THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

MAY, 1965

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THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL 27 No. 2

Published Quarterly in February, May, August and November, by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) in conjunction with the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority.

Subscription: 8/- per annum, post free.

Registered for transmission by post as a Magazine.

Editor : Leslie W. Goss

May, 1965

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PHENOMINAL INCREASES IN HONEY YIELD POSSIBLE

THE BAY OF PLENTY were singularly fortunate in arranging their Field Day in March. Had the organising committee been prophets, they would have foreseen that not only would the weather be fair, but that they would be honoured by the presence of a world authority on bees and honey in the person of Dr M. H. Haydak, Professor of Entomology at the University of Minnessota.

Dr Haydak was on his way home from Australia to the United States, and it seems a great pity indeed that arrangements could not have been made in advance to enable as many beekeepers as possible to meet or at least listen to the man who has done so much for entomology in general and bees in particular. There is no doubt but that the National Beekeeper's Association and the Honey Marketing Authority would have been glad to have had the opportunity to arrange for lectures to be heard by as many beekeepers as possible, consistent with the personal convenience and agreement by Dr Haydak.

Dr Haydak had been conducting bee nutrition experiments at the Waite Agricultural Institute of Adelaide University on a four months' fellowship sponsored by the Australian Honey Board, and the result of his work there and in the United States may well revolutionise honey production by additional feeding of pollen or pollen substitutes in the pre-build up period.

At the time of writing these notes the Waite Institute has not released their report on the research undertaken, but from Dr Haydak's reported comments, gains in production may well be phenomenal.

Refering to a pollen substitute consisting of a mixture of soya bean flour, brewers' yeast and dried skim milk powder developed in America which could be adapted to local climatic conditions in Australia, Dr Haydak commented that

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Crawford Lounge Hall, Dunedin venue for

CONFERENCE 1965

Be sure to be there . . . Book Now

TO ENABLE DELEGATES AND VISITORS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT DUNEDIN TO ARRANGE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PERIOD, JULY 21, 22 AND 23, THE HOST BRANCH HAS PROVIDED THIS COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF HOTELS, MOTELS AND BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS, TO CATER FOR ALL TASTES AND POCKETS. THE SERVICES OF A SPECIALIST HOTEL BOOKING ORGANISATION HAVE BEEN ENGAGED AT NO COST TO GUESTS, AND YOU ARE RECOMMENDED TO USE THIS FREE SERVICE.

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Abbreviations: BB—Bed and Breakfast. DBB—Dinner Bed and Breakfast. EEP—Each extra person.
*—Within reasonable walking distance of Hall.

CITY CENTRE VENUE

The Conference will be held in the Crawford Lounge Hall, St Andrew Street. St Andrew Street is two blocks north of the Octagon and the Hall is one and a half blocks down St Andrew Street from George Street.

A film evening will be held on the Wednesday night and a Social evening on the Thursday night. Both these functions will be held in the same building as the Conference. Daytime outings are being arranged for the ladies.

All accommodation houses not marked with an asterisk in the above list are from 1 to 4 miles from the Hall but most are on regular bus routes.

In order to assist the finding of accommodation, arrangements have been made with *TRAVELWRIGHT SERVICES, P.O. Box 1003, DUNEDIN,* for bookings to be made through them for any of the above accommodation houses. If you wish to use this service, simply write to *TRAVELWRIGHT* listing your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of accommodation, dates and times of arrival and departure, and number of persons, whether double or twin beds are preferred, and in the case of single men whether or not you would be prepared to share a twin bedded room with another person. This booking service is *Absolutely Free* and as this firm successfully arranged accommodation for over 1000 Australian visitors to the Inter-Dominion Trotting Championships in February of this year you are urged to take advantage of their offer.

As the Otago Branch Secretary lives 75 miles from Dunedin he is unable to attend to accommodation bookings and it is for this reason that *TRAVELWRIGHT* has been engaged to serve your needs.

Should you be wanting a Rental Car during your stay in Dunedin please mention this when writing to *TRAVELWRIGHT* and they will reserve one for you. Telegraphic address — Tourwright, Dunedin. Phones 78-645 day and 84-984 night.

Those travelling by train, plane or bus are invited to notify the secretary of the Otago Branch of their time of arrival, when they will be met by local beekeepers and transported to their hotels or guest houses.

BEEKEEPERS AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Dr F. H. Smirk of Dunedin, a noted and respected authority on hypertension (high blood pressure) is at present treating some Otago beekeepers for this condition and he is anxious to find out if this is an occupational hazard with beekeepers. To this end he wants to take the blood pressure of, and ask a few questions of as many beekeepers as possible and the gathering together of a large number in Dunedin for the Annual Conference offers an excellent opportunity for him to do this. He wants to interview as many beekeepers who think their blood pressure is normal as well as those who know that their's is high, in order to get a good cross-section of the industry. The interviews will take only a few minutes each and Dr Smirk will arrange for a number of interviewers to be present at a time to suit Conference. Please co-operate in this survey as the results could be of great benefit to yourselves and future beekeepers.

N.B.A. EXECUTIVE MEETS

A meeting of the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association was held in Wellington on April 27 and 28 under the chairmanship of the President, Mr Harry Cloake.

Members present were T. S. Wheeler, Otorohanga, J. R. Barber, Pio Pio, D. A. Barrow, Tauranga, J. Glynn, Balfour, G. Winslade, Oamaru, and with the General Secretary, K. .E Moody, and the Editor, L. W. Goss, in attendance.

Price Control.—Amongst the business for discussion was Price Control and a telegram received from the S. Canterbury Branch relative thereto. Resolved: that every effort be taken to ensure de-control of prices at the earliest possible date, and that the telegram referred to be received and no action taken.

"Satona" Cartons.—Following correspondence from the Honey Marketing Authority on the purchase of these practical, folded cartons for an economy one pound pack, it was resolved that application be made to the Price Tribunal for a separate price order for honey packed in "Satona" cartons.

Overseas Study Bursary.—The Executive was disappointed to find that little progress had been made in the matter of sending a young beekeeper to Canada. Despite a number of letters and a cable to the host association in Canada, no firm undertaking had been given of a planned itinerary, and until such time as an acceptable schedule was received, the selection of a candidate could not proceed. The General Secretary was instructed to make a further effort to obtain a satisfactory rsponse, to enable plans to be completed for the student to be in Canada from the next northern spring and six months thereafter.

Hopkins Bequest.—No reply has been received from the Director of the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, relative to the extent of funds available for a research project, which information was sought to assist the Executive in suggesting a suitable work study.

Association Funds.—The necessity for a fair and equitable scheme applicable to the whole industry to ensure sufficient funds to conduct the business of the Association was discussed at length, and plans formulated for presentation to Conference.

Tutu Problem.—A re-assessment of the problem of Tutuas collated in the Report by the Committee comprised of representatives from the industry, Departments of Agriculture, Health, Scientific and Industrial Research, and the University of Otago, is to be sent to secretaries of all Branches.

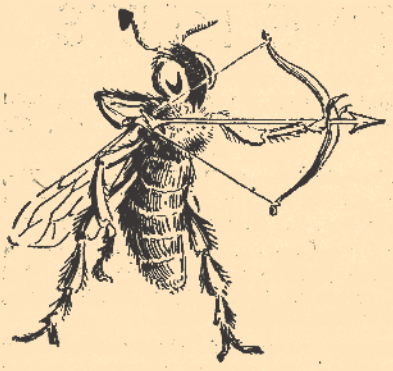
Remit on Opposums.—No reply had been received from the Minister to previous correspondence.

Library Report.—The Hon. Librarian reported a good response from donors of bee literature and that 41 beekeepers had become Life Members. A list of books available would be published annually. An opportunity had been offered to acquire a collection of bee works, but the price asked was considered to be too high to justify purchase.

Conference.—Tentative plans for Conference at Dunedin were discussed, and nominations suggested of personalities to be invited as speakers and guests. Branch secretaries are reminded that Remits for Conference must be received by the General Secretary NOT LATER than May 31 to be eligible.

The venue at Dunedin is to be the **Crawford Lounge Hall, St. Andrew Street,** located two blocks north of the Octagon between St. Andrew Street and George Street.

