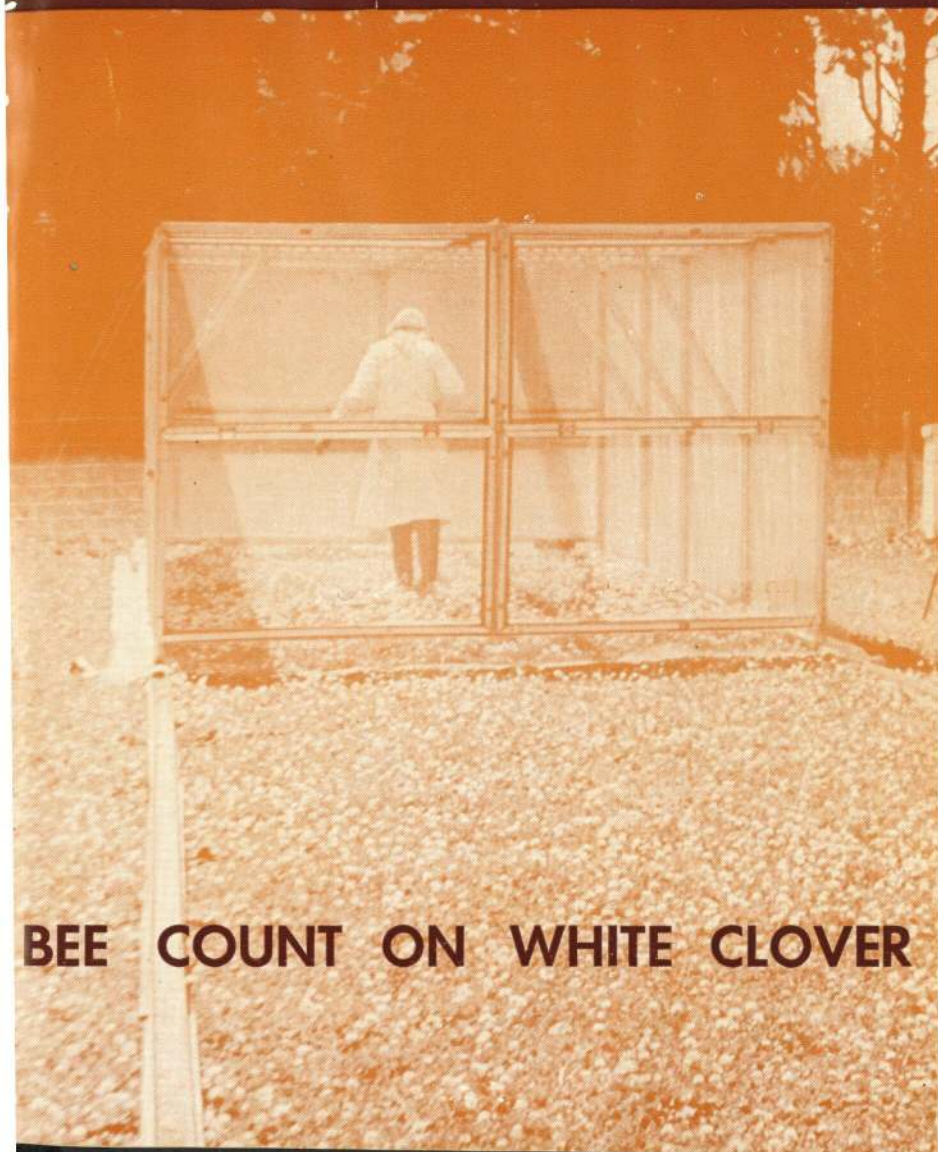


**THE
NEW
ZEALAND**

BEEKEEPER

AUGUST, 1971



BEE COUNT ON WHITE CLOVER

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION of N.Z. Incorporated

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THE
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BEEKEEPER

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AUGUST, 1971

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A CLOSE LOOK FROM THE OUTSIDE

The announcement by Mr Alan Dick, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, that a caucus committee is to be appointed to consider submissions from the whole of our industry is welcome news.

An independent commission, able to review problems from a detached, unbiased situation has been an urgent necessity for a long while.

Efforts have been made by groups and factions to get together and find a common denominator without any satisfactory result.

There will be no compulsion for the industry to follow the committee's considered advice, but it is patently obvious that any industry so self opinionated and egotistical as to ignore carefully presented suggestions for the common good could hardly expect or be deserving of future consideration by any other official body.

In retrospect, it can be seen that dissensions extant for years are no nearer to solution now than when first encountered.

Whilst well intentioned efforts have been made by well intentioned people, self interest has precluded a policy for the common good of the beekeeping industry as a whole.

As primary producers our product has to be sold. Packaging, markets, sales appeal and sales promotion are all essential ancillaries, and failure or inefficiency of any one factor reacts adversely to the whole.

Beekeepers are rugged individualists, but they cannot and must not be so independant that they refuse to take heed of the advice which will be available.

AUGUST, 1971

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National Beekeepers' Association

DOMINION CONFERENCE

at Greymouth July 1971

CONFERENCE 1971 AT GREYMOOUTH WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS BY THE 130 VISITORS FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS IN ATTENDANCE. AS WAS TO BE ANTICIPATED, WEST COAST HOSPITALITY WAS IN EVIDENCE FROM ARRIVAL TO DEPARTURE, AND WHILST OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAD A MIXTURE OF RAIN AND/OR SNOW, THE SUN SHONE FROM CLOUDLESS SKIES FOR THE DURATION SO THAT ATTENDANCE FROM HOTELS AND MOTELS TO THE MEETING HALL PRESENTED NO PROBLEMS OF ARRIVING WET.

SOME DELEGATES AND VISITORS WERE, HOWEVER, KNOWN TO DECLARE THAT WHEN THE NEXT CONFERENCE IS HELD AT GREYMOOUTH, THEY WILL ARRIVE ARMED WITH A CUT-THROAT RAZOR TO SLIT THE GIZZARD OF THE "GREY BARBER".

LEST IT BE THOUGHT THAT VIOLENCE IS PLANNED OR INTENDED IT MUST BE EXPLAINED THAT THE "GREY BARBER" IS A CUTTING, KNIFE-LIKE WIND WHICH WHISTLES DOWN THOROUGHFARES, ENTERS THE RIB CAGE AND EXITS THROUGH THE BACKBONE AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME OF THE YEAR. LEGEND HAS IT THAT A MAN WITH A BEARD FACING INTO THE WIND IS CLEAN SHAVEN BEFORE REACHING THE END OF THE STREET.

A GET-TOGETHER ON TUESDAY EVENING PROVIDED A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OLD FRIENDS OF THE HOST BRANCH AND FROM FAR AFIELD. ON THE WEDNESDAY EVENING THE SOCIAL WAS ADVERTISED TO START AT 8 p.m. AND FINISH AT 11 p.m., BUT SUCH IS THE HOSPITALITY OF THE COAST THAT ORGANISERS AND GUESTS OMITTED TO CONSULT THEIR TIME PIECES WITH A RESULTANT FINISH TO CONVIVIALITIES A GOOD DEAL LATER THAN ORIGINALLY INTENDED.

A MINERS' BAND AND A TROUPE OF TALENTED DANCING GIRLS IN OLD-TIME DRESS APPROPRIATE TO PERFORM THE CAN-CAN DEMANDED UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, AND NOT SURPRISINGLY, ENCORES WERE MADE UNTIL THE GIRLS MUST HAVE BEEN DIZZY FROM HIGH STEPPING AND CART WHEELING ACROSS THE FLOOR.

OTHER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF A COACH TRIP FOR THE LADIES NOT PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE BUSINESS, AND SEVERAL TRIED THEIR HAND AT PANNING FOR GOLD IN A NEARBY CLAIM.

PERHAPS MENTION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE OF THE WISDOM OF THE SOUTHLAND DELEGATES WHO HIRED A COACH TO BRING THEIR CONTINGENT TO GREYMOOUTH UNDER THE COMMAND OF AN EXPERIENCED AND WELL BALANCED DRIVER, THUS ENABLING PASSENGERS EN ROUTE TO RELAX AND ENJOY THEMSELVES AS CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATED.

FOR THOSE ARRIVING AND DEPARTING BY AIR ACROSS THE PLAINS OF CANTERBURY AND OVER THE SOUTHERN ALPS, THE FLIGHT WAS MEMORABLE, AND THE SNOW COVERED TOPS AND RAVINES ALONE PRESENTED A NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN SCENIC SPLENDOUR.

SO MUCH FOR THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES; NOW TO REPORT THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, WITH THE WELCOME TO DELEGATES BY THE MAYOR OF GREYMOUTH, MR O. H. JACKSON AND THE OFFICIAL OPENING BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MR A. D. DICK, M.P.

In his opening remarks, Mr Dick reminded delegates that at each Conference the Honey Marketing Authority was always the subject of interest and discussion and that last year culminated in a resolution requesting the Association's National Executive to set up a committee to investigate the functions of the Authority to determine whether it is operating in the best interests of producers, with particular reference to the export of packed and bulk honey.

Various suggestions were made about this proposed investigation.

"I was asked if the government would assist financially in the investigation: if I would nominate a person for appointment to the committee: and if I would indicate the organisations that should be represented on the committee...

As I said last year, however, the Authority has been established as a predominantly producer-elected body to give producers the opportunity to organise their own marketing procedures with as little government intervention as possible.

I made it clear that in these circumstances the government would not be justified in taking part, either directly or indirectly, in what was essentially an investigation by the industry itself.

The committee was not appointed — but by October of last year, the authority had adopted a more liberal attitude towards the question of exports by packers, and had arranged to review the conditions of the Kimpton agreement.

The Authority also decided to seek the views of the industry on a suggestion to increase the rate and widen the incidence of the seals levy.

At my suggestion, the National Executive of your Association conferred with representatives of the Authority and the Honey Packers Association to study the present system and to try and reach agreement on proposals for a new scheme that would be fair and equitable to all sections of the honey producing industry.

Following this meeting which was in March, I was told by representatives of each section of the industry that agreement had been reached.

It now seems that this was premature. A number of representations were made to me, from groups and individuals, indicating that the proposals as submitted to me did not have full support.

At this point I would like to comment on the practice which seems more prevalent in this industry than in any other, of persons making known to the Minister and to me, by correspondence, phone calls, and personal visits, their views on what they consider is wrong with the industry.

While I do not discourage direct communication, I suggest that individuals should demonstrate greater confidence in the representatives they elect — on marketing matters, the Authority, and on other matters, your Branch and National Executives — who should be better placed to present to me balanced and well-considered views of any action which the Government should take in the interests of the industry.

I would stress that neither the Minister nor I should be asked, as we have been, to intervene in personal matters between individual producers and their elected organisations.

In the case of the recent Seals Levy proposals, however, the representations we received did indicate that we should not at this stage be justified in asking the Government to consider amending the regulations. I understand that this is to be discussed at this conference.

I think it is generally recognised that the Seals Levy procedure needs to be re-examined, particularly in the light of the changed role of the Authority over recent years, and the extent of the influence that producers consider the Authority should exert over marketing.

If your Executive can produce to me clear evidence that it has the substantial support of the honey producing industry to the proposals which are to be submitted to you at this Conference, or to any modified form of such proposals, I shall recommend the Government to consider amending the regulations to put these into effect.

I have said that the producers should organise honey marketing with as little intervention from Government as possible. I believe this is the wish of the great majority of producers. At the same time, there is often merit in having an appraisal of an established system.

What has been done as a matter of routine for years can be looked at from a different perspective, and it is possible that problems can be solved by a fresh approach.

To assist the industry I have decided to appoint a Committee of Government Caucus, to enquire into all aspects of honey marketing. I shall chair the Committee.

In making this announcement, it should be made clear that we will be reporting our findings first to Caucus and these findings will then be available for study by the industry.

We shall assess the requisites of a honey marketing system, examine how the system is being operated, and suggest ways in which the system may be improved.

I would, however, stress that these will be suggestions, not directives: and although I trust they will be seriously considered for adoption, there will be no obligation to accept any of them.

The Horticulture Committee of the Agricultural Production Council, of which I am chairman, has currently under suggestion reports on the extension of the number of hives both in the South Island and the North Island.

The report on the South Island potential which originated with Otago Agricultural Advisory Committee was referred to the Department of Agriculture by the Horticulture Committee.

The Department subsequently reported on both South and North Islands and included in the reports was reference to the production of bulk honey dew.

Interim reports from the Department of Industries and Commerce indicate some possibility of increased exports in honey and honey dew, but until the position in New Zealand is clear, the Department cannot fully investigate through its trade commissioners.

The Trade Commissioners have indicated they would be happy to carry this exercise further if it is the wish of exporters. However, to do so would require samples and additional information such as prices, delivery details, quantities available, etc.

The Horticulture Committee has referred the reports to your organisation as well as to the Honey Marketing Authority and the Packers' Association.

While the Horticulture Committee can carry the investigation to a certain point, the industry must play the major part in any suggestion of increased production. The decision remains with the industry.

