

THE  
NEW  
ZEALAND

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# BEEKEEPER

August 1973

## 70th Annual Conference



# THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION of N.Z. Incorporated

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THE  
NEW  
ZEALAND

# BEEKEEPER

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## Conference 1973

Nelson certainly did us proud with its impeccable Conference arrangements, both social and business, its perfect weather and the smooth way everything was executed.

Perhaps the scene was set for the progress all were hoping for when we landed at the airport to note that at long last, at very, very long last, the new airport terminal building has been started. It must have been long before the last Beekeepers' Conference in Nelson 12 or more years ago that the long-suffering Nelsonians were promised a new terminal building. In the meantime they have suffered the indignity of having to co-opt buckets, basins and what have you every time it rained.

The Levy Scheme and the Government decision on the H.M.A. payout to producers dominated the Conference. Delegates and members, showed commendable determination to resolve the former after years of debating various schemes, remits and suggestions. The Motion as passed will have a unifying effect as well as providing the finance desperately needed to enable

the National Beekeepers' Association to do its work properly

Progress in resolving the payout question has been slow. The Executive and the Honey Marketing Authority are preparing further submissions to be put before the Minister shortly.

In retrospect I have found the contacts made at Conference stimulating. The dedication of many of those present, both old and young, is infectious so that I have come away more than ever convinced that there is a better future in store for the industry. I have seen the proverbial patience in beekeepers which balances their rugged individualistic qualities.

## **Misleading Advertising**

We are all aware of the discussion which has surrounded the use of such terms as "absolutely pure", "unadulterated", "contains no additives" referring to honey. This industry is not the only one affected by this approach. The hint that "we are the only ones who are in step" is misleading but unfortunately legal. The following quotation from *Food Technology in New Zealand* illustrates the point.

"You are probably familiar with emotive headlines such as 'Nice and tasty — but it is safe to eat', or 'Do you know that there are over 2000 artificial flavours and colours and other chemicals being pumped into your body by the food industry', or 'What Health Regulations call purity, others call adulteration', finally 'a shopping basket is laced with hazards'. It would appear that the authors of these particular articles in quite reputable newspapers should be writing Agatha Christie type fiction novels rather than commentaries on the science of food technology. By the clever use of emotive words, half-truths, and blatant untruths, a great deal of adverse publicity for the food industry as a whole can be generated."

This writer goes on to point out that informed public opinion is the best answer to this kind of publicity. Attempts at rebuttal are apt to prolong the controversy and force concentration on minor issues. What is needed is a concentrated attempt to educate the public into the ethics of the food industry and food regulations in general.

## **Honey Levy, And Honey Marketing In 1939**

After some research I have established that the Conference just concluded was in fact the 70th such gathering of the National Beekeepers' Association Incorporated. In the first issue of the N.Z. Bee-

keeper published over the date January 20, 1939, it was reported that, "the 25th annual conference of the association was held at Timaru on June 1-2, 1938, there being an attendance of more than 80 members . . . The chief business centred round an important address given by Mr W. W. Nelson, Chairman of the N.Z. Honey Control Board, outlining the proposals of the Board to the Minister of Marketing covering the marketing of honey." Excerpts from this address and other items of interest from this issue are published below.

From the Issue of 20th Jan., 1939

" . . . The Internal Marketing Department was then given authority to take over the assets of the producers' marketing company (N.Z. Honey Ltd) and to co-ordinate the local and export selling, thus making possible a payout to suppliers from the pooled returns of both markets.

" . . . The Board is of the opinion that all producers selling outside the Division should be required to affix a stamp on containers of honey on a basis of ½d per lb. These stamps should be procurable from the Marketing Division or its agents, and the sum collected to be handed over to the Honey Section and used principally for advertising." From the Report of the Internal Marketing Division (Honey Section):

" . . . The institution of a levy of ½d per lb on all honey sold puts the whole of the selling of honey on a co-operative basis, while giving free scope to the producer to sell his honey, if he so desires. The equity of the stamp levy is based on the principal that in co-operation all share alike in the benefits and all share alike in the costs."

My point in re-publishing all this is two-fold: Firstly, to highlight the fact that the price cutters are always with us and that the writer of 1939 was right in implying insanity to such operators. Secondly, I gather from all this that 5c would possibly have been a fair average price at that time.

At that time also, I was working as a tradesman for £7 (\$14) per week and thought I was well paid. Similar tradesmen today get at the most \$80 without overtime. If the price of honey was to be similarly multiplied producers would be getting about 28c per lb for good honey sold in bulk.

Strange as it seems, this is about the present world parity for bulk honey sales after freight and other costs have been deducted.

From the issue of 20 April 1935:

" . . . At Palmerston North last month, Mr E. A. Earp, Snnr., Apiary Instructor, stated that he could have purchased excellent honey at 3½d (3c) and sold it at 6d (5c) almost immediately, making a handsome profit. Mr Earp also stated that it was necessary for the producer to receive not less than 5d (4c) per lb in the tank for honey in order to make a reasonable living out of the business. Of course there is no way of protecting mental defectives from injuring themselves and their neighbours, and we can only assume that the shock of securing a crop somewhat above normal must have adversely affected the mental stability of some of the South Island producers.

" . . . Every producer knows or should know . . . that the Internal Marketing Division paid a total of 5½d to date at October last year . . . The owner of the largest number of hives in the world (3000) is stationed in the North Island, and he informs us that he is not selling any of his honey this year for less than 8d per lb. By South Island standards, his crop is a very large one, so why the price cutting in the South?"

# *Executive Meeting at* **NELSON Prior to July Conference**

**Monday and Tuesday, 9th, 10th July, 1973**

Those present were Mr I. J. Dickinson (in the chair); Messrs J. K. Bray, M. D. Cloake, M. D. Haines, D. F. Penrose, E. Whalley.

In attendance: E. R. Neal, General Secretary; N. S. Stanton, Editor of "N.Z. Beekeeper".

## **WELCOME:**

Mr Dickinson welcomed members of the Executive and said it was the last meeting of the present Executive. If at all possible he did not want the Executive to have to meet in the evenings but he thought that the meeting should continue until approximately 6 p.m. on the Monday and 6 p.m. on the Tuesday. He did not want a repeat of the situation which had obtained at Kaitaia.

## **"BEEKEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND"**

On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Whalley it was **resolved** that the President and General Secretary take up with Messrs Watt and Smaellie at the Conference the question of the late publication of the new edition of the publication "Beekeeping in New Zealand" with a view to getting some urgency in the matter.

On the motion of Mr Cloake seconded Mr Bray it was **resolved** that the Secretary check up with the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries re the late publication of the new edition of the publication "Beekeeping in New Zealand".

## **COMB HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION:**

It was agreed that members of the Comb Honey Producers' Association be invited to visit the meeting at 4 p.m. that day. On the motion of Mr Bray seconded Mr Whalley it was **resolved** that the Secretary's letter of 22nd June 1973 be endorsed.

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:**

The Secretary tabled a reply from Rotary International dated the 27th June 1973 which was in reply to his letter of 18th June 1973. This advised branches of the N.B.A. to contact their nearest Rotary Club for assistance. It was agreed that this letter be referred to Mr Stanton, the Editor, for publication. It was agreed also that Mr Stanton liaise with the President re other bursaries.

## **EDITOR'S HONORARIUM:**

In the absence of the Editor on temporary Association business, the Editor's Honorarium was discussed.

On the motion of Mr Whalley seconded Mr Bray it was **resolved** that the Editor's Honorarium be increased to \$600 per annum, effective immediately and subject to review annually. On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Cloake it was **resolved** that the decision to implement the Editor's salary be referred to the H.M.A. for assistance.

## **AWARD WAGES FOR BEEKEEPERS' STAFF:**

Mr Cloake said there was a dearth of information on how much beekeepers should pay their staff. There were difficulties in respect of:

- (1) Wages and
- (2) Conditions.

On the motion of Mr Bray seconded Mr Penrose it was **resolved** that the General Secretary ascertain from a sample of beekeepers throughout New

Zealand the levels of wages paid of staff with a view to supplying this information to members on request. It was also agreed that Mr Stanton endeavour to run an article on wages in the Journal.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

On the motion of Mr Whalley seconded Mr Bray it was resolved that Executive commend the President for his excellent report and adopt the same.

#### **ADVERTISING IN "BEECRAFT":**

Mr Cloake raised the question of advertising in "Beeecraft" for applicants to subscribe to the "N.Z. Beekeeper". Mr Stanton was able to assure Executive that mention of the "N.Z. Beekeeper" was made in the "Beeecraft" on an xchange basis.

#### **BEEES FOR NEW GUINEA:**

Mr Dawson had raised the question of bees for New Guinea. Mr Dickinson reported that he had replied to Mr Dawson. On the motion of Mr Bray seconded Mr Whalley it was resolved that Execuetive grant time to Mr Chris Dawson to speak at Conference re the New Guinea project.

