

THE
NEW
ZEALAND

BEEKEEPER

AUGUST, 1968

*Bee
Keeping
on
the
Island
of
Niue*



THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION of N.Z. Incorporated

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THE
NEW
ZEALAND

BEEKEEPER

VOL 30 No. 3

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:
\$1 per annum, post free
Registered for transmission by post as a Magazine.

Editor: Leslie W. Goss

August, 1968

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PROBLEMS

LIFE GETS DIFFICULT. Just when the industry is looking forward to the development of a really worth while export business in New Zealand bred queens to Canada, an unexpected difficulty has arisen in the form of strong objection from the United States.

The enterprise of the breeder and shipper in sending the trial consignment to the Dominion Experimental Station at Beaver Lodge, Alberta, was a great achievement for the industry, and the fact that the progeny are making such a good impression is more than encouraging.

From the American point of view, it is understandable that they look askance at any importation to their common continent, particularly in view of the disastrous experience to the far south in Brazil, where importation of the African bee has become a curse to man and beast. And in fairness, we must not lose sight of the fact that the African bee was initially imported under control conditions.

The US Department of Agriculture cannot be condemned for protecting their own interests, and it will be our responsibility to see scientific and practical evidence is produced that our bees have no undesirable traits, that consignments are strictly controlled by our own Departmental officers, and that the stocks are free from acarine and other diseases.

Queen rearing is big business in the United States, supplying their own and Canada's requirements, and it is to be hoped that pressure will not be brought to bear from vested interests for the preservation of their own markets to the exclusion of all others. Introduction of new blood on controlled lines has always been welcomed by breeders of stock used by mankind, and it might well be proved that introduction of New Zealand lines betters honey production in Canada and the States. We shall have to wait and see.

AUGUST 1968

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National Beekeepers' Association
DOMINION CONFERENCE

Hamilton — July 10, 11 and 12

Despite forecasts for indifferent weather and extremely wet conditions in the preceeding week, climatic conditions for Conference at Hamilton were dry and warm if not always sunny, and delegates were able to attend without the inconvenience and discomfort of damp and dismal clothing.

Proceedings commenced at 10.00 am on the Wednesday with a friendly and warm welcome to the City by the Mayor of Hamilton, Dr. D. Rogers who, in the course of his address, paid tribute to the value of honey as a food and as a delight to eat. Because of Dr. Roger's close association with, and work for, Waikato University, the opportunity was taken to present in his presence a token of appreciation by Waikato Branch for the student's assistance in manning the honey stall at the Waikato Show.

Official opening of Conference followed by Mr. D. J. Carter, MP for Raglan and Under-Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture.

Reviewing the early history of the beekeeping industry in the Waikato district, Mr Carter referred to the fact the branch has more commercial beekeepers than anywhere else in New Zealand, and that a Waikato man Mr J. B. Mackisack, has pioneered and developed the honey industry on Niue Island.

In an interesting and forthright speech he emphasised the importance of self reliance to the beekeeping industry with the necessity to make every endeavour to overcome problems through direct action, and not to seek too much direction from Government or to expect the Minister to arbitrate between producer groups and marketing organisations. He pointed out that whilst the Department administered the Act controlling bacillus larvae, this fact was no adequate reason for suggesting that Government alone should pay compensation for hives destroyed by fire in the effort to control disease. Bees are beekeepers' property and form part of the industry, and control is the responsibility of each beekeeper and the industry collectively.

On the general subject of compensation, Mr Carter reminded delegates that if it was thought that there would be greater success if compensation were paid to affected beekeepers, a decision should be made as to what should be done if Government were in no way involved, and funds raised from all beekeepers in the country. His recommendation was not to pass remits calling on the Government to do more things for the industry but that the industry should help themselves.

Similarly, on the very difficult question of the closed area the industry must act collectively to decide on the wisest course of action and not rely on Government to do all the thinking and the regulating, and he posed the question: "If this matter were one entirely for the industry to resolve what would you do?"

As a final rejoinder in a thought provoking speech which undoubtedly left its mark on Conference and influenced a number of remits, Mr Carter asked if sufficient honey was being exported and whether it is being packaged and marketed in the best possible way to give maximum export earnings. Noting that some members do not think sufficient effort is being made to export honey, he invited greater co-operation to assist with New Zealand's No. 1 priority and suggested that full support of the industry's organisation and co-ordination of ideas combined with experience would show whether increase is feasible.

PROCEEDINGS

Conference at Hamilton will be long remembered by delegates for the amount of business resulting from the Order paper and for the close attention and examination accorded to each item. Numerically, remits were smaller and the subjects less contentious than in some previous years, and the business sessions proceeded smoothly and efficiently under the firm but friendly guidance of National President Trevor Wheeler in the Chair.

Proceedings lasted for three full days and closed on the afternoon of Friday July 12 with a 'brainstorming' session on the National Development Conference, at 4.15 p.m.

On the evening of the first day the host branch had arranged a slide evening and supper during which colour slides of apiaries and beekeeping activities were shown as competition entries. The second evening's entertainment was a get-together and social, and visitors were appreciative of the hospitality.

REMITTS

REMIT NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO THOSE APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER AND IN SOME INSTANCES WERE AMENDED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF MOVER AND SECONDER. REMITS NOT DETAILED WERE EITHER WITHDRAWN OR LAPSED. MOVERS OF MOTIONS WERE PERMITTED THREE MINUTES TO DETAIL THEIR SUBJECT, OTHER SPEAKERS TWO MINUTES SUBJECT, IN EACH CASE TO AN EXTENSION OF TIME AT THE WILL OF CONFERENCE.

(2) OTAGO "That the HMA investigate the feasibility of establishing a central distribution depot for 5 gal. drums in the South Island with a view to saving on freight costs". Glynn/Holland). CARRIED.

(3) SOUTH CANTERBURY: "That this Conference strongly recommends that the Honey Marketing Authority continue its 1967 Honey Export Policy, whereby individual packers are permitted to export retail packs of Honey". (Davidson/Stratford). CARRIED.

(4) CANTERBURY: "That Packers be permitted to export packed lines of honey under the jurisdiction of the Honey Marketing Authority and that for this specific purpose, packers be registered with the HMA". (Penrose/Berry). CARRIED.

(6) WAIKATO: "That we note the benefit to the Industry of floral source packs both locally and especially overseas. We value the standard and quality control of the HMA product which has already created great interest overseas, and increased returns to the producers and that the Authority's efforts be continued in this direction". (Carey/Hanson). CARRIED.

(7) SOUTH CANTERBURY: "That in view of the high Bulk Honey Prices paid to N.Z. Producers, because of present honey shortages, this Conference urges the Honey Marketing Authority to spare no effort in promoting Export Trade". (Davidson/Berry). CARRIED.

(8) SOUTHLAND: "That in view of the failure of the Packers' Association to follow the price lead given by the Authority, the Authority be urged to increase its New Zealand sales." (Glynn/Ward). LOST.

(12) OTAGO: "That the Conference ask the Executive to look into the question of the poor quality of tins available to Beekeepers." (Glynn/Fraser). CARRIED.
DEPARTMENTAL:

(13) WAIKATO: "That the honey grader remain independent of the HMA." (Tuck/Carey). CARRIED.

(14) OTAGO: "That this Conference endorse the Otago remit of 1965 that the Executive again approach the Government for compensation for hives destroyed because of the infection of B.L. and not seek an insurance cover for the same." (Glynn/Bird). LOST.

(16) AUCKLAND: "That this Conference express appreciation of the services of the part-time inspectors and advise the Department of Agriculture that it is the wish of Conference that their work be continued as previously." (Blair/Holland). CARRIED.

(17) WAIKATO: "That commerical queen breeders be given limited access to the closed area each Spring, to augment their dwindling supply of surplus bees, due to destruction of spring sources elsewhere and that a committee be set up of interested beekeepers together with departmental officers to go into ways and means of utilising the closed area to best advantage to the industry." (Bird/Bates). CARRIED.

(18) CANTERBURY: "That the Department of Agriculture be requested to import new strains of Italian Queens for testing purposes." (Bray/Penrose). CARRIED.

(19) WAIKATO: "That all beekeepers be given the opportunity to put bees on the Tongariro National Park area." (Tuck/Carey). CARRIED.

RESEARCH:

(22) WAIKATO: "In view of diminishing honey sources encouragement be given to the planting of honey producing plants, and pressure be maintained to ensure these honey sources. Conference notes with satisfaction the action already taken by Executive." (Tuck/Lorimer). CARRIED.

(23) AUCKLAND: "That this Conference request more information on the protein value of the major sources of pollen available to bees in New Zealand.

Also that a list of rich protein bearing trees, shrubs and other plants together with a list of plants and trees bearing pollens toxic to bees, be compiled as a guide to beekeepers who may wish to plant small areas." (Blair/Belin). CARRIED.

GENERAL:

(24) WAIKATO: "That National Executive express thanks to the N.B.C. for T.V. items relating to the beekeeping industry already showing and support the production of further programmes." (Carey/Hansen). CARRIED.

(25) HAWKES BAY: "That the Executive of the N.B.A. confer with the Municipal Association and Countries Association of N.Z. with the view to ascertaining the regulations as to the zones in which beekeepers are permitted to locate their honey houses as predominant or conditional uses." (Berry/Gordon). CARRIED.

(26) WAIKATO: "That N.B.A. investigate conditions for becoming a member of Apimondia." (Tuck/Carey). CARRIED.

(29) OTAGO: "That the 1969 South Island Conference be held in Invercargill. (Fraser/Heron). CARRIED.

NOTICES OF MOTION FROM EXECUTIVE

HMA VOTING PROCEDURE: "That this Conference supports legislation to give the producer the right to vote for the four producer seats on the HMA, such voting to be based on (a) hive holdings (b) honeys supplied to the HMA (c) the seals equivalent of honey packed by the producer himself or for the honey supplied to a packer." (Winslade/Blair). CARRIED.

NOTE: It was explained to Conference that Executive have endeavoured to bring down a system which would ensure that all beekeepers should have the opportunity to vote in the elections, but considered that greater weight should be given to votes available to the producers who support the Authority by either supplying direct to the HMA or by purchase of seals.

The amendment would provide for the following method of arriving at the votes available to producers.

One vote for every 100 hives up to 1000 hives i.e. maximum 10 votes.
plus one vote for every ton of honey supplied to the HMA.
plus one vote for every two tons of honey supplied to a packer (whether the

packer is also a producer or not), or upon which the producer has paid to the Authority the appropriate amount of levy.

Votes overall not to exceed a total of 30 votes.

In assessing the amount of honey supplied in the above method an average will be taken over the previous three years.

Many aspects of the voting systems still require tidying. The above method was submitted by Executive for consideration in principal only.

FROM THE FLOOR OF CONFERENCE (for which a three-quarter majority was required for consent to debate the motion)

"That this matter (the preceding motion) be referred to branches and that their replies be requested prior to the October meeting of Executive." (Fraser/Carey). CARRIED.

"Owing to the need of the producer to be kept in close contact with the HMA'S specific yearly needs of varying types of honey, the HMA be requested, if necessary, to send a representative to make personal contact with the producers to ensure that adequate supplies are obtainable. (Jansen/Ward) CARRIED.

"That the National Executive consider the merits of permitting equipment display at Conference. In the event of a favourable decision, they indicate to branches the conditions to apply, and arrange for a suitable time for the equipment to be demonstrated at the next annual Conference." (Carey/Tuck). CARRIED.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

On the motion of Mr T. Pearson and at the request of Canterbury Branch, Executive unanimously recommended bestowal of Life Membership on Tom Penrose Snr for his long and unstinting service to the industry and his fellow beekeepers. A number of speakers from the floor attested to their support, and election was unanimous and by popular consent. Both recipient and members were visibly moved with emotion at the solemnity of the occasion and references to happenings in earlier days.