During the course of the meeting, Mr A. M. W. Craig, Director, Horticulture Division, Department of Agriculture, Mr E. Smellie, Superintendent, Beekeeping, Horticulture Division, and Mr T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer at Wallaceville Research Centre, discussed with the Executive subjects of common interest. Their attendance and assistance was appreciated.



It's high time we imported some NEW STRAINS of HONEY GATHERERS *says Queen Breeder*

EVERY OTHER INDUSTRY has the opportunity to improve their stock by importation of new blood from time to time, but this privilege has been denied the Queen breeder in this country for many years.

It is suggested you do something about it:—

(1) You can go to your next association meeting and get a resolution recorded to have this ban on imports removed.

(2) The Annual General meeting comes soon. See to it that remits are before this Conference at Dunedin in July.

(3) Write personally to the Minister of Agriculture asking for the anomaly to be corrected.

CAUCASIANS

Caucasians bees come from the mountainous region in the south-eastern part of Russia between the Black and Caspian Seas. There are at least two strains of this bee: one showing considerable yellow markings, while the others are mostly grey.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Caucasians, like the Carniolans are very gentle and can be handled without veil and very little smoke. Both these bees are the most gentle of all races of bees, and where cross bees have been handled the beekeeper will find real pleasure in handling them. They have long tongues—see article in **Gleanings in Bee Culture,** October 1933, by Dr E. F. Phillips on "Measurements of Bee Tongues."

They are excellent workers, working early and late in weather when other bees remain in the hive. They propolize where holes and cracks are not to their liking, but with good equipment, this is more than offset by their gentleness and honey gathering qualities and pollinators of early fruit blooming when the weather is cold and windy. They make white combs and are not robbers—so if you are disgusted with handling vicious bees, **Caucasians** will relieve this condition.

Mr. Plewynsky of Canada says this:—

"If one is in the Package Bee business, Italian bees are perfect but if one is producing honey, it is better to look for a different race.

"Italian bees have been tested and watched very closely, and I have come to the conclusion that Italian bees are very good producers for package bees, but when it comes to honey production the Italian is far behind.

"In early spring, as soon as it starts to become warm the Italian bees quickly expand their brood, and therefore consume a lot of honey. This characteristic of the Italian bee is a great disadvantage, because, if one has apiaries away from the yard which is general for commercial beekeepers, he often finds his bees dead or dying of starvation within one or two weeks after he has checked them and found they had plenty of food.

When the honey flow has just got under way, or shortly before, the Italian bees swarm. In my opinion the method used to prevent swarms, which most beekeepers use, is just a waste of time, because one can easily overlook a queen cell and your swarm and honey are gone. Even destroying cells does not help much, as when they await the signal to swarm little honey is brought in.

Brother Adam spent 3 years and travelled 140,000 miles in search of the best bee. The result: **ANATOLIAN,** 128% better than any other bee tested by Brother Adam at Buckfast, England.

For wintering bees, one must get a strain that remains strong during the winter but consumes little food. The **CARNICA** bee in England, during the winter, flies out whenever there is the slightest bit of sunshine. On the other hand, the native bee of England stays in the hive all winter long. Flying at the wrong time costs bees and energy, and there are big differences in usages of the winter's supply of food. The Italian is very wasteful. She collects well during a very good flow year, but if the flow is patchy or poor, the other races have more than she . . . some feel new bees can be obtained by combination of several good strains . . . in every bee race there are good and bad strains. Of the latter there are always more . . . one of the worst things in beekeeping is swarming, because it causes a lot of work and honey production suffers . . .

I have known Brother Adam since 1953. He is certainly one of the best beekeepers in the world! He has travelled a great deal and really knows what he is talking about!

In March 1963, the Russian Director of Bee Institute, Mr N. M. Hluskow, visited England and was present when Brother Adam was speaking about economical problems in beekeeping.

Here is what he had to say:—". . . the result of crossing Italian queens with Anatolian drones gave a very 'swarm happy' race . . ." (Ptchelovodstvo, Aug. 1963).

Plans have already been made to provide better honey producing bees in Canada. This was started by Professor G. F. Townsend and Assistant Professor M. V. Smith from the Agricultural Dept., Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, with co-operation of U.S.D.A. Bee Research investigations. This was started in 1961 and 1963. Several lines of honey bees were imported from Europe in immature stages. The following stocks were imported:—

(1) A Russian Caucasian Stock.

(2) Adam (combination of Greek, Carniolan and English bee).

(3) Carniolan.

(4) Anatolian (since 1964, no experiments done in Canada yet. Brother Adam says the Anatolian produced 128% more honey than any other bee at Buckfast, England.)

I have had these bees since 1962. I have noticed that in early spring they are very careful in expanding brood. They also store up more honey than others in late summer for winter stores.

In 1964 I had had the following results from my experiments:—

(1) Russian Caucasian brought me 245 pounds of extracted honey plus their wintering supply.

(2) Adam brought 250 pounds of extracted honey plus their wintering supply.

(3) Carniolian (no experiments made).

(4) Italian brought 150 pounds of extracted honey, plus their wintering supply.

(The following does not include Italians.)

I would like to mention that here in Okagan valley in British Columbia we had a very good year; usually the average is 50 lbs per colony. As yet not one of them has swarmed. Of course, weather, honey flow, environment, area and management all play an important part in swarming. It is wrong to think that these bees never swarm. Swarming is a natural instinct in bees and what we are striving for is a race with minimum swarming and maximum honey production.

In concluding, I would like to say that this represents new blood and may solve some known and some unknown diseases, such as Nosema and others. It presents a possibility of better future for beekeeping!

Here are some more quotes from Brother Adam:

Carniolan (Brother Adam's words): "Her good features include great vitality and industry, good temper, a keen sense of smell, a tendency to provide herself with adequate stores for winter, and a long reach tongue—very important where red clover is grown."

Anatolian: "I believe I can state in all truth that the Anatolian stands beyond any comparison—certainly in foraging powers and thrift. By mid June (Canada) a twelve frame modified Dadant brood chamber will be found choc-a-block with brood and stores, but she doesn't breed to excess out of season. Subsequent to main honey flow, and in times of dearth, she contrives to husband her reserves in a truly uncanny way. In view of our uncertain climatic conditions and honey flows, I regard the thrift of the Anatolian as one of her most valuable economic qualities, a quality which we all know is largely absent in our present day strains. She will survive when others die of starvation!"

Do not delay. Get out pen and paper now!

How would new strains be kept pure? — Editor.

PHENOMENAL INCREASES IN HONEY YIELD POSSIBLE

from page 1.

similar increases in production could be expected to the experience of a West Australian apiarist who had achieved a harvest of 700 lbs of honey per hive with artificial feeding.

700 lbs of honey from one colony is certainly a colossal yield, sufficient and more to bring a glint to any beekeeper's eye.

During the course of a field day at Bathurst, Dr Haydak suggested that apiarist should label their honey containers with the source flower, because connoisseurs like to know the different types of honey they eat and will pay more for some varieties than others.

"They would no more think of limiting themselves to one standardised honey than the rest of us would want to eat plum jam for ever without trying any other jam" he said, adding that buckwheat in the United States commanded a higher price than did clover honey for those who had acquired the distinctive taste.

Dr Haydak's visit to our cousins across the Tasman may well have far reaching effects on the industry, and the results of his research work will be awaited with intense interest. We must certainly not be slow to try his recommendations on pre-build up feeding and acquire the essential know-how at the earliest opportunity.

Mr K. E. Moody

PICTURED HERE is the new General Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association, who attended the Executive meeting at Wellington in his official capacity for the first time last month.

Keith Moody is married, has 3 school age children and is in partnership as a public accountant in Upper Hutt. Formerly General Secretary of the N.Z. Jaycees for over four years, Secretary of the Wellington Hutt Valley A. and P. Association for six years, and currently President of Upper Hutt Jaycees, Keith has a wide and practical experience in conducting association affairs.

Listed as hobbies, Keith detaials photography and golf for recreation.