HONEY CROP:

Because of the drought conditions which prevailed in most districts throughout the Dominion, beekeepers, in common with other primary producers, experienced a difficult season.

In some districts as a result of these conditions, the honey crops were not up to expectations, but in most areas, following good rain in January, pastures recovered and average to above average crops were produced.

The total production of honey for the season has been assessed at 5,570 tons. Although this production was about 100 tons less than last season it is approximately 150 tons more than the average for the past six seasons.

WEST COAST (Beekeeping):

How and when bees came to the West Coast is not definitely known. Many early settlers and miners kept box colonies. The method of handling them was rather primitive until about the 1880's.

There were some well appointed apiaries — Nimmo of Taylorville: Murdoch of Ross: Shearer of Mokihinui: Butler of Gladstone: are but a few well known names.

The formation of the West Coast Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association in 1917 presided over by the late Mr Alf Baty, was another milestone — as was the appointment of the first apiary instructor.

With the presence of wild bees in the bush, the control of disease on the West Coast calls for great vigilance by the beekeeper. The fight against disease today, however, is not quite the same problem of 50 years ago, but routine inspection is very necessary.

The West Coast beekeepers experience conditions almost entirely of their own, and depend on bush sources for their honey crop — rata being the favourite honey. It is common to see any number up to 200 hives in one apiary yielding a good average crop per hive.

Considerable development of pastures is taking place in some areas and the extensive areas of shingle heaps left in the wake of gold dredges are now becoming covered with lotus major, which yields a moderate flow of nectar, also gorse and broom which provide useful supplies of pollen.

STATISTICS:

Statistics relating the numbers of beekeepers and hive holdings are subdivided into: domestic beekeepers — with under 30 hives: semi-commercial beekeepers — with from 31 to 250 hives: and commercial beekeepers with 251 hives and over.

The trend in recent years has been a decline in the number of domestic and semi-commercial beekeepers, and consolidation of hive holdings by commercial beekeepers.

Latest statistics show an increase in the numbers of beekeepers and hives in each of the groups, which suggests the previous trend has been arrested.

Beekeeping statistics for the Dominion as at June 1971 show a total of 3,228 beekeepers operating 14,345 registered apiaries containing 200,774 hives of bees. Of these, 8,782 apiaries and 160,300 hives are kept by commercial beekeepers owning 250 hives and over.

APIARIES ACT:

The most serious disease of bees in New Zealand is American Brood Disease (Bacillus Larvae). Inspection of apiaries has continued with assistance from competent beekeepers acting as temporary inspectors.

Reports indicate that the overall incidence of this disease is low but in some districts is relatively widespread. The greatest incidence being found in commercial beekeepers' apiaries.

The overall incidence of diseased apiaries and hives found by inspectors and by beekeepers was 4.08 per cent and 0.42 per cent respectively. A total of 454 diseased hives were destroyed by burning.

These figures approximate those for last year. It is expected that enforcement of new provisions in the 1969 Apiaries Act will, with the co-operation of all beekeepers, be instrumental in reducing the present incidence of the disease and bring it under better control.

This leads me to express concern regarding unauthorised importations of bees which might introduce serious diseases."

In his comments on unauthorised importations of bees from overseas, Mr Dick referred to the fact that the only remit on the Order paper to be passed without dissent last year was number 26 from the Bay of Plenty. This passed unanimously that strongest possible measures be taken against future illegal importations, and he commended to Conference the editorial published in the August 1970 issue of the N.Z. BEEKEEPER that beekeepers must, for their own and the industry's protection, acquaint the authorities with any factual information received of any such unauthorised importation.

PROCEEDINGS

Following Mr Dick's address and his announcement of the appointment of a Committee of Government Caucus to enquire into all aspects of honey marketing, the Annual Report of the National Beekeepers' Association was presented by the President Mr Bruce Forsyth, and that of the Honey Marketing Authority by the H.M.A. Chairman, Mr Russell Poole. Reports are published elsewhere in this issue.

Before Conference could proceed to voting on business on the Order Paper, the General Secretary pointed out, through the Chair, that observance of Rule 27 had not been complied with by Branch secretaries. To regularise the position as an expedient and to give delegates the right to vote if so called upon, it was moved Dickenson/Blair that Rule 27 be suspended for the duration of Conference.

REMITTS

REMIT NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO THOSE APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER, AND IN SOME INSTANCES WERE AMENDED BY CONSENT OF PROPOSER AND SECONDER AND UNANIMOUS APPROVAL FROM THE FLOOR. REMITS NOT DETAILED WERE WITHDRAWN OR LAPSED. SPEAKERS WERE RESTRICTED IN SPEAKING TIME, SUCH TO AN EXTENSION IN EACH CASE AT THE WILL OF CONFERENCE.

NOTICE OF MOTION FROM EXECUTIVE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS: PART II — LEVY.

(THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS WAS PUBLISHED ON PAGE 6 OF THE MAY, 1971 ISSUE AND COPIES WERE AVAILABLE AT CONFERENCE. BECAUSE OF PRESSURE ON SPACE THE TEXT HAS NOT BEEN RE-PRINTED BUT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE MOTION WAS PROPOSED AND SECONDED AND THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT MADE TO THE ORIGINAL)

"20 (2) (c) Honey sold to a manufacturer for manufacturing purposes." (Forsyth/Dickenson. Amended Penrose/Higgins) CARRIED.

NOTE: REMITS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HONEY MARKETING REGULATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICTS, WEST COAST, NORTH OTAGO, SOUTHLAND AND WAIKATO BRANCHES. THESE WERE NOT INCLUDED ON THE ORDER PAPER SINCE THEY COULD BE MOVED AS AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION PUT BY THE EXECUTIVE.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

(1) HAWKES BAY: "That (a) future marketing of New Zealand's honey should be in accordance with the policy set out in fourteen points for the Minister of Agriculture by Mr P. Berry in 1968 and also stated by him as H.M.A. election policy in 1970.

(b) the conference advise the Minister of this decision by telegrams." (Berry/Hansen). LOST.

(2) CANTERBURY: "That the seals levy be 1 cent per lb on all Honey produced." (Cattermole/Holt). LOST.

(3) WAIKATO: "That present regulations governing the payment of Seals Levy be enforced, and that in addition provision be made by way of declaration to cover honey sold from beekeepers' premises, roadside stalls, and stores selling bulk honey into customers' own containers." (Tuck/Lorimer. Amended Holt/Cloake). CARRIED.

(4) BAY OF PLENTY: "That this Conference recommends that the system of H.M.A. Elections be held on the modified Ward System." (D. Barrow/C. Barrow). LOST.

(5) WAIKATO: "That consideration be given to the establishment of a method of securing North Island representation on the H.M.A." (Tuck/Jensen). LOST.

(6) WAIKATO: "That the Post Offices to which the H.M.A. electoral rolls are sent be investigated, giving centres with several commercial beekeepers a roll, and deleting those with no commercial beekeepers, and a copy be made available to Branch Secretaries." (Tuck/Jensen. Amended Glynn/Holt). CARRIED.

(7) WAIKATO: "That in view of the greater demand of H.M.A. finances due to a larger volume of honey handled and exported, direct representation be made to Government by a special committee for the purpose of seeking adequate finance at 1% for advances of not less than 75% of market realisation per pound pro rata. (Lorimer/Baker. Amended Bray/Davidson). CARRIED.

(8) WEST COAST: "That the H.M.A. continue to operate — push own sales on New Zealand markets." (Holland/Lucas). CARRIED.

(9) SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICTS: "That the Honey Marketing Authority as at present constituted be terminated and replaced by a body entrusted with (a) maintaining a balance between supply and demand on the domestic market, (b) with the issue of export permits to persons or groups acting within the framework of specified minimum price and quality, and with (c) the disposal, in export trade only, of honey surplus to our domestic market requirements." (Whalley/Roberts). LOST.

(10) CANTERBURY: "That in view of the phenomenal rise in costs, affecting all sections of the community, and with the prospect of further substantial increases in the immediate future, the H.M.A. give serious consideration to completely re-organising its method of operation, to enable it to conduct its business from an office only." (Cattermole/Pearson). CARRIED.

(11) WEST COAST: "That H.M.A. consider advisability of container depot in South Island." (Holland/Buchanan). CARRIED.

(12) NORTH OTAGO: "That the H.M.A. obtain satisfactory honey storage facilities at their Timaru depot, because the honey quality is being impaired by outside storage." (Winslade/Lorey). CARRIED.

(13) SOUTHLAND: "That all honey in New Zealand be packed by the H.M.A., by using existing packing plants by contract if thought desirable." (Glynn/R. Cloake). LOST.

(14) NORTH OTAGO: "That the North Otago Branch of the N.B.A. deplore the actions of the H.M.A. for not offering a greater incentive payout to beekeepers to attract the honey that was available in New Zealand to meet the order to Japan. (Winslade/Irving). LOST.

ASSOCIATION — RULES

(15) WEST COAST: "That we delete words — 'Subs shall be due and payable immediately upon the termination of Annual Conference' and substitute — 'Any change to Rules, and, or Subscriptions to be effective as from beginning of next financial year'." (Holland/R. Berry). CARRIED.

(17) HAWKES BAY: "That adequate finance to enable the N.B.A. to carry out its functions efficiently and independently be provided by subscription as at present, plus a levy per hive on all beekeepers with 3 or more." (Ashcroft/Gossett Jnr.). LOST.

(18) OTAGO: "That the Association abandon the present voting system and adopt the one member one vote system." (Heinemann/Jenkins). LOST.

DEPARTMENTAL

(20) WEST COAST: "That this Conference press for continuance of past level of apiary inspection and continued use of part time men, and that more mileage allowance be allocated." (Holland/Glasson. Amended Tuck/Ray). CARRIED.

(21) OTAGO: "To press the Government to take measures to eradicate the wasp problem." (Heinemann/King). CARRIED.

(22) BAY OF PLENTY: "That this Conference recommends the Department of Agriculture treats as a matter of urgency the investigation into finding a suitable poison wasp bait." (Barrow/Lorimer). CARRIED.

IMPORT CONTROL

(23) CANTERBURY: "That Conference request Government to release all beekeepers' new equipment from import control." (Pro Forma Cattermole/Hill. Amended Herron/Jackson). CARRIED.

CONFERENCES

(24) FAR NORTH: "That the 1972 Conference of N.B.A. be hosted by the Far North Branch in Kaitiaki." (Haines/Gavin). CARRIED.

(25) WAIKATO: "That at future Conference venues, a tree or shrub be donated to the Local Authority for planting, emphasis being to plant a nectar bearing species." (Tuck/Dawson. Amended Penrose/Dickenson). CARRIED.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

(26) HAWKES BAY: "That the incoming Executive initiate the appropriate investigational work on Autumn losses from spray poisoning." (Berry/Berry Sr.). CARRIED.

(27) CANTERBURY: "This branch is concerned with the spraying of noxious weeds while in flower and the possible loss of bees and requests that this matter be brought to the attention of the Agricultural Chemical Board by our representatives." (Cattermole/Penrose). CARRIED.

PHILATELY

(28) SOUTH CANTERBURY: "That the Government be requested to print a postage stamp depicting Honey bees pollinating apple blossom." (Bartrum/Cloake). CARRIED.

REBATE ON PETROL

(29) SOUTHLAND: "That beekeepers get a rebate on petrol which is used in the paddock." (Davies/Berry). CARRIED.

NATIVE BUSH

(30) WAIKATO: "That we are concerned at the destruction of native bush, and call on the Minister of Forests to do his utmost in the interest of beekeepers, and the national heritage, to pursue a policy of conservation." (Jansen/Brewster). CARRIED.

HONEY HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

(31) AUCKLAND: "That Executive approach the relevant department in order to formulate a standard set of requirements for honey house construction, design and operation and that it be clarified who is responsible for inspecting honey houses." (Stuckey/Blair). CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: "That Mr Ryder Lewis, Public Accountant, Wellington be re-appointed auditor for the ensuing year." (Forsyth/Dickenson). CARRIED.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Messrs Smaellie and Varley of the Department of Agriculture were called upon to act as scrutineers of the secret ballot for officers of the Association and members of executive.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT. There being one nomination only the Chairman vacated his seat and the Secretary declared the unanimous election for the office of:

PRESIDENT: Mr Bruce Forsyth of Ohaupo.

VICE PRESIDENT: (Sole nomination) Mr Ivan Dickinson of Milton.

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE: Following a number of nominations for the North and South Islands, the following were declared elected:

NORTH ISLAND: Messrs R. Jansen, Taupo and E. Whalley, Wanganui.

SOUTH ISLAND: Messrs F. Bartrum, Pleasant Point and M. Cloake, Timaru. It will be noted that both Islands elected a new member to executive.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Conference unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed executive's recommendation that Life Membership be bestowed on the retiring Director of Horticulture **MR A. M. W. GREIG.**

The President referred to the fact that Mr Greig first became interested in bees in the 1930s, when he was engaged in citrus and sub-tropical fruit growing in the Bay of Islands. Subsequent to his appointment to various Government offices with the Department of Agriculture he became chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee which functioned prior to the formation of the H.M.A. and in this capacity, first addressed Conference in 1948. His association with the industry since then has been very close indeed, and he had been instrumental in increasing the number of apiary staff to service the industry including the appointment of apiculturists and apicultural advisory officers.