REPORTS

Reports on a variety of subjects were listened to with interest and attention by members of Conference, some of which are reported in full or extract form in this issue. Pressure on space precludes publication of all in entirety, but where possible, material held over will be published in the following edition of THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER.

HMA

The Chairman's address is the subject of a separate report on another page. Toward the end of Conference, reference was made to amendments to the HMA Regulations, details of which will be published in due course. A new HMA export policy was also announced, and beekeepers are invited to apply to the Authority for permission to export. The chairman emphasised that it is essential that the territories as defined in the Kimpton Agreement would be retained by the Authority for its exclusive use, but that applications to export to any other territory would receive sympathetic consideration. Full information must, of course, be given when making application as to market identity, terms of supply etc. and the honey would have to be graded.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman announced to Conference that he would no longer be available to take office and nominations were therefore called and balloted for on a preferential voting system. Messrs R. S. Walsh of Auckland and A. Bennett of Waikato, acted as scrutineers. Results were as follows:

PRESIDENT

Mr Don Barrow of Tauranga.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr George Winslade of Oamaru.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE:

NORTH ISLAND: Messrs Bruce Forsyth of Ohaupo and Terry Gavin of Whangarei.

SOUTH ISLAND: Messrs F. Bartrum of Pleasant Point and I. Dickinson of Milton.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Prior to the close of Conference a unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the host branch for the warmth of their hospitality and to the ladies for the provision of morning and afternoon teas.

A motion of thanks to the Chair for his fairness and firmness in conducting Conference was met with acclamation.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT to CONFERENCE

It is my pleasure to present to you the report of the activities of the Association since the 1967 Conference at Christchurch. The period under review has been one of considerable significance to the industry and at the end of our year, namely, 30th April 1968, there are some important developments which require close attention in the year ahead if the Association is to play its role in the development of our industry.

During the year there have been two very full meetings of Executive, and as full reports have appeared in the N.Z. Beekeeper on these meetings and further reports were sent to all Branch Secretaries I feel it is not necessary to elaborate in detail in this report upon the matters considered by Executive.

1967/68 HONEY CROP: Once again the honey crop proved most disappointing to very many beekeepers and although isolated areas produced very satisfactory crops the overall production per hive is probably the lowest on record.

HONEY PRICES: Executive members were concerned to learn during the course of the meeting held in Wellington on March 6th and 7th that consideration was being given by the Industries and Commerce Department to re-imposing Price Control on honey. It was fortunate that the matter was able to be discussed with Mr J. W. Fraser, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority. Strong representations were made to the Department and it was in the course of these that the limited result of the cost of production survey was found to be useful. Members will know that the Minister in charge of Industries and Commerce, the Hon. Mr Marshall did issue a statement late in April warning that the position was constantly under review and if necessary Price Control would be reinstated.

COST OF PRODUCTION SURVEY: Although this only received very limited support from Beekeepers it was found to be of value in our representations to the Industries and Commerce Department and I cannot stress too strongly that any approach which we may be called upon to make on behalf of the industry has a far greater chance of being successful if it is substantiated by up-to-date statistical details. I can assure members that the information which they submit is confidential to the General Secretary alone.

Because of the valuable aid which such information can be to the Association, Executive have decided that the 'Cost of Production Survey' will continue over the next five years.

HONEY PROMOTION: The highlight of our 1967 Conference was the selection of Miss Honey Queen and the Canterbury Honey Week Promotion organised by the Canterbury Branch. Several Branches availed themselves of the opportunity to promote honey in their areas. We are indebted to the Honey Marketing Authority for making finance available by way of subsidy and to the Canterbury Branch for the organisation of this scheme.

There is no doubt that the 'Honey Week Promotion' made a real impact in Christchurch but unfortunately beekeepers did not ultimately reap the benefit. However, all would have benefited from the experience and should such a scheme be repeated in future some valuable lessons have been learnt.

PACKERS DIVISION: Following a meeting of Packers held in the course of the 1967 Conference, Executive were asked to liaise with the Packers in the formation of a Packers' Division. We regret to have to advise that this liaison was not particularly effective as the two representatives appointed by the packers found they were unable to continue to act. A Packers' Association has been formed but this is not in any way affiliated to the National Beekeepers' Association nor have any discussions been held with them.

H.M.A. ELECTIONS: Early in the year the Association was advised that it was proposed to amend the Honey Marketing Authority Regulations governing the election of members by providing for the Returning Officer to be appointed by the Association. Previous practice has been for the Returning Officer to be appointed from the Department of Agriculture. Discussions were held with the Authority on this and other matters relating to the elections and it was considered to be a good opportunity to review the whole basis of electing members to the Authority. Branches were invited to discuss this matter and submit their views. It is proposed to have further discussions with the Authority to endeavour to make the basis of election as wide and as equitable as possible.

LEGISLATION: We have been advised that it is proposed to consolidate the 1927 Apiaries Act. This means that the various amendments thereto, together with the regulations are reviewed, appropriate alterations made, and the Act rewritten. We have been kept informed of progress on this matter by Departmental Officers but as yet the matter has not proceeded to the stage where the proposed alterations can be made known to branches. As soon as it is possible all Branches will receive details of the proposed legislation and it will be necessary for meetings to be held immediately, as there will be limited time for the Association to make representation on the matters contained therein.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE: Our involvement in the National Development Conference has only become clear since the end of the year under review. The Agricultural Production Council has established a working committee to consider, amongst other things, the potential for expansion both within New Zealand and overseas markets for honey and its by-products. Details on various aspects of the industry will be sought from beekeepers and opportunity will be given during Conference for further discussion on this matter.

MARKETING STUDY: In my report to the 1967 Conference I advised "that the Association was unable to afford the cost of a full study on New Zealand honey marketing as proposed by Massey University, but a partial study on New Zealand honey marketing as proposed by Massey University, but a partial study has been sponsored by Arataki Apiaries to whom all members will be most grateful". The result of this study was made known to Beekeepers in September and was considered by Executive at their October meeting. The report being a partial study, considered the role played by the Honey Marketing Authority in the marketing of honey in New Zealand. The Executive were of the opinion that the report was a useful basis for discussion and commends again the initiative shown by Arataki Apiaries Ltd in making this report possible. It was felt necessary, however, by Executive that attention should be drawn to the fact that the report had limited value.

BRANCHES: Branches have been active throughout the year in sponsoring regular meetings and field days and one of the real benefits of being a member of the Association is being able to join in these activities. It is noted that the Southland and Gore Branches have amalgamated and this must help to give greater participation and widen the scope of knowledge being shared amongst members. In future, branch presidents will also receive a copy of circulars and reports that are sent to branch secretaries. This service is expected to assist in the planning of branch meetings.

JOURNAL: A most valuable source of information on Association's activities and beekeeping trends throughout the world is "The New Zealand Beekeeper", and it is gratifying to note that the increase in subscriptions and advertising rates has not had any marked effect by loss of support from subscribers and advertisers. The magazine is widely distributed overseas and it is indeed a tribute to the Editor, Mr Goss, that the material he is able to publish is so keenly sought after. We are indebted to Mr Goss and to the many people who submit articles for publication.

HORTICULTURAL PRODUCERS COUNCIL: Your Association has continued to be represented at meetings of the Horticultural Producers Council. One of the main matters being considered by this Council has been the examinations conducted by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, and consideration has been given to encouraging a greater interest in this examination. It is not proposed that standards be lowered but rather that subjects which are not pertinent to beekeeping be eliminated and the syllabus rearranged in such a way that a candidate can gain a certificate of attainment at different levels through the course.

RESEARCH: A very full report upon the research programme being carried out by Mr Trevor Palmer-Jones and Mr Ivor Forster has been forwarded to branch secretaries and will be available at Conference. I am certain that not only will this report receive very favourable comment but will prove most valuable for our Conference discussions. We look forward to a continuation of the receipt of such a report prior to each Conference.

FEDERATED FARMERS: Some branches have maintained a very close liaison with local Federated Farmers branches. The Association has always enjoyed representation on the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers but has had little cause to be involved in the activities of the Council. Recently, Federated Farmers have carried out a re-organisation and the Association will be more closely allied to the activities of Federated Farmers by being a member of its Agriculture Produce Section. Mr Winslade attended the Annual Conference of this section which was held in Oamaru, and the Association has been asked to appoint a representative to the section.

At the Council Meeting of the Federation held in April, a remit was passed bringing members' attention to the desirability of planting trees which would be beneficial to beekeepers. We have now been asked to supply to the Federation a schedule of trees which would be useful to the industry, and which could be utilised by the farmer for his timber requirements.

FINANCIAL: It is disappointing that both branch activities and Association activities have shown a deficit for the year. It is noted, however, that the deficit so far as branch activities are concerned has occurred through the Honey Queen promotion and the 1967 Conference. As these were projects undertaken for the first occasion it was expected that there would have been costs incurred, and undue concern need not be felt because of this.

The deficit shown in the Association's accounts of \$74.00 is not a large amount but it does illustrate the close watch which needs to be kept upon the Association's level of expenditure and the need for a strong financial membership.

LIAISON: Throughout the year we have enjoyed a most excellent liaison with the Honey Marketing Authority through its Chairman, Mr Jack Fraser. His attendance at Executive meetings has helped to keep us and the industry well informed.

Mr Greig, Director of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture has been readily available to discuss matters with the Association and we are indebted to him and Mr Smaellie for their attendance at our Executive meetings.

Mr T. Palmer-Jones has willingly kept us up to date on matters pertaining to research.

To all these gentlemen we offer our grateful thanks.

I thank all members for their support and assistance during the year and extend special thanks to the National Executive and our General Secretary Keith Moody.

I have had another interesting year and as I shall not be available for continued office I take this opportunity of wishing my successor as rewarding an experience as I have had.

To the beekeeping industry I extend my very best wishes for its future.

T. S. WHEELER

President.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETS BEFORE AND AFTER CONFERENCE

Business on the order paper for Conference necessitated prolonged meetings of Executive, which met from 2 p.m. until 11 pm on Monday and on Tuesday from 9 am until nearly mid-night to discuss and finalise arrangements for the open sessions and to receive informally Departmental heads and their attitudes to common problems.

Close attention was given to information provided by the Chairman of the HMA on current trading conditions and the acquisition of two packing plants in the South Island previously conducted as private enterprises, and Executive was able to present their intentions to move a motion at Conference changing the basis of votes for producer members to the board.

Departmental officers present by invitation were Messrs Greig, Director of Horticulture, Smaellie, Superintendent, Beekeeping, J. H. Watt, Assistant Director, Horticulture, and A. Bennett, apiary instructor for the Waikato. From Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, Messrs T. Palmer-Jones and P. G. Clinch were able to make valuable contributions with their scientific knowledge and their views on some remits to be placed before Conference. Executive were of the opinion that constructive progress had been made toward solving some of the problems jointly confronting the industry and the Department, and were appreciative of the co-operation given.

The same officers were present and answered questions throughout the currency of Conference.

In the light of the discussions and exchange of views, proposals will now be made for some restrictions to be removed from the industry.

Following closure of Conference, the first meeting of the newly elected Executive was held at which the new representatives for the North and the South Islands attended. Business referred from Conference was briefly discussed, and tentative arrangements made for a meeting in Wellington during October next, unless urgent business necessitates otherwise.

PASSION VINE HOPPERS

This the third season, that the Passion Vine Hopper Committee has been making observations, has not varied greatly from the previous two. Cotton tails were first noticed about the same time each year as were winged adults. Although the hopper was plentiful on garden vegetation, infestation on tutu bushes varied greatly, some with patches of infestation, others lightly infested, or with no cotton tails at all.

The first cotton tails, pin head size, were seen on a grape vine at Whakatane on Nov. 22 and by December, cotton tails were becoming easily noticeable around gardens in built up areas.

On Dec. 3 Mr B. Jones reported that sparrows were feeding on cotton tails in his garden at Whakatane.