New Specie Introduced to

POLLINATE LUCERNE

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. B. E. Talboys, gave a background to the introduction of a new specie of American bee to New Zealand in a prepared statement issued to the press. Adequate precautions had been taken by the D.S.I.R. and the Department of Agriculture to ensure that the ground nesting alkali bee did not become a pest or were carrying diseases or parasites.

The alkali bee, nomia melanderi, a native of the United States and common place in Oregon, Idaho and Utah where it is valued for its services in pollinating the forage crop Lucerne, has been released on a site near to the township of Lincoln, in Canterbury province.

Plans are for the bee to be distributed elsewhere in the country, but at present distribution was restricted by the small numbers of bees available, and it was yet to be proved whether the bees were adaptable to New Zealand conditions.

The bee is shaped similarly to a wasp and is dark with irridescent bands on the abdomen, and it is hoped that their work as pollination agents will have a tremendous impact on increasing the acreage of lucerne for feeding purposes, and the Minister estimated that whereas the prseent crop was about 300,000 acres, it could be usefully grown on 10 million acres.

"In large areas, particularly in the South Island where dry summers are experienced, the deep-rooting habit, strong summer growth and high leaf canopy of lucerne give substantial advantages in yield and in moisture retention," he said.

"One reason for the neglect of this valuable forage crop is the high price of lucerne seed, and the price is high because in the absence of adequate pollination, seed yields are low and fairly erratic."

Mr Tallboys explained that lucerne presented a different problem in pollination because it had a flower which "hit back" at insects.

"The staminal column of the lucerne flower is held in a tense condition by the wings and keel of the flower. When tripped by a visiting insect, the column springs up with considerable violence and presses firmly against the banner petal.

"In doing so, it can strike the insect a smart blow and can even trap it fatally in the flower," he said.

The Minister said honey bees quickly learnt to either avoid lucerne flowers altogether, or to forestall the danger by approaching from the side.

"A side approach seldom results in tripping, and even when it does, it is generally ineffective in pollination," he said.

Bumble bees pollinated lucerne "quite well," but they were scarce in some districts.

There have been most impressive reports from the United States about the alkali bee. One report from Idaho says that in an area where up to about six years ago it was thought that seed could not be produced, now 1000lb. to 1200lb. of seed was being produced to

the acre where there was an abundance of alkali bees to pollinate the lucerne blossoms.

Mr T. P. Palmer, a plant breeder of the Crop Research Division, investigated this bee and another species which have been domesticated in the United States when he visited that country two years ago, and he said that Mr S. Orchard, a farmer, nurseryman, and plant breeder, of Blenheim, who had heard about the bees from an American visitor had been interested in bringing the other species into the country.

In bringing the bees into the country great care has had to be taken to ensure that they do not bring with them any diseases that might be harmful to the honey bees or parasites that might be undesirable. The bees came in in the prepupae or grub stage about mid-November from the legume seed research laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture in Utah. There were 5000 of them—one grub to each little cell made of cut-down drinking straws. Normally the prepupae remain in the resting stage for eight or nine months, but at Lincoln they were put into temperatures of 80 degrees Fahrenheit and emergence from the pupae began about Christmas time so as to be able to get them into the field this summer.

The grubs were examined initially by staff of the Wallaceville animal research station of the Department of Agriculture for diseases that might endanger honey bees and for a mite that has been recorded in Europe but not in the United States.

In quarantine at Lincoln, Mr C. T. Jessep, a technician of the Entomology Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, examined them further for any undesirable parasite and again when they reached the adult stage in case there might be a parasite that emerged at this stage. No harmful organism of any sort had been found, but any bee that looked unhealthy or had been damaged in handling had been immediately destroyed.

The adults have a life of three or four weeks and collectively are actively flying over a period of about six weeks a year. In New Zealand, Mr Palmer said that this might be in December and January and this would mean that seed crop growers would have to cut their stands so that flowering would coincide with this flying period.

Alkali bees are also known as burrowing or mining bees. They are called alkali because they nest in salty country of which Mr Palmer said that there are areas around Lake Ellesmere and in Central Otago, but it seemed that saline conditions favourable for them could quite easily be created artificially. They liked nesting in fairly loamy soils containing a fairly high proportion of sand, a low proportion of clay and low humus content. A reasonably high moisture content was desirable and this was achieved where salty conditions resulted in bare ground free from plant growth that took up moisture.

The bees like a fairly high soil temperature and the temperature of the Lincoln soil is not optimum for them. Soil temperatures in Marlborough where it is hoped to make a further release shortly are higher by some five degrees.

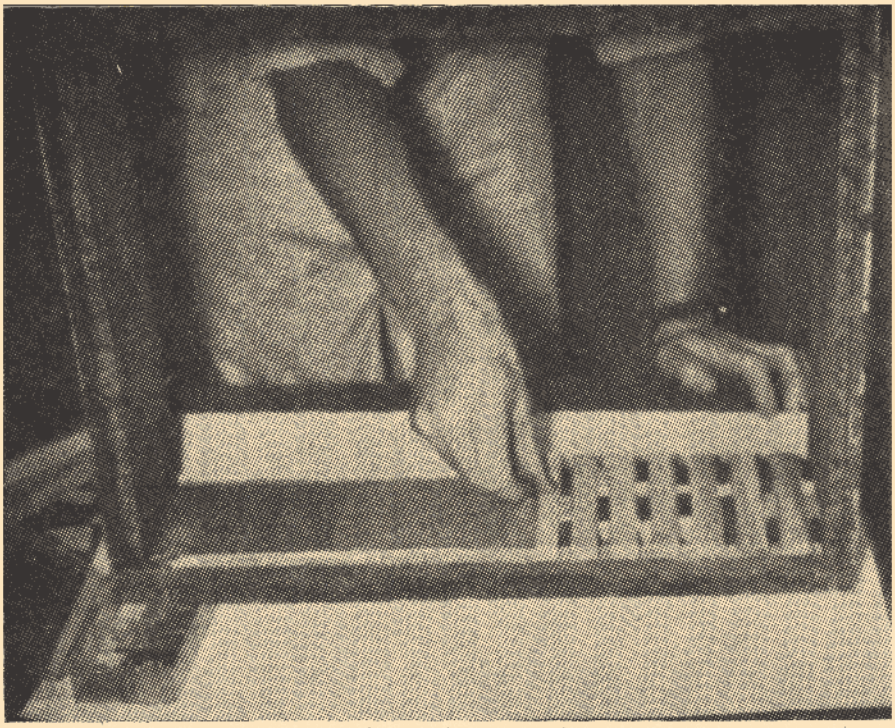
Depending possibly on soil temperature, the bees burrow down into the soil to a depth of about four to eight inches. The nest consists of a vertical shaft off which side burrows are made and under these are constructed cells in which an egg is attached to a ball of pollen and nectar. The maximum number of eggs reported to have been laid by a bee has been 26 and under favourable conditions an average of about 16 is believed possible. But if they wintered well in New Zealand Mr Palmer said he was only expecting about a three-fold increase.

At Lincoln the adult bees have been put into holes specially prepared for them on two sites treated with salt to bare the ground and with a shelter to possibly raise the temperature slightly. On one site the ground is slightly sloping which means that there is a slightly higher soil temperature. Mr. Palmer said it would probably be next year before it would be known how successful the bees had been in establishing.

In the meantime it is hoped to breed more bees indoors and even possibly to retain some of the grubs in the dormant stage over the winter lest the releases should not prove satisfactory.

Talking about the efficiency of these bees as lucerne pollinators an American

→ page 27



"Gluing down the vertical strips"

No More Problems With End Combs

This interesting solution to a beekeeping problem is by Clarence Kornely, O.F.M. Cap., St. Anthony's Friary, Marathon, Wis., U.S.A.. First published in GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE and reproduced by permission

NOT ONLY THE section comb honey producer, but also the extracted honey producer likes to have his end combs completely drawn out, filled and capped. Everyone, however, knows what a nuisance these end combs can be while working with the colony and especially when it comes to extracting. The reason why the bees do not like to work on these end combs is because they do not have a double clustering space next to the outside wall on the super.

There is not too much material in the books on this matter. One does find some information under objects called the false frame or the division board or under ventilation. I would like to describe how we solved this problem. It is a simple way to provide a double clustering space and a method to aid the bees ventilate the supers.