#### **STATE ADVANCES LOANS:**

Mr Cloake said he was not convinced that all State Advances Offices knew of all cases being treated on merits in spite of the fact that the General Secretary had received a letter from the Head Office of State Advances to this effect. It was agreed that the Secretary write to the General Manager of State Advances saying that the Christchurch Branch of the State Advances Corporation was not aware of the Head Office ruling and also to point out that hives were not accepted as collateral security, and in addition it would appear that the experience of the operator was not taken into account.

The Secretary was further to point out the industry was being hindered by a lack of finance. It was thought that the Secretary should write the letter and then take it with him to State Advances Corporation for discussion. Another point to be mentioned was the residual value in bees wax and equipment in the event of a failure of a beekeeping enterprise.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS:**

The President reported that during the year submissions had been made on the following:

(1) Noxious weeds.

(2) Visits to the Minister (Mr Dickinson in this respect read an outwards letter to the Minister dated the 22nd June 1973).

On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Bray it was resolved that the actions of the President in providing the information in (1) and (2) be endorsed.

#### **RESTRICTED ZONE:**

Mr Dickinson reported that Mr Forsyth was still the representative of the N.B.A. on the Restricted Zone Committee. He felt that Mr Forsyth should report from time to time. On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Haines it was resolved that Mr Forsyth be asked to submit annual reports to the N.B.A. Executive on the transactions of the Restricted Zone Committee.

On the motion of Mr Haines seconded Mr Whalley it was resolved that a recent Press Association release in the Waikato Times be referred to Mr Forsyth for comment.

#### **ADVERTISING AT CONFERENCE:**

On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Dickinson it was resolved that notices at Conference include reference to John Noonan Plastics and time and space be allowed to him at afternoon tea time on Thursday 12th July 1973.

#### **TAX INCENTIVES:**

Mr Bray reported that he would write to the General Secretary in detail on this. On the motion of Mr Bray seconded Mr Penrose it was resolved that after having received Mr Bray's report that the General Secretary write to the Minister of Finance protesting at the removal of tax incentives.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET MR BARCLAY AT AIRPORT:**

On the motion of Mr Bray seconded Mr Whalley it was resolved that Mr Penrose as Vice-President meet Mr Barclay at the airport on Thursday the 12th of July 1973.

#### **HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY:**

At 2 p.m. members of the Honey Marketing Authority attended the meeting. Mr Poole spoke to the matter of the levy and said that he thought that this should be governed by the wishes of the 1972 Conference. Mr Dickinson thanked Mr Poole for the co-operation of the Honey Marketing Authority throughout the year. Mr Dickinson also mentioned the financial situation of the N.B.A. which was far from rosy but assured members of the Honey Marketing Authority Board that this matter would be well aired at Conference.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE IN JOURNAL:**

Some discussion took place on whether correspondence to the Journal criticising person or persons should be referred to those people when they were criticised. It was pointed out that the Editor must enjoy some professional independence in situations such as these and that neither the N.B.A. nor the H.M.A. should be able to direct him.

On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Bray it was **resolved** that the Executive recommend to the Editor that the Editor refer letters where applicable to third parties for comment.

#### **JOURNAL ERRORS:**

The Editor reported that he had obtained alternative quotes for printing of the Journal and that they were well in excess of the expenses with the present printer. He thought under these circumstances the Association should continue to take advantage of the low price of the present printer and bear with the errors which **occured**. Mr Penrose thought that one criticism of the Journal could be that there was a lack of blocks in recent issues.

#### **CANADIAN TOUR:**

Mr Haines reported on a projected Canadian tour which would cost approximately \$1100 for a three-week tour with two weeks of this actually being in Canada.

On the motion of Mr Bray seconded Mr Penrose it was **resolved** that Mr Haines be allotted time at Conference to explain the tour to members.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL:**

Mr Smaellie attended the meeting and apologised for the absence of Mr Watt. Subjects covered were:

- (1) "Beekeeping in New Zealand". Mr Smaellie agreed that there had been delays but said that there were difficulties and the back-log of work of the Government Printer was one of these. His recommendation was that the Association contact the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in this respect.
- (2) Apiary Instructors. Mr Smaellie reported
  - (a) That the Department had appointed a Mr Bryant on the 5th June 1973. On the 27th June 1973 he had taken up duties at Mt. Crawford.
  - (b) The vacancy at Auckland would be filled.
  - (c) Hastings. It was envisaged that there would be two Instructors stationed at Palmerston North to cover the area encompassing Hawera, Hastings, etc.
- (3) Penalties in the Apiaries Act. Mr Smaellie thought that the Association should write to the Ministry in an endeavour to have these amended.
- (4) Tonga Mites. Mr Smaellie reported that this was under action.
- (5) Wasp Baits. Mr Smaellie reported that research was still being carried out in Nelson.
- (6) Mr Smaellie reported that in February 1973 there had been a case of Toxic Honey Poisoning.
- (7) Mr Smaellie reported that Honey Export Regulations were being amended.

#### **METRICATION:**

On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Cloake it was **resolved** that it be a recommendation from Executive that the incoming Executive set up a sub-committee to confer with the Ministry, manufacturers and other interested parties on metrication.



**COMB HONEY ASSOCIATION:**

At 4.10 p.m. Mrs Wright, Mr Bellin and Mr Blair attended. Mr Dickinson asked that the Comb Honey Association put forward a case for exclusion from the levy so it could be discussed by Executive. It was agreed that the President attend a meeting of the Comb Honey Association.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS' COST OF PRODUCTION SURVEY:**

Mr Penrose reported that in his opinion a cost of production survey based on data from individual beekeepers would be very time-consuming and possibly not accurate because figures supplied would have been produced for varying reasons.

On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Whalley it was resolved that it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive to give serious consideration to the immediate implementation of a cost price index for the Honey Industry.

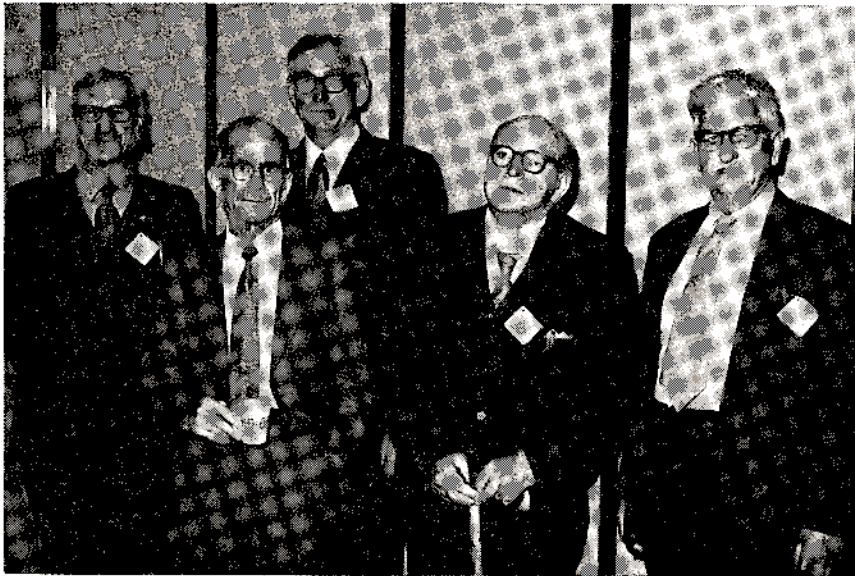
On the motion of Mr Bray seconded Mr Whalley it was resolved that it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that they investigate the ownership of Honey Marketing Authority funds comparing the set-up with the Apple and Pear Board capital structure.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:**

Mr Dickinson said before bringing the meeting to a close he would like to thank members for their assistance and co-operation during the year. It had been a pleasure to work with members of the Executive. He trusted that members had been able to get their own messages across to members but an out-and-out effort was needed by everyone to have recommendations adopted expeditiously.

**VOTE OF THANKS:**

Mr Penrose said he would like to propose a vote of thanks to Mr Dickinson for his year in the chair and this was carried by acclamation.



Long-term Beekeepers at Conference. (Left to right): R. Glasson, Blackball; P. Berry, Havelock North; H. Cloake, Timaru; W. T. Herron, Gore; W. I. Haines, Kaitiāia.

**The National Beekeepers  
Association of N.Z. Inc.**

**70th**

**Annual Conference  
and  
Annual General Meeting**

**Nelson: Wed. to Fri. 11th-13th July, 1973**

Conference Prayers: The President: I. J. Dickinson.

Welcome to the Mayor of Nelson: I. J. Dickinson.