On Dec. 8 cotton tails were seen on tutu on the old road at Otamarakau. These were small and hard to find. In Valley Road at Whakatane, tutu bushes had some hopper showing but no honey dew was seen.

On Dec. 22 adult winged hoppers were about but mostly in cotton tail stage and about half grown.

On Jan. 30 '68 winged hoppers were seen on tutu at Otamarakau but little honey dew and no bees were present.

Reports from Waikato and Auckland areas were similar to previous years.

By the end of April the winged hopper had laid their eggs and disappeared.

NOTE: At the conclusion of Mr Ward's report and an explanation by him of the observations involved, it was unanimously resolved that the Tutu Committee be asked to continue their voluntary work for the industry for a further year, after which time the situation would again be reviewed.

LIBRARY

It is a pleasure to be able to report that the last 18 months period has seen a considerable improvement in the inquiry for books. For the first four years, the yearly average of books loaned was eleven, but during the last 18 months the yearly average has grown to 40 books, and at this rate there is justification for having a Library.

This greater borrowing has shown the type of book which is in demand, and an order has been placed for more new books to be imported.

The income from Loan Fees more than covers the cost of packing and postages and the funds held in trust remain intact as shown by the Bank Statement herewith.

Suggestions by the Executive that the Library Committee make funds available to purchase photographic film for Bursary Students while travelling overseas received the full approval of this Committee.

Donations of further books and publications have enhanced the Library and the donors are sincerely thanked.

The Editor of the N.Z. BEEKEEPER has donated a good selection of Magazines of interest to Beekeepers and these are available on request.

Chris Dawson, Hon. Librarian,
Timaru.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

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PAPANUI



AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOARD

Matters directly related to the honey industry's welfare only rarely come before the Board but indirectly, beekeepers, along with other sections of the community, benefit greatly from the control which it exercises over the whole field of chemical application to the land.

Should a serious emergency occur affecting our interests, the Board's influence can be quickly brought to bear on the problem. Complete solutions are not always readily found, but an earnest endeavour to establish co-operation between offending and offended parties often results in the establishment of a situation where both can continue to work with a minimum of loss and disturbance.

When the great volume of chemicals currently applied to agricultural crops, horticultural crops, and pastures is taken into account, especially the amount of highly toxic insecticides used, it seems impossible to expect that beekeepers can completely escape loss, but, with the safeguards we enjoy in New Zealand, they can be kept to a low minimum where production is not materially affected.

It is important not to overlook the benefits derived from chemical usage. The conversion of large tracts of practically useless land into first class pasture, and the control of weeds and insect pests in established pasture with chemical aid, must have improved prospects for honey production in many areas.

As your representative, the welfare of the beekeeping industry is my special consideration and I can supply on the spot information on any matters likely to affect our interests, in the same manner as other Board members representing specific primary production, manufacturing, or commercial interests are able to do.

The Board's field of operation is very wide indeed, and to accept membership involves considerable responsibility, covering such matters as registration of chemicals, labelling, recommendation of specific research programmes, testing chemicals for suitability, residues in produce, plant damage from hormones, pasture pests, standards and nomenclature, publicity, effects on wildlife, and public health.

In addition, the current problems of chemical manufacturers, Federated Farmers, fruitgrowers, vegetable and produce growers, grain, seed and produce merchants, grape growers and beekeepers must all be dealt with as fairly and expeditiously as possible. The secretariat is under heavy pressure at all times.

Canterbury's Epidemic of Grass Grub and Porina

Periodically some particular area is involved in a special problem. In autumn last year, Canterbury suffered an epidemic outbreak of grass grub and porina caterpillar attack. Many hundreds, possibly thousands of acres of excellent pasture land were devastated. The Board visited the area in association with representatives from Federated Farmers, in order that all Board members would gain first hand knowledge of the serious economic loss involved in such an outbreak, and to assist in making decisions calculated to effect a remedy.

The Board's subsequent recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture to make greatly increased funds available for an intensified research programme, designed to combat the pests, was acted on promptly. In addition, short term attack was stepped up appreciably.

A field programme to control early infestation of Porina caterpillar, resulted in the application of large quantities of organo phosphorous compounds to pastures, some of which carried an unusual amount of late flowering clover. A loss of field bees occurred over a wide area, but being so late in the season, the consequences were not serious from a hive population point of view, and the honey crop was not affected. Our loss of valuable clover pasture for next year would have been a much more serious matter if the pest had been allowed to run its full course.

PACKAGE BEES

1968-69 SEASON

A large number of bees of proper age at the time of the Honey Flow is essential if maximum honey crops are to be secured.

Replace your winter losses and build up your weak colonies with package bees from the "Winterless North".

We can supply 2 and 3 lb packages of young bees with strong virile young Italian queens that tests have proved to build up to good honey producing strength in approx. 10 weeks.

All queens and bees are from disease free apiaries and packed with generous over-weight allowance.

PRICES FOR DELIVERY OCTOBER 1st ONWARD

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Oct. 1-7	\$3.70	\$4.40
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All insecticides are potentially dangerous to bees. Our real safeguard lies in the timing of application. In this regard the Apiary Protection Regulations 1957, are of the utmost importance.

Case-bearer moth is still a matter for concern amongst beekeepers in clover seed growing areas. Conditional on straw being ploughed under or burned, DDT wettable powder may be used under permit. Two applications of 1 lb. per acre are usually required to protect the crop adequately. DDT is by far the safest insecticide as far as toxicity to bees is concerned. As a spray, it is also very effective against case-bearer moth. However, farmers are very residue conscious. They tend to prefer other non-residue forming materials, most of which are more hazardous from our point of view.

The testing of chemicals and the research carried out by Mr T. Palmer-Jones in this field should be widely appreciated by beekeepers.

Play Safe with Chemicals

At some time during the coming Spring and Summer, you will probably be a user of chemicals.

Far too frequently, acts of negligence, causing death, are brought to the Board's notice. During the year under review, two very young children died as a result of inhaling a rose dusting preparation containing 7% of Lindane. In preparation for the treatment of roses, the insecticide was placed, in its container, on a table. A telephone call took the parent away from the scene for a short time. The child gained access to the material and in some manner inhaled a portion of the contents. In the other case the child was found playing with a broken packet of the rose spray powder.

Both children died.

There seemed to be a veiled inference that the Board, having some time previously registered this product and approved its label, was not entirely without blame, if only for the fact that it had allowed a label to be used on which some lifelike rose blooms appeared. The label could perhaps have induced the children to smell the picture blooms.

In the light of these tragedies perhaps you can better understand my desire to reiterate some warning advice to exercise the greatest care.

T. E. Pearson, N.B.A. Representative.

SOUTH ISLAND SEMINAR

at Timaru — September 5 & 6.

A 1968 South Island Seminar and Field Day is to be held for beekeepers on Thursday September 5 and Friday September 6 under the auspices of the NBA.

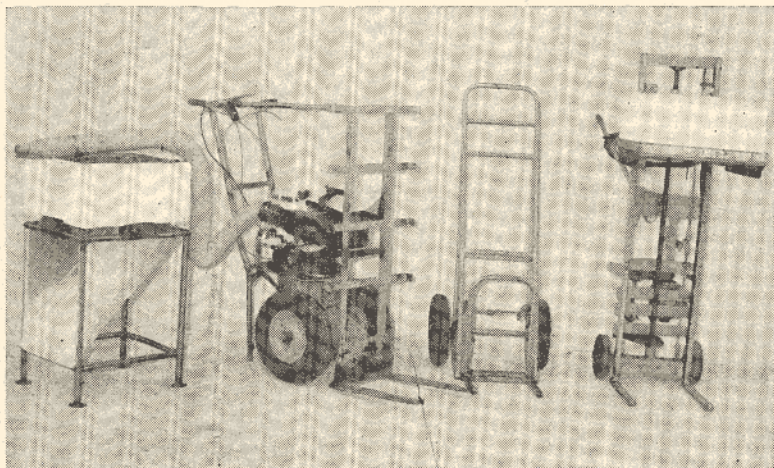
Venue will be the Caroline Bay Tea-rooms at Timaru, and an instructive programme has been prepared to cover a wide variety of subjects of interest to members of the industry.

Speakers will include Messrs. E. Smaellie, Superintendent, Beekeeping, Department of Agriculture, V. A. Cook, Apiary Instructor at Oamaru, V. G. Henderson, District Commissioner of Taxes, G. M. Walton, Apicultural Advisory Officer and R. S. (Bob) Walsh,

Apicultural Officer at Auckland, with a member of the board of the HMA.

Proceedings will commence at 9.45 am on September 5 with an address by a speaker from the Agricultural Production Council under the chairmanship of National Executive member F. Bartrum, who will be joined by co-chairmen Harry Cloake and L. G. Lyttle. Chairman for the field day will be Vince Cook.

Every beekeeper within travelling distance is enjoined to attend, and advance notification to Fred Bartrum at Pleasant Point, South Canterbury, will assist the convenors with their arrangements.



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POLLEN SUPPLEMENTS FOR HONEY BEE COLONIES

Trials During 1967 by I. W. Forster

**Technical Officer, Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, Department of
Agriculture, Wellington.**

INTRODUCTION

The Te Pirita district in mid-Canterbury, just north of the Rakaia River, is about 20 miles inland. The area is mainly flat, clean pasture land broken by belts of pine trees.

Sources of early pollen are rather meagre and consist of gorse hedges and wattle. Kowhais, on the banks of the Rakaia, are worked by apiaries sited some distance away. Later these pollen sources are followed by small amounts of broom and dandelion.

Bee colonies in the area have a history of loss of strength during early spring. Colonies examined in early August 1967 appeared to be rather short of pollen, and trials were undertaken to study responses to pollen supplements.

EXPERIMENTAL

The pattern of the trials followed that described previously (Forster 1966, 1968).

Two apiaries one of 14 and the other of 13 hives were used. Three groups of three hives in each apiary were fed either a mixture of soya bean flour, dried yeast, and dried skim milk (S.B.Y.M.); soya bean flour and dried yeast (S.B.Y.); or Krawaite. Three hives in one apiary and two in the other were fed an amount of sugar equal in cost to about three-quarters of that of the Krawaite. Controls, two hives in each apiary, were fed the approximate amount of sugar contained in the weights of S.B.Y.M., S.B.Y., and Krawaite supplements fed to experimental hives. The latter three supplements were fed in the form of soft candy, and sugar as a syrup (two parts sugar to one part water by volume).

Half pound pats of S.B.Y.M., S.B.Y., or Krawaite, wrapped in paper, were placed over the brood and as close to it as possible. The paper was broken on the underside, giving bees ready access to the supplement, while exposing a minimum surface to the effects of drying and mould growth. Hives were fed on 14th, 18th and 30th August. After the first feeding, rates of feeding were based on consumption, although in some Krawaite-fed hives all the supplement had been consumed before the next visit.

Brood combs were counted at the beginning and end of the trial. A comb of brood was taken to mean one completely filled with brood on both sides. On 6th September, when the final brood counts were made, it was considered the hives had sufficient natural pollen for their wants.

RESULTS

Weights of supplements consumed are shown in Table 2. Some of the unused supplements left in the hives may have been consumed after the trial concluded.

DISCUSSION

Any adverse effect due to pollen shortage was of short duration. Favourable foraging weather allowed adequate supplies of natural pollen to be gathered throughout the trial.

The gain in brood area for sugar-fed hives was nearly double that of Krawaite-fed hives and controls. The two latter groups gained double the brood area of hives fed soya bean mixtures (Table 2).

The amount of protein supplied did not appear to affect brood-rearing, since brood increase was sensibly dependent on the weight of sugar fed (Table 1). The amount of brood increase for the group fed sugar was probably the maximum that could be cared for by the nurse bees.