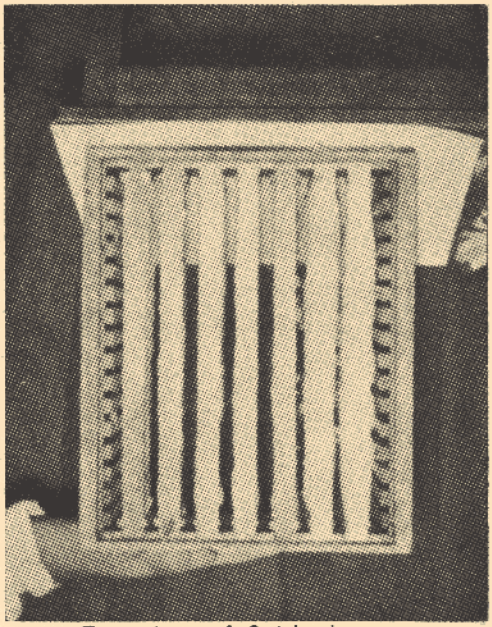
First we nail on two strips of wood to the inside wall of the super. The bottom strip fits right along the bottom of the super. The top strip fits even with the frame groove rest. The horizontal strips are about six sixteenths of an inch wide. They are exactly five

sixteenths of an inch deep and as long as the inside wall. After each one is nailed on with three or four short nails, we spread a layer of good wood glue along these strips.

We then place the upright slats on. These are spaced five sixteenths of an inch apart. We use little square pieces of wood to space them and take these out after the glue has dried. These vertical slats of wood are between three sixteenths and five sixteenths of an inch shorter than the height of the super. They are six sixteenths of an inch in depth. The bottom of the slat fits flush with the bottom of the super.

Both side ventilation frames add up to the space taken by one frame. Only nine frames will fit the super now. However, we only put seven frames in our supers for extra thick combs. Last year we used a hand spacer to space them correctly. This year we made and installed automatic spacers. With only seven frames in these supers we averaged about 26 pounds of honey per super.

Each comb comes out beautiful. They are completely filled and capped and very even. These ventilation frames do work for those problem end combs.



Top view of finished super with slats in position

NORTH ISLAND BEEKEEPERS' TRAINING SCHOOL

FOLLOWING THE HIGHLY successful Beekeepers' Training School held in the South Island last year, it is good news to learn that a School is to be centred on Hamilton on September 9, 10 and 11 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday).

Care has been taken to ensure that the dates chosen do not clash with the August school holidays, and the timing is approximately one month after the National Beekeepers' Association Conference at Dunedin.

An organising Committee has been formed comprising two members of the N.B.A., Messrs Wheeler and Forsyth and Messrs Bennett, Walsh and Rope of the Department of Agriculture to formulate a timetable and programme for the Seminar.

It is envisaged that a thoroughly practical and instructive course will be provided by some of the country's most expert beekeepers from which commercial men and hobbyists cannot fail to benefit.

Full details of the North Island Beekeepers' Training School will be published in the August issue, but beekeepers are recommended to keep free September 9, 10 and 11.

BRANCH NOTES

WAIKATO

Ideal weather conditions prevailed at the Field Day held on February 27 at Opal Springs, Matamata, and President Lloyd Holt was able to welcome visitors from the South Island, Auckland and the Bay of Plenty.

Talks and discussions were given on the use of benzaldehyde, queen rearing and breeding, bacillus larvae and wax moth, and a great deal could be learned from the information provided by specialists such as Allan Bates.

Brief addresses were made by the National President Harry Cloake, J. D. Lorimer for the Honey Marketing Authority and by the Editor of "The Beekeeper".

The competition to pick the queenless hive — North Island v South Island had to be declared void, due to the fact that the importer of the Apidictor, Kevin Ecroyd, had difficulty in obtaining an essential battery cell to operate the equipment and results on the 'flat' battery did not give the Apidictor a "fair go." Extensive use at field days in other parts of the country was responsible for draining away the necessary 'juice'. Arrangements are being made to ensure that the type of battery required will be readily available.

The demonstration of boom loaders created considerable interest and there were more that were 'for' than there was 'against' the use of such equipment. One beekeeper was heard to describe the loader as 'the back that had no discs to slip.'

Fourteen entries were lodged for the 'Cake made with Honey' competition, and the judges awarded the prize for the best cake to Mrs Deadman, and for best biscuits to Miss Valerie Forsyth.

Colin Rope, honey grader to the Dept. of Agriculture, Auckland judged the honey competition for which three beekeepers tied for first place with the highest possible score. Successful entrants were Percy Berry, Trevor Wheeler, and R. Jansen.

The auction sale of surplus equipment resulted in welcome additions to the branch funds.

—Reported by H. N. Tuck.

☆ ☆

SOUTH CANTERBURY

A Field Day was held on March 6 at the home of Mr and Mrs A. H. Simpson of Geraldine.

The weather was perfect and a good gathering of beekeepers enjoyed a very interesting day.

The branch president, Mr F. A. Bartrum, extended a welcome to the visitors. Mr A. H. Simpson gave us some details of the construction of his modern and convenient honey and hot house, and beekeepers were very impressed as they filed through and watched a demonstration of honey extraction.

Outside the honey shed a demonstration of a compressed air stapling machine was given by Messrs Stanton Bros. This machine drives staples into supers at great speed.

A demonstration by Mr R. Davidson of Timaru of a hive loader, capable of picking up hives at the push of a button could save hard work and is suitable for a large beekeeping outfit. A lot of work and expense has gone into the planning of this machine.

The next item was a talk on choosing a breeder queen by Mr Griffin, Apiary Instructor of Christchurch.

TENDERS are called for the purchase of the shareholding capital of

RANGITATA APIARIES LTD.

The assets of this company comprise:—

1. Freehold property of twenty acres together with two modern dwellings and all buildings in connection with apiary business. Situated six miles from Geraldine on a tar sealed road. Electricity, telephone and septic tanks to each dwelling. Excellent water supply from a well. There is also an irrigation bore on the property capable of delivering over 15,000 galls. an hour and the land lends itself to intensive cultivation.

2. Freehold property of 4 acres situated at Alford Forest, 3½ acres of which were planted with radiata pine in 1952. This is a valuable birch honey area.

3. Seven hundred hives, more or less, on sites and together with all plant and equipment including extensive and modern queen rearing facilities.

4. Highly efficient extracting plant capable of handling over 2 tons per day.

5. Truck, woodworking machines and all usual requisites.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

If not sold as a going concern, tenders will be considered for bees and plant only, either as a whole or in part.

Records of yields and gradings to bona fide buyers.

NOTE.—This is one of the best beekeeping businesses in New Zealand and has an enviable record for quantity and quality of the honey produced. The equipment is good and the majority of the sites are safe from encroachment. Scope exists for 1000 hives.

Apply for full information to:—

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Mr Griffin's talk was followed with great interest, and the most experienced queen breeders present gained many useful points from this well prepared and well spoken address.

Mr I. W. Forster, Apiculturist of Oamaru gave an address on the subject of Pollen Tests, and showed a pollen trap he had made and used successfully. Many questions were answered and much information gained.

Mr R. Davidson Junior, explained the method he uses to run 2 queen hives. His plan was well thought out and should increase the honey crop. Mr Davidson would be only too willing to give any beekeeper further details if requested.

Last on the list, but not least, was an item by Mr Smith of Timaru. This was a crafty device to set off an alarm when the honey tank is full and costs about 7/6. The gadget worked extra well that day, and in addition to giving the alarm, it also blew its top! Our thanks are due to Mr Smith for his talk.

In conclusion, the president thanked all who had given addresses and Mr and Mrs Simpson for their hospitality.

Reported by J. G. McKenzie

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BAY OF PLENTY

The Branch was particularly fortunate to have arranged their Field Day to coincide with the three day visit to New Zealand of Dr M. H. Haydak the imminent entomologist from the University of Minnesota who was en route for home following a four months visit to Australia, sponsored by the Australian Honey Board.