**Address of Welcome by Mayor of Nelson**

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I welcome you to Nelson, our City and to our Province. I am pleased that you have on this occasion been able to experience the unique phenomenon that is our winter climate enjoyed but often taken for granted by Nelsonians with severe frosty mornings followed by glorious still sunny days. Surely we are known for our sunshine but too few New Zealanders appreciate that our best weather is often experienced as now during the winter months.

I am pleased also for this opportunity to become more closely associated, to learn at first hand of your interests and matters of concern.

I have learnt that in local government, as in most walks of life, that we as individuals are often too inclined to regard our own way of life, our own circumstances, as being our only or principle concern and the standards by which all others should be judged.

Here today I welcome you not only as fellow New Zealanders coming to Nelson but more especially, do I welcome you as specialists. People who have to meet the changing patterns of world demand. Specialists who are determined to produce the best and yet to listen to the requirements of their customers and to work even more diligently to obtain higher goals.

Today we are all made aware of changing patterns in the marketing of our primary produce. I thought perhaps that whilst you are staying in Nelson you may be interested in the changing patterns which are affecting our City.

The 70th Annual General Meeting was held in St Mary's Hall, Manuka Street, Nelson, in conjunction with the Conference. It is difficult to be certain that a Conference has been held every year, especially during the war years, but it is 70 years since the first Conference was held in 1903.

We have established that the 1961 Conference and Annual General Meeting was the last previously held at Nelson and that Mr J. R. Barber, National Chairman, was in the chair. Moreover, he was elected unopposed for the following year also. Mr J. K. Bray was elected Vice-President and the Executive elected were Messrs J. D. Lorimer, T. S. Wheeler, J. W. Fraser and D. F. Penrose. The President of the Nelson Branch in 1961 was Mr T. A. Cropp, father of the present Nelson President.

As you will be aware our Province is well known for its forest tracks, fishing streams, delightful beaches, national parks and all that goes which God's gifts in environmental pleasures. But Nelson is also rich in culture and the arts; our previous geographical isolation has developed a breed of people who have become very self sufficient in their recreational pursuits.

Whilst you are here I hope that you will find time to visit any one of our many potteries, to inspect samples of local weaving, visit our art gallery, museum and Broadgreen, or perhaps purchase a record of our musical achievements.

All these arts are in Nelson conducted by the citizens themselves. We have more incorporated societies per capita than any other place in New Zealand.

Perhaps it was because of these varied pursuits contained within the City that our people looked inward rather than beyond our province and we once became known as "Sleepy Hollow".

Now a change has come about. As we received an ever increasing number of summer visitors with our population near doubling during the Christmas vacation, we developed the largest motor camp in the country and a Motel Industry of approaching one thousand beds, a sports stadium and conference hall seating 3000 has just been completed. With the development of the timber trade with Japan it was found that Nelson stands of pinus radiata were situated closer to port facilities than any other so our harbour has been deepened and extension of facilities at our port are in high priority.

With all this the trading houses within our City are experiencing a rebuilding programme as never before.

The establishment of the Rutherford Hotel, which I hope you are enjoying, has, in itself, made a very significant impact upon our changing pattern.

Last year I enjoyed meeting with and officiating at eight separate conference functions. This year, this hotel alone, will host with present bookings, no less than 79 such conferences and the indications are that next year this pattern will continue. Two other hotels are at present in the course of erection.

In my opening remarks I gave you credit for being people who have met the changing patterns of demand. People who produce the best and yet are prepared to listen to the requirements of their customers and to work even more diligently to obtain even higher standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen I trust that the people of Nelson will take a leaf from your book and follow your example.

I wish you a pleasant stay with us, a fruitful and constructive conference and that one day you will return to Nelson.



Our President, Ivan Dickinson presents a kowhai tree to the City of Nelson, represented here by R. A. MacLennan, Mayor of Nelson.

Announcements and Notices: Nelson President, Philip Cropp.

Apologies, Barron, Gossett, White, G. Winslade, T. Holland.

Apologies Accepted: Moved, J. Bray; Seconded, D. Penrose.

Bereavements: Arthur Ecroyd, Wallace Nelson, L. H. Johnson, Charles Horn.

Procedural Matters: Timekeeper, Tony Cleveland. (Moved, M. Cloake; Seconded, H. Haines. Scrutineers, E. Smaellie, J. Varley. Speaking Time: Mover of Motion, three minutes. Second of Motion, two minutes. Speakers to Motion, three minutes. (At will of Conference this may be extended by a further three minutes once only.). Mover's Right of Final Reply, three minutes. Amendment: Right of extension to be two minutes and once only. Carried.

Tape Recorders Accepted and Declared.

Delegates Voting, Scrutineers: J. Varley, E. Smaellie. Carried.

## President's Address and Annual Report

Ladies and Gentlemen,

July 1973 brings to an end another year in the life of the National Beekeepers Association Incorporated although at various times of the year that life was very much in the balance because of the financial situation which had arisen at the beginning of the year. Nevertheless your executive were determined to see that the Association remained a viable and active organisation of the industry it represented. Some branches found the action taken on finance unpopular yet this action was clearly given approval and direction at the last Annual Conference.

I am disappointed with the branches who strongly opposed the calling up of their funds to assist the depleted reserves of the General Secretary's Account when the first call was made. I am now of the opinion that a contributing factor in this situation was the lack of communication by branch delegates failing to inform their members about what had transpired at conference

covering the whole issue of finance and the contents of the resolutions which were finally passed.

It is also my opinion that in the past too little time has been allowed at Conference for the transacting of Association affairs. After all, this is the Annual General Meeting of the Association. All too often Conference has asked that remits on marketing have priority over all other matters. Had the affairs of the Association been given enough time and the proper deliberation they warrant, many of the financial shortcomings of the Association may well have been averted. What is the point in passing remits for the incoming Executive to action when the very life blood of the Association is being drained away. Too often in my time on the executive we have had remits which cannot be implemented owing to the lack of funds. Often these matters are relatively simple which should be able to be acted on as a matter of course.

The past year has been an extremely busy one requiring a considerable amount of work by all members of Executive and also the General Secretary. At all times the dominant factor has been finance. The question is always have we enough to do the work proposed or must we do something on a limited basis. This is not good when around every corner some member is wanting to know why we are not doing more about this or that.

Despite limited finance they have met on three occasions in Christchurch and one in Wellington as well as a short meeting at the conclusion of last year's conference at Kaitaia.

An extensive amount of work has been carried out during the year which included:

- (a) The investigation of the alternative marketing schemes as requested by last year's conference.
- (b) The placing and submitting to Government of the proposed changes in the H.M.A. regulations.
- (c) Submissions to the Tariff and Development Board on the regulations governing the importation of honey.

In view of their similarity, these submissions were subsequently made as a joint presentation by the National Beekeepers Association and the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority.

Submissions were also prepared and presented to the Committee on Noxious Weeds and Administration.

Finally, I know you will all appreciate the considerable amount of time and work which has been involved in the representations made to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries both personally and by correspondence on the question of the restricted payout to suppliers of the Honey Marketing Authority.

During the year membership has remained fairly static. The printing of the May issue of "The NZ Beekeeper" was extended by an additional 1500 copies sent out with an accompanying letter to all non-members owning five or more hives. This sample journal and letter invited the recipient to become either a subscriber to the journal or a subscriber and a member of the Association. Already an encouraging number have accepted this invitation.

There has been some criticism of the provision in the new rules of the Association for the payment of all subscriptions to be made to the General Secretary. If members were aware of the amount of correspondence from the General Secretary to Branch Secretaries sorting out the problems of membership payments I am sure they would appreciate the reason for this change.

On paper the financial situation has improved when compared with that which was presented at this time last year. But if branch funds and donations is taken out there is another deficit. The present state of the finances are such that our Association as at present constituted can no longer remain operative. The Balance Sheet shows that, despite calls on Branch funds and the generous response to the call for donations we still show a loss of something in the vicinity of \$350.

Gentlemen, this situations cannot continue any longer. It is in your hands at this conference to decide whether you want a National organisation or not.

The finance has got to come from you. If you reject the substantial increase in subscriptions proposed then the incoming executive will have no alternative but to call a General Meeting to wind up the affairs of the Association. Conference 1974 will be too late.

If this came about the beekeepers of this country would have no official voice and it would promote the formation of further splinter groups.

#### **SUB-COMMITTEES**

The matter of groups operating outside the National body has caused this executive a great deal of concern over the past 12 months. You will have read in the May issue of the "NZ Beekeeper" that the executive is convening meetings of interested parties at this conference to discuss the formation of sub-committees operating under the National body. This will mean that the National body would speak with one voice covering all sections of the industry. In the past 12 months it has become more and more evident that our industry must be united if we are to make any progress. I sincerely hope that all interested parties will attend these meetings. In doing so they will help build a strong National Association in which we can all have both pride and profit.

Members must also realise that there are a number of matters which your executive have postponed financing pending an improvement in the situation. A case in point is the reprinting of the rules.

