, AND that the above proposal be considered by Conference in advance of remits 8 to 12 inclusive.

4. That the present graduated scale of membership subscriptions to the Association be reduced by 50% retaining however 10/- as the minimum subscription; branches to retain ALL subscription income received from their members and direct subscriptions to be received in full by the National Association as at present."

In moving the motion Mr. Cloake reported that only one Executive meeting had been held during the past year, yet the credit balance in the accounts had fallen from £556 at the beginning of the year to £227, and it seemed hopeless to carry on the work of the Association adequately on the present income. Mr. Wheeler assessed the needs of the Association at approximately £3,000 per annum and he urged beekeepers to meet this need, as practically every other primary industry had already done, by a levy on produce. Further speakers agreed that the industry could not make progress without efficient organisation and it

appeared that the proposed levy was the only effective means of financing a combined effort. It was pointed out, however, that membership would require to be extended to all contributors and that it would be necessary to refer the proposal to producers for their approval before the Government would agree to introduce the necessary regulations.

Eventually on the motion of Mr. T. E. Pearson, seconded by Mr. G. E. Winslade, the motion was amended to read as follows:—

"That this Conference approves in principle a levy on honey as a means of financing the operations of the National Beekeepers' Association."

In this form the resolution was carried.

Remits (continued)

(27) "That Conference recommend further information relating to white clover pollination be published in the Journal of Agriculture." (G. E. Winslade/J. W. Fraser.) Carried.

(28) "That Conference expresses its disappointment that the initial stages of investigation concerning biological control of passion vine hopper has been so prolonged." (L. Holt/N. Tuck.) Carried.

(31) "That the Department of Agriculture compile a handbook on nectar sources in New Zealand." (M. Haines/A. Bates.) Carried.

(33) "That Conference views with concern the recent loss of trained and qualified Apiary Section staff and urges the Department to undertake a planned recruitment and training scheme." (J. W. Fraser/R. Davidson.) Carried.

(34) "That the Superintendent of Beekeeping be invited to supply extracts from scientific journals suitable for publication in 'The N.Z. Beekeeper'." (E. O. Ball/L. Holt.) Lost.

(35) "That more information be given in the Beekeeping Journal as to the projects and activities of Wallaceville Research Centre and other Departments concerned which affect the beekeeping industry." (D. L. Barrow/P. Berry.) Carried.

(37) "That the Department of Agriculture be urged to implement forthwith the recommendations of the committee set up three years ago to consider the question of bacillus larvae."

After it had been explained that action on this matter is pending as soon as the necessary legislation can



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be introduced the remit was withdrawn.

(38) "That Apiary Inspectors be instructed to change overalls, gloves, tools and smoker after encountering disease before entering another apiary." (M. J. Heineman/Lapsed for want of a seconder.)

(39) "That the Government be asked to reimburse beekeepers with a percentage of the value of the hive in an area that is affected with bacillus larvae."

The Auckland Branch had been delegated to inquire into this matter following the 1963 Conference. After Mr. R. W. Blair had reported that inquiries overseas had revealed no instances where such compensation was paid the remit was withdrawn.

(41) "That the Department of Agriculture be asked for a clear statement of its intentions regarding the future of the Apiary Section." (J. W. Fraser/Lapsed for want of a seconder.)

(43) "That this Conference considers that Apiary Instructors would gain a much better appreciation of beekeepers' problems if they attended the annual conferences of this Association and accordingly requests that their attendance be authorised by the Department of Agriculture in the interests of the honey industry. Expenses to be borne by individuals, not the Department." (Mrs. I. M. Cropp/V. L. Hewlett.) Lost.

(44) "That Conference views with the utmost concern the continued spraying with poisonous sprays, causing severe bee mortality, and urges that appropriate regulations be rigidly enforced." (G. F. R. Gordon/P. Berry.) Carried.

Members suggested that this resolution be forwarded to the Fruitgrowers' Association.

(45) "That Conference request the Executive to report progress on the introduction into New Zealand of beneficial nectar-bearing plants and trees." (N. Tuck/G. E. Gumbrell.) Carried.

It was suggested that reports might appropriately be published in the Journal.

(21) "That electors be given access to any information on H.M.A. policy matters." (J. W. Fraser/G. E. Gumbrell.)

On the motion of Mr. P. Berry, seconded by Mr. G. F. R. Gordon, the remit was altered to read: "That electors be given access to any information on H.M.A. policy matters and fuller

information relating to their application." In this form the remit was carried.

(22) "That this Conference takes very strong exception to the attitude of the H.M.A. in not honouring its statement that it would pay for all alterations to blocks for the purpose of receiving more seals revenue." (D. Penrose/T. E. Pearson.)

Mr. Gumbrell explained that the Authority had made no definite commitment except that it would consider every case on its merits.

The remit was carried by 31 votes to 15.

(23) "That the payout for manuka honey be brought more into line with realisations." (M. Haines/P. Berry.) Carried.

(24) "That the H.M.A. investigate the possibility of TV. advertising of honey in general." (N. Tuck/J. W. Fraser.) Carried.

(25) "That the H.M.A. be requested to pursue its policy of advertising honey, with emphasis on its economy and usefulness in lieu of other sweetening agents." (D. Penrose/J. K. Bray.) Carried.

(26) "That the Association recommend to the H.M.A. that they pursue through their selling agent a vigorous promotion of the fuller flavoured honeys outside the New Zealand home market." (D. Penrose/L. Holt.) Carried.

(11) "That until the recommended levy on honey can be implemented we request the H.M.A. to favourably consider increasing its present grant to the N.B.A." (D. Penrose/T. E. Pearson.) Carried.

(46) "That in the event of continued Price Control an application be made to the Prices Division to have the Price Order relating to honey supplied in customers' own containers revised so that all such honey be at 1s. 7d. per pound, and that new containers be charged for." (R. Davidson/E. O. Ball.) Carried.

(47) "That in the event of continued Price Control the price for 30lb. tins be exempt from the bulk price order and that the bulk price order be raised to apply to containers over 30lb." (J. Glynn/T. Penrose.) Carried.

(48) "That in view of Government policy to provide incentives by way of taxation relief to exporters, the Executive press for the inclusion of

packed honey in the items listed." (D. Penrose/T. Penrose.)

During the discussion on this remit Mr. Alan Berry reported that an application had been made for reconsideration of the present classification and this was at present under examination. The remit was carried.

(50) "That we press for beekeepers' taxation to be assessed over two or more seasons." (D. Penrose/T. Penrose.)

Speaking from an accountancy point of view, Mr. A. Berry said that a close examination of this suggestion had shown that it was very doubtful whether any benefits would be obtained from it. A better approach was to take advantage of the more liberal allowances in estimating which were now available. The remit was lost.

(54) "That the N.B.A. support other organisations working to eradicate opossums." (R. V. Glasson/Gumbrell.) Carried.

(55) "That it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that the next Conference be held in Dunedin." (J. Glynn/D. Penrose.) Carried.