A marked ability to work with people was an outstanding asset, and in this connection his assistance and co-operation with provisions of the revised Apiaries Act and his work for the industry with the Apiaries Advisory Committee connected with the Restricted Zone were very well known.

A number of speakers from the floor paid tribute to Mr Greig's willing assistance to the industry and his presentation was received with acclamation.

On the recommendation of the West Coast branch endorsed by Executive, Life Membership was also bestowed on the 'Father' of the host branch **RALPH V. GLASSON**, the first Coaster to be so honoured.

Ralph is widely known within the industry for his considered and sober assessments of situations as they arise and he has served on the executive twice. He has been a beekeeper all his life.

In accepting his Life Membership, Ralph paid tribute to his wife for her loyal assistance throughout their married life and mentioned that his father, a gold miner on the coast, kept bees in old box hives for the simple reason that sugar was not then obtainable for sweetening.

The West Coast branch was formed in 1917 when a field day was held, and Conference was held there in 1922 at Greymouth.

Ralph and his sons live at Blackball, with various apiaries 'in the bush'.

REPORTS

Reports were tabled by Mr Tom Pearson the N.B.A. delegate on the Agricultural Chemicals Board, by Mr Trevor Palmer Jones, scientist at Wallaceville, Mr Eric Smaellie, Superintendent of Beekeeping, Mr Chris Dawson the honorary librarian, and by Mr Russell Poole, chairman of the H.M.A. Reports in full or abridged forms will be published in this and subsequent issues of the journal.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The year just concluded has been one which has called for an extraordinary volume of work by your Executive, but due to a variety of reasons, about which I will refer to later, our achievements have not been as great as we would have liked them to be. A general and noticeable feeling of complacency and lack of constructive thinking by many beekeepers and branches has created a situation which must make you all do some very serious thinking at this Conference.

Our industry is slowly being paralysed by the practical non-existence of young assistants and cadets. Only on the 11th June in her Commonwealth Day message, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth told us that the future of the Commonwealth lay in the hands of the younger generation. We should heed these words, because I believe they apply to our industry. However, we appear to have lost sight of this fact.

The Diploma of Apiculture, instituted in 1962, has had an almost nil response, as has our Cadetship scheme. What has happened to our Overseas Study Bursary Scheme recommended every three years? Most of us have completely forgotten about it since 1966. The replacement of young cadets by automation and machinery, will no doubt give rise to major problems over the next decade. We are even learning to dispense with labour to work this machinery, because we cannot afford to pay for it. We must make more effort to attract young men into our industry, because they will be the beekeepers of tomorrow. To achieve this, we must make every endeavour to get the industry into a more prosperous position. There is the greatest need now for harmony, and co-operation in the effort to get things done. We seem to have spent most of the year arguing over marketing problems. I would remind you that honey has been commercially produced in New Zealand for over one hundred years, and I suggest to you all that it is about time we found a solution to this problem.

The situation on the local market, which we find to be grossly over supplied with honey, has been aggravated by numerous beekeepers, who have chosen to pack their honey in an endeavour to obtain an increased financial return. This is having an adverse effect on the local trading activities of the Honey Marketing Authority, and also leaving the major packers with no option but to compete for survival at reduced prices. This set of circumstances, together with mounting costs with which we are all faced, has brought about a situation, which is making many beekeepers wonder if there is any future at all in the honey industry. The lack of co-operation by the New Zealand Honey Packers' Association, has not made Executive work any easier. One wonders what the aims and objects of this Association are, and perhaps it would be timely to suggest to them that instead of becoming involved with N.B.A. and H.M.A. affairs, they direct their efforts to better advantage by making more endeavour to tidy up their own market. After all, the N.B.A. and the H.M.A. have been elected by the beekeepers, and if we do not perform to your satisfaction, then it is your privilege to elect someone else. It is hoped that the Minister will assist us in these matters, by redirecting many of the representations made to him back through the normal channels provided.

Now, I give you some details of our efforts on your behalf during the year.

MEMBERSHIP: It is interesting to note that the total number of beekeepers is currently 3228 which represents a slight drop, and along with the trend in all other industries, the total hive holdings has increased by 10,000. Of greater concern to us is the fact that only 755 beekeepers representing 23% are financial members of the N.B.A. This, together with outstanding subscriptions and increased

costs has been responsible for our Credit Balance falling to \$157.00. I would draw your attention to the fact that our income at the present level will be nowhere near sufficient to meet our estimated expenses for the coming year. We have endeavoured to stimulate membership by joining the Institute of Horticulture and advertising in their Careers Reference Manual. Also a Group Trading scheme is being investigated whereby financial members will be able to purchase many items of equipment at discount prices.

BRANCH VISITS: Every endeavour has been made to visit Branches and Field Days. Whilst I have not appeared in the South Island, this has been due to lack of finance. I have been ably assisted here by my Vice President and South Island members. I must mention that revival of a North Island Branch, South Western Districts. Congratulations to them, they will strengthen our Association.

LIBRARY: I am advised by Librarian Chris. Dawson, that the Library continues to flourish. A fine selection of books has been added, and we are indeed grateful for the enthusiasm and work carried out by Mr Dawson.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOARD: Mr Tom Pearson continues to represent our industry on this Board and we consider ourselves indebted to Mr Pearson for the effective contributions he has made on our behalf during the last thirteen years.

JOURNAL: The four publications this year have been of the usual high standard. They have contained a wealth of interesting reading, and we are fortunate that Mr Goss goes to considerable trouble in his efforts to supply beekeepers with first class material. Thanks also go to the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority for their 50% share of the cost of the Journal.

THE RESTRICTED ZONE: The Apiaries Advisory Committee has had a busy year. Boundaries have been extended to take in two additional areas and an area of grassland has been released from the Zone. Likewise all honey produced before 30th November of each year has been freed from control. Beekeepers placed some 1,600 hives in this area for build up and feed honey purposes, and all co-operated to the fullest extent. The Chairman, Mr A. M. W. Greig and Secretary, Mr D. Briscoe, have made the Committee's work comparatively easy, and as a member of this Committee, I gratefully acknowledge the work of these two gentlemen.

LIAISON: A close liaison has been kept with the H.M.A. A representative of this body has attended two of our three meetings. This has been of value to us, and I would recommend that this practice be continued. It is important that a close liaison be kept by these two organisations. The Director of Horticulture, Mr A. M. W. Greig and Superintendent, Mr E. Smaellie have also attended all our meetings. This has assisted us in our dealings with various Government Departments and the time spent here on industry matters is considered by Executive to be of great value.

SECRETARY: It has become necessary for us to substantially increase the General Secretary's fee. This is due to our increased demands on his time, coupled with inflationary trends, of which you are only too well aware. It is a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic and efficient Secretary, and I can tell you all that a very grateful vote of thanks must go to Mr Neal for the work he has been called upon to do this year. It is regrettable that a lot of the work volume has been created by beekeepers themselves, and I must say here that in future, Branches must work more constructively and co-operate to a greater degree with the General Secretary.

I cannot conclude this Report without reference to the modern farming methods, and their effect on our industry. The removal of ever increasing areas of native bush, and the onslaught of the purification of the land by

the use of hormones and insecticides is of grave concern to the New Zealand beekeeper. This policy destroys every stem of flowering weed every piece of scrub and so creates a problem for the bees. Your Executive has endeavoured to institute plans for the regeneration of nectar bearing trees and shrubs by the Land & Survey Department, the Minister of Works, and Mr Walsh. Auckland Apiculturist has been asked to prepare a short list of nectar bearing trees for distribution to State nurseries for their guidance when new blocks are planted. This would ensure an adequate supply of nectar for the bees, in order that they can supply the life giving pollen to the pastures which the farmer needs. One of man's most useful insect, the bee, also needs a continuity of nectar to pollinate our gardens and orchards, and it is good to see that one Branch has a remit on this topic.

APPRECIATION: On behalf of the Association, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr Greig, Director of Horticulture, for his valued support to us through the year, to the Superintendent, Mr Smaellie, and Officers of the Apiary Section, and Research Officers for their contribution to the industry. My Executive and General Secretary have worked with the fullest co-operation, and I also extend to them my sincere thanks.

CONCLUSION: The Industry has never faced a greater crisis than at present, and I urge you all not to turn this Conference into a defeat for all sides, but to co-operate to the utmost extent, and emerge with an acceptable decision, which will benefit all sections. Until this is done, we will surely continue to drift along in the present state of affairs, which is only resulting in diminishing returns for us all.

Executive Meetings Before and After Conference

The full executive of the Association met at Greymouth prior to Conference, beginning at 9 a.m. on the Monday and continuing until Tuesday evening.

Primarily, executive dealt with Conference business but other items of interest discussed and decisions made affect Direct Members, minimum subscriptions, and evaluation of hive holdings. It was decided to put to Conference as Notices of Motion from executive the following effecting the Rules:

DIRECT MEMBERS be charged a fee of \$10.00 over and above their subscription.

EVALUATION OF HIVE HOLDINGS: That the following be added to Rule 9 (a) after

'by him on his own account' as under:

'or by a limited liability company of which he is a shareholder or director or both or by a partnership of which he is a partner. Whichever of the aforesaid is the greater except that this shall apply to only one director, shareholder or partner as the case may be'

SUBSCRIPTIONS: in future subscriptions the grading 0-20 and 21-200 be deleted and replaced with a grading of 0-200 equalling \$5.00.

In view of increasing costs in producing the journal, advertising rates are to be increased by 10%.

Departmental heads and board members of the HMA attended executive to provide information and exchange of views.

A brief meeting of the incoming executive met immediately after closure of Conference, and it was anticipated that the next meeting in Wellington would be held in September or October.

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WALLACEVILLE ANIMAL APICULTURE SECTION

The Section is headed by Mr T. Palmer-Jones and the staff consists of Messrs P. G. Clinch, Scientist, I. W. Forster, Senior Technical Officer and M. J. Smith, Technician.

Export of Queen Bees to Canada

Prior to suppliers loading queen cages with escort bees the Apiculture Section examined samples of bees from a range of hives in their apiaries. 90 samples were examined to ensure that escorts could be provided from hives unaffected by *Nosema* to comply with Canadian requirements for an import permit. We use a much more severe standard when assessing *Nosema* in hives providing escort bees than in those from which samples are submitted for routine diagnosis, and the presence of only a few spores in a single bee necessitates classification of a whole sample as positive.

Nosema was found in a smaller proportion of samples submitted by queen breeders for the 1970-71 season than the previous one.

Project WA/1. Agricultural Chemicals.

This permanent project was continued, using laboratory tests and small-scale and large-scale field trials, the aim being to determine the toxicity of bees to newly developed agricultural chemicals.

Because the application of insecticide sprays to crops attractive to honey bees during the flowering period may cause serious bee mortality, alternative timing and methods of application are being investigated. It was suggested that the systemic, organophosphorus insecticide dicotophos, applied as a spray to raspberries, 6 days before flowering, might control insect pests without harming bees visiting the flowers in the blossom period.

In a large-scale field trial at Greytown we found that dicotophos, applied at recommended rates to raspberries 6 days before flowering commenced, continued to kill bees 16 days after spraying, but had little or no effect 21 days after spraying. Because pollination by honey bees is essential to obtain fully-developed fruit, we recommend that this compound must be applied to raspberries at least one month before flowering commences.

Project WA/2. Pollination.

A national project, located in the Oamaru district, and aimed at finding means of increasing lucerne seed production by the use of honey bees, was concluded. The project entailed studying the effect of manipulating and using hives in every way considered likely to promote tripping of lucerne florets, and hence increase pollination and seed set. The adequacy of bee coverage of lucerne seed crops was also investigated by observing bee visitation on typical ones. Results, which are being treated statistically, will soon be published.

Project WA/3. Toxic Honey.

This permanent project continues. Apart from the restricted zone a wide range of samples from contiguous districts are being tested. Results will enable us to decide if the boundary of the restricted zone should be extended.

As the following estimates show, the testing of honey samples for toxins is both costly and time-consuming. If batches of 10 or more samples of honey are tested at a time the cost per sample is about \$22.00.

The time expended in carrying out a single test approximates 7 hours of a scientist's and 6 hours of a technician's time. The cost of a testing of a single sample, or two or three at a time, would exceed the above estimate, as would the time required per sample.

RESEARCH CENTRE

Project WA/80. Effect on Honey Bees of External Acarine Mites.

This project continues.

Project WA/81. Diagnosis of Paralysis and its Effect on Honey Bees.

This project continues.

Project WA/4/2. Replacement of Honey on Hives by White Cane Sugar Syrup.

There was no significant difference for two successive seasons between colonies wintered on white cane sugar syrup and those wintered on honey.