SUMMARY

Bee colonies in an area of supposedly marginal pollen supplies consumed pollen supplements. However, except for hives receiving large amounts of sugar, brood increases for hives receiving supplements were not significantly greater than those for control hives.

Sugar fed in amounts approximately equal in cost to that of the dearest supplement gave brood increases greater than those for other supplements or control groups. Brood increases appeared to be dependent on the amount of sugar fed rather than the amount of protein available. But adequate supplies of natural pollen were gathered throughout the trail because of favourable weather. Pollen deficiency is rare in New Zealand but if definite symptoms of pollen shortage become apparent in hives the soya bean flour-dried yeast supplement developed in New Zealand, and available locally, should be fed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Krawaite used in these trials was generously supplied by Messrs. Kraft Foods Ltd., Melbourne, Australia.

The author is grateful to Mr. L. A. M. Griffin, Apiary Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Christchurch, for assistance in setting up the trial; Messrs. Bray and Gossett, Leeston, kindly made apiaries available; and Mr. Noel Rothwell, Hororata, helped by supplying information on seasonal conditions.

Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, Scientist, Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, Department of Agriculture, Wellington, checked the results.

REFERENCES

- FORSTER, I. W. 1966: Pollen supplements for honey bee colonies. *N.Z. Beekeeper* 28: 14-21.
 FORSTER, I. W. 1968: Pollen supplements for honey bee colonies. Trials during 1966. *N.Z. Beekeeper* 30: 2-8.

TABLE 1 — POLLEN SUPPLEMENT INGREDIENTS

Supplement	Soya bean flour	Dried yeast	Dried skim milk	Sugar	Added water	Total protein	Price per pound (in bulk)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
S.B.Y.M.	28	3	7	32	30	18	.10
S.B.Y.	34	4		32	30	20	.11
Krawaite*				34		13	.25

* Amounts of ingredients other than sugar and protein not known.

TABLE 2 — POLLEN SUPPLEMENT EXPERIMENTS 1967
 Average per hive of total amount fed, amount used or unused, cost, and brood increase.
 Te Pirita (14th August—6th September)

Group	Amount of Supplement (oz)			Sugar content of supplements consumed (oz)	Cost supplements and sugar fed \$	(combs Brood increase per hive)
	Fed	Used	Unused			
S.B.Y.	18.6	11.1	7.5	3.5	.13	.5
Krawaite	32	32	0	11	.50	1.2
Sugar *	96	96	0	96	.36	2.2
Control	9	9	0	9	.03	1.2
S.B.Y.M.	22.6	15.3	7.3	4.9	.14	.7

* 0.375c per oz.

BEEKEEPING



On Niue Island

By J. B. MACKISACK

One cold, wet evening 4 years ago I read an article about a part-time beekeeper on a Pacific Island who worked bees in shorts, in almost perpetual summer, and received few if any bee stings. Being down in the dumps with the cold weather and stinging, unhappy bees, I thought what a great sort of life this would be. It was no more than a mildly pleasant dream.

The following autumn I mentioned the article on Pacific beekeeping to a staff member of the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority in Auckland. He informed me that they were already receiving small shipments of honey from a few hives kept on a place called Niue Island. Interesting at the time, the information soon became buried under the everyday rush of events.

The subject came up again in a conversation with Mr Colin Rope, Government Honey Grader at the Honey Marketing Depot, who gave me a sample of Niue Honey and worked out the amounts of honey sent to Auckland over past years.

These records made me really interested. I heard that Mr R. Walsh, Apiary Advisory Officer of the Department of Agriculture, had been requested to make a survey of the possibilities of commercial beekeeping on Niue following reports received from Mr Colin Gosse, then Manager of the N.Z. HMA. I rang Mr Walsh who was soon to leave for Niue, and informed him of my interest in beekeeping in the Islands. While Mr Walsh was away on his survey trip I asked the Department of Island Territories Auckland Office for all available information on Niue and soon afterwards met Mr A. J. Neil, Economic Development Officer for Niue, who had just returned from the Island, and who was later to become a tower of strength in making the necessary business arrangements.

On the return of Mr Walsh, from whom I received a detailed and favourable report, I wrote to the Resident Commissioner of Niue, Mr L. A. Shanks, putting up a tentative proposal for a beekeeping business. Things began to move rapidly, and it was agreed that we should undertake a trial run with 55 hives of bees. The purpose of this was to test how the hives would travel in the ship's cooler, how they would stand being unloaded in lighters at Niue, and whether they would establish themselves after their journey. Discussions also took place as to the form the business would take and the assistance that would be necessary from the Government of Niue.



The South sea island atmosphere well portrayed in this shot of the newly erected honey house of the Niue Island Honey Company. In the foreground is truck loaded with supers about to be extracted.

The result of these discussions was the formation of the Niue Honey Company Limited, in which the Niue Development Board became a shareholder. The purpose of the Company was to purchase 650 hives of bees and ship them from New Zealand to Niue, together with a light truck and trailer, and all the necessary plant and equipment to set up a honey processing factory on the Island. A building for this purpose was commenced soon after the formation of the Company. The planning that was necessary to ensure that we arrived on Niue with everything down to the last "bolt and tack" after a 2000 mile journey with the first shipment of the main hives, caused many restless nights.

The trial run with 55 hives took place in March 1967. Strong hives were selected, and loaded into the cooler space in the Union Company's Pacific Islands vessel "Tofua", and kept at a temperature of approximately 55°F in the dark, where they travelled very well. The bees were watered daily through screens in the top of each hive. By the time the ship had been at sea for seven days many hives were impatient to get out, and the bees rushed to the screens as soon as any light was shown. During this first voyage there was considerable anxiety. Nothing must go wrong such as mass escape of bees through hives being broken open. If the crew and passengers of the Tofua were to be terrorised by swarms of bees on this trip, there would be little hope of future trips on the same ship.

On arrival at Niue the unloading went smoothly enough, although some of the Niuean cargo workers were not very happy when they saw a few bees escaping. The sudden rise of temperature from 55° in the hold to approximately 85° outside gave us some anxiety. The hives were loaded into containers in the hold for their trip ashore in lighters. In spite of being "lightered" ashore, loaded on to trucks, and transported two miles to an unloading area, no hives were lost as a unit. Some hives lost many bees by being partly smothered with the high temperature during the time taken to complete their unloading and release. It was estimated that approximately one third of the hives lost half strength of bees, the balance having losses of varying lesser numbers. Much was learnt from this trial shipment, which took place in summer conditions, as a result of which 300 hives were transported in the following July and another 300 in August without the loss of a single hive.

For the main shipments the hives were trucked to a central checking and packing area in the Waikato, then trucked 90 miles to Auckland, loaded into the ship's cooler and carried more than 2000 miles over the normal route of the Tofua, through Suva, Pagopago, and Apia to the port of Alofi, Niue Island. After unloading, less than 1% of the Queen Bees were found to be lost, or no more than is often lost in a major trucking operation in New Zealand.

I lost a lot of weight and was almost a physical wreck after each unloading! The worry and anxiety took more out of me than the actual physical work and the heat, both of which were considerable, even with the willing assistance of Niuean helpers. A huge sigh of relief went up when the first 300 hives were set out in one big field as a staging area. All were checked for release, screens removed, and lids put on. The screens were packed up and sent back on the same ship for use with the next lot of hives.

The next big job was to clear 30 odd apiary sites in the bush, and fit up a workshop and extracting plant in the new factory building. My son Murray, who had come to assist in the "settling-in" stage, and our worthy Niuean assistant, Foster Ikimau, had plenty to do, as extra hive equipment had to be made up in addition to all the other work.

The weather during the first two months or so was not favourable to the build-up of hive strength. The hives did not, in fact, reach full working strength until November, and were at their best shortly before Christmas. Honey was taken and extracted from August onwards in increasing amounts up until a peak in January and held steady until a most unwelcome hurricane in February cut off production completely. During this period we have extracted and shipped to New Zealand approximately 40 tons of honey. During most weeks we would extract only for one or two days and put through two or three tons per day. Although production for the period was not as high as had been hoped, we know that we would have reached 10 tons per 100 hives had it not been for the hurricane. Everything was "booming".

A preliminary warning of the hurricane came during Thursday the 8th of February 1968. After the "final" warning early the following morning, hives that were not already "strapped" had to be attended to by several very frantic and anxious "men on the run" with a strapping machine. The work went on during the Friday right up until the wind became too strong and conditions became too dangerous with falling branches and trees. It was a very unpleasant experience with the winds reaching 100 miles per hour, first from one direction and then from the opposite direction. Almost all the trees and shrubs were stripped bare of leaves and many branches were torn off. No hives were lost, although many had narrow escapes from falling trees and branches. Some hives could scarcely be seen for the debris and rubbish strewn over them, but they were safe underneath, although the bees were very bad-tempered. Seldom in 30 years of beekeeping have I seen bees so cross as during and immediately after the hurricane.

So ends a brief summary of the main events in the starting of a new industry for Niue. We came, of course, to produce honey. We also came to help the Island's economy, and to train Niueans to eventually take over the business. The shares held by the Niue Development Board and also probably my own shares will be available to any Niueans who can prove themselves capable and willing to carry on with this rewarding way of life. For myself there has been the challenge of setting up a new industry from scratch, and the satisfaction of building up a unit which must benefit the economy of the Island, both with income from exports and the service the bees give in pollination. This will be especially so when the industry is built up to 2,000 hives, which I estimate to be the Island's potential. A huge quantity of honey awaits to be gathered in many Pacific Islands, given the right men, the funds, and the ability to work bees under tropical conditions, which is not always easy!

There are problems with hives in the Islands which do not occur in New Zealand or in other temperate climates. Bees clog up the queen's brood nest with nectar and so retard breeding; it is a continuous job moving combs to overcome this. Often extra brood boxes are put underneath so that the queen works down to empty combs. Honey flows come in short breaks, almost, but not quite, continuously. There is no swarming and generally little, if any, stinging. When working at the hives, the flies are usually more troublesome than the bees. In the

relative humidity averaging 90% and an average summer temperature in the high 80's, it is not easy to do sustained physical work. I have never been cold here, seldom even cool. A day spent robbing hives, with the high loss of body liquid through perspiration, leaves one physically exhausted. Temperatures are seldom below 70°F and sometimes reach 90° and the high humidity is a very trying factor in the climate. On the other hand the average annual temperature of 76.6° is ideal for continuous beekeeping, and this means continuous, with no winter slack periods as in cooler climates.

Most of the honey comes from forest trees and shrubs, with which most of the Island is covered. A small amount comes from tropical legumes which have been introduced for pasture. Some trees flower twice a year; one type has been observed to flower in December and again in March; another species flowers in July and again in early December.

In spite of some setbacks, I have faith in this Island, to the extent that plans are now being made to purchase and import another 600 hives during the winter. The dream that I had more than four years ago of running a tropical beekeeping industry, clad in only short and sandals, has now become a reality. I have been working bees now for a year under these conditions—hat and beeveil are not always needed—and can see no difficulties in the way of increasing the number of hives to 1200 or even more.

NOTE: Since writing his interesting report, further news from Mr Mackisack is that the hurricane killed a major proportion of bird life on the island, the natural sequence of which is a destructive invasion and explosion of caterpillars. As soon as buds of leaves or bloom begin to form, the moving mass of caterpillars eat them away, destroying the possibility of blossom later in the year. Urgent enquiries are being made to see if ornithologists can suggest the importation of captured birds to destroy the pest. The alternative of spraying with pesticide would also entail the decimation of hives.

OBITUARY

MR I. A. MACKINNON.

With deep regret we record the passing of Mr I. A. Mackinnon who died recently in Oamaru at the age of 62. Born and educated in Oamaru he worked for the Oamaru Mail for over 20 years where he was a linotype operator. In 1946 he became interested in beekeeping as a hobby and in 1952 took up commercial beekeeping at Otiake near Kurow, a business which he operated until his death.