Dr Haydak flew down from Auckland with officials from the Department of Agriculture and gave the members a detailed talk on two queen colonies and queen breeding to produce better strains, on nutrition and pollen supplements.

In explaining his personal appreciation of honey, Dr Haydak mentioned that he ate honey with any food "except sardines." "I eat it on tuna sandwiches, and drink honey with my beer". In experiments on human nutrition, Dr Haydak told members how he had lived for two months on nothing but honey and milk, which was then supplemented with a glass of orange a day for another month, and that he kept in the best of health without getting tired.

Another experiment was with rats, of which three were fed a different mixture. The first was fed with dark honey and milk, the second with light honey and milk, and the third with sugar and milk. The last rat died, the second rats haemoglobin rate was low, and the first rat fed with the dark honey showed a decided increase in its haemoglobin content over others.

Mention was also made of the fact that honey stops blisters from forming with burns or scalds.

HEADLINE NEWS

Dr Haydak's absorbingly interesting talk made news throughout the country but one very important reference to honey not adequately reported was the fact that honey contains minerals such as copper, iron, and manganese and substantial amounts of vitamin C. When honey is eaten as part of human diet it supplies vitamins necessary for the metabolism of sugars absorbed from the honey, whereas when purified sugars are digested, the vitamins for their utilisation must be drawn from other sources.

There were many questions asked at the end of Dr Haydak's address, and he was able to answer them fully and launched out to topics related to the questions.

When it was learned that Dr Haydak was to stay the night in Tauranga, he was asked if he would give further instruction to beekeepers at the residence of Mr Don Barrow, and he generously agreed to do so.

Dr Haydak spoke at length on bee nutrition, describing the vital part that pollen plays in the building up period of the hive, and explaining his experiments to determine suitable supplements to pollen. Soya bean flour, brewer's yeast and skimmed milk powder had given outstanding results as substitutes for pollen or as an additive, and impressive results were obtained in honey yield per hive where colonies had been fed in this manner.

The Field Day and the Evening event were a great occasion for the Bay of Plenty Branch, and we were honoured and fortunate in having such

a distinguished personality as Dr Haydak as our guest.

Other guest speakers were A. C. Ward of Waihi on the subject of autum re-queening, and R. S. Walsh of the Department of Agriculture, Auckland, on faults in beekeeper's honey, and J. Higgins of Waihi on the subject of wax melters for old combs.

Reported by Don Barrow

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HAWKES BAY

The Hawkes Bay branch held its first meeting for the year on April 7, when the sixteen members present were addressed by Mr Percy Berry.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"The Hawkes Bay branch congratulates Mr Berry on his efforts in having the Kimpton contract terminated.

The Branch gives strong support to the view that any new agreement to be made should be more in keeping with the interests of producers, and should not commit the Industry in advance.

Further, it wishes to express its appreciation of Mr Berry's efforts since his election to the Authority."

Reported by G. O. Dorward

☆ ☆

CANTERBURY

A visitor to Canterbury this Autumn would wonder why the honey crop has been the worst on record. But in many places the 1964 rainfall was only a little more than half the previous year's and then most of it had fallen by mid September. Light land failed except for the odd area of Eucalypts and the only surplus was from isolated foothill country and the odd heavy cropping areas. Rains in late January and early February were too late to have any appreciable effect on the crop except to promote flowering of catseal and thistle. Clover flowered late and in some places is still flowering. There is an abundance of feed and clover strikes have been excellent.

Some producers haven't wet an extractor and are doubtful whether they will have sufficient stores to see them through to the flow. Several thousand hives were moved to the Birch for honeydew in the Autumn and have filled up with a surplus in a few places. Boom loaders have proved their worth this season. Reported by Jasper Bray

Pollination of Onion Plants by HONEY BEES

R. S. Walsh. Apiculturist, Auckland.

Mr D. E. Yen, Scientific Officer at the Crop Research Division of the D.S.I.R., Otara had been endeavouring to obtain fertilisation and cross pollination of onion plants *(Allium cepa)* in cages by the use of house flies. He was not satisfied with the results achieved by these insects, nor with a limited experience with honey bees. He therefore decided to invite the Apiary Officers of the Department of Agriculture to assist him. Mr Yen felt that bees were the answer to his problem but that specialised knowledge of bee culture was necessary if bees were to be used to full advantage.

Objects

(1) To re-combine self-pollinated lines of Pukekohe Long Keeper onions.

(2) To purify the strain.

It was hoped to produce more seed with honey bees than had been possible with house flies.

The first eight cages contained pure strains of Pukekohe Long Keeper onion plants.

Cages 9 and 10 were used to cross the two parent lines to obtain a good hybrid. Each cage contained 27 to 30 plants. The cages were 6ft x 6ft, some being constructed of TYGON plastic mesh and the others of aluminium mesh. The Tygon plastic mesh cages had been in use for two years and appeared unaffected by the weather.

It was thought that this material being pliable would be less harmful to the bees when they came into contact with it than would aluminium.

The soil in the cages had been given careful attention having been composted, fertilised, and watered daily to promote plant growth and nectar secretion.

Preparation of Nuclei Hives

The nuclei were to occupy the cages for periods up to eight weeks. The first two hives placed in the cages were there for the full period and the other eight for between five and seven weeks. December 10th to February 2nd. Onion plants (Allium genus) whether grown in the flower garden, or the wild species or as vegetable crops are all good nectar and pollen plants and for this reason it was considered that the bees would receive sufficient inducement to continue breeding in the cages.

The nuclei were prepared on this assumption. Each hive was given two well filled frames of brood with enough bees to cover them, one frame of honey and pollen and one frame of foundation. A young queen was then introduced. The nuclei were then left until the queens were known to have been accepted.

It was considered that no more bees than necessary to cover the brood should accompany the nuclei into the onion cages as it was expected that the young queens would lay heavily and it was not desirable that the hives should be overcrowded with bees. It was also thought that bees reared in the onion cages would be more effective than bees bred outside the cages. A strong hive was however, kept nearby to supply any deficiencies that may have occurred in the nuclei. A supply of water was always available to the bees in the cages.

What actually happened

From the outset it was intended that the nuclei were to be disturbed as little as possible and the wisdom of this decision was apparent at the first examination o fthe colonies one week after the first two were introduced to the cages. The bees became very agitated immediately the hive lids were raised and flew from the hives in large numbers hurling themselves against the walls of the cages. It was perhaps fortunate that these particular cages

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Experimental onion hybrid seed produced for trial in cages. A nuc. hive is visible in central cage, placed in position before flowering.

were made of plastic mesh and bee mortality was not severe. Many bees did however, fly around the cages for the remainder of the day. The lesson learned from this experience was to open the Nuclei as little as possible and then, just before dusk to ensure the early return of the bees to their hives. This first examination revealed that the queens had drastically reduced their egg laying and this continued until, after five weeks, egg laying ceased altogether!

This of course was a surprise as the bees were obviously gathering some nectar in the mornings and a few bees were observed gathering pollen throughout the day. Examination of the colonies after removal from the cages revealed adequate honey supplies and traces of pollen. The comb of foundation supplied to each hive had been drawn out but this could have taken place in the week or so the nuclei were awaiting introduction to the cages. Bee strength was surprisingly good and did not appear to be greatly below their original peak. When the work of the bees had been completed the hives were immediately taken to a district enjoying a honey flow from flowering gums. Two days later the queens commenced to lay and in two weeks all nuclei had two well filled frames of capped brood.

What the bees achieved

Mr Yen reports that the results were highly gratifying as the experimental onion seed yields were the best ever obtained. The best yield from a single cage — a hybrid cage — was 9 ounces of seed from 20 plants. The lowest yield was 2¼ ounces from 30 plants in an inbreeding progeny where low yields are normal but even so it was at least twice as good as had ever been achieved using house flies as pollinators.

Mr Yen considers that in all future cage plant breeding projects bees should be used for pollination purposes. He also believes that bees would be of great value in association with vegetables grown outdoors.

His wishes to thank the Queen breeder Mr F. D. White for the prompt delivery of Queen on due date and the staff of the Apiary Section of the Horticulture Division.