Election of Officers

President: H. Cloake
Vice-President: T. S. Wheeler
North Island Members:
J. R. Barber, D. Barrow
South Island Members:
G. E. Winslade, J. Glynn

Life Members

Two nominations were submitted for life membership of the Association. Mr. J. W. Forster (South Canterbury) was nominated by Mr. E. O. Ball, seconded by Mr. R. Davidson; and Mr. J. McFadzien (Hawkes Bay, formerly of Otago) was nominated by

Mr. J. M. Marshall, seconded by Mr. M. J. Heineman. Both nominations were supported by several speakers and Mr. Forster and Mr. McFadzien were elected to life membership amid acclamation.

General Business

"That in future when programming Conference the Executive provide more time for questions directed to the chairman of the H.M.A." (L. Holt/G. E. Gumbrell.) Carried.

"That the Executive instigate a bee-keeping apprenticeship similar to that of the carpentry and plumbing trades and that all vocational guidance centres etc. be notified of its existence." (F. Bartrum/J. W. Fraser.) Lost.

Secretaryship

The President read to Conference a letter from the General Secretary tendering his resignation, due to personal circumstances, to take effect as from August 31. Mr. Cloake expressed his deep regret that Mr. Fraser felt unable to continue and paid a tribute to the work that he had done during 10 years as General Secretary. Mr. Cloake's remarks were endorsed by Mr. J. R. Barber and Mr. J. W. Fraser, who had both served as Dominion President in association with Mr. Fraser, and by Mr. J. McFadzien who had been Editor during almost the whole of Mr. Fraser's term of office. Particular mention was made of the loyalty shown to the Association by both Mr. Fraser and his father, the late Mr. G. V. Fraser, over a period of 21 years.

In reply Mr. Fraser referred to the many personal friendships he had made among beekeepers and he thanked members of the Association for the

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support they had given him in his work.

Conclusion

Prior to the conclusion of Conference a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. H. Cloake, for his tact, firmness and scrupulous fairness in conducting the proceedings was carried by acclamation.

The chairman extended the thanks of the Association to officers of the Department of Agriculture, to the chairman and general manager and members of the Marketing Authority, and to all who had assisted the Conference, and formally declared the meeting closed.

BEEKEEPING RESEARCH

An address by Mr. T. Palmer-Jones on "Beekeeping Research — Past, Present and Future", provided an interesting interlude at the Hastings Conference. Mr. Palmer-Jones outlined the various considerations involved in choosing an avenue of applied research and discussed the procedure followed in order to obtain the most effective results from the resources available. With additional staff now available some of the more practical problems in apiary management may be examined in the course of future programs.

PRESENTATION TO PAST EDITOR

At a brief ceremony during the Hastings Conference the President, Mr. H. Cloake, made a presentation to Mr. J. McFadzien, Editor of "The N.Z. Beekeeper" from 1948 until 1963. The present, a handsome 35mm. camera with accessories, was given as a token of appreciation for work done in the interests of New Zealand beekeepers.

In returning thanks for the gift, Mr. McFadzien referred to the many firm friendships he had made during his term as Editor and expressed gratitude for the assistance he had received and for the many kindnesses shown to him by beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

COMMENDATION

The work of Mr. T. E. Pearson as N.B.A. representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board was commended by Mr. A. M. W. Greig, Director of the Horticulture Division, at the conclusion of Mr. Pearson's address. Mr. Greig said that Mr. Pearson had earned the complete confidence of his Division and he was regarded almost as an honorary officer of the Department of Agriculture.

NO GAP IN SECRETARIAT

AT A SPECIAL MEETING of the incoming General Executive after Conference closed urgent consideration was given to the steps necessary to fill the position of General Secretary following Mr. R. A. Fraser's resignation as from August 31.

Recognising the difficulties involved for the Association if there was any gap in services between that date and the making of a replacement, Mr. Fraser has offered to continue in an "acting" capacity meantime, at normal professional scale fees, and this offer has been gratefully accepted by the Executive.

Future permanent arrangements, when known, will be notified in this Journal.

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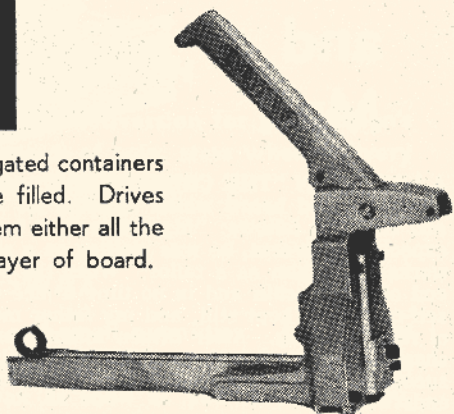
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COMMENTARY

from the Editor's Desk and Mail



A LETTER IN "THE COUNTRYMAN" relates the story of the man who sprouted an unexpected beard whilst minding his own business, chatting to a beekeeper, and reads as follows: "My father kept bees and one day in June (mid-summer), expecting a swarm, he was waiting on a seat in the garden with John Smith, who worked with him as a tailor. When the swarm arrived the queen settled on the end of John's chin and in no time a nice cluster was forming there. With great self-control he kept still, and my father managed to insert into his mouth a piece of rubber tubing. After fifteen minutes or so, the skep arrived and John gently shook his head over it, my father assisting with a soft brush. The bees were successfully hived without John being stung." Good for John! All's well that ends well.

☆ ☆ ☆

ACCORDING TO "TIME," some skulduggery has been going on in Germany in the sale of honey under false pretences concerning the country of origin, and the report states: ". . . Cologne's sleuths are using scientific methods to keep the smugglers on the defensive. They recently caught an importer who was shipping in great quantities of honey labelled as Common Market produce. Cologne's laboratories made chemical tests of the honey and proved that the pollen from which it was drawn belonged to flowers that were native only to South America."

☆ ☆ ☆

REPORTING ON A LECTURE given to beekeepers in Ireland recently, the BRITISH BEEKEEPER reports that figures produced proved that the number of beekeepers in the emerald isle are now fewer in number than at the beginning of the century.

Commenting that big declines have taken place in the number of beekeepers in England in recent years, the question is posed as to whether a similar situation exists in the old country. Because of the big freeze-up last northern winter, figures are not readily available, but it is felt that the eventual count will show a fairly heavy reduction of colonies and of beekeepers. Many folk will be temporarily discouraged to have lost their stocks through the severe cold, but a reasonable run of reasonable weather will assist in forgetting the bad days and encourage a start again.

The war years witnessed a surprising interest in beekeeping by people who would not normally be drawn within yards of an active hive, for the sole and simple reason that a benevolent Ministry of Food allowed substantial supplies of granulated sugar to be obtained for bee feed. With a ration of 6oz.-8oz. of sugar per head per week, it is not surprising that bee feed sugar was regarded as a veritable Eldorado. As soon as normal conditions returned and sugar was taken off ration, "sugar bee keepers" decided to drop their interest in beekeeping and purchase their honey supplies from the grocers' shelf.

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IT WAS SAD TO READ recently of the untimely death of Rachel Carson, the author of **SILENT SPRING**. Miss Carson was the first to bring home to the man-in-the-street, as well as Government bodies and organisations, the deadly dangers inherent in the mania for spraying any and every living thing with poisonous insecticides, and of the carcinogenic properties of some of the chemicals so freely used.

It is ironic that the person who did so much to warn others of the risks involved from indiscriminate use, herself fell a victim to the scourge of mankind and died of cancer.