Wintering hives entirely on white cane sugar presents no practical difficulties. However, the economic value of the practice depends on the relative prices of honey and sugar, and these are such at present that the gain would be marginal.

A full account of the work, including a description of the most convenient methods of feeding the syrup, will be published shortly in the New Zealand Beekeeper.

Project WA 56/1. The Effect of Air or Surface Mailing of Queen Bees on Subsequent Breeding, Honey Production and Queen Supersedure.

There is some evidence that the transport of queens by air or surface mail may considerably increase their supersedure rate for the first year. Honey production was not affected, nor was the amount of brood produced. This project has been completed.

Project WA 56/2. The Affect of Clipping Queen Honey Bees' Wings Investigated.

Honey bee colonies headed by clipped and unclipped queens were compared during three seasons for the equivalent of 124 colony years. Clipping did not increase queen supersedure or affect honey production. This project has been completed.

Project WA 57/1. Honey Production Compared for Queens from Three Queen Breeders.

Sixty queens have been obtained from each of three queen breeders. The 180 experimental hives, arranged in 7 apiaries, were requeened in the autumn of 1971 with three batches, each of 60 untested sister queens. An approximately equal number of hives in each experimental apiary will be allotted to queens from each of the three queen breeders. The project will continue for two seasons.

Project WA/94. Requeening Without Dequeening.

A conventional method of raising queen cells consists in dividing a two storey colony by a division board, and putting the old queen in the lower storey. Then a queen cell is given to the top storey whence the virgin queen flies to mate. Eventually the old queen is removed and the two storeys united.

A different method is being studied in which the entire brood nest, together with the old queen, is raised to become the top storey. Now, when the young queen returns from her mating flight, she has the advantage of entering at ground level in the company of the main stream of field bees. When the hives are reunited the top storey, with the old queen, is placed on the bottom board, and the lower storey, with the young queen, put on top over a sheet of newspaper. Not only do old bees from the top storey pass down to the bottom one to encounter an alien queen, but also returning field bees. Thus the queen's death is ensured.

The conventional and the new method of requeening without dequeening were compared under various conditions in 10 experimental apiaries, located in the Kurow-Oamaru districts, and containing 120 hives.

Hives in each apiary, of similar strength, were paired so that equal numbers could be treated by each of the two methods. One hundred and twenty sister queen cells were introduced when the hives were divided.

Mating percentages, brood areas, and honey production, for hives treated by the two methods are being compared.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN RUSSELL POOLE'S CONFERENCE ADDRESS

For the third successive year the intake into the Authority has been approximately 2000 tons, the comparative figures being:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| This year to June 30 | 2121 tons |
| Last year (1970) | 1848 tons |
| 1969 | 2116 tons |

We have to go back to 1955 to find another year in which the intake was as great. In that year 2236 tons were supplied.

The intake of 2116 tons in 1969 placed a strain on our financial resources and it was necessary to obtain further overdraft facilities. We were unable to make much of a reduction in the overdraft before the 1970 crop of 1848 tons was upon us, and because of repeated requests from the Reserve Bank and Treasury to reduce our reliance on them, we decided in October last that the advance payments for honey supplied this season would be paid in instalments as follows:—

- 3½ cents on receipt into store
- a further 2 cents on receipt of grade certificate
- a further 1½ cents on or about June 7
- a further 1 cent on or about August 7 for honey grading 91 points or better
- a further ½ cent on or about August 7 for honey grading 90 points or less

It was our intention that these dates would be brought forward as and when finances permitted, and in February we were able to announce that the June 7 1½ cents could be paid forthwith. I am pleased to announce that the August 7 instalment is to be paid now, and cheques will be posted before the end of this week.

EXPORT SALES

These have been proceeding continuously at satisfactory prices. The General Manager has at times had all graded honey in depots committed for sale, and has been waiting for further deliveries to meet enquiries from buyers. Sales have been as follows:—

| | to 31/5/70 | to 31/5/71 | Variation |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| To U.K. and Europe | 324 | 460 | up 136 |
| To Other Territories | 45 | 756 | up 711 |
| Within N.Z. | 682 | 603 | down 79 |

The Authority made a straight purchase offer of 9.15 cents for honey in a colour range which has not been easily sold in the past. The initial order was for 100 tons, with two further orders pending of another 100 tons each. The response to the offer was that less than 30 tons came to the Authority, and the balance of the first order was filled from stocks of the previous season's honey still on hand. In view of this the offer was withdrawn and the two follow-up orders cancelled. Subsequent to this further honey was offered us which we accepted at the 9.15 cents per lb. The quantity involved was 67 tons. Although some beekeepers felt that the price offered was too low, it was up to 1½ cents better than was paid out last year for similar honeys under the pro rata system, the whole amount was payable on receipt of the honey, and it was the best price we could offer having regard to the selling price we were getting.

LOCAL SALES

As can be seen in the table above, local sales are down by 79 tons for the 9 months to May 31. This is unfortunate, as the net return on the local market is better than on the export market. The drop in sales is in part at least due to the fact that the Authority increased its wholesale selling price by 4 cents per pound, but many other sellers did not increase their prices by the same amount. We have maintained our price despite loss of sales as we feel that a very unstable market would result if we entered into price-cutting to meet the competition. Price wars never benefit the sellers — quite the reverse in fact, and our stance on this policy will be maintained. Some other sellers on the local market feel we represent unfair competition to them, and I therefore offer the following comparative figures showing the last three years and the current year including an estimate of sales up to August 31, 1971.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1968 Sales by H.M.A. | 392 tons |
| Sales by R. L. Holland Ltd. | 512 tons |
| Sales by D. Penrose Ltd. | 128 tons |
| | <hr/> |
| | 1032 tons |
| 1969 Holland & Penrose (now owned by H.M.A.) | |
| | 1913 tons a drop of 19 tons from 1968 |
| 1970 | 934 tons a drop of 79 tons from 1969 |
| 1971 including estimate for June to August | |
| | 834 tons a drop of 100 tons from 1970 |
| Total drop in sales from the 1968 figure of | <hr/> |
| | 198 tons |

These figures, coupled with our stand on prices referred to above, show that our critics have considerably less competition today than they had in 1968 when the three packing plants had separate owners. Over the three years this amounts to 315 tons which the Authority has taken off the local market and exported. Stocks of honey unsold on hand at May 31 were 894 tons — 400 tons less than the 1294 tons on hand at May 31 last year.

SEALS LEVY

During the year action was taken to enforce the Regulations in regard to honey being sold in containers without a seals authority number. The action taken included warning the grocery trade of its liability under the regulations.

PROPOSED PRODUCERS' LEVY:

The Authority suggested to the N.B.A. Executive that the scope of the seals levy be enlarged to cover all honey sold in N.Z. and that the rate be increased from .834 cents per lb to 2 cents per lb. A meeting of the N.B.A. Executive, the Honey Packers Association Executive was held with Mr E. Lee and myself representing the H.M.A. After agreement had been reached representatives of all three bodies reported to Mr A. D. Dick, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture. The original proposal had been an extension of the present seals levy, but the Packers' Executive insisted on it being a producers levy so that they, the packers, would not have to pay it. Once this had been agreed to, they said they did not care how much

per pound the levy was, although they did express the opinion that they thought 2 cents per pound was too much. However, they said they would not oppose the levy on this ground as they would not be paying it. Mr Dick expressed his pleasure that the three bodies within the industry had reached agreement on this important issue. Full details of this proposal will be put before Conference and I trust that all beekeepers will weigh carefully the arguments presented, as I am convinced that the implementation of this levy will bring an improved return to all beekeepers in this country.

KIMPTON'S AGENCY AGREEMENT:

Notice of termination was given to Kimptons and the present agreement will expire on December 31, 1971. The Authority gave notice of termination as it felt that some of the clauses needed reviewing. To this end we were prepared to re-negotiate with Kimptons, but were equally prepared to consider any other honey trading firm in the U.K. We did not advertise for agents, but the fact that Kimptons were under notice of termination was well known in the U.K. honey trade. Despite this, no other firms offered their services. In May Mr A. A. W. Kimpton came to N.Z. and agreement was reached on the terms of a new contract to commence from January 1, 1972. The main points of difference from the old agreement will be six months notice of termination instead of twelve months and a changed formula for calculating commission which will amount to a decrease in commission for Kimptons. Kimptons will still be our sole agents for bulk honey, but honey in containers under 3½lb net weight will not be included in the agreement. This means that packed lines can be sold by the Authority or private packers in Kimptons' territory without violating the contract.

STAFF:

At last year's conference the announcement was made of the resignation of the General Manager Mr T. R. Edgerley, and the appointment of his successor Mr R. Macdonald. I would like to thank Mr C. Carr the Authority's accountant for his handling of the extra work and responsibility thrust upon him during the six weeks between Mr Edgerley leaving and Mr Macdonald joining us. My thanks are also due to the loyal support of the other staff members throughout the year and during the changeover period in particular. During the year Mr K. Holland resigned from the position of Auckland factory manager. Mr Bill Whitby who had been with the Authority for a number of years until he resigned last year, returned to take up the factory manager's position. In the 10½ months that Mr Macdonald has been with us he has proved to be an able administrator. His success in selling large quantities of honey is well shown by the figures I quoted earlier in this report. I hope that all of you will take the opportunity during conference to meet and talk with Mr Macdonald.

Authority members have attended field days and Branch meetings to report on Authority matters whenever possible. I would like to thank them for their support, and also the N.B.A. President and executive for their co-operation during the year. The executive of the Honey Packers Association has conferred with us on matters of mutual interest. Such exchanges have been appreciated by me and have helped both bodies in understanding the other's viewpoint. In this my first year as Chairman, and only my second as an Authority member, I would like to thank all those whose help and advice have assisted me in the performance of my duties. In this regard I would particularly thank the Deputy Chairmen Mr Harry Cloake and the past Chairman Mr Jack Fraser. Both these men have a vast background spanning many years as beekeepers, N.B.A. Executive members, and as members of this Authority, and they freely shared with me this background knowledge.

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ENQUIRY INTO THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF HONEY

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr A. D. Dick, M.P.) has announced that a Committee of Government Members of Parliament is to enquire into the honey producing industry in New Zealand. The Committee will comprise:

Mr A. D. Dick, M.P. (Chairman)

Mr L. W. Gandar, M.P.

Mr J. M. Rose, M.P.

Mr R. L. G. Talbot, M.P.

Mr V. S. Young, M.P.

and will study particularly the present methods of production and the organisation of the local and export marketing of honey.

Among other aspects of the industry, the Committee will consider:

- 1 Whether the full potential of the economic production of honey (and honeydew) is being utilised;*
- 2 The methods used to prepare honey for sale on the local market;*
- 3 The procedures adopted for preparing, assembling, inspecting, and grading honey for the export market;*
- 4 The role, constitution, organisation, and politics of the different administrative and marketing agencies in the industry.*
- 5 The policies that should be adopted to maintain a viable and expanding beekeeping and honey producing industry to keep the local market fully supplied on an economic basis, and to use all export opportunities to the best advantage to the industry.*

The Committee will report its findings and recommendations to the Government in the first instance, and its conclusions will later be available for consideration by the industry.

People and organisations interested in the production or marketing of honey are invited to make submissions in writing. Eight copies of submissions are required and should be addressed to:

*The Director-General of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 2298,
Wellington.*

Submissions are to be received on or before Friday, September 17, 1971. Those making submissions will have the opportunity to appear before the Committee if they so wish.

2,400 Mile Trek With Working Hives

Still keenly interested in New Zealand Beekeeping is Richard Whiting of Molong, NSW, 90 years young friend of our own doyen Charles F. Horn of Waihou.

This account of Richard's mammoth trek to find new nectar sources for his bees has been provided by a working companion of the adventure, Mavis N. Day, to whom we are indebted for the text and pictures.

My old friend Richard Whiting is now living in retirement in Molong, NSW, Australia, and he keeps in touch with beekeeping activities in New Zealand through his cobbler of bygone days the redoubtable Chas. F. Horne of Waihou. Although many years have passed since they were able to utilise their combined interest in beekeeping as a joint undertaking, a recent visit to New Zealand after a 40 years absence gave both stalwarts the opportunity for reminiscence and re-living earlier activities.

Richard Whiting was 90 years of age in May of this year and it is apt to record for posterity and the beekeepers of today the feats of endurance and enterprise he successfully carried through in his efforts to make his beekeeping a success.

How many men in this day and age would be prepared to flaunt providence and start an entirely new life beekeeping on the other side of the vast Australian continent in the Karri country out West, and at an age when most men retire?

Twenty three years ago in July 1948, when Richard Whiting was past his three score years and ten, he decided to head west from NSW for 2,400 miles to Manjimup

in Western Australia, largely on the hunch the karri country would blossom in profusion.