Ian took a keen interest in the affairs of the National Beekeepers Association. He was secretary of the North Otago Branch for five years and President for two years. The honour of branch life membership was conferred on him in May 1968. A man with the courage of his convictions, Ian would always state his point of view no matter what the opposition and thus contributed much to the deliberations of National Beekeepers Association meetings.

Mr Mackinnon was also interested in caged birds which he bred and showed with success. He was a foundation member of the Oamaru Rowing Club.

He is survived by his wife.

(I.F.)

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A Simplified Pollen Trap for Use on Colonies of Honey Bees

By Emmett R. Harp

Entomology Research Division U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture made the plans and specifications of the Emmett R. Harp pollen trap available for testing under New Zealand conditions, and their ready co-operation is appreciated. Phil Muir of Auckland, a hobbyist beekeeper and practical handyman made up a trap with the assistance of K. N. Bates, the Apiary Instructor for Auckland at the request of the Editor, and their comments are detailed herewith:

"The pollen trap was constructed in late autumn and placed on a fairly strong hive. In seven days of unsettled weather trapped pollen amounted to 4 ounces when dried out in a solar melter. Some difficulty in obtaining the correct wire mesh from local manufacturers was experienced, but a supply was eventually found. All other materials were readily available. One small improvement suggested is that the lid (marked 'A' on the plan) be made so as to fit completely over the pollen trap. The lid made to instructions showed a tendency to warp and allowed a considerable amount of moisture into the pollen tray. In other respects, the trap proved itself to be highly successful and provides a means of harvesting pollen where artificial feeding may be required during a pollen dearth".

Trap Design

I designed the trap so that it can be inserted at any level of the colony, except on the bottom. Figure 1 shows it in position on the colony. The best place to insert it on a single-queen colony is between the upper brood chambers, as shown in figure 1. On a two-queen colony, insert it between the two brood nests.

Bees tend to drop litter to the lower parts of the hive. If the trap is located at the bottom of the colony, the bees will contaminate the pollen tray with debris. My trap is used in an elevated position; therefore, the pollen remains cleaner than in old-style traps. Figure 2 shows the design of the trap.

Materials Required

A list of the parts required for the trap is provided in table 1. Each part is labelled with a letter of the alphabet to correspond with the letter appearing on that particular part in figure 2.

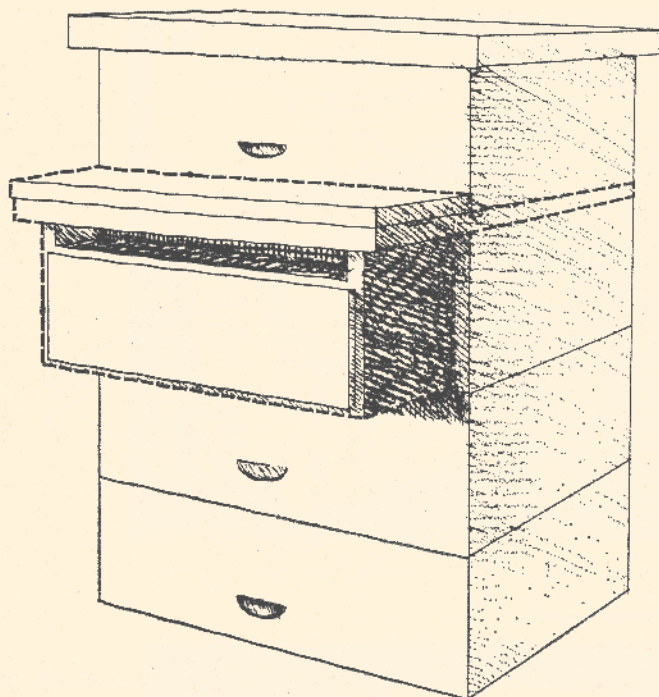


Figure 1:
The pollen trap
shown in position
on the colony.

TABLE 1. — Materials required to build simplified trap for collecting pollen for use in feeding honey bees during spring buildup.

Item in figure 2 and description	Pieces required	Measurements 1/
Lumber	Number	Inches
A, cover	1	1/2 by 7 1/4 by 16 1/2
B, trap hanger	2	1/4 by 1 by 16 1/4
C, endpiece 2/	2	1 by 5 3/4 by 7 1/4
D, grid support (side)	2	3/4 by 3/4 by 12
E, pollen deflector (end) 3/	2	3/4 by 3/4 by 4 1/4
H, tray support	2	3/4 by 3/4 by 5 3/4
I, back of tray	1	1 by 3 1/2 by 12
J, end of tray	2	1 by 3 1/2 by 5 5/8
K, front of tray	1	1 by 4 by 12 3/4
L, side trap support	2	1 by 1 1/2 by 24 3/4
M, end trap support	2	1 by 1 1/2 by 16 1/4
Unlettered bottom piece	1	1 by 4 7/8 by 10 1/2
Metal hardware cloth		
F, grid 5 mesh/sq. in.	1	12 1/2 by 5 4/
G, tray cover 7 or 8 mesh/sq. in.	1	12 1/2 by 5 3/4

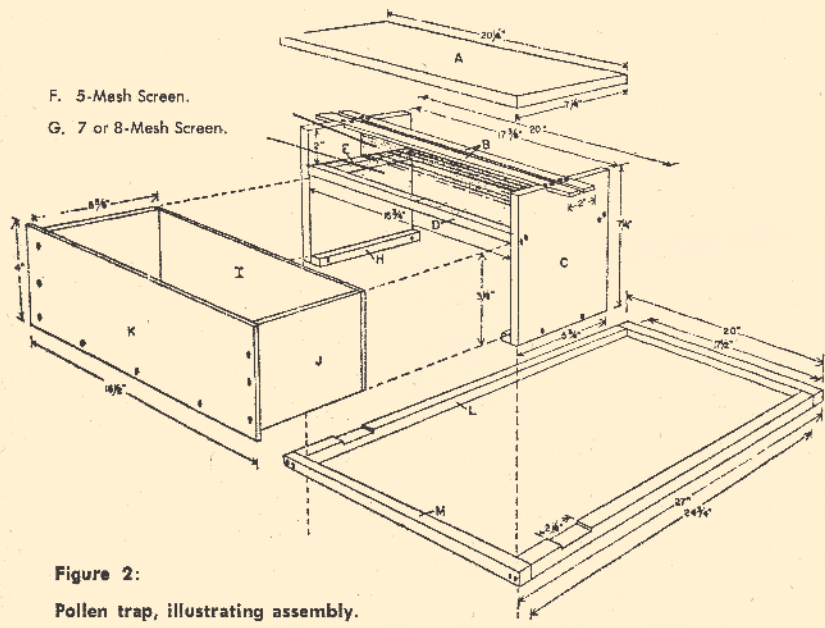


Figure 2:
 Pollen trap, illustrating assembly.

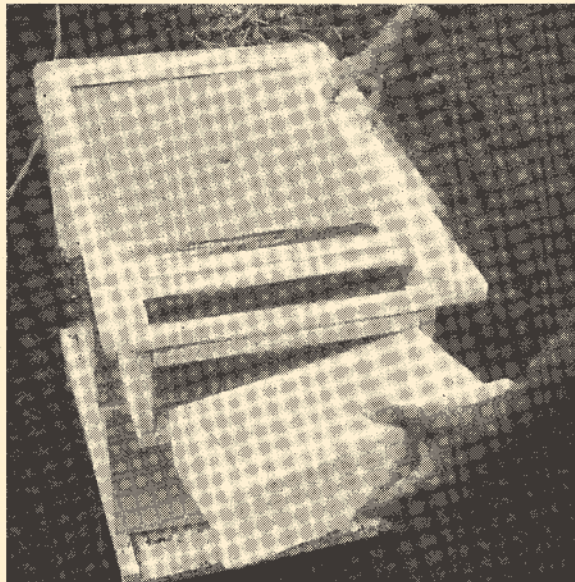


Figure 3:
 The pollen trap resting on the hive lid to illustrate outer shape of frame construction and removable drawer into which pollen falls after the bees have passed through the wire gauze.

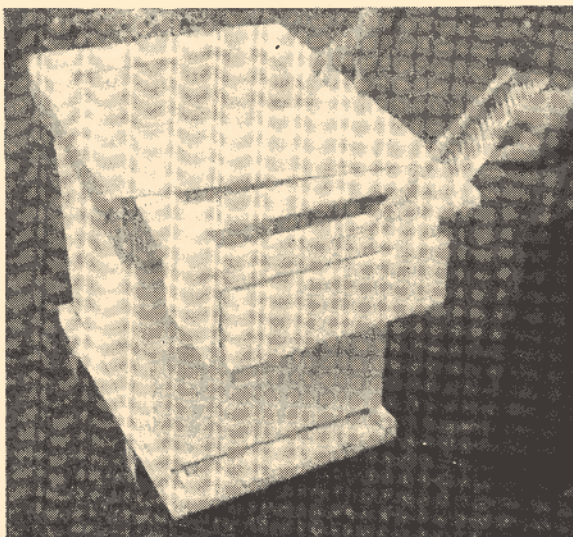


Figure 4. Clearly seen is the wire gauze through which the bees pass to gain entrance, and in so doing scrape off the pollen from their legs. Pollen drops into the drawer shown partly open.

1. Measurements given are for Langstroth hives.
2. With $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep saw kerf, 2 inches from end, and notches $\frac{3}{8}$ inch apart for B, as shown in fig. 2.
3. With top bevelled to deflect pollen.
4. Extra inch used in upper fold to keep grid separated.

Note that the tray has a bottom piece, which could not be shown in figure 2. All the pieces for the trap can be cut and assembled in a few minutes, and the materials needed are easily available. I used pine lumber but another type of lumber or even scrap material could be used just as well.

Assembly of Trap

When the lumber has been cut and the other parts have been prepared, assemble the trap as follows: Place endpieces C with saw kerfs (tray cover guides) up. Nail on pollen deflector E below saw kerf $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from either side, and nail tray support H flush with E and the edge of endpiece C. Nail on pieces B, which serve as the vertical grid guide and trap hanger. Then insert tray cover G and tack to D if necessary. Fold 1 inch of the vertical grid F over and press flat. Then fold again to form a V-bend at contact point with tray cover. The first fold will maintain proper spacing of the grid. This spacing accounts for the extra inch in width of 5-mesh screen in F. Assemble tray I, J, and K and trap support L and M.

Fitting the Trap on the Colony

Install the trap support frame on the hive as shown in figure 1. The weight of the supers will hold the frame in place. The frame in turn will support the pollen trap. Close all other hive entrances so that the bees can enter the colony only one way—through the trap. Before the trap is inserted, the entrance should be positioned so the bees will become oriented to this location.

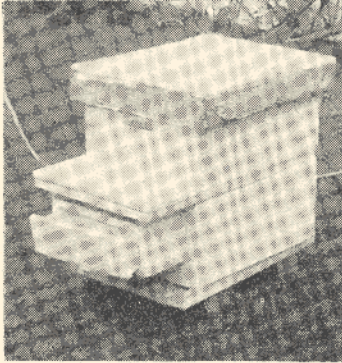


Figure 5:

The pollen trap in its correct position between two storeys. For the purpose of illustration, the drawer is shown partly open.

Maintaining the Trap

Remove the grid from the trap every fifth day to allow the bees to replenish their own pollen supply, which they need to maintain the colony. This will prevent curtailment of brood rearing and keep colony growth from being retarded.

In humid weather empty the trays every day to prevent the pollen from molding. Even in dry weather collect the pollen at least every 2 days.

Remember that it is important to the well-being of the colony to synchronize the trapping of pollen with the major pollen flows only. The amount trapped will depend on the intensity of the pollen flow.

Storing the Trapped Pollen

Freshly trapped pollen is perishable and must be frozen or dried. Store it in a deep freeze or dry it in a suitable drier until the pellets do not cake when you squeeze them in your hand. A 5-gallon honey can is an excellent container in which to store the dry pollen pellets.