Initially regarded as a crank by knowledgeable people who should have known better, Miss Carson's writings did much to stop incalculable damage and resultant suffering from gross interference with the balance of nature.



THOUGHTS OF POISONOUS sprays brings to mind the fact that Britain has now banned aldrin and dieldrin — two of the highly toxic and persistent insecticides among the numerous indiscriminate killers — from use in fertilisers for private gardens and agricultural land, and in sheep dips. **THE AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL** comments that the use of these two chemicals in Australia has declined and the Victorian Government chemist states that they are "not recommended" by the Department of Agriculture for use with crops for animal or human consumption, and the journal complains that the withholding of recommendation is not so effective as legal prohibition. "While lethal poisons of this power are employed to drench the countryside by official and semi-official bodies, and sold over the counter to ignorant home gardeners, risk of human death and more and more noticeable annihilation of Australian animals and birds will continue," says the article.



"L'ABEILLE DE FRANCE" comments that although written works are not available, it can be proven that beekeeping by homo sapiens was practised 3,000 years B.C. Decorations on ancient statues, documents, and facsimiles pointed out by early authors and so well described by Aristotle and Homer, was proof indeed.



WE LIVE AND LEARN. Dr. Adrian Wenner, a scientist at the University of California, says that he has discovered that bees "talk" and "hear" each other and pass on information as to where supplies of nectar can be found.

Whilst that information will not be a source of surprise to beekeepers or students of insect life, other aspects of Dr. Wenner's assertions are news.

On the return of foragers to the hive and observing the characteristic "waggle-dance," Dr. Wenner analysed noises made by bees and found that they make 10 different kinds of sounds. By imitating those sounds with scientific devices, Dr. Wenner claims to have been able to "talk" to the bees.

"Listening to the sounds of bees, recording them, analysing them, and designing experiments to explore their meanings . . . is akin to the problem of communications with beings on another planet," said Dr. Wenner, who explained that one interesting experiment was with the high-pitched tone of an emerging queen. When Dr. Wenner's instruments simulated the new queen's piping, an immediate answer was obtained from imprisoned sisters.

Another of the synthetic sounds produced resembled the high buzz of the guard bees and the soothing "all clear" message transcribed to excited workers after their hive has been opened by the apiarist.

Dr. Wenner also found that he could not "communicate" with his bees by synthetic sounds unless his equipment was actually touching the hive, and that noises made at audible level were ignored unless there was contact. On the deduction that the bees were aware of sounds through their legs, Dr. Wenner's assumption is that the bee's "ears" are situated behind the "knees". The customary behaviour of mutual "feeling" with antennae when bee meets bee also suggests that there is some form of hearing organ situated there.

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on the hands. Although the smell is persistent on the veil it washes off the hands immediately. I reckon one 6 oz. Aerosol can will last a busy apiarist for a whole season."

S.G.B. — Masterton.

THREE MILLION GREY-BLACK BEES have been imported from Georgia, U.S.A., by Mr. Denis Jesper, of Harrogate, Yorkshire, to help make good some of the losses incurred by English beekeepers after last winter's Arctic conditions.

Mr. Jesper imported the bees in 2lb.-3lb. packs, each with a young queen and 5,000 workers, and supplied with a pierced tin of syrup or candy bar to feed them. Also accompanying each pack was a certificate of health signed by the Georgia State entomologist.

Questioned as to the suitability of imported stocks to face the rigours of the English climate, Mr. Jesper pointed out that the British bee is really a mongrel, and that the pure strain disappeared at the turn of the century. The bees imported from Georgia were hardy and good tempered, although that did not mean that they would not sting. Asked to comment on bad tempered bees, Mr. Jesper expressed the opinion that French bees are niggly, bees from Cyprus are known to be bad tempered, while African bees sting on sight.

Perhaps Mr. Jesper has had an unfortunate experience at some time in handling French bees, and bases his poor opinion of their temper on that one instance.

My own particular experience was completely the reverse, and the most good tempered, hard working bees ever my good fortune to handle worked the fields and orchards of a district in the Loire. As with people and nations, it can be misleading or even dangerous to generalise on isolated instances.



ACCORDING TO A REPORT in the London DAILY EXPRESS, a 60-year-old Londoner from the south-west suburb of Streatham is Keeper of the Royal Bees to King Idris of Libya.

In charge of the secret and precious juniper honey is Miss Olive Brittan, M.B.E., and she occupies a remote stone villa hidden by trees on the ancient Cyrenaica coast which was formerly a German hide-out during the last war.

Miss Brittan stated that the King is a prodigious consumer of juniper honey every day, and that his annual intake is in the region of 300lb. Supplies are retained until the King himself or a royal messenger is sent for supplies, and, says Miss Brittan, "The King eats honey by the spoonful at every meal. He says that it is good for his health. He is 74 years of age. Sometimes he lets visiting friends share it, but the juniper honey is produced only for the King. There is not enough to go round . . ."

Miss Brittan has been Royal Keeper of the Bees for over 12 years, and she was previously a gardener in South London, where she kept bees as a hobby. Assisting with Palestinian refugees in Jordan in 1952, she heard that King Idris was looking for a new beekeeper, applied for the position, and was accepted.



COLONEL A. C. W. KIMPTON, Managing Director of Kimpton Bros. (Red Carnation) Ltd., London, visited meetings of beekeepers throughout New Zealand and Australia in May last, to explain his company's stewardship in handling honey sales in the United Kingdom and on the Continent of Europe.

As sole selling agent for New Zealand honey and for prominent packers of Australian honey in Queensland, Northern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, Colonel Kimpton came to explain to producers in all parts of the country how sales were obtained and handled by his company during the nine years of their sales contract, and to define the merits of a sole agency in comparison with selling arrangements on a multiple basis in other countries.

Colonel Kimpton's subject was one of vital interest to all honey producers supplying the commercial market. Attendances were good, and listeners were rewarded with a most able speaker.

Commenting on market conditions before his company took over the sole agency, Colonel Kimpton emphasised that when the market was open to all, honey prices were being slaughtered, and said: "In the two years before Kimpton Brothers took over the sole agency, 1953 and 1954, 1331 tons of honey were sent to the United Kingdom market. In the first year that we had the agency, 1955, we sold 1732 tons of honey.

"When we took over the agency we had an accumulation to get rid of from the previous year. We did this by the end of 1955. We have raised the price of white clover honey from £120 to £165 a ton and last year we got nearly £200 a ton for it.

"Last year we sold honey to Britain, Eire, West Germany, Belgium, Japan and other countries. This amounted to a total of 1587 tons. We never buy any of the honey, but sell it on a commission of 4%, with 20% of any over-price. On a few occasions we buy honey back that can't be sold.

"No honey arriving in the United Kingdom has a comparable price. We don't say that we can get £200 or £165 all the time, but because we are the sole agents for New Zealand honey the price cannot be under-cut.

"We have increased the price steadily since we took over, which includes not only the boom years, but the lean ones too.

"Kimpton Brothers Ltd., are the largest importers of honey in the United Kingdom. We have 400 customers there and have been handling honey since the last century. At all times the largest part of our turnover has been in honey sales, but not the largest part of our profit.

"Because of what we have done in raising the price of New Zealand honey I would ask you, the beekeepers, to think twice before changing the system," he added.