Lessons Learned

1. That bees will efficiently pollinate a crop when confined in cages.
2. That young bees hatched in the cages are essential.
3. That any queens in satisfactory laying conditions are suitable.
4. That queens soon cease to lay when hives are confined in cages but, the bees will continue effective pollination up to two months.
5. That hives must not be disturbed any more than absolutely necessary and then only towards evening. By observing this rule very satisfactory results are obtained, as the bees apparently remain unaware that they are closely confined.
6. That composting and fertilisation of plants plus regular watering induces nectar secretion of onion plants in cages.

Acknowledgement: Photo by A. P. Underhill, Plant Diseases Division, Auckland.

COMMENTARY from the Editor's Desk and Mail

BELGIUM'S BEEKEEPING magazine LA BELGIQUE APICOLE for November last contains a letter from a reader detailing an interesting experience with a hive robbed out by another stronger colony, but where the queen survived despite the death of workers.

Survival of the queen for several days without being fed reminds the writer of an occasion in England when a colony presumed to be queenless was amalgamated with another by the customery method of pin-holed paper. By error, a Porter bee escape was left on the crown board which permitted the worker bees to find their way down to the colony below. On inspection of the "queenless" bees to see how their downward journey had progressed, it was found that ALL of the workers had gone down and left a lonesome and bewildered queen on her own to fend for herself.

Beekeeping is full of mysteries, and this particular experience was one for which a satisfactory or logical explanation has never been found. Can anyone advance a theory?

The Belgian correspondent's letter reads as follows:—

"Towards mid-July I had purchased a young queen to introduce into a weakish stock which had become queenless. She was accepted and began to lay.

Unfortunately, for some unknown reason, this stock was attacked by robber bees and, in spite of all my efforts (moving of hive, traps, etc.) it was completely robbed out and the bees died in masses. Seeing that all my efforts had been in vain I abandoned the stock to its sad fate.

A few days later seeing that there was no sign of life I decided to save the frames. To my other amazement I discovered that the young queen was there, absolutely on her own, wandering about in the hive.

As I wished to save her, a friend and I tried to introduce her into a queenless stock in a neighbouring apiary. We were somewhat delayed by the necessary preparations and the journey and a couple of hours had elapsed before we returned to the hive to take away the queen.

Alas! She was lying on her side, her legs alone were moving. We tried to revive her by placing her against the honey, having put her in a little queen cage. We were delighted to see her sucking up the nectar, then starting to move and, finally, getting up.

A dozen or so bees from the queenless stock were placed in the cage with her and they immediately adopted our little queen which seemed so eager to live and she was introduced to the stock the next day.

Eight days later we inspected the hive and found that all was well and that she had begun to lay.

Have our readers ever had a like experience and did they report it?"

Rene Delaire (Etalle, Luxemburg).

THE ORGANISERS of the 20th International Beekeeping Jubilee Congress to be held in Bucharest from August 26 - 31 have produced a most impressive book with full colour reproductions showing scenic beauty spots and resorts in Roumania, as well as a wealth of information on the intended conduct of the Congress.

In a welcoming foreword, a message is given that **"The beekeepers of our country are eager to make the acquaintance of beekeepers from all over the world and welcome them at the Jubilee Congress of Bucharest, the sincere and friendly rally of those who are interested in beekeeping and wish to remove all barriers arisen by frontiers, language or creed."**

The Rumanian Beekeepers' Association was formed in 1957 and now has over 40,000 members, some 70% of the total beekeepers in the country. The number of colonies in the country has increased threefold since the last census taken in 1944, and now amounts to approximately 900,000 colonies. 79% of the colonies are privately owned, and the remaining 21% by the State. Some of the State apiaries have 2,000 to 3,000 colonies and a great deal of migratory beekeeping is practiced.

The native bee is Apis Melifica Carpatica i.e. the Rumanian Carpathian bee, and hives with 24 frames are most commonly used, as are the vertical double hive and multiple storey hives.

Every conceivable encouragement is given by descriptive data in the handbook to persuade beekeepers to visit the Congress including the fact that technical works of the Congress will be carried out in French, English, Russian, German and Rumianian, which should provide plenty of opportunity for those not fluent in other than their mother tongue.

Any beekeeper on holiday in Europe in August of this year would certainly be well advised to arrange his itinerary to include the Congress, for special rates of exchange have been devised to make the visitors cash stretch much further than would be normal, and a number of festivities, outings, entertainments and even banquets are included in the registration fee of 20 dollars. A very enjoyable as well as instructive time will be had by the visitor.

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FRIEND HENNING CHRISTENSON of Denmark, in his most recent letter on bees and bee news mentions that the Copenhagen Beekeepers Association were given an interesting lecture by a Mr C. Kagan from Israel on the use of antibiotics in the fight against bacillus larvae. Eighty members attended, and they were told that antibiotics are used in that country to control the disease, whereas in Denmark it is obligatory for total destruction of bees and combs in their effort to be completely rid of the menace. During the course of the lecture, time was taken out for everyone to see a demonstration and talk on TV, and the lecturer from Israel then resumed his theme.

Henning says that he has been elected a member of the board of the association, and that at his first attendance at the Board meeting they drank a lot of mead and finished the meeting at "half past one in the night. I don't feel quite well today. It was a nice evening. We are five board members and I was elected to be the secretary." Sounds like a very interesting appointment, and serving lashings of mead might be one way to encourage prompt attendance. Incidentally the current price of honey in Denmark is 4s 6d per lb.

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FOLLOWING THE DECISION of the Australian Honey Board to set up a Research Advisory Committee, charged with the responsibility of recommending the allocation of funds to important research projects throughout Australia, a programme is now under way.

The Australian Honey Board will be subsidised by the Commonwealth Government on a £1 for £1 basis.

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BACILLUS LARVAE severely affected Florida's apiaries during the past year to the extent of a one-third increase in disease, representing nearly one per cent of

colonies inspected. Of 169,411 colonies examined, 1,546 were found to be infected and were destroyed by burning. Florida beekeepers are compensated for one half of the estimated value of colonies destroyed by apiary inspctors.

Reason for the increase is suggested to be the severe freeze up of December 1962 which seriously damaged many of the State's 50 million citrus trees, with the result that colonies unable to find food robbed spore laden honey from brood nests.

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WE ALL KNOW that bees are valuable insects, but whoever heard of paying £200 for a specimen as a Christmas gift? The famed and fortunate Tiffany's jewellery shop in New York offered a special gift "for your honey" in the form of a honeybee lapel pin of solid gold with diamond studded wings for a bauble of £190 with immobile wings or just over £200 for wings that flapped.

☆ ☆ ☆

RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS claim that they have developed a variety of bee with an abnormally long proboscis which enables them to collect an average of 12lbs of honey more than their normal sisters in an average season.

The breed is claimed to be able to work flora at an air temperature of 3 degrees centigrade (37.5 F.) when other self respecting gleaners are safely clustered within the hive indulging in mutual warming operations.

The development is an interesting one and it remains for time to tell the ultimate result. If climatic conditions in New Zealand next season are anything like the last, she shall have to look for varieties which can do without water at one end of the Islands and that can swim at the other.

NEW ZEALAND had a boost in Berlin during the ten days of Green Week Exhibition during which 6,000 sales were made by New Zealand girls of extracted honey in jars and section honey. Possibly the selected honey on the stand had a great influence in selling honey to the German male, but the end result was £500 worth and the possibility of good repeat orders.

One agent handling the product was optimistic about the prospects of repeats, and to ensure that the **right** honey was re-ordered, purchasers were provided with forms to enable purchase by direct mail. Most purchasers sampled a free spoonful ladled out by stand personnel, and the tempting taste of honey was sufficient to clinch the sale.

The German palate prefers dark and full flavoured honey, so that the manuka on offer suited their requirements very well.

It is good to see aggressive promotions of this type overseas, and the results will speak for themselves. On the same stand, the New Zealand Meat Producers' Board were besieged by visitors to try out a morsel of New Zealand lamb.

☆ ☆ ☆

THE HONEY MARKETING Authority has sent a ton of packaged honey of different varieties to Japan in an effort to re-establish and enlarge honey exports to that country.

Both liquid and cream honey was included in the consignment which was destined for a Trades Fair to be held in June.