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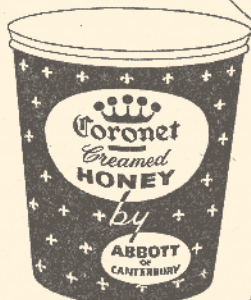
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INSURANCE SCHEME

FOR MEMBERS

Interested members have suggested that the Association should promote a scheme to offer superannuation and accident and sickness insurance at concessional rates and terms to members.

Other associations, institutes and professions have done this with a great deal of success and benefits granted for members have been well worth while.

SUPERANNUATION

All self-employed are faced with the problem of making provision for their ultimate retirement. We all intend to retire sometime but the question is—on what? . . . and when?

All our life we work to produce income, and occasionally there is a small surplus but this surplus is never enough to materially affect our way of life. More often than not the business is poised waiting to snatch up any spare capital.

Part of everything you earn should be yours to keep but the difficulty lies in saving it and keeping it saved. The benefits of using a Life Assurance Plan to create a fund for a planned retirement are recognised by many as here we have a guaranteed method of saving money for future delivery.

It also offers the privilege of you being sole judge of how much you can save regularly and from your gross income (within the limits prescribed by the Inland Revenue Department).

A plan that gives you a definite dollar goal to save for. You save on the instalment plan to buy a sum of money whenever you need it most.

A plan that takes care of one of three things that must happen in the future, either—

1. You will live to see your plan completed.
2. You will die before completing your plan.
3. You will quit somewhere on the way for reasons you can't foresee now.

The amount of capital you have for retirement or for any contingency depends on what you spend ahead.

By using such a plan, a self-employed man is not dependent on selling his business so that he can retire and even if, on reaching normal retirement age, a person decides to carry on working, there is a tremendous difference between working because you want to, and working because you have to.

A Group Scheme will offer such benefits as:-

1. Cheaper premiums.
2. Higher non-medical limits.
3. Convenience of payments.
4. Automatic cover up to agreed limits.

It is up to you and what you do now that sets the standard of your retirement.

ACCIDENTS AND SICKNESS

This form of cover can really be regarded as a loss of profits policy for the self-employed man. He can elect the amount of income he will receive in the event of his being unable to pursue his occupation due to accident or sickness. In this way he can make provision to have an income to cover the cost of:-

1. Employing replacement labour.
2. Maintaining regular payments or commitments.
3. Loss of income.
4. Medical expenses.

There are a great many different types of policies available and the adoption of a scheme ensures that the best rates and terms are available to members. As the scheme would be approved by the association, members can adopt it more readily as it would be vetted by a sub-committee set up specially for the purpose. This way of purchasing cover allays doubts for the member who hasn't the time or knowledge to investigate such things for himself.

The advantages are therefore:-

1. An approved policy.
2. Concession rates.
3. Automatic cover.

In order to gauge interest in any scheme a voting paper is included in this issue. Please complete this and return it to the Association Secretary. Providing sufficient interest is shown a sub-committee will be set up to consider the matter and a report will be made to members at a later date.

VOTING PAPER

I am interested in the proposed accident and sickness schemes and approve the association setting up a sub-committee to investigate.

I would prefer nothing to be done.

Please put an 'X' in the appropriate box and return to—

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BE OBSERVANT

says R. S. Walsh, Apiculturist, Auckland.

A great deal can be learned about conditions within the hive by observing bee activity and other signs at the hive entrance. Often vital corrective action can be taken when a knowledge of what to look for alerts the beekeeper to the fact that something is amiss within the colony.

Experienced beekeepers do not need to examine a colony to decide whether or not it has sufficient stores. By lifting the hive from behind they know by its weight exactly what the position is. During the spring in particular, when brood rearing is in full swing, to observe drone larvae and then worker larvae being pushed out of the entrance is a sure sign that the hive is out of stores. Again, later in the spring, to see drones being herded out of the hive is another warning that the bees need a few frames of honey or sugar syrup.

When the bees are seen to be bringing in plenty of pollen, it can be assumed that the colony has a laying queen. If there is no queen there is not much incentive for the bees to gather pollen although they will always collect some for their own needs.

Years ago when the writer was stationed in the South Island, hedge hogs were quite common and they had a partiality for eating bees. Their habit was to scrape their spines along the sides of the hive in order to disturb the bees and send some of them to the entrance to see what was going on. Of course they provided the hedge hogs with the meal they were waiting for. The point about all this is that the creatures appeared to have an uncanny way of sorting out a queenless hive, probably because these hives showed less fight. If large numbers of young bees can be seen having play flights in front of the hive it can be taken for granted that a queen is in occupation. Bees idling about the entrance when the bees from other hives are busy about their business could also mean a state of queenlessness or perhaps that the hive is full of honey and the bees

have no room to store more. If, however, this occurs at the time when swarming can be expected, the colony can be suspected of getting ready to send off a swarm.

The beginning of the main honey flow can only be approximate but once bees are seen to be leaving the hive and returning to it in a large steady stream, it can be assumed that it has started. Quite often the incoming nectar gives off a scent that tells us for certain that the flow is on. The aroma from clover for instance is like that of freshly baked bread.

If drones are over plentiful at entrances at this time, it is a sure sign that there is too much drone comb in the hive and a note should be made to do some comb replacement.

Generally it can be assumed that where large numbers of fanning bees are stationed at hive entrances that those hives are well filled with bees and brood and that there is ample nectar there too with the bees hard at work on the evaporation process.

Another kind of bee found at hive entrances is the one dancing about with its tail in the air. These are the guard bees. Their presence signifies that robber bees are about or that the hives have had some recent disturbance.

Robbing bees give themselves away by their nervous hovering action. They can be seen poised just above the front of the hive or darting back and forwards near cracks in the woodwork or about the lids.

Drones observed being pushed out of the hive in the autumn are a sure sign of the season's end, and that cooler weather is just around the corner. Many dead bees in front of hives seldom give a clear indication of what is wrong but does call for an examination of the colony. If bees are seen to be returning to the hives in great numbers, when skies are clear, and when they were working happily shortly beforehand, a sudden fall of rain can usually be expected.

WAX MOTH CONTROL

By P. G. Clinch, Scientist

Dichlorvos Pest Strips are widely used to control flies in farm buildings. The strips are hung so that free air movement can take place around them. Because dichlorvos is extremely toxic to flies, the minute quantities, which are released from the strips over a period of several months, are sufficient to kill them.

Early this year, Mr F. Bartrum, of Pleasant Point, asked if the *strips could be used to prevent wax moth attacking extracted frames in storage. No information concerning the use of the strips for this purpose was available, but it was known that dichlorvos was extremely toxic to honey bees. The wax of combs exposed to the vapour from the strips might absorb sufficient of the compound to kill bees by contact or fumigant action, when the combs were used after storage. To check this point, an experiment was set up in which part of a strip was enclosed in supers with some frames. We used three times the normal application rate so that if this was found to be safe, the normal rate would presumably be safe too, and allow an adequate margin for accidental overdosing. After two months the dichlorvos strip was removed, and honey bees were enclosed with pieces of the treated comb. It was found that the comb was highly toxic to bees, and still killed bees three weeks later.

This was, of necessity, a short-term experiment, because a quick answer was needed. A new experiment has now been started, using lower rates of dichlorvos for a longer period, the results of which will be published before next autumn. In the meantime, it is strongly recommended that these strips should not be used where they could contaminate combs or honey.

It should be made quite clear that these findings do not affect any other uses for which dichlorvos Pest Strips are recommended.

*The strips under test are sold under the trade name of "VAPONA".

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KAMO, NORTHLAND

Severe Clipping of Queens' Wings Increases Supersedure Rate

By V. A. COOK, APIARY INSTRUCTOR, OAMARU

Some beekeepers clip off part, or all of their queens' wings in order to identify them with respect to age, and/or to prevent them flying off with a swarm. It is sometimes said that wing clipping induces supersedure, but I could find no scientific data to support or refute this idea. My own observations, however, now lead me to conclude that severe wing clipping does increase the supersedure rate.

I have recently investigated the relative performances of queen bees wintered in miniature hives housed in an incubator, and control queens wintered in normal colonies.

Ten of the experimentally wintered queens were introduced into normal colonies in late August, 1967. Ten control queens had been wintered in ten further colonies in the same apiary. The twenty queens were sisters, all nine months old, and of the same strain. All the queens were clipped for identification purposes; the experimentally wintered queens were clipped before they were placed in the introduction cages. To ensure speedy identification I removed both pairs of wings to within $\frac{1}{8}$ " of their proximal ends.

All twenty queens proceeded to lay eggs profusely and abundant brood of excellent pattern. By 11.12.67, however, three control queens (30%) and three experimentally wintered queens (also 30%) had been superseded.

In a nearby apiary comprising twenty-five colonies headed by fourteen two year old and eleven one year old unclipped queens, which had been closely observed during the same period, none of the queens was superseded. By the time the trial was concluded on 19.3.68 four queens (40%) of each group had been superseded.

The very high supersedure rate in the experimental apiary can therefore only be attributed to the clipping of the queen's wings.

Removal of a queen's front legs has been shown to induce supersedure, but whether this is due to mutilation, or reduction of the queen's ability to distribute queen substance over her body, has not been demonstrated.

Since the wings are not thought to be used by the queen to distribute queen substance over her body, it can be concluded that, in my investigation, the queens which were superseded had been mutilated to a stage where they were no longer acceptable to the bees.

Positive queen identification is essential in any investigation of the relative performances of queens or their colonies. Wing clipping is the simplest and most permanent method of marking queens for identification.

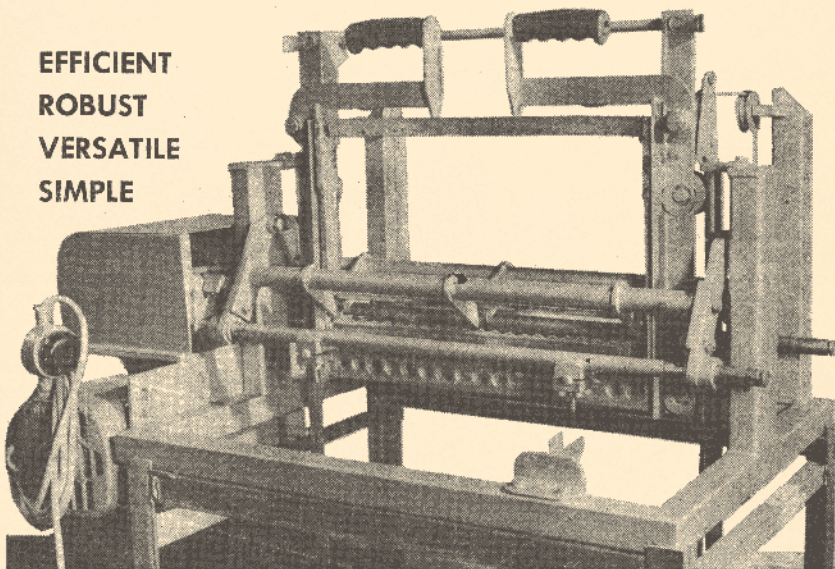
I have had considerable experience managing hundreds of colonies headed by queens which had one pair of wings partially clipped, and, while I cannot produce figures to indicate their supersedure rate, I know it was low, and that most of the queens remained very productive for two, and even three seasons.

The relationship between wing clipping and queen supersedure appears therefore to depend upon the amount of wing removed. This amount should be the minimum required for definite identification and to prevent a queen from flying.

The removal of not more than 50% of one pair of a queen's wings is sufficient, both for identification purposes, and to prevent her flying away with a swarm.