At each meeting, questions and comments from the floor were invited, and every opportunity was given to beekeepers to air their views or express opinions.

Not everyone, of course, was in agreement with Colonel Kimpton.

At the East Coast meeting, for example, Mr. B. Jones, a southern Hawke's Bay producer, said that he doubted Colonel Kimpton's sympathies were with the New Zealand beekeeper in his (Colonel Kimpton's) desire to retain the sole agency for New Zealand honey in the U.K. and Europe.

Paying tribute to the Colonel's presence and the exhaustive way in which he had dealt with his subject, Mr. Jones said: "He is applying the same tenacity of purpose in flying out to New Zealand to plead his case for the retention by him of the sole selling agency for honey as he used when he came to New Zealand nine and a half years ago in an attempt to secure the contract, even though told before he left England that the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority was not interested in his proposition.

"Colonel Kimpton stressed that by his company holding the sole New Zealand agency to sell New Zealand honey in Europe he was able to ensure that the New Zealand beekeeper received full and fair return for his labours.

"I doubt the speaker's sympathies for the New Zealand beekeeper as Kimpton Brothers Ltd., were motivated only by the desire for profit and what appeared to be a strong need to retain this sole selling agency.

"We were told that the samples of Argentine and Mexican honey appearing on the speaker's table represented 15,000 tons of honey in those countries yet unsold. I suggest that these samples were put on his desk for effect, a bogey, to induce New Zealand beekeepers to stay with Kimpton Brothers Ltd."

Colonel Kimpton will have returned to Britain with a kaleidoscope of memories stored from his "whistle stop" tour of the producing areas. And it must have been exhausting indeed.

If the meeting attended by this writer is indicative of others throughout the North and South Islands, and irrespective of the views held and expressed by individuals, it can certainly be said: "The fight was a fair one".

A letter from Colonel Kimpton is published on another page.

ADVERTISEMENT

Honey Marketing Authority Election of Producer Representatives

**A
Statement
from**

J. W. FRASER



I am again offering myself as a candidate for election to the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority as a producer representative and, in respectfully soliciting your support, submit that my record of service and experience merits your continued approval.

I have served for five years as Branch President and a similar term as Branch Secretary, nine years as a member of the Dominion Executive, including two terms as Vice-President and four years as Dominion President, and was a member of the Authority for seven years.

The issues confronting electors in the current election have been made abundantly clear in recent months. In brief, I consider we should not throw away the substance in pursuit of the shadow, we should not give room for the speculator, and care should be taken to prevent devaluation of our produce on any market.

J. W. Fraser

Ryal Bush,
No. 6 R.D., Invercargill

**If you are entitled to vote, exercise your democratic
right and urge your neighbour to do likewise!**

Dental Association President Comments on . . .

Dental Decay and Honey

In a recent issue of AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL, a reprint was made of a statement made by Dr. Kenneth Adamson, Federal President of the Australian Dental Association in 1958, and the editorial urged that everyone connected with the industry should make the information known as widely as possible. The advice is equally sound for New Zealand.

Beekeepers throughout Australia should do everything possible to give publicity to a statement made by Dr. Kenneth Adamson, Federal President of the Australian Dental Association. Dr. Adamson was the guest speaker in the Face the Nation session conducted by G.T.V. Channel 9 on Sunday, September 21, when he was quizzed by the panel of interviewers concerning dental health.

Australians' teeth, said Dr. Adamson, were just about the worst in the world. Asked for the reason for this, he said it could be due to a deficiency in the soil of certain minerals, but it was perhaps due to our heavy consumption of refined sugar, which was the highest in the world.

Special reference was made by Dr. Adamson to the Hopewood Homes conducted in New South Wales by the Youth Welfare Association of Australia.

There, he said, the children were subjected to a controlled diet and their dental care was supervised by officers of the Sydney Dental Hospital. Dental decay had been almost eliminated.

The worst enemies of dental health, said Dr. Adamson, were white flour and refined sugar. "Natural sugar, as in honey, is quite all right," he said.

The statement made by Dr. Adamson is just what the Australian Honey Institute has been seeking for years. His declaration was quite positive and without qualification whatever. The declaration of a professional man of Dr. Adamson's standing is one few would feel themselves willing to dispute. Advocates of the use of honey instead of white sugar should make every possible use of such an unsolicited testimonial to the benefits of honey in the daily diet.

SLEEPYHEADS

It seems that it will no longer be necessary for beekeepers to suffer in silence the penalty of taking the sweet harvest from the hive, and the familiar sight of a veiled figure surrounded by swirling clouds of enraged bees may soon be a thing of the past.

The latest aid to both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers is in the form of an easily handled aerosol weighing six ounces, and which contains a bee tranquiliser harmless to bees and non-toxic to the user. Apiary instructors who have used the preparation on a test and pre-marketing basis are enthusiastic on the results obtained, and it is estimated that an aerosol will last the average apiarist for a whole season.

The manufacturers are so confident that their product is completely efficient that they openly offer a full cash refund to any dissatisfied customer.

PICTURED IN OUR MAY issue was a chimney fire of intentional origin at Masterton, where a pile of outers were being sterilised by flame. The caption ascribed Syd Bubb as the owner of the apiary, whereas in fact this was not the case, and Syd Bubb was present in his official capacity assisting the Apiary Instructor, Syd Line, in inspection and sterilising work. Apologies to Syd Bubb for the croneous description.

LONDON HONEY MARKET REPORT

According to the market report of the Bank of New Zealand, issued in mid July, the U.K. honey market is quiet and prices for some makes tend to be depressed. New Zealand prices remain unchanged, with clover at 175s. a cwt. net, extra light amber 160s., and light amber 150s. to 166s. The market feels that in view of the poor demand prices may fall further.

“Operation Skewer”

Taking a “wild” swarm is not always worth while, but circumstances alter cases and ingenious methods have sometimes to be employed to win the prize. A tea chest and home-made skewers provided essential equipment in the instance related here.

FARM TRACTORS and bees are generally akin to oil and water — the two do not readily mix — and the fact that a large wild colony suspended from the boughs of a tree did not interfere with a tractor driver passing to and fro beneath them prompted a Hawkes Bay apiarist, Athelstone Foster, to attempt to secure them for productive use.

Unfortunately, the bough was a good way from the ground, and capture was not going to be easy without ingenuity. Necessity, however, is the mother of invention, and Athelstone devised and perfected a scheme which others may care to follow.

First piece of essential equipment to obtain was a tea chest, the top edge of which was strengthened and drilled to carry fencing wire skewers (clearly seen in Fig. 4), spaced one inch apart.

The box was then hoisted up the tree to immediately below the colony, but without the skewers at this stage, so that the box fitted snugly round the combs. Athelstone then gently inserted skewers from each side of the box right through the comb, and this particular good-tempered race accepted the interference without visible signs of annoyance.

With the combs thus firmly secured in suspension, the anchorage of the combs to the



Fig. 1: Tea chest suspended by ropes beneath the wild colony.

Fig. 2: Skewers inserted in position through the comb.

Fig. 3: Empty super and box of standard frames in position on the ground.

Fig. 4: Tea chest after removal, showing combs suspended on skewers.

bough were severed with the aid of a bread knife, and pieces of hessian spread over the combs and the box.