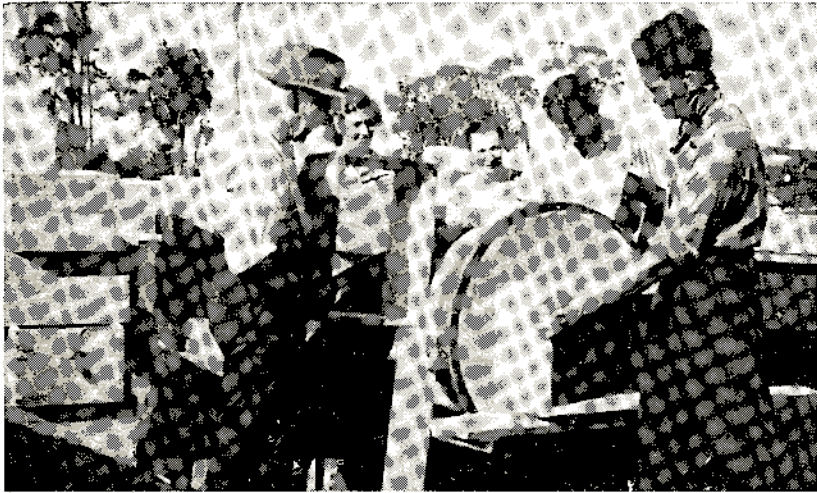
In association with another master builder Frank Armstrong who had agreed to join forces with him, Richard Whiting and his great hearted partner Jessie Whiting gathered together a huge convoy of trucks and caravans, nearly 2000 hives of bees, extracting equipment and 15 family and helpers and set off to cross the continent from east to west.

At that time I was working as an assistant in a Bunbury guest house, and reading the story of the trip overland fired my enthusiasm to join the adventure, for when I was a young girl in the East End of London I had read a book on beekeeping and always hoped there would be a chance to put the theoretical knowledge gained from reading and evening classes to practical use.

A letter asking for a job with the outfit was successful and I was hired for the Whiting-Armstrong team.

They were wonderful people to work with, and such enthusiastic and scientific beekeepers that they were bound to be successful.

The trek from Lake Grace to Manjimup took a year to complete,



Richard Whiting and his colleague Fred Goodwin using the jacked-up rear wheel of the flat top for power drive to a sanding disc. Hives were made on the site from local Timbers and ingenuity had to be exercised to get things done with a minimum of ready made appliances. Fred Goodwin was Secretary of the West Australian Beekeepers' Association in 1950.

and the convoy of equipment was valued at that time at £16,000.

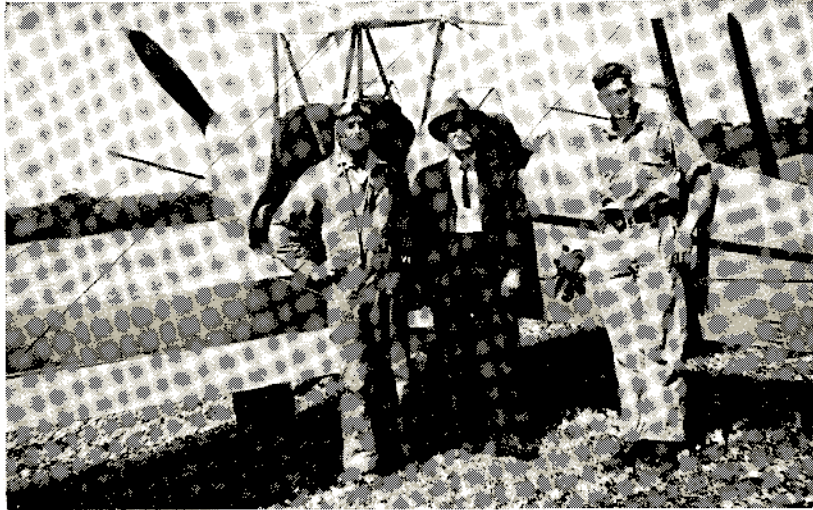
Just imagine the problems encountered on the trek finding adequate supplies of water for man and bees, to say nothing of the housekeeping requirements for such a large 'family'. To help the millions of bees to take their drink without drowning, tanks were provided with open tops on which slabs of cork floated to enable the bees to settle and drink.

The living quarters consisted of 24' x 8' caravans, of zinc-annealed steel lined with "Gancite". The Whitings' caravans alone could provide sleeping accommodation for eleven counting the verandah space with bed between the two caravans side by side and forming a platform between them 11' wide and fixing a much smaller caravan lengthwise at the far end to be entered from the side. This led to

the sunk-in bath, shower and sink, not to mention the double wooden wash tubs and boiler.

Fortunately everything was arranged with Richard Whiting's usual foresight, so that water was laid on and even the telephone, as we were sited on the town boundary. In one caravan a complete wood-stove was installed with asbestos lining and baking could go on as usual. A huge and very necessary frig. took precedence in the main living room. This had been securely bolted to the floor for rough travelling and the power came from kerosene. It withstood the strain of the bumpy passage well!

After proving the value of his up-to-date knowledge to the few who held slight resentment at the huge influx of "foreign" bees to their untapped sources in the Kari country, it was wonderful to



On left is the pilot owner of the Tiger Moth, Fred Goodwin with Richard Whiting and Ross Bird, assistant apiarist. Note the emblem on the side of the aircraft showing a beehive and gum blossom. The ground is carpeted with multi-coloured "paper flowers" which bloom profusely in W. Australia.

see how great a friend Mr Whiting and his partner became eventually, and what a fund of "know-how" he imparted freely and openly.

Some of the more conservative beekeepers in any country appear to desire to retain any useful knowledge for their own purpose only, in a very selfish way. Although not a church-goer, Richard Whit-

ing was the essence of a good practical Christian.

I often giggled at the sight of him sitting cosily in his car awaiting the completion of the service in the local Methodist Church to take his wife home.

To know him was to love him. May he continue to set the noble examples he has always used in his own life, examples that rub off on his fellow men and women.

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1970-71 SEASON

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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 approximately 10 to 12 weeks.

All Queens and bees are from disease free apiaries and packed with overweight allowance.

PRICES FOR DELIVERY OCTOBER 1st ONWARD

| | 2 lb | 3 lb | 4 lb and 2 Queens |
|-------------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| October 1—7 | \$4.10 | \$4.80 | \$8.10 |
| 8 ON | \$3.40 | \$4.10 | \$6.70 |

4 lb with 2 Queen Packages are designed to save freight.

Cages 40 cents extra. Full refund on return in good condition. All prices are plus freight charged at airfreight rates. For calculation of freight allow 6 lb per 2 lb pkge, 7 lb per 3 lb pkge, and 8 lb per 4 lb and 2 Queen pkge.

TERMS OF SALE

50% DEPOSIT 14 DAYS BEFORE DELIVERY, BALANCE WITHIN 7 DAYS OF DELIVERY.

No claims recognised unless shipper notified by phone within 24 hours of taking delivery.

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Commercial Beekeepers
KAITAIA

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P.O. Box 284

Letters to the Editor

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

32 Pine Street
Porterdale GA.
30270 U.S.A.
7th June, 1971.

Sir:

Greetings from the United States of America. I am a person who is in research on all honey bees and would like you to do me a favour and send me a copy of your May magazine on New Zealand bee-keeping.

I am in research on the black German honey bee. They are good workers. I also am in research on the African honey bee. Where to order a two pound package of them with queen?

After I hear from you I will send you my subscription of \$1.50 per year. Someone has this information.

BYRDY L. GUNTER

The predominant bee in New Zealand is the popular Italian although there are a few hybrids and other varieties in some parts of the country. Honey bees were imported into New Zealand.

It is suggested that you write to Dr. Eva Crane, Bee Research Association, Hill House, Chalfont St. Peter, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, England, who is an authority on the subject and will be able to provide the advice you require. — Ed.



89 Pariri Street,
Riccarton, Christchurch,
May 26th, 1971.

Sir,

During 1967 we took up the challenge put out by Mervin Clarke, to endeavour to find new methods of increasing production by 5% or more.

A simplified version of the SYD LINE modified Bottom Board described in your November, 1966 issue Pages 14, 15 and 16 was constructed and tried out at our Domestic Club site and at my home apiary.

The results have not been on a scale sufficient to be accurately assessed, but I believe it can be claimed that all bottom combs have been left intact at the bottom of the frames, bar a fraction of chewing on one or two combs.

A good $\frac{1}{2}$ has therefore been preserved which on a two box hive is worth near enough to 5% of nett comb depth.

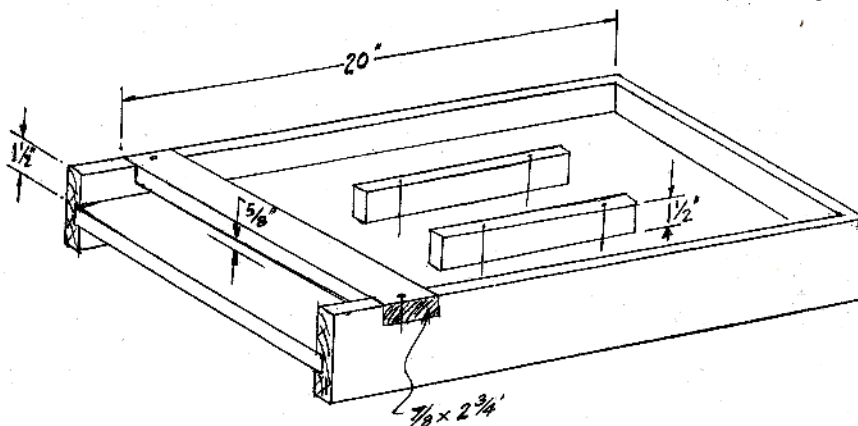
As an amateur I am unable to determine just what this is worth in

terms of yield — perhaps other readers could verify this for me. Is it worth a crop yield increase of 5%.

I enclose a sketch of the bottom board requirements.

Has anyone developed ideas since 1967 which are worth 5% improvement? We would be pleased to hear of these through your journal, to test them out. After all, a few 5% added together can amount to considerable economy.

G. W. HUNT



*MODIFIED AIR-FLOW
BOTTOM BOARD*



Hadlow 4 RD.
TIMARU.
July 19, 1971.

Sir,

re National Beekeepers' Assn. President's Report.

Following the N.B.A. President's Report at the Greymouth Conference our President mentioned that this type of destructive criticism of our Association, as contained in this Report, is not in the best interests of our Industry.

It is regrettable that the President did not see fit to withdraw such incorrect criticism of an associated industry body, which has done everything possible to co-operate for the betterment of our industry.

Some mention could have been made of the N.B.A. Executive's failure to promote an Investigating Committee, as requested by last Conference, and of our Association's gesture in offering \$500 to assist in this project.

R. Davidson,
SECRETARY.

COMMENTARY

from the Editor's Desk and Mail



POLLUTION IS ONE OF THE THINGS that everyone talks about and everybody does something about — like contributing to it. A well placed truism from Kawerau College magazine "TRADEWIND".

★ ★ ★
MR. J. C. SMITH OF CAPILANO APIARIES, Brisbane has decided that one way to cut rising costs of packing is to pump 17 tons of honey for export into a single container. Believed to be the first operation of its kind in the world, Mr Smith points out that 17 tons would normally require 58 drums as containers, whereas with the new innovation, one man controls the pump and packs the single container. It sounds a great idea to pack in such bulk from factory to ship.

★ ★ ★
BEEKEEPERS IN THE U.K. are suffering from a spate of vandalism and wanton destruction of hives. The BRITISH BEE JOURNAL reports that stocks belonging to the Association in Cambridge were deliberately destroyed by a organo-phosphorous substance in the Botanical Gardens. The editor rightly calls for stiffer penalties for those caught and the same sentiments might well be expressed to cover similar situations here in New Zealand. Overturned hives are nothing new here and penalties fixed years ago to deprive offenders of ready cash for a while are almost laughable under present conditions.

★ ★ ★
THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPER warns beekeepers to be on their mettle to give competition to the enterprising despatch of six tons of "ling" Heather Honey shipped in 45 gallon drums from Napier to the UK last year. The buyer was reported to be well satisfied with his pressed purchase and to be seeking more.

★ ★ ★
THE GOVERNMENT has decided to donate 2lb of sugar for every 1lb of honey produced.

Sit down again and stop jumping around.

The lucky beekeepers live in Bulgaria. Reason for the munificence is the result of Professor Mitev's work over a 3 year period on the

effects of stimulative feeding. The Prof. experimented with 4 groups of colonies.

To the 1st he gave one-third of a litre of sugar syrup every 2nd day, increasing the strength from a proportion of 1 to 1, to 2 to 1 and given in the evenings.

To the 2nd he gave every 5th day the same amount of syrup with a little less water.

The 3rd group received 500 gms. honey extracted from uncapped frames and mixed with a little warm water.

The 4th group got sealed frames of honey, one to each colony.

In the 1st year feeding was over 38 days, in the 2nd over 55 and in the 3rd over 60. From observations it was concluded that the best spread of brood came from the 1st group that had been fed sugar syrup in small doses every 2nd day. On the other hand, the last group with its sealed frames had the smallest increase in brood. It was also noted that syrup feeding encourages swarming, whilst avoiding robbing.