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COMMENTARY

from the Editor's Desk and Mail



ARGENTINE HONEY, imported into the United Kingdom at the rate of 3,000 tons in a good year, has been fetching £170 per ton as against £100 per ton at the same time last year. Reason for the rise is the comparative 'shortage' of Argentine honey. Season was a poor one totalling some 15,000 tons in comparison with 40-50,000 tons in a good year. Honey from the Argentine is used extensively as a blender by UK packers.



A **PAPER** by Dr Mary Bunney of the Department of Dermatology, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh has been published following research into contact dermatitis in beekeepers, due to propolis. Readers will recall the problems of Ron Newton of Ashburton afflicted with this irritant complaint, and the specialist who treated the condition in Christchurch was able to contribute case histories to the paper and expressed surprise at the comparative rarity of the condition in the United Kingdom, whereas he had seen at least 6 cases here in New Zealand.

With an estimated 50,000 beekeepers in the United Kingdom, the survey suggests that at least 0.05% are sensitive to propolis. All patients seen were male, with the exception of one beekeeper's wife, and the majority were over 60 years of age. Seven were commercial beekeepers and the period of exposure before sensitization varied from 1 to 40 years. The report describes the clinical features of dermatitis and defines that in most instances, the eruption is intense to the point of being intolerable. The hands and arms are usually affected and in most cases the eruption starts in the finger webs, but sometimes on the face and neck, in particular under the chin and on the sides of the neck. Swelling of the face and eyelids is a conspicuous feature. Patches of eczema occur on any part of the body touched by propolis-contaminated hands. Adequate protection by wearing P.V.C. gloves, the wearing of rigid plastic bee veil, and smearing the skin with vaseline, cold cream or silicone barrier cream, followed by thorough washing in hot water, seem to prevent or modify the attack.

Results indicate that once a beekeeper has become sensitized to propolis from his own bees he is likely to react to propolis from other sources. Patch test findings confirm that the strong sensitizing allergen in propolis is contained in the resin collected by the bees from poplar trees, but also indicate that the same or chemically related material occurs in other propolis source trees to a less extent. Bees appear to have a special preference for poplar and it may be that sudden sensitization after 30-40 years is sometimes due to recent planting of poplars within the 2-3 mile flight range of his bees. Once he has become sensitized by the more potent or abundant allergen in poplar-source propolis, he may then react to less abundant or weaker allergens in the resins of other propolis trees.

NEW METHOD OF REQUEENING Apicultural Abstracts Vol. 18, 1967, No. 3 gives a brief description of a method of requeening evolved in Lithuania.

"At the beginning of the main honey flow two queen cells in cell protectors are placed between two frames of brood in the centre of the brood nest close under the top bars. This is done about midday the day before the cells are due to hatch.

A drone trap or piece of excluder is placed over the hive entrance. The first young queen to emerge should kill the old queen, but if she fails to do so the second queen will."

Presumably the two young queens will fight it out and after the queen excluder is removed from the hive entrance the surviving queen mates and becomes the new mistress of the hive.

★ ★ ★

THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL reports a new variety of chrysanthemum highly attractive to bees and a generous source of pollen in late autumn. Called **MISCHIEF**, the flower blooms in late autumn (October in the Northern hemisphere) so that we could expect a show in April. It has a small deep pink daisy with a yellow centre to the eye and grows to a height of 12 to 16 inches. It is perennial and sends out root shoots for resetting in the spring.

★ ★ ★

BEEES HAVE TO HAVE A PASSPORT in the USSR, not individually, of course, giving colour of hair and other distinguishing marks of each bee, but a document issued by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture for apiaries in private ownership or on collective farms to certify clean bills of health. The passport has a number for each apiary and will be invalid unless it bears the signature of a local veterinary surgeon and it will be required for production when selling or moving stocks of bees, for buying or selling wax foundation or marketing honey. All diseases are notifiable, and reports must be made of wax moth infestation and samples of dead bees are noted. Apiaries are inspected by departmental officers, and written reports made of the condition and hygiene maintained in honey houses and in the apiary territory.

★ ★ ★

A HALF-MILLION COLONIES OF BEES were killed or rendered useless in the U.S. in 1967. This is over 10 percent of the bees in the U.S., and means less and less pollinating insects for a larger number of crops. Can the consumers of the U.S. afford this? We have to make the country realize what this loss of bees will soon lead to. The country must be alerted to the magnitude of the loss of their food supply if this slaughter is allowed to continue." E. H. Adee, president of the American Beekeeping Federation, appearing in the recent Federation News Letter.

★ ★ ★

NEW LABELLING REGULATIONS have been enacted in the United States which insist that the label must show the seller's relationship to the product i.e. "Packed by" "Packed for . . ." "Distributed by . . ." etc. and the name of the business establishment offering the product for sale. Honey products with a net weight of less than four pounds must show the weight in ounces first, then the weight in pounds e.g. Net Wt. 16 oz. (1 lb).

★ ★ ★

A NEW COPY OF "APIACTA", published by the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and representing most countries of the world has just been received. The contents are primarily devoted to the results of research by scientists and provides a valuable source of world wide information. One small point which no New Zealander can overlook is the fact that the composite map of the world used for the cover does not include New Zealand; we appear to have been swallowed up in the vastness of the ocean.

THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION have put forward a scheme to protect members from losses of any kind including disease. Public Liability is for £10,000 fire and theft at £5 per hive with an aggregate of £35, maximum compensation of £5 per stock and £35 in the aggregate for disease assessed as follows: Frames and brood 17/6, brood only, 8/6, combs without brood 3/6 per comb. Insurance does not cover quilts and articles of small value. Vandalism is subject to the same cover of £5 and £35, and members holding stocks in excess of seven may insure them at the rate of 1s/3d per hive. Capitation fee from subscriptions is expected to increase from 1/3 to 2/0 if the scheme is adopted.

★ ★ ★

THE BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION in England has published as a booklet "Facts About Beekeeping in New Zealand" by V. A. Cook of the Department of Agriculture, Oamaru. As might be expected, the author meticulously covers his subject in condensed form and provides a vivid picture of beekeeping in this country. Price of the 12 pages is 3s-6d from the publications secretary, Bee Research Association, 11 Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent, England.

★ ★ ★

HONEY PRICES IN UK have hit a new high and NZ white clover is selling at between £200-£205 ex warehouse. Extra light amber £180-£185 and white rata £160 per ton. Suppliers are shorter this season because of the poor crop.

★ ★ ★

COMB HONEY PRODUCER Arch Hislop of Kaikoura sent 10,000 packs totalling four tons to a Yorkshire distributor in May, and says that they will take all he can pack. The cellophane wrap carries the message "The honey in this comb was gathered from uncultivated wild flowers in a region untouched by crop spraying" and a teki motif. Outlets in the UK are whole food shops, and the favoured blend is manuka, blue borage and clover.

★ ★ ★

BRIAN MILNES OF GORE is the successful applicant for the position of beekeeper for Niue Island to assist J. B. Mackisack. Tour of duty will be for two years in the first instance. It is understood that Brian will be taking his bride with him to the islands, and beekeepers will certainly wish him one long south sea island honeymoon.

★ ★ ★

NEWS OF THE QUEENS sent to Beaver Lodge in Canada is encouraging, and a letter to Frank White from Russ Turner says that they have settled down and are doing very well. It may well be, however, that an unforeseen difficulty will have to be overcome in that the US Department of Agriculture has made it quite clear that they object to the original trial importation and will endeavour to stop further shipments. If they are successful, the promising new development in the export of queens to Canada would be finished. Our own Department of Agriculture will undoubtedly use their good offices to ensure that our situation is completely understood by the American authorities. With the knowledge that American big business largely influences governmental thinking, the thought must necessarily arise that perhaps the commercial queen breeders in the States fear the competition which might develop from queen rearers in this area.

★ ★ ★

STRAIGHT SHOOTER Percy Berry of Havelock North is a marksman in the sport of target shooting and has decided to try again at the mecca of riflemen at Bisley, England. Percy won the King's Prize at Trentham in 1930 and competed in 1948 in the Australian national championships after having won a number of New Zealand competitions, since when he has rested on his laurels and has hardly practiced his aim. When the urge returned he practiced hard at a local range preparatory to the qualifying rounds at Bisley involving 200 competitors in shoot-offs to an eventual field of 300. Competitions are over a range of 300, 500 and 600 yards with 10 shots each and the 100 highest scorers then go to long range shoots of 900 and 1,000 yards.

★ ★ ★

THE RUBBISH that some newspapers publish is beyond comprehension. Commenting on the problems of Brazil with African bees and their foul temper, the **AUCKLAND STAR** of June 3 related . . . "they will attack ferociously any man or beast that crosses their path of flight. **HUNDREDS OF BRAZILIANS HAVE BEEN STUNG TO DEATH EVERY YEAR . . .**" Completely untrue and utter bunk. The African bee has caused great problems to apiarists and to the general public, and the United States are apprehensive that migration Northwards through Columbia, Central America and Mexico into Panama and California will take effect in a few years. To counter the movement the U.S. Department of Agriculture have granted Brazil credit to help pay for the importation of Austrian bred queens in a massive attempt to requene African stocks. With such a propensity to swarming, however, and consequent building of colonies in hollow trees and rock cavities, the task may well prove to be insuperable.

To report that **HUNDREDS OF BRAZILIANS** have been killed is complete exaggeration and distortion of the facts. **TEN** people have been known to have died through mass stinging by African bees in Brazil, and many animals and birds have suffered a similar fate. The position is undeniably serious for Argentine in the south as well as countries to the north, and it is hoped that a way will be found to eradicate the problem.

Were it not for the restrictions of our own Department of Agriculture, New Zealand might well have been faced with the same problem.

★ ★ ★

BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Bee Research Association confirmed the appointment of Sir Vincent Wigglesworth, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.S., as President for the next two years in succession to Professor O. Morgenthaler.

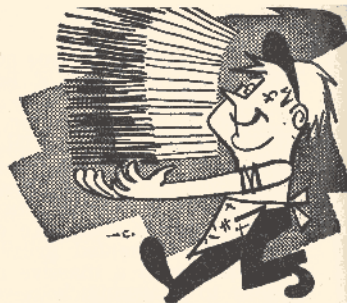
The Annual Report of the Association, presented at the Meeting, gives a list of the ninety-nine Regional Representatives who have recently been appointed to make the Association's work more effective; the B.R.A. is a world-wide organization which serves to keep the beekeeping industries in different countries up to date about research and technical development. This is done largely through its three journals: **Bee World**, **Apicultural Abstracts** and **Journal of Apicultural Research**. Full details can be obtained by writing to the B.R.A. headquarters: Bee Research Association, Hill House, Shalfont St. Peter, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, England.

The Representative for New Zealand is G. Nichols, Ruakura Agricultural Research Centre, P.B. Hamilton.

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BRANCH NOTES



SOUTHLAND

The season just past was generally kind to the Deep South — the current winter is seasonable, giving hopes for a better spring than we have had for some years.

Following long discussions by both branches, Gore and Southland have united after thirty-three years of separate existence, and continue as the Southland branch under the chairmanship of Mr W. T. Herron, a long standing member of both branches.

Reported by Jack Fraser.

NORTHLAND

The Northland branch annual general meeting was held in May, but with the absence of our president, Arthur Tucker in hospital, coupled with the wettest winter for many years, activities have been at a low level. 50" of rain at least provides opportunity to see to inside chores and repairs.

Over 160 entries were received for the honey section at the A & P winter exhibition, and it was pleasing to see some of our Auckland neighbours carrying off some prizes. We hope for more entries next year.

Reported by Des Cullen.

HAWKES BAY

At a recent well-attended meeting, the branch farewelled Syd Line, the retiring Apiary Instructor and presented him with a set of "The New Zealand Encyclopedia" as a token of appreciation for his services to members over the years. During the evening members had the pleasure of meeting the new instructor, Paul Marshall and we hope Paul will enjoy his years among us.