A review of the subscription level has been placed on the Order Paper of the Conference. This will require your careful consideration. When one is aware of what some Union members and professional men pay in fees I am sure there will be general agreement that the present subscription rate is modest indeed. It is my firm belief that the Association must get itself into a position where the criteria for action being taken on any issue is not whether there is finance available to take action. Executive should be able to act immediately without hesitation by calling on reserve funds which would be established as soon as possible.

#### **ASSOCIATION RULES**

At the 1972 Conference in Kaitaia substantial changes were made in the Rules of the Association which now provide for a different type of Conference from that which has been normal in the past. The Caucus Report debated at that Conference also made recommendations that the Association should adopt a delegate voting system. We are about to carry out this new system for the first time here in Nelson. It will be necessary for members to evaluate the new system before making further drastic changes as indicated in the remit paper.

As soon as Conference had ended last year many were quick to criticise the changes passed by majority vote. By these comments it is evident that some may not have fully understood what they had voted for and passed.

The remits on rules last year were before branches prior to Conference and must have been given the same consideration as other remits on the order paper. Yet this cannot have been the case if one studies this year's remit section on rules.

I have witnessed two branches working under the new voting system and the result was fair. Certainly there were some problems at the start but as soon as members got the message there seemed to be no further problems and members appeared happy with the outcome.

#### **MARKETING**

We are all aware of the buoyant situation at present being experienced on world markets for our products. If the correspondence the Association has received about the Government action in restricting the Honey Marketing Authority payout to suppliers is any indication, producers are adamant that they should benefit more fully than at present allowed.

Your executive has been kept fully informed by the Authority chairman and his members on this issue and has taken up the case with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Mr Moyle and more recently with Mr Barclay, the newly appointed Under-Secretary.

Let me assure members that this restriction placed on the Authority does have repercussions on all producers whether they supply the Authority or not. Your executive has endeavoured to put forward a comprehensive case on your behalf covering all aspects of this restriction. We will continue to do so as long as this injustice is imposed on the industry.

In its submissions to the Minister the Association has put forward a carefully compiled set of figures on the cost of production based on figures supplied by several producers. These figures have not been accepted by the Minister on the grounds that they were based on a hypothetical case and not therefore very reliable. No real effort has been made by the Minister, however, to disprove any of these cost of production figures put forward by the NBA and the HMA.

It is now clear that more work has to be done on this matter as soon as possible and this will include a survey from within the industry. But this survey will be wasted if there is not a better-than-usual response. Past surveys have been attempted by three different organisations but co-operation of honey producers has been almost non-existent with the net result that the exercise had no value whatever. This can only be in your interests.

Nevertheless, this does not detract from the fact that there is unjust discrimination against the New Zealand honey producer by Government in not allowing them to receive something nearer the world realisation prices for their produce.

That the Government has not seen fit to allow the HMA to bring their packed honey prices up to parity with other brands on the local market is intolerable to say the least. In our opinion there could well be some increases in the price of honey on the local market without any appreciable effect on the Consumer Price Index. The place of honey in this index is insignificant when compared with other primary produce.

#### **HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY REGULATIONS**

As a result of last year's Conference decision on the extension of the levy in October the Executive submitted the wishes of the industry to the Government. The Association received a reply to say that changes would be made and that draft amendments would be prepared.

When the new Government came into office the Association, at a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Mr Moyle in December, sought to find what their intentions were. In February the Association received an invitation to attend a joint meeting with the Honey Marketing Authority and the Ministry with the object of reaching agreement on the proposal based on the following:—

- (a) The levy on the sale of honey shall be replaced by a levy on honey produced.
- (b) The purpose of this levy shall be limited to meeting the administrative expenses of the Authority and of the Association.
- (c) The administrative expenses of the Authority for this purpose shall only include those relating to its function as a statutory marketing authority as distinct from those relating to its trading operations.
- (d) That there should be provision for exemption from the levy sufficient to ensure that the small hobbyist or part-time beekeeper who receives no benefit from the operations of the Authority does not contribute to its support.

Prior to this March meeting the executive debated the proposals at its own meeting and agreed in principle to them as put forward by Government in the letter calling the joint meeting. At this joint meeting all aspects of the changes were discussed and it was made clear by the Ministry that the levy would be a producer levy.

The proposal to finance the Association from a levy incorporated into the HMA levy was discussed and a scheme agreed to. This provides for all beekeepers to contribute to the Association's finance since it was agreed that all beekeepers receive benefit from the actions of the Association on their behalf.

In the case of the Comb Honey producer it was felt that although they had presented a case to be exempted from the marketing portion of the levy they

still receive benefits from the work done by the Association in their activities as beekeepers. The Comb Honey Producers Association has raised strong objections to this proposal and unless they and the National Beekeepers Association can come to an agreement the Government will uphold their objection. Apart from this matter it is understood that the amendments to the HMA Regulations are in the process of being drafted.

#### **"THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER"**

During the year it was with regret that we received the resignation of Mr Les Goss owing to pressure of work in the extension of his business activities. I am sure you will all agree with me that we are indeed indebted to Mr Goss for his valued work in connection with the Journal during his term of office. The high standard he set for the journal was known far and wide, which has made the publication much sought after.

In October Mr Norman Stanton was appointed to fill the vacancy and it must be evident to all that he is making concerted efforts to maintain the standard of the publication. You will have noticed some changes in the format of the May issue in an effort to make it more acceptable to readers with any number of hive holdings and I am sure that it will be successful.

I have referred earlier to the extra copies of this issue which were printed and sent to non-subscribers. It now appears that this venture was successful in encouraging beekeepers to read and become aware of what is happening in their industry or hobby. I take this opportunity to welcome Mr Stanton to his first Conference in his capacity as editor.

#### **LIBRARY**

The Library, under the able control of Mr Chris Dawson, has continued to serve the Association and its members in many ways as it alone can. I recommend to you all that you avail yourselves of this service. I want to express our grateful thanks to Mr Dawson for his dedicated work with the library.

#### **CADETSHIP**

The cadetship scheme has been static over the past 12 months. At the beginning of the year we had a lad who joined up and was in fact our first cadet. However, due to his becoming allergic to bee stings it was necessary for him to give up. A considerable amount of work has been done on revising the syllabus of the Diploma of Apiculture but owing to the financial situation of the Association it has not been proceeded with.

It now appears that we will have a cadet joining up in the near future and it will be necessary for this work to be completed. In the present trend for amalgamation of smaller units into larger operations I see the absolute necessity for a scheme where young lads coming into the industry can be properly trained. I ask that you continually support and encourage the idea of cadetship.

#### **AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOARD**

Mr Tom Pearson has continued to watch over the affairs of the Association in this field which is very much to our benefit. Mr Pearson has indicated that he will not be available for another term on the Board. Although his present term does not expire for another 15 months he would like to retire from the position before that date if possible.

The Association is very much indebted to Mr Pearson for his work on the board over the past 15 years. We are aware of the efficient and quiet manner in which he has carried out his duties. On behalf of the Association our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Mr Pearson.

#### **GENERAL SECRETARY**

It is with regret that your executive have at their meeting prior to conference received and accepted the resignation of the General Secretary, Mr Neal. We have many members in this Association who have expressed the opinion that there is no need for this Association to have a Secretary who requires so much by way of financial outlay. When I first came onto your executive I was of a similar opinion but it was not very long before it was made very clear to me as to what was actually involved in the discharge of the duties of General Secretary. Furthermore, who other than the executive which you appoint is in a position to fully assess the requirements of the office and the personnel to fill this position?



## THANKS

In concluding this report may I extend my thanks to my executive and to all members who have supported me in this very busy and active year. To Mr Neal and his staff my thanks for the service and co-operation extended to me throughout the year. The General Secretary's job is never an easy one. I can assure members that in a year when rules have been altered and a number of submissions and representations have been made by the Association we are fortunate indeed in having the services of a man of Mr Neal's calibre.

Owing to the fact that the executive have met only once in Wellington this year it has not been able to have the attendance and meetings with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries officers as is usually our custom. However, they have been most co-operative when called on and have freely given of their expertise on various matters of concern to the Association. Our thanks must go also to these men.

Finally, I wish you all a very good Conference. My earnest desire is that this Conference may grasp the gravity of the present situation and make a concerted effort to come to grips with it. We desperately need to forget politics and personalities in our decisions so that this industry may prosper and this Association literally survive.

Presidential Address and Annual Report. Delegates were supplied with a duplicated copy of this address after it had been delivered.

Discussion on Annual Report: Question by M. Carey (Waikato).—At what stage do you intend to confirm 1972 Conference Minutes.

Reply by I.J.D.—Immediately after the discussion on this report.