★ ★ ★

A SNIPPET in the "IRISH BEEKEEPER" recalls that an English politician in the thirties described himself as 'one of the largest employers of female labour in the country'. In fact, he had more than a thousand hives of bees, which would certainly entail large scale female labour. The varmint.

From the same source reference is made to the fact that the models in the world famous Madame Taussaud's Wax Works in London where celebrities from every walk of life including the underground can be viewed in safety are made from three parts of beeswax to one part of Japan wax. It's a sobering thought that the produce from one of your hives might end up as the tip of a murderer's nose.

★ ★ ★

GADGETRY IS A SURE MONEY spinner if the idea takes on with the mass market even if production costs are high. A recent commentator on a television programme appealed for a packer to put on the market a tube of toothpaste with a hinged cap instead of a screw cap. Similarly, a packer in the US is marketing squeeze tubes of honey as "quick" energy source for athletes, thus enabling a runner to have a quick suck on the road. Small packs are expensive to produce but certainly give a good return. The 8 oz packs of named source honey packed by the HMA are selling for 60 cents each in Adelaide, Australia.

★ ★ ★

THE HABIT of the honey bee making communication holes in the bottom of brood nest combs is well known to every beekeeper and an enterprising manufacturer of plastic-base foundation has introduced sheets which save the workers the bother of making their own communication holes. Three holes are punched in the sheets — one at each

corner and one in the centre — so that the bees can scurry hither and thither from the start. If the sheets are used in supers, the bees build out their combs covering the punctures, but if the extracted sheets are subsequently put down below, then they quickly puncture the ready made accesses.

★ ★ ★

THE FOLLOWING DOGGEREL is cribbed from the "British Bee Journal" and is unblushingly reproduced herewith for your entertainment with thanks to the originator:—

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Herbert stood at the golden gate,
His face was worn and old,
He gazed up into Peter's face,
For admission to the fold,
"What have you done", St. Peter cried,
"To gain admission here?"
"For many and many a year
I've been a beekeeper, sir", he said.
The pearly gates swung open wide,
As St. Peter rang the bell;
"Go in", he said, "and choose your harp
You have had your share of hell!"

★ ★ ★

HOHEPA FARM SCHOOL at Clive, Hawke's Bay mention in their Annual Report that some of the children have overcome their fear of bees and are co-operating in minor manipulations. The school is therapeutical and educational for children in need of special care and undertakes a tremendous social activity, deserving of the highest praise. Mr J. C. Ketel, writing from the School, mentions that he uses solvent ether for removing propolis from fingers and hands — or for that matter, the residue from sticking plaster adhesions.

★ ★ ★

ACCORDING TO AN ITEM in an old issue of "THE LANCET", a single drop of bee venom weighs from 0.2 to 0.3 milligrams, and is as clear as water with a specific gravity of 1.13. Yet this minute drop has been known to kill a fully grown man within 10 minutes. Serious effects are extremely rare. It is a matter of personal aroma and irritability that is more productive of stings than any other factors. That is why children are seldom stung, and nervous, irritable people are stung more often.

The immediate treatment of bee stings is merely placative. But in the case of serious reaction the treatment must be swift and decisive, using adrenaline or ephedrine. The human body can manufacture an anti-serum in 12 days. Bee venom is invaluable in the treatment of all muscular rheumatism.

★ ★ ★

GERMANY — An anti-insect lamp patented in Germany was supposed to allow bee handling in the dark without danger of attack. The beekeeper can see perfectly in the light of this lamp, but for the bee

darkness prevails because they are blind to the long-wave red light. The German writer found, however, that he was by no means safe from attack; his bees got their target just the same, guided there probably by smell, if not by the temperature of his body. One up for the bees!

★ ★ ★

RUSSIA — Flour feeding inside the hive. Recipe — 1 lb flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb sugar, 3 lb syrup. Take a frame of empty comb, fill the cells on one side about 3 parts full of ordinary wheaten flour, then add a layer of fine grain sugar till the cells are nearly full and gently pour thin syrup over this till all the sugar becomes moist. The side containing the flour must be put next to the cluster of bees. Syrup can also be poured into the side opposite the flour. (Reported in "THE SCOTTISH BEE-KEEPER").

★ ★ ★

SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW must be making a very good crust from the sale of New Zealand honey. A department store in Adelaide, Australia was offering in their food hall in June 8 oz pottles of NZ nectar source honey for the princely sum of 60 cents each. POW! Unfortunately the head of the department was not present to answer whether a mistake had been made, but an assistant gave assurance that the named sources honey had been so sold for a considerable time and sales "were quite good". \$1.20 per lb seems like profiteering, even allowing for higher costs of living in essential foods.

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**WAX MAY BE DELIVERED TO ANY N.Z. EXPRESS DEPOT
CONSIGNED TO US**

AN INCREASE IN BROOD DISEASE is an obvious possibility as a direct result of the cut back in petrol allowances to state servants. Apiary instructors are now allowed 25% of their previous petrol consumption for transport and it is patently obvious that hives cannot be inspected from a chair anchored-situation inside the office. This seems to be a case of economy gone berserk and the practical application of the measure requires re-thinking if the conomy measure is to continue.

IF YOU ARE HAVING difficulty reconciling Celsius with Farenheit degrees of heat, here is the simplest conversion to within half a degree. Take the number of degrees F. and deduct 30, then divide the answer in half. Thus: $F.60 - 30 = 30$ divide by 2 = C.15. For the mathematically minded there are other methods to ascertain precise conversion, but the simple life is good enough for most.

ACCORDING TO the "SCOTTISH BEE JOURNAL" bees have a natural propensity for knowing a thing or two about taste buds, for a beekeeper in Kilmarnock with hives near to Johnnie Walkers distillery is producing whisky flavoured honey. Truly, a practice to be encouraged! In the yard are hundreds of whisky barrels. The bees fly merrily to and from the barrels extracting the 'nectar of the gods' and carry it back to the hives.

They still made perfect 'bee-lines!'

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BEESWAX

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BEEKEEPER Rodney James Buchanan, the official timekeeper at Conference had a bad blow when a scrub and forest fire got out of control and set fire to a dis-used school building at Jackson's, in which Rod was storing the bulk of his drawn comb, foundation in frames, supers for the coming season and 300 new supers and sundry equipment. Rod runs his bees in the Otira Valleys, at Taramakau and on the coast road north of Greymouth in addition to wintering in Nelson. A number of beekeepers at Conference promised assistance to get Rod back into business by the loan of surplus equipment, and if you can give some help instead of the traditional pity, please contact Rod at 471 Main South Road, Paroa, Westland.



A TRUCK conveying two 45 gallon drums of honey from David Penrose's apiary fell off the carriers lorry at Springston and gave itinerant bees for miles around a veritable El Dorado in free supplies to take back home. The driver was on his own and sensibly shovelled the spilled honey off the road on to the shingle to stop passing traffic picking up too much and covering the roads for miles. One lady driver, however, not realising the mishap charged through the goo and successfully undersprayed her car with goodly coating. A scheduled stop at a garage a few miles on for an oil change and grease soon resulted in more bees within the garage than had been seen for many a day, including those who do not pay accounts.

Back at the scene of the accident, the council water tanker eventually washed away the centre of attraction.

It might be wise to enquire from your carrier whether he is insured against loss of this kind and possible damage or injury to third parties through stings etc.



A HONEY BASED product is being sold called "MERRYDOWN" mead bottled and produced by a firm in Sussex, England, 26 oz. in quantity and 22% proof spirit at \$3.00 per bottled. However, the product is not mead in the accepted sense and is described as 'a melomel prepared from grape and apple juice fermented with honey'. Bottles are available here but sight must not be lost of the fact that, however pleasant the drink may be, it is NOT mead. The industry would like to see the genuine article permitted to be produced on a commercial and controlled scale.

BRANCH NOTES



OTAGO

Not often do we long for winter weather but this year the autumn was very mild, and as a result the wasps lingered on and on. At any times they could be seen worrying well stocked hives, and battles were waged continually.

The cold snap that put an end to this did not come until we were close to the shortest day. Since then, rain and frosts have solved the problems and kept bees and beekeepers indoors.

Our Annual Convention was held on June 8 to coincide with the A. & P. Society's Winter Show and we enjoyed meeting beekeepers from Southland and North Otago. Chris Dawson mounted a display of books from the Association's Library but this was soon showing gaping holes as members armed themselves with winter reading material.

At the afternoon session the commercial beekeepers heard addresses by Ivan Dickinson, Vice President of the N.B.A. and Russell Pool Chairman of the H.M.A. This was followed by a lively discussion "The Layout of a Honey House for Handling 44 Gallon Drums". The problem of weighing the full drums was talked over but no easy solution found. 900lb is a lot of honey and scales for this are not common or cheap. Perhaps the old fashioned steelyard will be revived!

In the evening we were treated to a most informative talk by Vince Cook "Forestalling Pollen Shortages" illustrated with colour slides of the main pollen producers in our area. This was followed by Gavin McKenzie speaking

about features in two new honey houses in his area.

Finally, Charlie Foote related experiences in locating and exterminating wasp nests around Dunedin. This was most enlightening and indicated that the wasp problem is snowballing on us.

Talk went on over supper and the general feeling was that the 1971 Convention had been most successful and rewarding.

Reported by P. F. Morrow

NORTH OTAGO

Our Annual General Meeting was held on May 14, and the Branch met again on July 2 to consider the remits for Conference. Mr R. F. Poole, Chairman, H.M.A. was a most welcome guest at the second meeting, and he made a valuable contribution to the lengthy discussion on honey marketing.

The industry would seem to have reached a stage where a bright future can only be assured if the bulk price of honey is substantially increased.

Mr L. Griffen attended the July meeting to bid the Branch farewell before his departure for Invercargill. Mr Griffen retired from commercial beekeeping in Southland in 1958 and came to Oamaru. Since then he has been Hon. Auditor for the Branch and regularly attended at meetings and field days. Mr and Mrs Griffen are moving to Invercargill to be closer to their family. The Branch wishes them every happiness in their new home.

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

The weather has been mild with plentiful rain — about 5 inches in June. Pastures have not looked better for years at this time, and although we are a long way from honey-flow time, and anything can happen yet, it is encouraging to see the country looking so well.

The flowers of hebes, acacia, baileyana and rosemary, and the breaking buds of five finger and pussy willow all give promise of spring. We look forward, as always, to big crops and high prices.

Reported by R. B. Mackie

AUCKLAND

New secretary of the Auckland Branch T. Hall reported that they held an active and successful AGM on April 30 last when new officers were elected and a program compiled for activities during the following twelve months.

Secretary Terry Hall has inaugurated a branch newsletter covering local and national highlights and the enterprise is to be commended. Contained in the newsletter is practical help to beekeepers and particularly non-commercial types by member R. A. Everard.

A lively secretary is worth his weight in honey to any branch, and the industry cannot know of local activities unless they are told through the columns of the journal. Some secretaries regularly pen a few lines of branch activities and their efforts are appreciated. Regretably, some branches are so dead from a public relations point of view that other members of the industry might be tempted to assume they had ceased to exist.

Journalistic ability is not a necessary attribute for a successful branch secretary, and if your spelling is poor don't let that failing cause a moment's worry. All that is required are the facts, and recognition of the time factor for publication.

Incidentally, Auckland secretary Terry Hall asks that any branch within 'striking distance' advise as early as possible of field day and other activities for joint participation.

AUGUST, 1971

ITALIAN QUEENS

1971-72

| | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
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KAMO, NORTHLAND

NORTHLAND

This report is being written whilst Conference is being held in the cold, cold South, but my thought is that they have steered some of their cold up here to the North as it is very cold, with heavy hail showers forcing the bees into cluster. This will at least save stores as we have had the warmest June for over 130 years and thus notice the cold all the more.

The honey section of the local winter A. & P. exhibition was a great success with 176 entries from Auckland in the south to Awanui, where they produce some very fine honey and are experts at beeswax moulding.

Last season was a very poor one in this area, and clover honey was in very short supply.

Manuka is starting to flower early, so we hope for some stores to build up for a better season.

Our next field day will be during October and we are waiting the result of Conference decisions.

Reported by Arthur Tucker.

WAIKATO

At the July Branch meeting there seemed to be an air of uncertainty as to which way the industry should go. The 2c levy could only raise a couple of faint "ayes" and ideas of the future operations of the H.M.A. were nearly as legion as were members present.

Mr E. Sage gave a very interesting talk on some of the operations of the old H.P.A. and it seems times haven't changed much since then.

A warm winter so far has caused a lot of out of season breeding. The bees are raising drones in early July so one wonders what we are in for this season. Hives are very strong except where wasps are present, and reports of quite severe losses of honey and bees are general.

Tawari seems to have a good budding and for some unknown reason some trees have a few flowers. One wonders what next?

Honey "specialling" seems to be all the rage, with a new pack every couple of weeks! However the price seems to have crept up from about 24c to 29c. Let's hope it goes even higher.

Reported by C. Bird.

HAWKES BAY

At the annual general meeting of the Hawkes Bay Branch of the National Beekeepers officers for the year were appointed, and reference was made to the sterling work of the retiring President, Mrs G. Dorward.