The annual general meeting in May was well attended, with interesting discussions of remits for Conference. A very interesting film was shown by Paul Marshall.

Members took the opportunity to wish Percy Berry bon voyage, who is leaving to try his luck once again rifle shooting at Bisley.

Reported by F. D. Maultsaid, (Mrs).

CANTERBURY

Winter certainly came to Canterbury this year with no apology. A warm autumn with bees still working up until Easter and then in some areas eight inches of rain, gale-force winds and subsequent flooding in many places. Cold wet and cloudy conditions have mainly since prevailed with the back country covered in snow. Since January we have had over our yearly average rainfall; this could mean a late spring and good pasture with plenty of clover during the Summer.

The Canterbury branch were pleased to nominate Mr Tom Penrose as a Life Member of the N.B.A. at the annual conference. Mr Penrose has served the beekeeping industry with distinction over a long period of years, and is still active in local Association affairs. Tom served on the National Executive during the difficult war years 1939/46 and again 1950/51 when he was N.B.A. representative on the Agricultural Development Committee, a committee appointed by Government to facilitate rehabilitation of service-men.

He also pioneered a remarkably successful process for creaming honey, which over the years has materially increased the popularity of our product, throughout the Dominion.

We were very pleased to have Mr Colin Rope, Honey Grader for the Department, give an illustrated address to the Domestic Group on the 7th June and this proved to be a very interesting evening.

Mr John Smith our Apiary Instructor is on the job and has been very co-operative. He has referred a domestic problem to our President and Secretary for conciliation:- "How to placate an irate bird-fancier and a suburban bee-keeper, living in close proximity to each other, when honey is so inestimable to both domestic(?) pets?"

Reported by A. R. Eagle.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

Letters to the Editor

NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Hamilton

May 6, 1968.

AN OPEN LETTER TO BEEKEEPERS

Danger To Motorists From Bees Placed Too Close To Roads Particularly When Sites Are Only Temporary

Gentlemen,

Recently I received a letter from a Farm Advisory officer calling my attention to the fact that in one locality used by many beekeepers for a particular flow, truck drivers were being frequently stung by bees. His letter in part, reads:

"One driver has been stung six times in the last fortnight. This is not so serious as the fact that drivers sometimes lose control of their vehicle momentarily and several trucks have already run off the road. No serious accidents have occurred as yet."

On investigating, I found that a truck driver, with a higher cab, is more likely to collect bees than is a motorist in a car. One apiary was sited behind a small rise on the main road from where it could not be seen. However, it was obvious that bees were close-by from the number hitting the window of my vehicle. They were taking the easy way, going round the rise, rather than over it to reach the nectar on the other side of the road.

Further on were two more apiaries on opposite sides of the road. While the expected source was on the right hand side, it was obvious that both apiaries were working another source on the left hand side, neglecting the original main source.

This is by no means the only instance of bees causing danger, as I have often noticed that bees placed near a road through bush, instead of lifting over the adjacent trees often fly along the road about cab height and only lift up when they are near the actual nectar source.

This trouble appears to be mainly with temporary sites where the bees are moved in for a particular flow. It could be that until they become properly reorientated, they take the easy way to the flow.

It is bad enough when a motorist picks up an odd bee—perhaps miles away from an apiary—but when a stream of them enter a truck or car, especially if there are children in the vehicle, it can be extremely dangerous.

Should a local body, as a result of such complaints, write into their By-laws a minimum distance from a highway at which an apiary could be placed, it could increase your difficulties in establishing your sites.

Now gentlemen, for your own benefit, as I can see another regulation coming prohibiting bees being kept unless a certain distance from a road, watch where you place your hives in conjunction with any road and the flow you expect; also the possibility of another nectar source being in the area which may draw your bees to it.

Finally, especially with temporary sites, mark your apiaries 'clearly and conspicuously' with your identification number as per regulations, so that the general public can see it from 30—40 feet away without going in amongst the hives to find it.

The apiaries concerned in the above complaint were marked with the owner's number but not 'conspicuously'. Had they been so, the Farm Advisory officer would have been able to give me these numbers and the hives shifted to a more suitable site much more quickly than I feel they were, as both owners, on being contacted, were very concerned that their bees were causing anyone any trouble and both offered to shift them within a day or two.

(A. W. Bennett),
APIARY INSTRUCTOR
HAMILTON.

Arataki Apiaries Ltd.
Hastings.
16th July, 1968.

Sir,

The big majority of votes in favour of remits 3, 4 and 7 passed at conference clearly indicates the industry's desire that packers be permitted to export packed lines of honey under the jurisdiction of the H.M.A. During the debate I brought out the fact that the ridiculously expensive methods adopted by the H.M.A. to sell on the export market make this market a doubtful asset. I pointed out if the normal economic channels of export were opened up to packers on the same basis that has proved so profitable to comb honey producers, the oversupply which has existed on the New Zealand market until this year would be reduced. There would then be some hope of maintaining the present economic prices which exist on the local market today. These prices have been possible because for the first time for many years the supply available to the local market is not in excess of the demand for honey at economic prices to producers. I also pointed out that unless beekeepers supported this policy of exporting by packers the only hope of maintaining the present prices for honey in New Zealand would be a series of disastrous production years.

It is significant that no member of the H.M.A. rose to dispute these facts. The truth is of course very hard to dispute.

Then came the bombshell. In direct opposition to conference's clearly expressed wishes on export policy the H.M.A. decided their export policy for the coming season will be — No exports by anyone other than the H.M.A. to United Kingdom and Europe (thus removing the very limited opportunities to packers which did exist before) and a continuation of the very restrictive conditions for the rest of the world.

The immediate result of this dictatorial attitude will be the loss to the industry of any trial orders my father is able to pick up during his stay in England. Besides his rifle shooting he is investigating all aspects of honey marketing in England with a view to finding out which types of honey exports would be the most profitable for New Zealand to send to this market. His investigation will include the possibility of shipping a trial order of ling heather honey packed in retail containers. Because there is such an established demand for heather honey in England at high prices it seems a pity the ton of heather honey we have in tins will have to be sold locally and New Zealand will miss out on this opportunity to develop a highly profitable export market for this type of honey. Surely these are the high New Zealand content specialty lines that this country is looking for to boost export earnings.

It appears no change will be made to this serious situation which has arisen, until after the 1969 H.M.A. elections. Can the industry afford to wait this long and run the risk of a good production year this coming season? I doubt it. Every effort must be made now to develop export markets through all economic channels available to the industry if prices are to be held at present levels.

IAN BERRY.

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Sir,
Thank you for the opportunity for commenting on the points raised by Mr. Berry.

The figures showing the intake of honey into the Authorities' depots in recent years show clearly that any over-supply of honey has not been in the Authority's hands; in other words, if there has, in fact, been an exportable surplus, it was not available to the Authority to export.

This year, following our purchase of the two South Island businesses, this has been clearly demonstrated when we find ourselves in possession of more than 100 tons of honey surplus to the normal requirements of those businesses. This honey will be exported.

Some packers will certainly be quick to take any advantage of any opportunity which may exist to profit by an export market made attractive by any particular set of circumstances in a given year.

The Authority has a statutory obligation to operate on the export market every year, and must be prepared for the good production years to which Mr. Berry refers as a "risk".

Mr. Berry makes reference to the "ridiculously expensive methods adopted by the H.M.A. to sell on the export market". These same methods, are those which enabled the Authority this year to offer a substantial rise in the pay-out to producers.

If no member of the Authority rose to dispute these alleged facts with Mr. Berry at Conference, it was because the Authorities' point of view had already been stated. Mr. Berry is, of course, entitled to dispute that, as he is doing.

Finally, sir may I ask, as I did at Conference—would the industry be willing to entrust the export of honey to the packers and leave the local market to the Authority? And I would repeat the Authority's invitation to any packer who sees an export opportunity for the common good, to meet the Authority and discuss it with us—an invitation which has already been accepted in one case, and from which some benefit to all parties may accrue.

J. W. FRASER, Chairman H.M.A.

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SECTION FRAMES FOR SAME WITH HARD-BOARD AND WOODEN BACKS.

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KAITAIA.

HONEY SALES

By G. N. Lansdowne

A representative of a whisky firm once said to me: "When a whisky drinker dies, he leaves a gap that has to be filled as quickly as possible. Another person has to be induced to start drinking whisky—otherwise we should soon be out of business." The representative went on to say "We cannot, of course, hope to convert everybody to become whisky drinkers with our day-to-day propaganda—but we do our very best."

There are beekeepers who ask the question: Is the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority doing their very best by propaganda through the press, radio, T.V., cooking demonstrations, etc., etc., to get young people into the habit of eating honey, thus increasing the sale of honey in New Zealand? Another question sometimes asked is: Does the H.M.A. soft pedal honey sales in New Zealand, in order to send as much honey overseas as possible to earn overseas funds—this being the particular function of the Authority?

In a letter to me, Mr T. R. Edgerley answers these two questions.

(1) "The Authority is trying to increase sales in New Zealand, and apart from the regular use of conventional advertising media, has from time to time either sponsored or assisted Branches of the N.B.A. in other promotional

ventures, either on a local or national basis. Examples of this would be displays at A. & P. Shows, the painting competition of two years ago, last years N.Z. Honey Queen. This activity is not, and has not been, designed to promote the Authoritys packs only; example was in the ration of one third for the Authoritys packs, and two thirds for honey in general.

(2) The particular function of the Authority is to assist in the orderly development of honey marketing in New Zealand, in the terms of the Act under which it provides, not to earn overseas funds."

I think Mr. Edgerleys answers should satisfy every one.

"Never under-estimate the power of personal recommendation", so wrote the motor magnate Henry Ford, who proved that word-of-mouth enthusiasm played a bigger part in selling his motorcars than any other factor. This is true about honey also. Personal recommendation caused sales in New Zealand of delicious Niue Island honey, to exceed all expectations. Sales of honey in New Zealand cannot be increased very substantially merely by personal recommendation. A well directed and vigorous advertising drive throughout the year, appears to be the only way to increase honey sales.

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“QUOTES”...

“There is no half-way house in beekeeping. Either you use the occupation as a sideline or you must be in a large way.

E. A. Clayton, Tuakau. 1942

Hope, Optimism, or Wishful Thinking?


“I think most of us put off this feeding business as long as possible, and not always is it from idleness, but in many cases doubtless with the hope that some favourable spell of weather will bless us by helping the bees to fill up their combs naturally.”

S. Simmins, England. 1914

“An optimist is a person who has lent money to a pessimist”.

There must be money in farming if the farmers can stay alive doing it the way they do.

Henry Ford.



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WAY TO STEP-UP
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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 preceding publication.

Nome-de-plume letters must be signed by the writer and address given, not necessarily for publication, but as proof of good faith. Letters accepted for publication do not necessarily express the views of the Editor.

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front page story

NEW ZEALANDER J. B. MACKISACK stands by the side of two of his colonies on Niue Island, where he has established a new industry for producing honey for world markets through the HMA in Auckland.

Whilst beekeeping as such is a sinecure compared with mainland practice, all is not milk and honey or beer and skittles for the beekeeper. Dependence on infrequent calls of the islands steamer TOFUA and comparative isolation from sources of supply means that planning to the last detail is essential. Discovery that the last of the coated nails was used last week could result in a long, long wait with no substitute.

The bees work the seasons round with an almost constant honey flow, but the unexpected can happen as with the recent hurricane which denuded the Island of bird life and resulted in a population explosion of crawling caterpillars that eat their way through vegetation of every form, including the new shoots and buds of blossom in the making. Flies, too, are a problem and a perspiring back provides a great attraction for a feed of salt and an occasional bite.

Humid climatic conditions are not conducive to sustained labour, and minor wounds and scratches do not heal as rapidly as they would here at home. But the flow is phenomenal and the quality good and there's much that a man can endure when the bees are working to capacity and bringing in to the merry tune of 10 tons to the hundred.

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