Comment by Carey in optimistic tone. The Executive must be heartened by people putting their hands in their pockets to finance the N.B.A. as indicated by the list of donations and contributions from Branches.

Comment by Ward: Conference was invited to note that a detailed report by a Lincoln College student for the N.Z. Vegetable Growers' Association failed to make any impression on the Minister.

Reply by H. Cloake: "I am certain that if a cost of production survey was done by some Government Economist or someone within Government it would be taken more notice of."

Statement by D. Lorimer (Hamilton): "I have done a cost of production survey which I would like permission to present to Conference."



Conference in session.

Minutes of 1972 Annual General Meeting: Since these were published in August, 1972 issue of N.Z. Beekeeper these be taken as read.

Moved by Carey subject to two alterations owing to omissions:

- (1) Resolution relating to Association's Finance.
- (2) Proposal to examine the alternative marketing scheme, otherwise known as the Ecroyd Echeme.

The mover felt that it was of prime importance that the missing resolutions must be printed. Seconded by Lorimer. Carried.

The two resolutions omitted from the 1972 Annual General Meeting Minutes are as follows:

1. That the Executive give all consideration to the Caucus recommendations together with the alternative scheme submitted to the industry by some members of the H.M.A. and also that of Mr Haines Sen.
2. That this Conference authorise the incoming executive to seek to correct the financial situation by:
  - (a) Applying such branch funds as are available under the rules to authorise this;
  - (b) Making application for temporary assistance from the H.M.A.;
  - (c) Having undertaken (a) and (b), the executive defining as soon as possible a policy to correct the situation.

Secretary's Report Under Rule 22 (6): Moved, Bray; Seconded, Penrose. "That they be received." Carried.

I.J.D. spoke to Secretary's Report and noted that there was the same silence as in 1972. Executive is assuming nothing is going to be done.

Carey spoke to report: The key to all is the Levy Scheme. (a) The H.M.A. to take temporary action. (b) Agreed that it was wise to assume that nothing would be done but Conference must look to the Under-Secretary for authoritative information. Therefore no harm has been done.

I.J.D.: Irrespective of what the Under-Secretary says it does not make much difference because funds are required for the financing of the Association now. Any scheme may be a long time getting into operation.

Poole: In reply to the remarks about the deathly silence, my comment is that Executive is expecting Conference to do too much. Executive should present Conference with suggestions as to how it thinks the present financial crisis may be overcome.

I.J.D.: Mr Poole. You have passed those remarks about 10 minutes too soon. Executive have done some work on this, as you will see.

Ward: What is the minimum required to run this Association?

General Secretary (E. Neal): With permission from the President, I will reply to that question.

I.J.D.: Executive has done some work as reference to the Annual Report will indicate, and finance must come from the beekeepers. The next item on the agenda is the presentation of a projected budget followed by the striking of a Subscription Rate for the ensuing year (1974-75) under Rule 9C.

Budget Presented by Neal and Penrose:

Expenditure		Income	
Administration .....	4000	Subscriptions (Nett) .....	2600
Audit Fee .....	150	Interest .....	40
Conference Expenses .....	1025	Journal Advertising .....	375
Executive Meetings .....	1150	Journal Subscriptions .....	800
Insurance .....	120		
Journal Printing .....	500		3815
Editor's Salary .....	600		
Sundry Expenses .....	400		
Legal Expenses .....	100		
Postage and Tolls .....	600		
President's Honorarium .....	150		
Printing and Stationery .....	800		
Travel to Other Meetings .....	250		
Sundry .....	50		
Contingencies .....	100		
		THE GAP	
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$10,020</b>		<b>\$10,020</b>

Penrose Comments: Those of us present remember a Secretary who in Nelson about 12 or 14 years ago presented a budget and included what Executive would have liked to do. Pointed out that we are fast running into bankruptcy. Conference was invited to note that nothing was included in these figures above the bare minimum. For example, the General Secretary in effect gave his services for nothing. Or to put it another way, he gave \$2600 to the Association. Carey's comments were heartening and his comments on the support of Conference for Executive were appreciated. The 1972 Conference charged the incoming Executive to do something immediately on finance.

A Voice: "Why does Executive not approach the H.M.A. for bridging finance?" After some discussion it was agreed that this was a possible short-term expediency but not suitable for long-term finance.

Motion: "That present subscriptions be raised to a level three and a-half times the present figure." Moved, Penrose; Seconded

The Mover of the motion pointed out that this would raise income to a total of \$10,030 when the \$3815 noted above was added. He also noted that the proposed budget does not make any allowance for the inevitable escalation of costs. Because of this factor we could still be up to \$1000 short but at least we will have made an effort.

Berry: Will this motion be referred back to Branches? I am not sure I can carry my Branch on this.

I.J.D.: Branches must have discussed the possibility of something like this since it is on the Order Paper and Executive has brought it to their notice frequently in recent months.

H. Cloake: If we had enough guts we should stand on our own two feet and make a decision on this. I for one accept that I am guilty of absorbing the smaller beekeepers.

Amendment: "That the sliding scale for Subscriptions be extended at the same rate up to and including 4000 hives." Moved, H. Cloake; Seconded, Perry.

D. Penrose seconded the motion and thanked H. Cloake saying he was thrilled at his attitude. Motion carried, after a further Amendment had been lost.

Ashcroft Amendment: "That in view of the fact that this is the first members have known about this steep increase a vote on the Motion be held over until after lunch." Seconded, Carey. Lost.

A Point of Order raised by Ashcroft: Before Conference can discuss this Motion the Remits on the Order Paper must be considered.

President's Ruling: Rule 9A covers this Motion, "Members Annual Subscription shall be determined by Conference for the ensuing year."

Lorimer: This Motion marks a radical change in policy on financing the N.B.A. Previously this was largely done with Levy funds received through the H.M.A. Now subscriptions will carry the burden.

Carey: Are you rescinding the previous resolution of 1972 Conference which authorised certain means of raising finance? It is fundamental that it all be done tidily. If this Motion is passed previous directions must be rescinded.

Point of Order from an unknown voice: Section 9A must not be taken into account unless Rule 25f is also considered.

I.J.D.: I rule that 9a stands on its own and is superior to 25f.

Penrose: We have a lot of tidying up to be done. This is a tidying up Motion but it does not come into effect until the ensuing year. That is 1974-75.

Poole: May I ask a question and make a point? It is not a grant but an amount paid by Government law from Seals levy. It is not charity. My question is, Will the amount of subscriptions completely pay N.B.A. costs? I note that subscriptions will not be paid directly.

Ecroyd: The gap will continue to exist for some time because the Government will not act quickly. I commend Executive for this action.

M. Cloake: I note that there has been no speaking to the Motion so far. No doubt members are aghast at the present position. But they must know that the General Secretary (Neal) and staff spent over 800 hours on Association business with Neal spending an additional 186 hours of his own time. I think that professional time is worth at least \$5 per hour so this means

that much of this time is not being charged to the Association. I would like to see the \$4000 from the H.M.A. retained as a reserve I absolutely support this Motion.

Bartram moved an Amendment: "That subscriptions be one and a-half times their present value and that the H.M.A. grant be retained." Motion withdrawn.

Penrose: I want to clarify the position. We are not trying to wipe out the H.M.A. grant but remove our dependence on it.

M. Cloake: Point of Order: All voting by delegates only.

I.J.D. accepted the Point of Order and asked the Secretary to check that he has received notice of delegates voting powers.

Secretary reported all delegates in order except North Otago.

I.J.D. ruled that North Otago delegate had no voting rights. Rule 28 (b).

Motion: "That a decision on the Penrose Motion be deferred until after we have heard the address from the Under-Secretary, Barclay, tomorrow morning.

Mover, Berry; Seconded, Cropp. Carried.

Moved: "That this Motion now lie on the table." Moved, M. Cloake; Seconded, Jenkins. Carried.

## N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority Chairman's Address to Conference

I am pleased to present Conference with a report on the activities of the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority over the last 12 months.

The predictions of the Apicultural Section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries showed that the N.Z. honey crop could be lower than the last two or three years, and the Authority therefore anticipated a lower intake. In an endeavour to attract as large a supply of honey as possible, we offered the highest payment in the history of the Authority, namely 12 cents for honey grading 86-100 points; 11 cents for honey grading 76-85 points; 10 cents for honey grading 75 points and under. In addition a half cent early delivery bonus was offered for all honey delivered into branches or depots by 31st March.

We feel that our decision to offer this incentive was appreciated by beekeepers and the results fully justified it. The intake to 30th June totalled 2014 tons which is 200 tons more than last year, and is a very pleasing figure, especially in view of the Department's crop predictions.