Thus covered, the crate was gently lowered by ropes to ground level, where a half-depth empty super was placed over the combs to avoid squashing or damaging them. Above the empty super was placed a box of standard combs, to which the bees eventually ascended, permitting the removal of the tea chest and old comb beneath.

The normal precautions were, of course, taken to ensure that the bees were healthy and disease-free before removal to the apiary, and Athelstone is particularly well pleased with his peaceful and hard-working acquisition.

Apiary Instructor Syd Line, of Hastings, who took the photographs and assisted with "Operation Skewer," says that he has never heard before of a similar removal scheme of things.

Painless Extraction

A NEW HONEY comb uncapper has been invented by Charles E. Owens of the United States Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station. Owens claims his machine uncaps 20 combs a minute and eliminates the extra step of separating the wax from the honey required in the old method of removing the cappings with a knife.

This new machine is composed of a pair of heated aluminium rolls with teeth that punch holes in the wax cappings. These rollers operate continuously and uncap both sides of the comb at one time. Each roller is three inches in diameter and 17 inches long and has more than 6313 metal teeth. Heating the rollers to 120 deg. or higher prevents the wax and honey from sticking to them.

After the comb is uncapped and the honey is extracted, either a second set of rollers or a set of metal fingers roughens the wax surface so the comb may be re-used.

The honey industry will be closely observing future reports on this uncapper. (From a report in "GLEANNINGS", Medina, U.S.A.).

AUGUST 1964



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LETTERS to the EDITOR

London, E.C.2., June 5, 1964

Sir,

I should like to take the opportunity, now that I am back in England, of expressing through your magazine my best thanks for all the kindness and hospitality that I received from so many beekeepers during the time that I was making my recent tour in New Zealand.

It is not my intention to enter into personalities nor controversy, but I do want to say a big thank you to the many beekeepers who entertained me, gave me hospitality and meals, showed me round their honey houses, allowed me to photograph their apiaries and helped in so many ways to make my visit a happy one. I would particularly like to say how much I appreciated the patient hearing that I, as a "Pommie", was afforded and the courtesy that I was shown at all the six meetings that I addressed. Although, of course, I am not saying that everyone agreed with me everywhere I went, yet I was given fair and kindly attention and this was appreciated by me.

As a result of my visit I hope that many misapprehensions and misunderstandings which seemed to have been spread abroad, were removed. (The suggestion, for instance, in your May issue of "The Beekeeper" by Mr. G. F. R. Gordon, of Hastings, that "fantastic commissions and incentive payments, etc., amounting to as much as 20%" were being paid in connection with our contract. I pointed out that this just wasn't true!).

The account of the stewardship of my Company has been given. I maintain that because of the Sole Agency Agreement during the past 9½ years the following benefits have been secured for the New Zealand beekeepers:—

- (1) The huge accumulation of New Zealand honey unsold at the time we took over the agency amounting to something over 1,000 tons was disposed of in a quick and orderly manner.
- (2) An improvement in price of approximately 33 1-3% was secured by us almost immediately. Price undercutting in the United Kingdom was stopped.
- (3) The selling price for New Zealand honey has been increased through the sole agency from £120 per ton, when we took over, to as much as £190 per ton to £200 per ton during the last 12 months.
- (4) Because of the sole agency, New Zealand honey has obtained for years the top price of any bulk honey coming into the United Kingdom in any quantity.

May I finish by reminding the New Zealand beekeepers of the old Aesop fable speaking of giving up the substance for the shadow?

"As a dog was crossing a river, with a morsel of good flesh in his mouth, he saw (as he thought) another dog under the water, upon the very same adventure. He never considered that the one was only the image of the other; but out of greediness to get both, he chops at the shadow and loses the substance."

Once more with my thanks to the many beekeepers who showed me kindness.

Tony Kimpton

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St. Heliers, July 23, 1964

Sir,

In April, 1963, I had the privilege of sending two nuclei hives to Avele College in Apia, Western Samoa, an agricultural college run by the Samoan Government for the benefit of some 150 native boys drawn from various islands in the Pacific. With these two hives they commenced an apiary class which has proved most popular. One of the pupils from American Samoa has been advised he will be in charge of a beekeeping project on his return to his island home.

The bee development at Avele College has proved an interesting project in itself as conditions are vitally different to ours in New Zealand. From the two small hives in the ensuing twelve months they took a total of 530lb of honey (repeat 530lb)—as well as increased by another five hives!

The honey flow lasts the whole twelve months but during the period December to March there is little nectar brought in due to the prevalent rains.

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The master in charge reports a certain amount of queen trouble and when one realises the length of the honey flow it can be understood. The queens would certainly be working overtime!

The original two hives were specially conditioned with added ventilation and both had proved October queens supplied by Mr. F. D. White. They did little work as they were placed in top supers of double hives and united in December. The queens were then set aside for shipment but this was delayed until April on account of the rainy season. The trip aboard the "Tofua" took a fortnight and the chief officer kindly took the hives under his control and agreed to water daily. On my assurance the bees were not to be let out for exercise!

The increase and production from two small hives in twelve months is however so extraordinary I felt it worth reporting to you on the chance your readers would be interested in reading about New Zealand bees being successfully established in Western Samoa.

Philip C. Muir

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☆

Gore, July 17, 1964

Sir,

The Beekeeping Industry is fortunate to have two men of the calibre of Mr. J. D. Lorimer and Mr. J. W. Fraser offering themselves for election to the Honey Marketing Authority as producer representatives.

Both are young and active beekeepers with a solid background of service to the Industry as N.B.A. Branch Officers and members of the Dominion Executive. As members of the Honey Marketing Authority, both have made a significant contribution to the efficiency of our marketing organisation and can be relied upon to continue to work, without prejudice, in our common interest, and to keep us fully informed on matters affecting the Industry.

Both these men are men of standing in their respective communities and in every way will be worthy representatives of our Industry, combining administrative ability with integrity.

"Satisfied Voter"

NEW TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BEEKEEPERS

The Apiary Section of the Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, is to conduct a Beekeepers' Training School at Timaru on September 24 and 25 next, continuing at Geraldine on September 26.