The meeting was followed by a very interesting series of coloured slides of migratory beekeeping in Western Australia, shown by Mr Bill Stevens, who is holidaying in New Zealand. Mr Stevens and his brother operate 600 hives, and collect a crop of 500 lbs per hive, gathered over 10 months of the year.

Reported by Mrs I. H. Maultsaid

SOUTHLAND

The Southland field day was held at the home apiary of Mr Dick Franklin, Ohai, on February 6. The day was hot and dry and about 140 attended. Some of the northern representatives flew in especially for the field day. N.B.A. and H.M.A. affairs were discussed and honey removal from hives was demonstrated by Mr Gavin McKenzie, Apiary Instructor. A woodwork workshop demonstration was given by Mr Franklin, showing the use of saw benches and a super and frame stapling machine. At the conclusion of the day the President Mr J. Glynn thanked the host and hostess for making their apiary available and the speakers and all concerned in making the day enjoyable.

The good weather before and after the field day helped in making a very fine honey crop in Southland.

The trip to Conference by many Southland beekeepers this year was made easy by the branch organising a bus trip over the Haast Pass to Greymouth and after Conference to Christchurch and back down the east coast of the South Island. This may be a good idea for future Conferences. Members of the Southland Branch would like to extend thanks to the West Coast beekeepers for their hospitality.

The Can-Can Girls and the Kokotaki Band made an evening's entertainment that could only be had on the West Coast.

Reported by K. M. Herron

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

CANADIAN BEEKEEPERS HAVE PROBLEMS TOO!

This interesting and highly informative account of beekeeping in Canada was written by MURRAY REID, of the NZ Department of Agriculture formerly Apicultural Advisory Officer, spending most of his service at Auckland, Palmerston North and Christchurch offices.

Since late 1970 Murray has been on study leave working for a MSC degree at Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Ontario, attached to the University there, where his course should be completed by Easter of 1972 with a return to NZ around August.

Murray has just returned from a 3 week visit to the UK to look at current procedure and appliances as well as visits to research institutes.

An article that made the front page of the large Toronto morning paper, the *Globe & Mail*, March 10, 1971 was headed,

OLD WORDING OFFENDS P.O.

The Rape (seed) and honey town looks for a new slogan.

Tisdale, Sask. — Officials of this community are wondering if the word rape is too indelicate for the P.O., even when used to describe one of the areas major crops.

This area of Saskatchewan produces large quantities of rape seed (source of an edible oil) and honey, and for years it has used the slogan Tisdale, Sask. 'Land of Rape and Honey'.

When it applied recently to have the slogan incorporated into stamp cancellation, to be used by the local P.O. as part of its Homecoming 1971 Celebrations, Jean-Pierre Cote, Minister responsible for the P.O. ruled that Tisdale can't use the stamp cancellation 'Land of Rape and Honey' because other countries might not know the meaning of rape. Furthermore, stamp cancellation marks have to be bilingual and both in English and in French the words 'Land of Rape and Honey' would be too long.

Much of the country's Canada No. 1 white honey is produced and processed in the Tisdale district.

"The African Bee and its possible effect on N.Z. Apiculture"

"The African Bee, in a somewhat hybridized form, but with many undesirable characteristics, may spread from South America, into the U.S., possibly within the present decade. If this occurs beekeepers in the States will be unable to operate bees as they do now for honey production, pollination, Queen rearing, or even for backlot beekeeping." ABJ Dec, 1970 P 460.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) is aware of the potential threat, and has recently approached the US Academy of Sciences to appoint an autonomous committee, representing the sciences and commercial beekeeping, to review the problem. The committee, which consists of 8 members, is under the chairmanship of Dr. C. D. Michener, Professor of Entomology at the University of Kansas. Canada is represented by Professor G. F. Townsend and Dr M. V. Smith from the University of Guelph.

The committee members will make a tour, late this year, of Brazil and possibly some of the other countries into which the African bee has spread since its inadvertent liberation 15 years ago, namely Venezuela, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina.

Their investigation has 3 main objectives:—

- 1 To determine accurately the scope and seriousness of the African bee in South America.
- 2 To determine the possibility of the bee crossing the Panama Isthmus into the southern USA and estimate the approximate time of arrival.
- 3 To set up a list of recommendations on how to cope with the African bee when it does appear.

The report is expected by February—March of 1972.

Beekeepers in Canada will be profoundly affected by the appearance of the African bee in the Southern and Western States of America, as they rely on these regions for spring packages and queens. It could well be that one day the North American beekeepers will have to look to Australia, N.Z. and the Pacific Islands for a regular supply of queens and package bees!

“Ontario Beekeepers May Become Tree Farmers”

Beekeepers in this Canadian Province are beset by many problems, not least of which are the long cold winters lasting for over 6 months, the short summers, disease and uncertain market conditions. Serious as these problems are the beekeepers can alleviate their effects to some extent. What is causing more concern is the ever changing pattern of agriculture over which the beekeepers have little control. Cereals, soyabeans and corn are replacing grass paddocks, sweet clover has fallen from favour and has been replaced by alfalfa (which is cut in the bud stage to reduce the build up of alfalfa weevil) hedge rows have been uprooted and pesticides and herbicides take a heavy toll.

To lessen beekeepers dependence on current farming methods research work is being undertaken at the University of Guelph to study the possibility of planting large areas of the heavy nectar yielding Black Locust tree, *Robinia* spp. Professor Townsend is responsible for initiating the programme and has obtained specimens from 170 sources mainly as cuttings or seeds. Importations have been made from Hungary (where the Black Locust is a very important honey plant), Rumania, Bulgaria Sweden, Czechoslovakia, England, the USA and local sources in Canada. Subsequent research is aimed at perfecting propagation and transplanting techniques, control of the Black Locust borer (spraying with Lindane once every 3-4 years seems to give adequate control) and selection for the best nectar and pollen producers under Canadian conditions. Commercial plantations will be set up to give a continuous nectar yield throughout the summer by selecting those varieties whose flowering periods overlap. Selection for timber production is also being carried out but this is only of secondary importance.

Robinia honey is reputed to be one of the finest, extra white in colour, pleasant flavour and non-granulating properties. Yields of 300-1500 lb/acre have been reported from good sandy soils in Rumania, but it is too early to obtain production figures from the Ontario trials. Growth is very rapid, some species growing from cuttings into 10-13 foot trees in 2-3 years.

It is planned eventually to make extensive plantings of Black Locust on facial moraine country that covers huge areas of northern and central Ontario. Much of this land is too stony and infertile for economic farming and can be bought cheaply or rented from the Lands and Forest Department. As the Black Locust is a legume, bacterial root nodules build up nitrogen in the soil, while the heavy annual leaf fall builds up humus. Some of these areas may become economic farm or forest lands again after 20-30 years under Black Locust plantations.

Meanwhile, the beekeeper can face the coming season assured of a crop of honey. These trees have a fine record for regularity of nectar production, they are little influenced by changeable summer conditions, as is say, clover, and with more than one variety planted the risk of total nectar failure is minimised considerably.

A somewhat similar programme is being initiated in N.Z. by Apiary Instructor Vince Cook. Vince is experimenting with white clover and possibly *Vitex negundo* (a type of sage) on the poorer stoney river flats of Canterbury and North Otago.

"Honey Grading"

At a short course held at the University of Guelph for Ontario Honey Producers and Packers, during late February of this year, a motion was put forward by a beekeeper to enlist the help of the Ontario Department of Agriculture or the University of Guelph in establishing a honey grader independent of the local packers or co-operatives. Apparently there has been more than one incident of buyer's downgrading honey making a lower payout. The University has arbitrated in at least one of these cases. The motion seemed to gain little verbal support and was left for fellow beekeepers to sign if they so desired.

Few beekeepers possess the time or equipment to grade their own honey properly and therefore must trust the integrity of the buyers. I don't think N.Z. beekeepers really appreciate the valuable and totally unbiased grading system that the N.Z. Department of Agriculture provides for them.

"Honey Shortage in Canada"

At a recent spring beekeepers meeting in Guelph (12/6/71) it was pointed out that because of a general world shortage of honey and a vigorous Canadian export programme to the U.K., Europe and especially Japan, the large crop from last season has all gone. It is a sellers market and only regular customers are being supplied.

Several beekeepers noting this fact suggested that now was the time to increase the price of honey to ensure a better return for the producer, especially in Ontario. However, the majority of the beekeepers (just like their N.Z. counterparts) seemed reluctant to band together and force the price of honey up.

"The Indispensible Pollina'ors"

The theme of the 9th Pollination Conference held at Arkansas, Oct. 13-15th, 1970. The following is a brief report on the conference provided by discussions with Dr. M. V. Smith from Guelph who gave a paper at the conference.

Dr Keith Doull, from Australia, was the keynote speaker and gave an excellent presentation on honeybee behaviour as it relates to pollination. This set the stage for some 40 papers presented over 3 days. There were over 100 delegates in attendance and it was noticeable that the majority of papers presented at this conference were by Apiculturists in contrast to past conferences where plant physiologists have been to the fore.

A wide range of crops was covered, including oil seed crops, fibre crops, forage crops, vegetable crops, small fruits, deciduous tree fruits and citrus. The overall impression was that the use of honeybees for pollination is on the increase. This is closely related to the increasing use of hybrid crops for improved yields in agriculture. Hybrid production in cotton, soyabeans, sal-flowers, cucumbers, onions, carrots and citrus was discussed. In cotton a 25% increase in production could be obtained through use of hybrids. Some 240,000 acres of hybrid cotton, pollinated by 240,000 colonies of bees would produce sufficient seed for the whole U.S.A. From the viewpoint of economics a rental fee for bees of \$2.5 million could result in an increase in value of the cotton crop of \$275 million!

Hybrid cucumber production in Michigan has resulted in a pickling industry with an annual value of \$8-13 million occupying about 26,000 acres. This crop is pollinated almost exclusively by honeybees — used at the rate of 1-2 colonies per acre.

A number of papers were concerned with the possibility of breeding bees with a behaviour preference for working on specific crops. The alfalfa (Lucerne) pollen collecting bee (A.P.C.) developed by the U.S.A. over the past 8 years is an example of what can be done along this line. High and low A.P.C. lines were obtained by a programme of selection and breeding. Crosses showed intermediate A.P.C. characteristics indicating that this behaviour characteristic was genetically controlled. High A.P.C. lines collecting over 90% of alfalfa pollen, in the test areas of Utah, have now been developed. A number of seed companies in California have a \$50,000 per year project working on a similar "Hi-Queen" alfalfa pollen collecting bee. This opens the possibility of similar breeding projects for many other crops especially those grown in glasshouses, and also for cranberries, cucumbers, cotton and almonds.

The poisoning of bees by agricultural chemicals received special attention, as it is a very serious problem in many areas. For example, the spray losses in California amounted to some 80,000 hives in one season! Commercial beekeeping in Arizona has been seriously affected by toxic sprays. Ways of avoiding spray damage and of compensating the beekeeper for his losses were discussed.

It would seem that the field of pollination is really just beginning to open up. Beekeepers the world over (and particularly in N.Z.) must obtain a larger proportion of their income through renting their bees for pollination. Only then will the beekeeping industry take its proper place in the agricultural economy.

"Economic Survey of the Beekeeping Industry"

Representation has been made to the Ontario Government by the Ontario Beekeepers Association for financial assistance to bolster a struggling industry. The local beekeepers face an ironical situation; Toronto, the largest single market for honey and pollen is right on their doorstep, but changing farm practices and competition from cheaper prairie province honey's has caused a marked decline in the beekeeper's earnings.

The Ontario Minister for Agriculture, having little statistical information to base any decisions on, instructed his department to conduct an economic survey of the local beekeeping industry. This was done by questionnaire and an excellent return by the beekeepers will enable accurate assessments of the industries past, present and future to be made.

A preliminary report was given to the spring meeting of the Ontario Beekeepers Association held at Guelph on 12th June, 1971. The survey conducted over 3-4 months tried to establish 3 main points.

- 1 The size of the Ontario market for honey.
- 2 The significance of the industry as a supplier of a food product.
- 3 The significance of the industry as a pollinator of fruit, seed and vegetable crops.

The survey also embraced the retail outlets and tried to establish a "Channel of trade" i.e. where does the honey come from and where does it go to. In this respect some very interesting figures were obtained that indicated commercial and non-commercial producers sold 1,697,903 lb of honey direct to the consumer and realised \$456,155 while 3,503,010 lb were sold to packers and only realised \$430,866 to the producer.

APIARY SECTION REPORT TO CONFERENCE

STAFFING:

The Apiary Section is at full strength except for one Apicultural Advisory Officer position. Mr R. S. Walsh will retire from the Apiary Section in December next and on behalf of the Apiary Section staff I express our appreciation and thanks to him for the advice and assistance he has rendered during the 31 years of his service.

Mr G. M. Read, Apicultural Advisory Officer, at present attending the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, undertaking post graduate studies will return to New Zealand about May next year.