Due to the very satisfactory financial position the Authority found itself in, application was made to Treasury in June for permission to make a further advance payout to suppliers of six, five or four cents per pound according to grade. This is in line with our policy of making as much money available to the suppliers as early as possible. Treasury approval was received and cheques were posted to suppliers. Total advances now made are: 13 cents for honey grading 86-100 points; 16 cents for honey grading 76-85 points; 14 cents for honey grading 75 point and under. This means that most beekeepers have had advance payments per pound higher than last year's total payments.

### EXPORT SALES

These have again continued at a high level both in quantity and price with Japan again being the Authority's biggest customer. Over the last three seasons the export sales have totalled 4494 tons, of which Japan took 2400 tons. The following chart shows on line 1 the average net realisation in cents per pound of sales to Japan. Line 2 shows the average payout to suppliers for the same years.

	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73
1.	14.369 cents	21.471 cents	33.470 cents
2.	13.13 cents	17.17 cents	20 cents

The first two figures in line 2 are actual, the third one is the payout the Authority has been instructed to pay by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. The figures are significant, and need no further comment by me.

### LOCAL SALES

As the Authority's local prices were set by the Price Tribunal and were returning us considerably less than overseas sales, we restricted the quantities sold locally to 20% of last year's figures. Other packers of honey were able to increase their prices without reference to the Price Tribunal, and this anomaly was brought to the Tribunal's notice. They indicated they would consider an application for a price increase once Government had made a policy decision on honey prices. When the Government announced its restriction on our payout, we applied to the Price Tribunal for an increase in selling prices based on a buying price of 20 cents per pound. Before this application was considered by the Tribunal, the Government announced its current price freeze. We have had discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry to endeavour to overcome the problem and these negotiations are continuing. During the year Cloakes Honey Ltd of Timaru offered the Authority its packed honey business. The Authority bought Cloakes' honey stocks on the same basis as any other supplier, and bought their packing materials at cost. Cloakes' honey is now being packed at our Christchurch branch, and Cloakes' customers have been retained by us.

### PAYOUT

As most of you are aware, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has instructed the Authority to limit its payout to pro rata figures that will result in an average payout of 20 cents per lb. This could mean a payout for 100 point honey of 331 to 21½ cents per pound. We have fought vigorously against this imposition, and we intend to continue our efforts to have this restriction lifted.

### BRANCHES

During the year a new storage shed was constructed at Pleasant Point, and a forklift was purchased. This branch can now handle 44 gallon drums and is taking over as export depot for South Canterbury and North Otago. Christchurch Branch was purchased in accordance with the purchase clause in the lease agreement, and an electric gantry hoist installed for handling 44 gallon drums. It is hoped that this branch will be able to operate as an export depot next season.

Some improvements to the blending and packing plant at the Auckland Branch have been effected during the year.

## QUALITY QUEEN BEES

QUEEN BEES — QUEEN CELLS — NUCLEI

A hardy, energetic strain of Honey Bee. These bees have been selected over a number of years to suit most South Island conditions, having economical wintering followed by rapid spring build-up. Order now, stating quantity required and preferred delivery date.

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## **AUTHORITY ELECTION**

Messrs Fraser and Ecroyd retire by rotation, and there will be an election to fill the two vacancies.

## **STAFF**

At Conference this year are Mr Clarrie Carr, General Manager, and Mr Bill Merritt, South Island Manager, and I hope many of you will take the opportunity to meet them. On behalf of suppliers, I would like to thank them and the rest of the Authority staff for their efforts during the year. I would also like to record my appreciation of the work my fellow Authority members have put in on your behalf and for the benefit of the beekeeping industry.

I have kept this report fairly brief as I feel that regular newsletters during the year have kept suppliers well informed on Authority matters, but I will be very willing to answer any questions which those present may have.

Question by Ashcroft: Can Mr Poole give us any indication as to whether he has any hopes of getting the 20c average figure lifted?

Answer by Poole: Yes, but we will not get a free hand.

Lorimer: About the H.M.A. policy on national and other depots. Are you aware of the anomalies in the present situation? Will you discuss and review the H.M.A. policy on depots?

Poole: This matter of depots in the Waikato area has been discussed and we are hopeful that it will be eliminated in the near future.

de Witt: In a letter from our local M.P. it was stated that 80% of the honey produced in the country is consumed on the local market. Is this correct?

Poole: This would be correct if the estimate of the total crop by the Department of Agriculture is correct. In fact I do not think this can be known with any accuracy. All we know for sure was that a little over 1900 tons was exported of an estimated 5000 ton crop.

Hansen: Can we assume then that the H.M.A. is in close touch with the Minister's thinking on the matter of the price to be paid out to producers?

Poole: Government policy is to keep the price of honey to the consumer as low as possible. We feel that the price should be determined by the Price Tribunal.

Carey: Have we the H.M.A.'s assurance that they have used every avenue to have this price lifted. My credulity is strained by this.

Poole: I feel that we have as much chance as the wheatgrowers of getting a lift in our payout prices.

H. Cloake: The chairman of the H.M.A. has given us his understanding of the reasons for this payout price but the Under-Secretary has given us different reasons. We should ask the Under-Secretary what are the correct reasons.

Poole: I must agree that the Minister has taken into account the fact that the amount of the H.M.A. payout would affect the amount of the packers' payout.

The President thanked the Chairman of the H.M.A. for his report.

I.J.D. Ruling: If an Amendment is of more than six words it must be in writing.

Remit 1: (Executive): "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." Moved, Dickinson; Seconded, Penrose. Carried.

Ashcroft: Under the Rules as at present amended can members other than delegates move and second motions?

I.J.D. Ruling: Yes.

Remit 2: (Executive): "That Rule 30 be altered to delete 'one vote only' and substitute 'one vote for each full dollar of annual subscription actually paid by him in the preceding financial year'." Moved, I.J.D.; Seconded, Whalley. Carried.

**Remit 3 (Executive):** "That in Rule 27 the words 'the duly appointed delegates of district branches' be deleted and the words 'financial members' be inserted." The amended Rule would then read: "All members of the Association shall be entitled to attend and speak at General Meetings of the Association, but only financial members shall be entitled to vote."

Carey, speaking to Remit 3: I cannot see one whit of evidence that this is the effect of Conference's wishes.

Berry: Utter rubbish.

M. Cloake: Executive consideration on delegates voting must be that we encourage members to come to Conference.

H. Cloake: If this remit is passed, what is different from previously?

I.J.D.: No difference.

M. Cloake: South Canterbury Branch interpreted this to make only financial members eligible to vote.

Moved by Bray: "That this Remit 3 lie on the table." Seconded, Bartram. Carried.

**Remit 5 (Executive):** (Withdrawn). "That these Motions take effect for the 1973 Conference.

**Remit 6 (Otago):** "That this Branch is alarmed at the intention for voting to be based on hive holdings and requests that Conference institute a system of 'one man, one vote'."

Moved by Otago Delegate; Seconded by Heineman: "That this Motion lie on the table." Carried.

**Remit 7 (J. A. Davies):** "That at Conference level there be only one spokesman for each company or partnership." Moved by Davies. Lapsed for want of Secunder.

Lorimer asked for clarification: Individual's names appear on the Order Paper who also attend Branch Meetings which should put the remits on the Order Paper.

I.J.D. Ruling: Under Rule 25c "Any member . . . shall . . ."

**Remit 8 (Waikato):** Rule 28 Delegates' Votes. "That the amendment to the voting procedure to ensure the recording of both majority and minority strength be deleted, and the previous system be retained. (That is full Branch vote entitled for or against.) Urgency requested. Moved, Robinson; Seconded, Carey.

Robinson: The implications of this matter which was voted on in the closing minutes of the 1972 Conference should be considered further.

Penrose Moved; Bartram, Seconded: "That this Motion lie on the table."

**Remit 9 (Bay of Plenty):** "That this Conference opposes the collection of Branch members' subscriptions by the General Secretary." Moved, Glynn; Seconded Tuck. Lost.

**Remit 11 (Executive):** "That all subscriptions be subject to a surcharge of \$2 per annum throughout the whole scale effective as soon as possible under the rules." (Withdrawn).

**Remit 12 (South Canterbury):** "That the Government be advised, the National Beekeepers' Association has always and will always while at present constituted represent all sections of the beekeeping industry, including marketing and this Conference request Government to recognise this when representations on any matter is being made." Moved, Bartram; Seconded, M. Cloake.

Amendment Moved Robinson; Seconded, Lorimer: "That the words 'including marketing' be deleted from the Motion."

Penrose spoke against the Amendment, pointing to our motto: "Better Beekeeping — Better Marketing."

H. Cloake: As author of the Motion I am against the Amendment. The words 'including marketing' were put in for a special purpose. Amendment Lost.

Amendment: "And that the N.B.A. be kept informed" be added at the end of the Motion. Mover, Penrose; Seconded, Berry. Carried.

Amended Motion now put and Carried.