The Organising Committee comprises:

Mr. V. A. Cook, Apiary Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Oamaru
Mr. I. W. Forster, Technical Officer (Apiary), Department of Agriculture, Oamaru
Mr. G. E. Winslade, Dominion Executive member, N.B.A., 1H R.D., Oamaru

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1964

The Bay Hall, Timaru

- 1 pm: Assembly
- 1.30 pm: Official Opening: Mr. E. Smaellie, Superintendent, Beekeeping
- 2 pm: The Anatomy and Physiology of the Honey Bee: Mr. V. A. Cook, Apiary Instructor
- 3 pm to 3.30 pm: Afternoon tea
- 3.30 pm: Nectar Sources of New Zealand: Mr. R. S. Walsh, Apiculturist
- 4.30 pm: Adjournment

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1964

The Bay Hall, Timaru

- 9.30 am: Economical Beekeeping: Mr. I. W. Forster, Technical Officer (Apiary)
- 10.30 am to 11 am: Morning tea
- 11 am: Efficiency and Maintenance of Steam Appliances: Mr. G. E. Winslade
- 12 noon to 1.30 pm: Lunch
- 1.30 pm: Honey Grading: Mr. C. G. Rope, Honey Grader
- 2.30 pm to 3 pm: Afternoon tea
- 3 pm: Woodworking and the Care of Tools: Mr. A. Mortimer, Woodwork Tutor
- 4 pm - 4.15 pm: Break
- 4.15 pm: Brains Trust. Panel: Mr. C. G. Rope, Mr. E. Smaellie, Mr. T. Pearson, Mr. I. W. Forster; chairman, Mr. R. S. Walsh
- 5 pm: Adjournment

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1964

The Town Hall, Geraldine

- 10.30 am: Bee Breeding: Mr. I. W. Forster, Technical Officer (Apiary)
- 11 am: The Advantages of a Bee House for Cell Raising: Mr. G. E. Gumbrell
- 11.45 am to 1 pm: Lunch

Resume at Mr. G. E. Gumbrell's Property, Orari Gorge Road, Geraldine

- 1 pm: The Grafting Method of Cell Raising: Mr. R. Davidson, Sr., and Mr. R. Davidson, Jr.
- 1.30 pm: Management of Baby Nucs: Mr. T. Pearson
- 2 pm: Management of Queen Banks: Mr. D. Penrose
- 2.30 pm: Closing Address: Mr. H. Cloake
- 3 pm: Afternoon Tea

During the afternoon Mr. Gumbrell's bee house and cell-raising equipment will be available for inspection.

Those attending will need to make their own accommodation and meal arrangements. Ample hotel, motel and cabin accommodation is available at Timaru. Morning and afternoon teas will be available at a charge.

In order to recover costs each person attending part or all of the school will be required to pay a registration fee of 10/-.

South Island beekeepers will have received a circular with a registration slip to be returned to a member of the Organising Committee with the registration fee. Notice of intention to attend will be appreciated by the committee.

Sufficient circulars will be sent to North Island Apiary Instructors and N.B.A. Branch Secretaries for distribution.

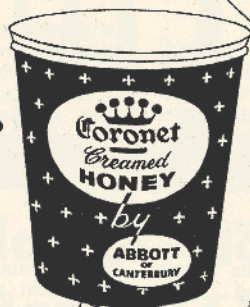
All persons interested are cordially invited to attend.

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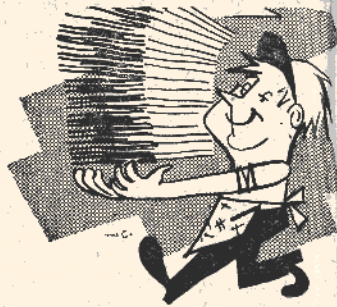
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BRANCH NOTES



NORTHLAND

A meeting was held on July 11 and a good number of members attended to discuss the remits to go forward at the Dominion Conference in Hastings.

During the meeting the president said farewell to one of our junior members, John Hardcastle, who is going to further his studies overseas.

Mr. Jim Baker showed colour slides of honey house equipment and a series of slides on queen raising, plus some slides of his travels around New Zealand.

There is to be a Field Day on October 3 at the home yard of Arthur Tucker, 35 King Street. All beekeepers are very welcome, so keep this day free.

—Reported by A. G. Tucker

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Beekeepers' Field Day Demonstration

On the afternoon of July 1, 100 beekeepers gathered at the honey house of Davidson's Apiaries Ltd., Hadlow, Timaru, to see a working demonstration of an automatic uncapping machine by Mr. A. S. Harrison, of California, U.S.A. Mr. Harrison showed slides of the machine in operation, then gave a demonstration of the machine which he has patented and uses in his plant in California where he operates 2500 colonies of bees.

To see full combs of honey uncapped as fast as they could be dropped in and with no effort was amazing—some tough combs too. Some of the larger beekeepers in New Zealand may purchase one of these machines and we were grateful to Mr. Harrison for the opportunity of seeing the machine in action.

Because of the large number present it was necessary to give three runs of the machine as space was limited in the honey house. More time was used than planned, so other items on

the programme were dropped, but all present were very satisfied with the arrangements. Our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Davidson for making their place available and for providing a most enjoyable afternoon tea. To cap it all the weather was perfect.

—Reported by J. G. McKenzie

SOUTHLAND

The season turned up trumps in the end. Most reports tell of a few more grey hairs, but average crops!

Field Day

A successful function at the home of Branch President John de Wit. Presentation of Honorary Diplomas by Mr. Greig, talks by N.B.A. President Harry Cloake and Executive member Jack Glynn, and Authority Chairman Mr. George Gumbrell. Demonstrations by Mr. Kevin Ecroyd and Apiary Instructor Dick Hobbs. Also an auction sale of assorted goods and equipment with Mr. J. W. Fraser as auctioneer, which realised fair values for the vendors and a worthwhile sum to the branch in commission.

Annual Meeting

All officers re-elected and the explanation of the member who attended sporting a beautiful "shiner" accepted with reservations.

A subsequent meeting, combined with the Gore Branch, gave members the opportunity to express an opinion on the many and varied proposals which will come before the Annual Conference.

A large and representative gathering took advantage of the opportunity provided by the H.M.A. in association with the Gore and Southland Branches to hear Colonel A. W. Kimpton. Our guest was given an attentive and cordial reception.

—Reported by J. W. Fraser

N. Z. BEEKEEPER



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WAIKATO

An excellent film entitled "SECRETS OF THE HIVE" was shown by the Apiary Instructor, Mr. A. Bennett, at our last meeting, and was very much enjoyed by members. As a point of interest, this film may be borrowed from the Japanese Embassy, Oriental Bay, Wellington, by any branch who would like to screen it. After a month of continuous wet weather, the film was quite a tonic to see.

For our five minute talk we were addressed by Mr. John Smith, of Arizona, U.S.A., who is visiting New Zealand. It is always interesting to hear about beekeeping in other countries, their nectar sources and the problems they have to face, including the adverse effects of the extensive use of pesticides.

—Reported by C. Bird.

The Secretary of the Waikato Branch, Mr. H. N. Tuck, advises that copies are now available of the "Health Report on Honey" from the Institute of Honey Research, Germany.

The work has been translated and copies are available at 2s. 6d. each, the proceeds from which will be devoted to Branch funds.

OTAGO

The annual general meeting has been held but not completed, for whilst election of president and vice-president did not cause much difficulty a new secretary was not found. The appointment has been held over to the next ordinary meeting.

Otago Branch has primarily comprised smaller beekeepers but it is felt that it could well be stronger and more

alive if some of the bigger apiarists would join. Many are well within easy reach of Dunedin.

If you read this, Brother Apiarist, give it some thought, please. It is not how much we get out of the meetings but how much we put in. Both ourselves and our ideas can give something of value.

Though the branch may be small, the interest is there, as can be seen by the remits from Otago put forward this year to Conference.

It has been very pleasing indeed to notice the revival of interest taken by beekeepers in the honey section at Dunedin's winter show. From only two competitors last year the number has risen to seven and these enthusiasts filled the shelves with over 40 entries. Special compliments to Mr. McAllister from Balclutha for his perfect sample of white granulated honey. It was just beautiful.