INSPECTION:

Inspection of Apiaries for disease continued with assistance from competent beekeepers acting as temporary inspectors. Reports indicate that the overall incidence of disease is low, but in some districts is relatively widespread. The incidence of diseased apiaries and hives inspected and notified by beekeepers was 4.08% and 0.42% respectively. The total number of diseased hives burnt was 751.

The current policy of employment of qualified beekeepers as part-time inspectors to assist Apiary Instructors will be continued. I would urge all branches of the association to continue to co-operate with the local Apiary Instructor in this matter and ensure that sufficient competent beekeepers are available for the work each season.

HONEY CROPS:

For the year ended August 30, 1970, 1631 tons of bulk extracted honey were graded by the Honey Grader. Of this 156 tons did not meet the export grade standard. A total of 122 tons of comb honey exported by beekeepers were graded. This was a record for export of comb honey, being double the quantity exported the previous year.

Most districts had dry conditions and the season was later than normal. Total honey production was assessed in May last was 5570 tons, which is approximately 250 tons more honey than the previous six seasons average.

North Island production last season was about 2885 tons and in the South Island 2685 tons.

STATISTICS:

Statistics relating to the numbers of beekeepers and hive holdings over the past decade have shown a progressive decline in the numbers of beekeepers also a decrease in hive holdings by domestic and semi commercial beekeepers, and increased hive holdings by commercial beekeepers.

Latest statistics show that commercial beekeepers have continued to expand their enterprises and total numbers of hives in the Dominion is now the highest on record.

As as May 31, 1971 there were 3,228 beekeepers owning 14,345 registered apiaries and 188,173 hives are kept by commercial beekeepers owning 30 hives and over.

Present holdings are distributed as follows:

NORTH ISLAND — 2,382 beekeepers, 7,132 apiaries and 110,353 hives.

SOUTH ISLAND — 846 beekeepers, 7,213 apiaries and 90,421 hives.

Comparison with 10 years ago shows in the "251 hives and over" commercial group that in the North Island there has been a 19.7% decrease in the number of beekeepers, but an increase of 8.4% in the number of hives. In the South Island beekeepers decreased by 1.9% and hives increased by 47.3%.

The overall total of hive numbers increased by 11.5% but the average total yield of honey is approximately the same as ten years ago.

ADVISORY AND EXTENSION WORK:

A broad spectrum of advice has been given by lectures, demonstrations, Journal articles, radio talks and visits to beekeepers. Discussion groups have been established in some districts and the meetings held have been successful.

As the honey cost/price squeeze continues to intensify more advice is being sought on beekeeping economics.

A good deal of publicity was given about protecting bees when white clover seed crops are sprayed for case-bearer control. This was done over radio, by newspaper articles and feature film shown on "Country Calendar".

Advice was given to farmers by personal interviews, about the pollination of various crops.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS:

The problem of protecting bees when brassicas and white clover are sprayed is potentially serious each season. Brassica seed crops in the South Island were very numerous in 1970 and a good deal of advice had to be given to beekeepers and farmers about correct procedures to follow in order to destroy aphids without killing bees. No permits were issued to authorities spraying. No seed was lost and no bees were killed.

Several suspected cases of poisoning were investigated in late November and December but none confirmed.

RESTRICTED AREA FOR BEEKEEPING:

A total of 42 permits were issued to beekeepers to establish hives in the restricted zone for hive build up purposes and for production of honey for bee feeding. Approximately 1,600 hives were moved into the area.

Test apiaries are situated throughout the Bay of Plenty and monthly honey samples taken from each site and forwarded to Wallaceville for testing.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS/EXPERIMENTAL WORK:

A summary of field investigation and experimental work undertaken during the year is as follows:

1. Evaluation of Colony Management Methods:

Following a comprehensive statistical evaluation of three colony management systems during 1969/70 season this work has been further extended. During the 1970/71 season two-queen colonies have been compared to single-queen colonies, on an economic basis. The aim of current work is to compare the honey yields of two-queened and single-queened colonies under the practical conditions of management and maintenance used by commercial beekeepers. An economic assessment of labour, time and costs per pound of honey produced is included.

2. Cobalt Fed Hives:

An experiment to ascertain the value of feeding cobalt sulphate to hives to increase brood rearing and thereby increased honey yields per hive has been commenced. The cobalt fed hives will be compared with control hives.

3. Pollen Supplements:

A small scale experiment on the West Coast of the South Island in November 1970 showed that pollen supplements incorporating natural pollen stimulated colonies during a period of complete dearth of natural pollen. Capped brood areas increased by 90% in the supplement fed colonies over a period of a month. The controls obtained a 4% increase.

4. Preserving Pollen Combs:

Various methods of storing pollen combs for use in the spring were carried out over the winter in order to find the best method of preserving pollen and retaining its viability.

The project entailed storage of combs in coolers, under black polythene, treated with carbon disulphide and P.D.B. crystals and stacked, and covered with paraffin wax. The trial did not disclose any difference in the development of colonies supplied with fresh pollen and those given the over-wintered pollen.

5. Nectar and Pollen Sources:

Comprehensive lists of nectar and pollen producing trees and shrubs suitable for each district in New Zealand were prepared. The lists include an extensive catalogue of Eucalypts that adapt themselves well to N.Z. conditions with a description of the honey and pollen produced.

6. Sweet Clover Honey Farming:

Background study over the past 12 months has resulted in the planning of field trials to be commenced in the spring. This is an entirely new concept of honey farming in which a crop is grown solely to produce honey. The purpose of the initial trials is to compare the profitability of sweet clover as a honey producing crop with that of other sources of income on intensively farmed land.

7. Queen Bees from Tonga:

The feasibility of importing to N.Z. queen bees reared in Tonga is being investigated. As part of this investigation Mr R. S. Walsh visited Tonga in March. Samples of bees from all hives and known swarms were collected and forwarded to Wallaceville for diagnostic examination for presence of any bee diseases and pests. This investigation has not been completed.

8. Queen Cell Incubators:

Trials are under way to develop cheap, simple and effective static and portable incubators for holding queen cells from when they are sealed until the queens are due to emerge.

9. Survey of Beekeeping Potential:

Surveys of the beekeeping potential in both the North and South Islands were undertaken. Reports covering these surveys are receiving the consideration of the Horticulture Committee of the Agricultural Production Council.

10. Potential of Beech Honeydew:

Canterbury beekeepers produce honeydew from native beech trees mainly for bee food. Investigations have shown that good export markets probably exist for beech honeydew in countries where honeydew and honeydew honey is rated on a par with blossom honey. Exporters are now endeavouring to establish markets in Europe and the East.

11. Wasp Attractants:

This project continues. Chemical, fish and meat and fruit baits have been used with varying success. No entirely satisfactory wasp specific attractant has been found. D.S.I.R., Nelson are currently undertaking an examination of wasp feeding behaviour and life cycle.

TONGAN QUEEN PROJECT

A letter received from Dudley Ward reports that there has been a initial setback to his Queen-breeding programme in that samples sent to Wallaceville disclose the presence of unidentified external mites, and specimens have been forwarded now to Dr Baker, a specialist in the United States, in acarology for a full report.

This unexpected development has been a serious blow to the project but if the mite is proved harmless or suitable eradication can be made, the problem will be overcome.

One hundred and fifty hives were taken over to Tonga in preparation for Queen breeding, with honey production as a by-product, but the by-product has now become the principal until such time as the mite problem is defeated.

The project is now completely under the control of Dudley Ward and his family, and the initial partnership with Jasper Bray was dissolved in May.

The honey produced in Tonga will

be exported and sold in bulk on world markets.

Dudley is staying at the Beach House, Nukualofa, Tonga, and will, of course, be pleased to hear from any of his beekeeping friends.

All equipment arrived in first-class order and were unloaded on to a site selected by the Auckland Apiculturist, Mr R. S. Walsh, during his original investigation. Transportation has since been made to permanent sites where good quality honey and pollen is being produced.

The operating company is to be known as KINTAIL HONEY TONGA LIMITED, and for four or five years will be under the direct control of the Ward family.

The Tongan boys are very keen and quick to learn but, of course, need close supervision in the initial stages.

Finally, Dudley expresses appreciation for the assistance given by the Department of Agriculture and Bob Walsh in particular, with Brian Milne for their wonderful co-operation in the supervision of shipping arrangements.

OBITUARY

GRIFFIN, Leslie Arthur Morow of Hurley St, Christchurch, died after a long illness on July 2, 1971.

"Griff", who was an Apiary Instructor in the North Island, came to Christchurch some twenty years ago to continue his Department of Agriculture service.

He will be remembered by many beekeepers for many things, but those who have witnessed one of his passionate outbursts against the widespread use of insecticides will never forget his message.

After his retirement from the Department 4 years ago "Griff" withdrew from the beekeeping scene. Although his reputation will live with those with whom he came in contact and in particular will he always be associated with "Griff's Graph". If there was such a thing as a beekeeping dictionary, "Griff's Graph" would certainly be included.

The beekeeping industry has always produced "characters" and Griff was no exception. When the writer first arrived from the UK to settle in Christchurch, Griff went out of his way to provide help and advice on setting up a few hives on the hills and the differences to be anticipated in beekeeping overseas and in NZ, and saw that stocks purchased were 'clean'.

He experienced many problems, and life was not the easiest.

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Bay of Plenty

NEW THOUGHTS ON TWO-QUEEN BEEKEEPING

By C. Bird, Matamata

The industry's aim has been to operate a system that reduces labour, time and technical know-how, yet returning the maximum possible per hive. For years we have used the two-queen system of splitting a hive in two using a division board, and introducing a young queen to the top half which were fed on combs of dark honey until the flow, when each unit was supered, and when nearly full joined and supered further. The problems we faced were poor queen acceptance, supersedure or disappearing queens, having to remove combs that may contain pollen and robbing when we fed the honey.

We overcame the poor acceptance by using less candy, but in our new system have overcome it further by feeding sugar syrup prior to introduction, and feel we have a major breakthrough as the results of last seasons experimental work.

First we designed a top feeder which cost about 10c, made from rough lining we pulled from the walls of a house which was being demolished. These were 20" x 16" outside and 4" deep. Inside, we fitted an aluminium tray 22" x 18" folded so that the corners were closed, and fitted with fern. These feeders hold about 1½ gallons.

As usual we put the old queen with two combs of brood in the bottom super, and the rest of the brood in the second super above an excluder. The hive was then given a full feed of syrup. Four days later the excluder is replaced by a division board, and a young queen introduced to the top. Two combs heavy with syrup were put down to the bottom unit. This makes

the old queen really lay out, and the bees accept the young queens much better.

On the next visit the feeder is placed over the lower unit, while the top is united over an excluder and a sheet of paper. This puts the hive together again so that all the field force is working for the two units, ensuring ample pollen, and the two units are fed from the one feeder. It is quite simple to slide the hive back on the excluder so that they are all ready to feed when the apiary is finished. No comb is taken out, no robbing from honey on the truck, and there is a saving in time. Any one can do these operations, and there is nothing technical involved. Should the weather be adverse feeding is still quite easy. With this feeding programme supersedure is greatly reduced and possibly the incidence of Nosema.

Feeding is carried out until the flow when the hive is supered and brood can be lifted to provide laying room for each queen. A further queen excluder is desirable but not essential, but saves time later when the two units are united.

This operation can be carried out as close as 4-5 weeks from the start of the flow as the brood increase is quite terrific, and two solid boxes of brood make a good hive to start the flow. The feeder is removed as the flow starts.

In September we make as many nucs as we can on split boards, and in November take these out and use on weak hives or in hard areas. Although we have not tried with the feeder and excluder between, I feel confident it would work well.

Another experiment was where we found hives which were overcrowded and had cells just as the flow was about to start. We destroyed the cells and united a nuc over an excluder, and no further cells appeared and the hives produced well.

Conclusions:

The hives the experiment was tried on did even better than the usual two queen hives, and the single queen hives were far behind. The ease of work

was noticeable, while the syrup pushed the hives earlier and the brood raised then probably gave the extra strength as the flow started.

I hope to do quite a number on this system this season, as with the larger numbers we have to run it seems to offer the easiest way and probably the best return for the time expended. I only wish I was closer to the department testing area, but maybe they could try some of these ideas and give the comparison.

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THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER

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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

Beekeepers often wonder how it is possible to obtain an accurate count of the number of bees pollinating a crop at any given time. It would be impossible to take a count of a whole clover field and to arrive at an accurate result.

To overcome the obvious difficulties, therefore, a new small scale field test has been developed by the apiculture section at Wallaceville Research Centre to assess the toxicity of pesticides to honey bees.

Nucleus hives of bees are enclosed in wheeled cages (30ft x 10ft x 6ft high) running on a track laid over an area of flowering white clover.

Pesticides are applied to plots of the clover by a specially made trolley boom sprayer, and the cages are then wheeled over them. Observations and counts can be carried out as in large scale field trials.

The photograph on the front cover was taken by Messrs A. W. Barkus and J. Bellamy of the Photographic Unit at Wallaceville. A technician is shown counting the number of bees on white clover flowers in one of the cages.

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