# Report of Beekeepers Technical Library

By Chris Dawson

Mr President and Gentlemen,

Your library continues to be used by a good number of readers. Over 100 books were loaned during the year and answers found for many questions. Friends of the library continue to make valuable contributions. The Statement of Income and Expenditure shows that there was an excess of income over expenditure of \$5.96.

The library has now been operating for 10 years. Once again I would like to express the thanks of our Association to the Foundation Life Members who, at the Oamaru Conference in 1963, contributed the funds that made the establishment of the library possible. When a call was made at that Conference for a show of hands of those who would help, over 20 gave the signal. Some of those Life Members are not able to be present today, but the work they wanted to be done has been done and a permanent, useful memorial exists as a token of their generosity.

We must never forget the generosity of Arthur Ecroyd, George Gumbrell, Bill Bray, James Forster, Eric Hight, Eldon Ball, Andy McConnell and Tom Penrose.

I have always found beekeepers generous people.

CHRIS DAWSON,  
Hon. Librarian.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for the period from 1st April 1972 to March 31st 1973

Expenditure	
	\$ c
Purchase of Books .....	16.24
Insurance .....	6.20
Printing and Stationery .....	15.95
Postage on Books .....	11.93
Librarian's Expenses .....	10.23
Excess Income over Expenditure .....	5.96
	<hr/>
	\$66.51

INCOME	
	\$ c
Rentals .....	34.98
Interest .....	16.53
Donations .....	15.00
	<hr/>
	\$66.51

BALANCE SHEET	
as at March 31st 1973	
Accumulated Fund as at 1.4.71 .....	282.45
Plus excess income over expenditure .....	5.96
	<hr/>
	\$288.41
Post Office Savings Bank 31.3.73 .....	288.41
	<hr/>
	\$288.41

The sum of \$8.95 is held in suspense to purchase a copy of the book "Beekeeping in the Tropics" when available.

L.J.D. Moved "That this report be received and that Chris Dawson be thanked for his library work." Seconded, Penrose. Carried.

Dawson was then given time to outline the Papua/New Guinea Beekeeping Project.

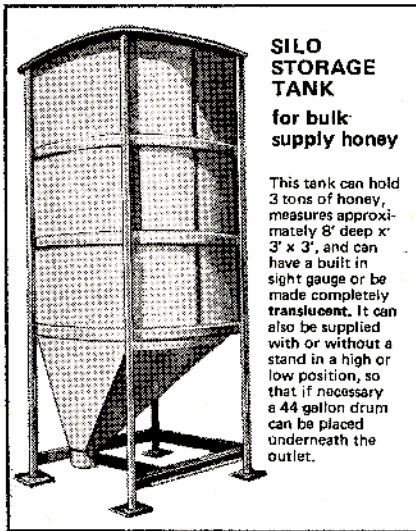
Remit 36 (M. J. Heineman): "That in view of the very serious consequences the prolonged vacancy of an Apiary Instructor for the Otago-Southland District and other districts could have for the beekeeping industry, the appropriate authorities be requested to give the present situation their urgent attention so that the appointment of a suitable officer will be a matter of priority. Moved, Heineman; Seconded, Jenkins. Carried.

Smaellie: I wish to report the appointment of Mr T. G. Bryant with headquarters at Gore.



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P.O. Box 12,069, Penrose, Auckland, Phone 596.617.

- Remit 37** (Auckland): "That the appropriate Department be advised of the increasingly serious nature of the wasp problem in New Zealand. The following are the number of wasp nests killed by one operator in the Auckland area over the last four years: 1970, 16; 1971, 34; 1972, 47; 1973, (first three months) 23." Moved, Blair; Seconded, Glynn. Carried.
- Remit 38** (Southland): "That the National Beekeepers' Association urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to fill vacant posts immediately, and, if necessary, to offer a higher salary to attract more suitable applicants." Moved, Cloake; Seconded, de Witt. Carried.
- Remit 39** (Southland): "That when a district is lacking an Apiary Instructor, extra provision be made for part-time Inspectors." Moved, M. Cloake; Seconded, de Witt. Carried.
- Remit 40** (South Canterbury): "That the Executive approach the Director of the Wallaceville Animal Research Station to have copies of all Apiculture research available to the N.Z. Beekeeper as soon as possible after the completion of the work." Moved, M. Cloake; Seconded, Bartrum. Carried.
- Remit 41** (South Canterbury): "That Conference request the Government to introduce legislation enabling adequate compensation to be paid to beekeepers in the event of loss of honey crop and/or bees as a result of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease or any other contagious disease requiring closed access to farms. Moved, Bartrum; Seconded, Bray. Carried.
- Remit 42** (Otago): "In view of the favourable hearing given by the Labour members of Parliament while in Opposition we now approach them in connection with compensation for hives destroyed because of infection of B.L." Moved, B. Jenkins; Seconded, Penrose. A poll was demanded and the remit was Lost.
- M. Cloake raised a Point of Order on the use of Proxy Votes used by delegates that were exercised at Branch level. He referred to Rule 28 (ee).
- President ruled: That as the votes were exercised under Rule 11 (iii) in the first instance and were accepted it must follow that they were then regarded as present at the meeting and therefore would qualify under Rule 28 (ee). The votes were in order and are valid.
- Remit 43** (South Western): "That the appropriate Government Department be urged to implement the planting of pollen-producing trees and plants in districts deficient in pollen sufficient for the propagation of bees." Moved, Whalley; Seconded, Tweedale. Carried.
- H. Cloake: Raised a Point of Order again on the use of the Proxy Votes by delegates and considered that the Chairman should consider carefully the ruling that he had made on the previous Point of Order on the matter.
- President: I take note of your remarks Mr Cloake and your Point of Order and although I have already ruled on this issue I will investigate further the Point of Order and will advise you of my decision in the morning.
- Conference then adjourned for the day.

### Thursday, 12th July

- President: As promised, my decision to Mr Cloake's Point of Order raised late yesterday. In coming to a decision on the Point of Order I have kept in mind what I considered three important factors:
- (a) What is the reason for the Proxy Vote.
  - (b) What is the intention of the rules in question.
  - (c) Was there any devious reason or injustice in using the Proxy Votes in question.

The reason that we now have Proxy Voting is that under the new rules there is no such person as a direct member. They are now national members of their nearest Branch. Bearing in mind that many of these members have extreme difficulty in attending Branch meetings some provision had to be made for their votes to be recorded. If they can be present by proxy

at Branch meetings I cannot see any reason whatsoever why they should be chopped off at this point. It is also my contention that at those Branch meetings those members that were present by proxy voted in all good faith believing that their vote would be carried to Conference. In Rule 14 d (iii) we have two classes of members present at the meeting — those present in proxy and those present in person and they exercise an equal vote. In Rule 28 (ee) I consider that the word 'present' caters for these two classes of members. I cannot see any devious reason or injustice in the use of these votes at Conference and I therefore uphold my decision made yesterday that the Proxy Votes are valid.

Report of Agricultural Chemicals Board presented by Pearson.  
Pearson Moved; Morris Seconded: "That this report be adopted." Carried.  
Mover, Frazer; Seconded, Broadley: "That this Conference record a very sincere vote of thanks for the years of service given by Pearson to the industry and that a letter to this effect be sent." Carried.

Lorimer: Who will appoint a successor to Pearson?

I.J.D.: This will be left to the incoming Executive to decide and with the help of Conference if needed.

## Address by Mr B. G. Barclay (Under-Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries)

Mr President, Gentlemen. Thank you for your invitation to address this Conference. This is the first Beekeepers' Conference that I have attended and I attach considerable importance to the occasion.

Today is the first opportunity that I have had since my appointment as Under-Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to state my views and the views of Government to the honey producers of New Zealand in general meeting.

I imagine that you will be looking for an expression of opinion by Government on the major issues concerning your industry. I intend to express that opinion and I hope that you will recognise it as a sincere and honest attempt to state a policy which we think will be in the best interests of honey producers and consumers alike.

I have no personal involvement in the honey industry. I know little of the art or science of beekeeping — but I have a farmer's appreciation of the importance of the bee as a pollinator of clover pastures, and a farmer's appreciation of the current difficulties of your industry. As a town milk producer and a dairy company director I have experienced in my industry pretty well all of the problems of supply, of marketing, of internal organisation, and of finance that you have been experiencing in yours.

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I can assure you that it is a much travelled road that your industry is on now. The solutions that were adopted by other farming industries, including the town milk industry, were based on sound common sense and a willingness to accept fair compromise.

I am sure that the same basic principles can be just as successful for your industry. In your industry a producer has had the choice of supplying the Honey Marketing Authority, selling to a producer-packer, or packing and selling his own honey. It is a system that seems to have suited beekeepers generally, but it has had the disadvantage that the Authority — an organisation established to market honey for the benefit of the producers as a whole — has been unable, over the years, to acquire any worthwhile financial resources.