☆ ☆ ☆

AUSTRALIA SEEMS TO BE active in Asian markets and whereas exports to Japan were negligible in 1958-59, ONE MILLION POUNDS were exported in 1963-64 and now represents Australia's third largest market for honey. Market reports show that Asian countries collectively now absorb 10 per cent of Australia's honey exports, compared with two per cent during the 1950's. With increasingly higher standards of living, Asians will be able to afford to buy greater quantities of food.

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A REPORT FROM Canada's Department of Agriculture relates that two research workers have developed an artificial bee scent which may be of commercial use in ensuring adequate pollination of selected crops. It is claimed that when a bee finds an attractive source of food it releases an odour from its body in addition to performing the location dance to point the way to the nectar.

This scent has now been produced synthetically and has proved practical in field tests, but it has yet to be proved whether bees can be "directed" to specific crops in need of pollination.

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THE PRESIDENT and Mrs Cloake are to visit Australia in May and an address is to be given by Mr Harry Cloake to the Queensland Beekeepers' Association annual conference at the Canberra Hotel, Brisbane, on May 18-19.

The subject of Mr Cloake's address will be on honey marketing in New Zealand and at the dinner which follows, at which he will be guest speaker, the theme will be "Beekeeping in New Zealand, with particular emphasis on Colony Management for the Production of Clover Honey." That should certainly give our popular President plenty of scope.

During the following week, it is hoped to attend the New South Wales Beekeepers' Conference.

Fron page 11

NEW SPECIE INTRODUCED

report says that a female alkali bee ranging over four miles may pollinate enough flowers to produce 10lb. of lucerne seed in its lifetime compared with one-tenth of a pound for a honey bee. It has also been reported that these bees will pollinate every flower that they come across compared with one in 400 in the case of the honey bee.

Mr Palmer and Mr Jessep believe that these bees could have a valuable place in New Zealand. They are quiet and their sting is no more than a mild bite and they have been described as stingless.

In the United States alkali bees are bred commercially in beds and cores of soil containing them are subsequently sold. It has been estimated that an investment of 1500 dollars in such a bed can return 10,000 dollars.

Letters to the Editor

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

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Lymington,
Hampshire, England.
February 28th, 1965.

Sir,

For a considerable time I have been considering the possibility of emigrating with my family to your country, but at various stages hurdles and difficulties have slowed down, and sometimes halted, what little progress we may have made to this end. However, we are not daunted, and I am therefore taking the liberty of writing to you asking for your considered advice on one or two questions confronting me at the moment. Your address was listed in the British Beekeepers' Association diary, which I have and as one beekeeper to another I feel we have a good common talking point at this stage.

One of the most important requirements the New Zealand Government looks for in intending migrants seeking assisted passages to your country, is the ability to match up to certain skilled trades e.g. carpenters, engineers, draughtsmen etc. to pursue this type of work, my first question is: Do you think beekeeping to peruse this type of work, my first question is: Do you think beekeeping could be considered a skilled trade? — I know it should be, but is it? My second question is: In view of my desire to be connected with honey farming, do you think any of your associates in the bee world would be interested in offering employment to a would-be migrant, or to discuss the possibility in due course?

A thumbnail description of the writer is: Age 44 years, married with wife and two children, past 10 years in engineering office, now more than ever convinced that beekeeping in a *decent* climate is the ideal to aim for. My experience with bees is by no means vast, but nonetheless sufficient, I am, sure to be of considerable use to a prospective employer. Perhaps I should add that my ways are not too set to be moulded to a new pattern. Thank you for your indulgence this far. Best wishes.

RONALD CLARK

Footnote:

It seems to be a peculiarity of the immigration scheme that a narrow view is taken of 'skilled trades'. Many a good man wishing to settle and work here has been unable to do so because of the financial strain of expensive fares for the whole family. An employer signifying willingness to offer work to a would-be immigrant, however, could result in acceptance as an assisted passage immigrant.—Ed.

  

RE LAUGHING GAS

Sir,

Here is a recipe for making your own laughing gas, sent to me by an English friend when I told him the pellets were difficult to obtain:—

Crush and Mix together:
1oz. Sal Ammoniac
1oz. Sodium Nitrate.

Burn in smoker with the fuel in the usual way, but I have not yet done so, and cannot say what good or bad the treatment would do to the bees.

Straight out smoke does all I need now as I tried in vain to get pellets in Auckland.

Hoping this may help your "Bee Gas" Search.

T. H. BURNITT.

☆ ☆ ☆

Nelson, March 17, 1965.

Sir,

I have in recent years started beekeeping as a hobby and I am finding it difficult to find the old queen when I go to replace her with a new queen. Could you advise me if there is any other method of finding her, apart from going through the hive and hunting for her?

J. H. HUDSON.

[Cherchez la femme is the age old cry of the fiction writer and is equally the cry of the beekeeper in looking for his lady. The ever elusive queen has to be sought to be found, and other than distinctive marking for easy identification, no short cut is known. To add to the spice and variety of life, there is always the queen who seems to enjoy the chase, such as the occasion some years ago when the brood chamber was meticulously searched through thrice. Additional weight on the veil hat eventually proved the point where the queen was hiding. On my head. There's a lot to be said for clipping the wings to avoid activity of this sort.]

☆ ☆ ☆

Katoomba, March 23, 1965.

Sir,

Last week, we drove to the top of Australia's highest mountain, Mt. Koscuisko (7,330ft.) and there a bee flew up and landed on my hand. I never expected a welcome in such high society! Had a very interesting visit to the Apiary section of Hawkesbury Agricultural College and a wonderful discussion with Everett Hastings.

C. DAWSON.

[This is an extract from a personal and welcome letter written by Mr. Chris Dawson of Timaru, whilst on an extended tour of Australia.—Ed.]

☆ ☆ ☆

Whakatane, April 12, 1965.

Sir,

It is, I believe, regretable that it will not be possible for the hobbyist, or sideline beekeeper to sit and eventually receive the Diploma in Apiculture.

I refer in particular to the clause providing for at least 2 years' practical experience in beekeeping as set out in the R.N.Z. Institute of Horticulture Examination Approval Notice 1961, 1961/122.

Thus it is required, in terms of the Approval Notice, to have

(1) Two years' practical experience in working with at least 5 colonies of bees for Junior Certificate.

(2) A further two years' practical experience working five colonies for the Intermediate Certificate.

(3) To complete the Diploma, to have, inter alia, a total of six years' experience with at least five hives.

However, on enquiry the Examination Board of the Institute hold that to proceed past the Junior Examinations it is requisite that the student obtain full time employment with a beekeeper, or undertake beekeeping as an occupation on own account. Some clarification is obviously necessary or the terms of the Approval Notice amended.

There exists a devout number of hobbyist beekeepers, keen students of apis mellifica. Let them not be denied the opportunity to study yet closer towards the Diploma.

"BEE-JAY".

53 Coates Avenue,
Orakei, E.1,
Auckland.

BEEKEEPING IN THE UREWERAS

Visualising the possible potential for honey production in the 455,000 odd acres of native bush located in the Urewera National Park, two years ago I obtained permission from the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Hamilton, and his Board, to place a limited number of hives in the Park area, as a test. The hives were placed in the vicinity of Lake Waikaremoana and the Lake House.

I expected, and in good quantity, honey from the Tawari trees, but the first season they hardly bloomed at all, which was unusual; the crop extracted consisting chiefly of birch and rata. This season Tawari bloom was much more in evidence.

Both years the bees built up well in spring, apparently from such sources as bush-lawyer, five finger, fuschia, etc., while quite a good and lengthy supply of koromiko is obtained by the bees during the autumn and after the main flow is over.

My average return for the two seasons was 80 and 90 lbs. of honey per hive respectively. Graded by the Honey Marketing Authority this season, colour 90, source Tawari and mixed sources.

Subject to the approval of National Park Board, this vast area of native bush could possibly accommodate hundreds of hives and with the right management show handsome returns, especially by using lake transport, and possibly, later, helicopter. The present road, though rather narrow has a good surface and I judge that the best honey producing area is South and East over the Saddle round the Lake.