—Reported by M. Heineman, Milton

CANTERBURY

From time to time our methods of beekeeping and handling of honey are improving, but who would have thought 25 years ago that in 1964 it would be possible for two men to extract 10 to 12 tons of honey in an eight-hour day, and not necessarily skilled men either?

Yesterday, one man doing his two tons a day was the skilled man, but times have changed. Our industry is changing fast. With boom loaders, automatic uncapping machines and more mechanism in honey houses, it is hard to visualise the changes likely in the next 10 years.

On July 1 a number of producers foregathered at the honey house of Bob Davidson, Timaru, to see the first

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demonstration of an automatic uncapping machine imported from America. Mr. Arthur S. Harrison, who is responsible for developing the machine, first showed films of it in operation. Then, in a matter of a few minutes, he uncapped the contents of half a dozen supers at the rate of one frame every five seconds. Now someone will have to invent the rest of the plant which will extract the honey and render the cappings at the same rate.

To date we have hardly had any winter, few frosts, and the driest June on record. Queens have consequently started laying earlier and already, at the end of July, there is hatching brood in the hives. Our rainfall is nearly eight inches behind the average for this time of year so a wet spring could be in the offing.

Our annual meeting on May 29, a fortnight after Colonel Kimpton's meeting, resulted in 15 remits to Conference. Mr. Clarrie Hill of Rangiora is our new president. A buffet tea was followed by the presentation of Honorary Diplomas by Mr. G. G. Henderson, Director of the Institute of Horticulture, to 11 members, Messrs. P. R. Robins, T. E. Pearson, T. F. Penrose, E. W. Elliott, F. J. Armstrong, R. R. Bushby, H. Bush, L. A. Griffin, C. Hill, R. H. Newton and E. B. F. Hight. Afterwards, a most informative film, "City of the Bees," was shown—perhaps the best we have seen.

—Reported by Jasper Bray

AUSSIE HUMOUR

An interesting broadsheet has been received from the Amateur Beekeepers' Association of New South Wales, and one outstanding feature is that the compiler has an exceptional eye for perception and sense of humour. Mentioning a willy-nilly which uprooted a double-storey hive and landed it some distance away, and which he was called to restore, the narrator states that nothing came adrift due to the presence of propolis and brace comb, and "neither veil nor smoker were required in replacing the colony, as the bees were as giddy as goats after their orbital flight".

AUGUST 1964

APIMONDIA

A Press release from the President of the 20th. International Beekeeping Jubilee Congress announces that the Congress will meet in Bucharest from August 26-31, 1965.

Papers on subjects of world wide interest have been invited, and selections will be made by the Apimondia Co-ordinating Committee. A variety of competitions have been organised to encourage contributions and some well worth while material should eventuate for the benefit of beekeepers everywhere.

INCIDENCE of B. L. LOW in VICTORIA

MR. W. LANGRIDGE, writing from the Research Station at Burwood Road, Ferntree Gully, Victoria, Australia, points out that the figures quoted in our February issue concerning the incidence of *Bacillus* larvae in Victoria were incorrect, and we willingly make this correction.

Due to an error the percentage was given as 1%, whereas the actual figure should have been given as 0.1%—a vast difference.

Mr. Langridge points out that they have every justification for being pleased with the low incidence in Victoria, and that their stringent policy of destruction by fire of all diseased bees and combs and flame sterilisation of sound boxes, covers and bottoms has paid good dividends.

Results so far for the current year are even better, and at the time of writing only 30 hives of a total in the State of roughly 100,000 have been found to be diseased, giving an incidence of around 0.03%.

The worst figures on record totalled 400 diseased hives, and was caused by one careless beekeeper who had 100% infection in an apiary of 130. Through wet combs being left in the open after extracting the infection spread to most other apiaries in the area, resulting in a return of 0.5%. The offender, incidentally, was soon presented at court for his carelessness and disregard of the regulations.

Part Three of the Series

BEGINNING the BEGINNER

By Chris Dawson of Timaru

In the first article of this series, the importance of carefully made and assembled equipment was emphasized while the second article dealt with the inhabitants of the hive, the location of the apiary and winter management.

Now that you have landed on the shore of this unexplored land of Beekeeping, the adventure is about to really begin.

WHICH WAY, BEGINNER?

Your first year's beekeeping must have an aim. You have the choice of three and each one requires different preparation. You can either: 1—Keep bees to produce extracting honey; or 2—You can concentrate on section honey production; or 3—you can use your colony to create other colonies throughout the season.

These are three different paths and you cannot tread all of them. Your preparation for each one begins now and you begin each in a different way.

Preparation for an Extracted Honey harvest is the simplest and is the way you are most likely to succeed. To produce Section Honey takes more skill and could be a development after your first season.

May I suggest that your first season should be devoted to mastering an elementary knowledge of bee behaviour and colony management directed towards a crop of extracted honey

EXTRACTED HONEY FARMING

The first requirements are additional equipment. You already have sufficient gear for a two storey colony but that is sufficient only to house the brood and bees.

You will need two more supers, twenty more frames with comb foundation, nails and wire. This is the minimum you should have and if

you live in a locality where the crop average is high, you will need to equip yourself accordingly.

It is as well to know that all beekeepers are eternal optimists. They always look forward to that bumper crop. Sometimes they wait for it for years but when it comes, they usually are ready with sufficient gear and they then have the great joy of seeing their many employees working early and late as they seem to know that a new piece of equipment just has to be bought or another room must be built on the house. Purchase or make those extra supers, nail them strongly, nail and wire the frames and embed the wire into the wax foundation. After the supers have been painted and all is ready, store them so that mice cannot attack them and you will be ready for "The Day" whether it be this season or next.

SECTION HONEY FARMING

If you are determined to have a Section Honey harvest, you will need at least one full depth super furnished with section frame holders, section frames, thin wax foundation and nails. In most textbooks on beekeeping, the beginner is urged to buy half-depth supers for section frames. With this idea I strongly disagree. Most of these half-depths are used a few times and then set aside to rot because the equipment is not interchangeable with that used in full-depth supers. If you have full-depth section frame holders, you can introduce them to your colony as necessary and with the minimum disturbance. You also can harvest single frames when they are ready. This method also enable you to watch the processes of comb building and honey manufacture by inspections of the hive. If these inspections are carried out carefully, there need be

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

no disturbance to the working of the hive and you are gaining valuable knowledge of what the colony is doing and how.

INCREASE

Should you decide that you are going to use your first year's efforts as a beginning for bigger things, you will need to build nuclei boxes.

Having a practical aim is more important than you might realise. One day, when visiting a beginner, he was proudly showing me his apiary. It consisted of one hive three storeys high sparsely populated with bees and two nuclei colonies with not many bees. He started the season with one strong colony. In his area, the honey-flow usually lasted about four weeks and during the second week, he had found a queen cell so had divided the colony to make two nuclei in one of which was a queen cell. This so disturbed his one good colony that by the time it was re-organised, it could collect only a small amount of stores. The nucleus with the queen cell did not collect enough stores to carry it through the winter and the other nucleus was poor in morale so did not raise a queen. This aimless scheme meant that the beginner went into the winter with one medium strength colony and one nucleus hive and both of them had to be fed until the next season.

Had the good colony been left to gather its harvest and a nucleus formed over a division board in the autumn, the beginner would probably have started the next season with a strong colony and a strong nucleus.