Very reluctantly, on account of age, I am compelled to forego further operations in this interesting country, and would like to contact a beekeeper of sufficient standing and experience, who might desire to carry on in this area.

T. H. PEARSON.



P. O. Box 252 Hastings,
23/4/65.

Sir,

In your November issue you comment on the H.M.A. election results as follows "there can be no possible doubt as to the expressed and forthright wishes of the voters in electing as their representatives two men who have made their views clear and concise". Could not exactly the same have been said of the previous election, and could anything have been more clear and concise than Mr P. Berry's published policy on that occasion? He has spared no efforts in time, expense, and health, to faithfully carry out the policy he topped the poll on, and despite widespread publicity to the contrary, has acted both democratically and correctly. This statement is supported by an independent and top N.Z. authority on business and meeting procedure.

As to the "clear and concise" views of the men elected, I have before me a yellow phamplet, sent only to selected electors, in which Mr Fraser speaks of a remit being decisively defeated, on a "delegates vote."

The use of this obnoxious delegate's vote nearly wrecked Conference years ago, and it is against the constitution of this Association to "direct" a delegate to vote in a certain manner. Mr Fraser knows full well that had the delegate in question voted as he felt right, after hearing all the discussion, the decision on that remit would have been reversed. Mr Fraser also makes capital of the fact that Mr Berry was not nominated for the N.B.A. executive.

Mr Berry made it quite clear to his supporters that he did not wish to be nominated, but wished to concentrate on his job in the H.M.A. Mr Berry has full support of his branch in his untiring efforts to have a marketing system that favours the producer, rather than an overseas agent. His concentration on this

job may have obscured his work on the N.B.A. Executive, but the obvious implication of the "yellow phamplet", to those not at conference, that Mr Berry had lost support, was belied by the plain evidence at Conference of greatly increased support.

The effect of this and other misleading propaganda could quite easly have swayed the votes of many not at Conference.

G. F. R. GORDON.

☆ ☆ ☆

Longview, Huntly R.D.2,
25th April, 1965.

Sir,

RE MARKETING OF HONEY

Over recent months I have been at a loss to understand why the advertising of Honey appears to be at such a low ebb.

I have discussed this with grocers and administrators in the grocery trade and they too express surprise that an industry such as ours should appear to neglect this method — firstly in view of the competition from other products, and secondly because of the unfavourable publicity brought to honey generally through various unfortunate happenings.

In view of the above I wrote to the H.M.A. requesting information as to the advertising policy, and in reply they advised that over £3,000 is being spent per annum — over the whole of N.Z. for *honey in general.*

For my view, this is a most disappointing position. Any advertising must be a help when applied scientifically by an agency, and I agree the authority is achieving something; however, the fact that honey consumption is not rising with the population increase as expected does indicate a trend, possibly downward, that has firstly to be stopped and, secondly, reversed.

Would it not be possible to invest in an advertising program of say £10,000 the first year, £3,000 the second, £5,000 the third and so on according to need, concentrating on the brands produced by the H.M.A. for a three-fold industry benefit to begin with, and then moving to a general honey campaign.

I submit for your readers' comment clause 95 of the report of the Honey Industry Investigation Committee. At that time they commented "The lack of a well-conducted publicity campaign appears to be one of the industry's notable deficiencies."

D. CAREY.

P.S. For the second time of trying: To those who voted for me in the last H.M.A. Election, my sincere thanks.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

ENGLISH BEEKEEPER, hard working and reliable, anxious to settle with wife and two school age children anywhere in New Zealand. References available and any enquiries as to bona fides welcome. If interested please write: Ron Clark, 3 Highfield Road, Lymington, Hants, England.

BUY

CANTERBURY BEEKEEPING OUTFIT WANTED

In Mid Canterbury or South Canterbury
Cash Buyer — House not essential

Apply in first instance to:—
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No. 4 R.D. Timaru.

. . . HIVES . . .

IN CANTERBURY OR OTAGO
ANY QUANTITY

Write in first instance to:
"HIVES",
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SOUTH ISLAND — GOING CONCERN
Cash for up to 400 hives.

Condition immaterial. Open to share or wage proposal to clear vendor's affairs.

Genuine replies please, with particulars and price in first instance to
"STARTING", c/o. "N.Z. BEEKEEPER",
Box 3561, Auckland.

UP TO 100 HIVES OF BEES WANTED
Must be in good condition.
NORTH ISLAND ONLY
Write . . . G. W. Perry,
c/o. P.O. Bay View
Napier.

SOUTH ISLAND

Wanted to buy up to 250 Hives on sites or for removal.

Would also consider lease or share of larger business.

Replies in strictest confidence to:—
"PROPOSITION"
c/o. N.Z. Beekeeper, Box 3561, Auckland.

BUY

WANTED TO PURCHASE
HIVES FOR REMOVAL
FROM CHRISTCHURCH SOUTH
Small Lots Considered

Price and Particulars to:
"CASH BUYER",
c/o. N.Z. Beekeeper, Box 3561, Auckland.

FOR SALE

HAURAKA PLAINS BEEKEEPING BUSINESS

300 hives and accessories, substantial honey house, in good locality and plenty of room for expansion.

3 bedroom cottage on ¼ acre land with excellent orchard. Sale urgent for health reasons. Reasonably priced.

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One 8 frame reversible extractor, one creaming pump, complete with motor reduction gears, tanks and stand, 200 lb platform scale and approximately 300 new export tins, plastic inserts.

Apply . . .
P.O. Box 230. Ashburton

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Excellent condition £80.
Now worth approx. £150 new.
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60 three storied good hives, with ample stores, situated within 30 miles of Taupo, on a large estate of approximately 10-15 thousand acres, being quickly brought into production by the Government Land Improvement Department and which, even at the present time, could carry 300-500 hives.

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53 Coates Avenue, Orakei, Auckland.
Telephone 51-272.

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Satsifaction guaranteed.
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(For the advancement of the Beekeeping Industry in New Zealand)

'Better Beekeeping—Better Marketing'

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Up to	£	s.	d.	Up to	£	s.	d.
60 colonies		10	0	330 colonies	2	15	0
	minimum			360 colonies	3	0	0
90 colonies		15	0	390 colonies	3	5	0
120 colonies	1	0	0	420 colonies	3	10	0
150 colonies	1	5	0	450 colonies	3	15	0
180 colonies	1	10	0	480 colonies	4	0	0
210 colonies	1	15	0	510 colonies	4	5	0
240 colonies	2	0	0	540 colonies	4	10	0
270 colonies	2	5	0	570 colonies	4	15	0
300 colonies	2	10	0	6 colonies and over (maximum)	5	0	0

An associate members shall pay 5/- per annum.

JOIN YOUR NEAREST BRANCH AND DERIVE FULL BENEFITS

APIARY INSURANCE

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Free Cover for Association Members

All financial members of the Association are automatically indemnified against Public Risk claims up to £5000 in any occurrence of injury or death to persons or livestock directly attributable to the action of the members' bees and arising from his or her negligence as the beekeeper. The cover is underwritten by the New Zealand Insurance Company Ltd. and the premium met by the Association from consolidated funds.

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

APPLE TREE POLLINATION

The cover picture on this month's issue was taken by Mr T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer of the Animal Research Centre, Wallaceville, and shows a nine foot square cage of nylon insect screening, enclosing a Cox's Orange Pippin Apple tree at Richmond, near Nelson.

The nylon mesh excludes honey bees, bumble bees and the large insects. One branch of the caged tree is covered with an organdie sleeve (seen on right) to exclude wind-borne pollen.

Fruit set on four caged trees was compared with that on uncaged trees where insect visitors were counted and identified.

Statistical analysis of results, and germination tests on seeds, will have to be completed before a report can be made available to the beekeeping industry.

The New Zealand fruit industry is an important one, apple exports in 1961 being valued at over £2,000,000, and pears at £183,000. Local conditions are not the same as overseas and pollination of fruit trees may not follow a similar pattern.

The study near Nelson is one of a series designed to investigate the role played by honey bees and other insects in fruit tree pollination in New Zealand.

Printed by Observer Printing Works Ltd., 12 Wyndham Street, Auckland.