KEEP A DIARY

Now that you are ready to begin colony management, there is one small piece of equipment that you will find more useful in the next five years than you do now. You will soon be interested in lots of things that you never noticed before and as you won't remember the details, it pays to keep them in a diary.

A weekly report on the weather and the progress of nectar sources is valuable information. Brief record of what you do in the apiary each week also needs recording. Use one page of an exercise book for a week. During the first year, use only the two top

lines and in succeeding years the information from that same week will grow in value as it grows in years.

COLONY MANAGEMENT

There is an excellent leaflet on Spring Colony Management produced by Apiary Instructor Sefton Line of Dept of Agriculture, Hastings. His detailed instructions and drawings are the best I have ever seen and he will be pleased to send you a copy if you write to him.

In Colony Management, you must have an aim. Your aim is to bring to the beginning of the honey flow a healthy colony populous and vigorous enough to gather a surplus crop. The colony, at the beginning of the main honey-flow should consist of three supers boiling over full of bees.

CHECK FOR QUEEN CELLS

If you have a young queen, you are less likely to find queen cells but if you want to be sure to prevent swarming, you will need, every 10 days, to check each frame in the brood nest for queen cells and destroy them.

DISEASE

At all times, be on the alert for disease. The Apiary Instructors are specially active on the disease problem at this time of the year and if you discover anything that looks suspicious, they are anxious to help you.

STORES

Your colony at the beginning of September will need at least four frames of stores to carry it through to the main honey-flow. From now on, you must check regularly that your colony is well provided with food. If you do not have honey, you can feed dry sugar but the cluster will not thrive on this. If you feed a stimulative syrup of two parts water to one part of sugar, the queen will be inspired to lay and the colony will expand provided there is sufficient pollen.

CONCLUSION

This is the time of the year when the beginner is in greatest need of good advice. It is not possible to print all the instructions for Colony Management but a study of the Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 267 "Bee-keeping in New Zealand" priced at 5s will amply reward the student.

HONEY IN 44-GALLON DRUMS

by C. G. Rope

Honey Grader, Department of Agriculture

DURING THE PAST SEASON 44-gallon drums were tried out in earnest by a number of suppliers of the H.M.A. and now the advantages and disadvantages can be fairly assessed.

Most beekeepers using drums altered their plant to accommodate them, but few succeeded in satisfactorily clarifying their honey.

It has been standard practice over the years to hold honey in half to one-ton tanks for two or three days before packing. The quantity of honey in tanks of this size is sufficient to retain enough warmth to permit impurities to rise to the surface as scum, which can be easily removed before the tank is stirred. This procedure results in clean, even lines.

However, last season numbers of producers using 44-gallon drums pumped honey direct from their extractor via crude strainers into drums, and many uneven lines resulted, particularly in the north due to the multiplicity of nectar sources. In addition the drums hold a lesser volume of honey than tanks—about 666lb.—the honey cools more quickly, and soon becomes dense enough to imprison impurities within the body of the honey. After filling, the lids are usually secured to the drums to permit safe transport of the liquid honey about the honey house, and it has been found rather a messy job to remove the lids for necessary skimming, usually when they are not readily accessible. Their weight alone hampers handling, and a special hand trolley or some other

similar device is necessary to move them.

As a result, some of the honey received in drums last season barely reached the exportable standard. As the bulk of the impurities were suspended within the honey its true condition was not visually apparent to the grader, but the impurities in the honey were revealed by prolonged methods not possible under normal grading procedure.

BEEKEEPERS WISHING TO RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM CONDITION POINTS FOR THEIR HONEY MUST THEREFORE PROVIDE THEMSELVES WITH ADEQUATE STRAINING FACILITIES.

Beekeepers using drums might consider utilising a straining tank like the one recommended on page 103 of the Department's Bulletin No. 267, "Beekeeping in N.Z." Alternatively, they could pass the honey through a multiple baffled sump clarifier fitted to the extractor before pumping it for final straining through a nylon stocking secured to the outlet pipe into the drums. The white nylon stockings used by nurses are adequate in every respect for the final straining of honey. Stocking factories sometimes sell "seconds" cheaply. Alternatively, elongated bags can be cut and sewn up out of fine-meshed nylon material.

Care should be taken during straining to prevent the incorporation of fine air bubbles into honey. Strainers should not be suspended above the honey but should be in actual contact with it.

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**LATE
COMMENTARY . . .**

FORTUITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES have left a few inches of space to be filled before the completed and final make-up for this edition is sent to the printer for machining, and the opportunity is taken to thank sincerely my predecessor, Mr. John McFadzien, for so willingly undertaking to report and collate the Conference proceedings.

The situation would have been extremely difficult had not John stepped into the breach and meticulously prepared notes of the business of the day, and his experience of previous years was most valuable in overcoming an unavoidable difficulty.

As will be seen from the pages devoted to Conference business, the assignment was on sinecure, and his assistance is indeed appreciated.

WHILST ON A PERSONAL NOTE, profound regret is expressed at the news of the impending resignation of the General Secretary, Mr. R. A. Fraser, whose help to a newcomer to the editorial chair has been invaluable. His successor, whatever his professional ability or knowledge of the industry, will have a very high standard to attain.

THE TRAINING SCHOOL for beekeepers is a practical step forward in the right direction, and is deserving of maximum support from every beekeeper anxious to improve his knowledge and technique. The talks and demonstrations by experts will be valuable indeed and it is hoped to be able to report in our next issue the success of the course at Timaru and Geraldine on September 24, 25 and 26.

Apathy is a deadly disease more difficult to eradicate than the infamous B.L., and it is fervently hoped that the South Island will demonstrate to the organisers of the school their support for such constructive initiative and enterprise.

N O T I C E

My breeding of Italian Queens
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CHRIS DAWSON
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The N.Z. Beekeeper

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

Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. L. W. Goss, P.O. Box 3561, Auckland, not later than the 25th of the month preceeding 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.

Advertisement Rates

Quarter Page	£1 16 0	Per Inch	10 0
Half Page	£3 6 0	Minimum charge, 5/-	
Full Page	£6 0 0	for each insertion.	

Front Page Story

THE QUEEN WHICH COULD NOT WAIT. Pictured on the front cover this month is a fantastic close-up of a queen which could not wait.

An Apiarist Ellsworth Meineke, of Meineke's Honey Farm, Palatine, Illinois, United States of America, decided to take a close-up of a queen and her attendants for promotional purposes, and a rack was set up to hold a brood frame in a dimly lighted corner of the honey room. A camera with double extension bellows fully extended and smallest F stop was carefully focussed on the position to be occupied by a brood comb with a queen.

As a good large queen was wanted for the picture a large colony of three brood chambers was chosen and the selected comb and queen placed in position. The queen, however, was laying so heavily, that it was difficult to get a picture without having her head inspecting a cell, or her abdomen in a cell preparatory to laying an egg. Three pictures were taken in rapid succession, which when printed, revealed eggs on the outside of the cell—due, no doubt, to the general disturbance.

Grateful thanks to Ellsworth A. Meineke for his generous despatch of an original print by air mail, and acknowledgments to BEE JOURNAL in which this outstanding picture was first published.

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