A financially weak Authority is obviously quite unable to be the stabilising and regulating force that the industry needs. It has had to compete with the producer-packers, and with the threat of producers packing and selling their own honey.

Successive authorities have declared payouts to the limit of their resources in an endeavour to obtain a sufficient supply of honey to operate economically. I believe that it has been largely due to a lack of real support from the producing industry that the Authority was unable until recently to build up its resources.

The situation started to change in 1970. Export prices began to rise, and it was soon no longer a question of disposing of the exportable surplus at prices below the local market prices. The Authority's payout rose. For 1970-71 the payout averaged 13.18c. In 1971-72 it increased to 17.17c. During this season export prices have continued to rise.

Since July last year the Honey Marketing Authority has been seeking to increase local market prices to more nearly equate the returns from overseas. The policies of the previous Government and the present Government have prevented this.

After a great deal of debate between the Authority and Government, the present Minister decided to limit the payout to an average of 20 cents per pound. By then the Government's price freeze had been imposed and there can be no change in the selling price of honey until the freeze is lifted.

It is obvious that limiting the payout in a year of exceedingly high returns will increase the Authority's reserves very considerably. But the present Authority has indicated that it does not want these large reserves. It would prefer to pay most of them out to its suppliers, with little regard to the future. I have had representations from individual producers suggesting that all that is needed is a small appropriation to the reserves.

As I see it, with the Authority in a strong financial position, the industry itself will now be in a situation to decide on its own future, and I should like the National Executive and the producer representatives of the Authority to consult together on this as soon as possible. I suggest they should bear in mind that the Authority, with a strong financial backing, could carry out the function of organising the orderly marketing of honey on the local and export markets, with a guaranteed payout.

The Government would assist in instituting a continuing cost of production survey on sound economic principles calculated to provide a properly representative view of the industry situation, and this could influence future payouts. A level of payout would need to be decided upon for 1973-74, pending the survey figures. I would confer with the president of your association and the chairman of the Authority before making a decision, but what I have in mind at present is an average payout in the order of 23c.

I urge the Conference to consider very carefully the opportunity it now has of establishing a secure, well organised industry, with producers being able to supply the Authority in full confidence of obtaining a payout that will give the reasonably efficient beekeeper a satisfactory reward. This type of policy and organisation has worked to the benefit of producers in other industries. It has worked in my own industry, the dairy industry, and I commend it to you.

However, if it is your wish to remain a group of rugged individualists — working from year to year without security of income, but hoping to get by with playing the Authority against the packers, with a packing machine in the shed as a stand-by — then the Government will not seek to persuade you further. In those circumstances, for 1973-74 and succeeding years, the Authority will be able to declare payouts subject only to the limitation of its overdraft accommodation and the Government's requirements under the Primary Products Marketing Act, 1953. And I want to make it clear that the Government would act to protect the interests of the consumer if it were necessary to ensure an adequate supply of honey at a reasonable price on the local market.

#### **LEVY**

Earlier this year your President called on the Minister and outlined to him a proposal for re-organising the Association's finances as part of a scheme for varying the present seals levy procedure.

Under the present system the Association's funds are provided partly from members' subscriptions and partly from a grant from the Authority payable from the seals levy fund. Your President's proposal, which had the support of the Executive was that the seals levy should be replaced by a levy on all honey produced. There would also be a member's subscription based on a rate per 100 hives, and the amount paid would be an authorised deduction from the levy payable to the Authority.

The Minister agreed that the proposal warranted further study. The changed pattern of marketing, with the Authority taking a greater share of the local market and an increasing quantity being sold exempt from the levy, has resulted in the levy falling on a relatively small proportion of the crop. The levy was initially established to assist the Authority to pay its suppliers an economic price for honey sold overseas at prices lower than on the local market. The Authority does not now need this assistance. It is in a strong financial position — and has the opportunity of remaining so.

For the past two years it has been able to take advantage of export prices that have been well in excess of the local prices. The Minister accordingly asked the Authority and your Executive to confer with a view to reaching agreement on the details of a scheme which would be based broadly on the proposal that had been put forward. Your Executive co-operated, and agreed on proposals which would be broadly acceptable to the Government.

One issue, whether a levy should be payable on comb honey, has been left for further negotiation between your Association and the comb honey producers. However, the Authority has insisted on retaining the present seals levy with an extension to make the levy payable on other classes of honey now exempt.

The Government is reluctant to agree to the perpetuation of the present system or any extension of it. Legally, the levy is payable on honey sold, but the Authority has found that the only way it can be administered is by charging producer packers with the levy value of cartons and labels as purchased, and crediting their accounts with payments made, without any indication as to how these relate to actual sales. It can only find out the amount of levy actually owing by asking each producer-packer to declare the levy value of unsold stocks — a tedious and time-consuming task if it is done properly, and of no value to the Authority if it is not.

The Authority, however, wishes to retain this procedure and also require producers to pay levy on a declaration system for honey that is at present exempt. I cannot see that this will make the system much more equitable than it is at present. I am satisfied, however, that the proposals endorsed by your Executive are sound in principle and should provide a better basis for future levy procedure.

I would prefer your Association and the Honey Marketing Authority to discuss this matter around a table where the opposing points of view can be argued and some compromise reached. While I am reluctant to see the present levy system continued, I am also reluctant to impose arbitrarily a new system which is strongly opposed by a section of your industry.

- H. Cloake: I wish to discuss an important principle overlooked in the Under-Secretary's address. There has been much hardship in the industry over the last 13 years. By 1969 a man would have got out of the industry if that had been possible. But now to see the fruits of our denial denied is just too much.
- Davies: It appears that the Government were reluctant to retain the present Seals Levy. Were H.M.A. unanimous in this matter?
- Barclay: I am not aware of how the H.M.A. vote at their meetings.
- Bartrum: Discussing the present 20c average payout and the possible 23c average payout to be considered for next season. Why should beekeepers be treated any different from the meat industry?
- Barclay: You are trying to compare the wrong industries. Comparisons do not mean much. It is the strength of the industry which counts. I want to see the industry built up for the future. It is the same principle as in many other industries where payouts are levelled to maintain stability in the respective industries.
- Penrose: I believe the Minister's comments have shown an honest endeavour to understand the situation. But here we have one section of an industry building reserves for the whole. This is the difference between the honey and the dairy industries. In the latter there is no compulsion. Could not the reserves be frozen on the suppliers account?
- Barclay: The H.M.A. controls exports. Every beekeeper could have exported through the H.M.A., therefore the reserves belong to all.
- Carey: I support H. Cloake. If Mr Barclay could accept his remarks he would have a good grounding in the industry. May I stress that this industry has indeed been depressed over a long period. Most honey producers have been between the devil and the deep blue sea. On the one hand they were not able to realise on their assets and on the other hand they could not get an adequate return for the labour involved and the capital invested. However, I am heartened by the Minister's compromise on the payout. Speaking to the reserves suggested may I remind the Under-Secretary that such reserves will not only be cash reserves but much will go in payments on mortgage on buildings and plant which the beekeepers will never own. Supplying honey to the H.M.A. has not been profitable up to the present. I ask the Minister most earnestly to reconsider his payout ruling so that beekeepers can be given the ability to re-organise their businesses and plan for the future.
- Barclay: I appreciate that there are two sides to reserves, assets and cash.
- Janson: In anticipation of being paid my rightful price for honey sold by H.M.A. overseas I started building a new honey factory. When the announcement of restricted payout was made I stopped this work immediately. Will the Government now make finance available so that I can complete this work?
- Barclay: This should be available on normal lending terms through the State Advances Corporation.
- Bray: I want to suggest to the Under-Secretary that with the present situation reserves will double, depending on overseas prices. Some of these reserves would be better in the hands of the producers.
- Barclay: How high should reserves go? Government will not be dogmatic and will discuss this point with the industry. The strength of the industry is two-fold, Marketing and Producers. These must be kept in balance.
- Frazier: On the question of reserves, some industries have fought battles over this point. There is no point in labouring the matter now. I want to ask if Government will make funds available for disaster areas or for compensation of hives destroyed because of disease.

Barclay: How can you judge what is inefficiency and what is misfortune?

M. Cloake: The Under-Secretary has admitted his inexperience and he is to be admired for his honesty. I trust that you will soon become experienced in the affairs of this industry. We have all got to agree that the housewife must accept having to pay higher prices for primary products which are realising more overseas. Meat prices have gone up overseas as reflected in the local market. Woolgrowers have got the full value of their overseas realisations. When the Apple and Pear Board made a loss of \$2¼ million the Government backed them. This industry has never asked for any money outside the H.M.A. I quote the case of the wheatgrowers who in consultation with the Government were granted an increase in payout prices. The beekeepers were not invited to discuss this matter because of H.M.A. control. I submit that the wool and meat industries are large so the Government did not dare to go against them. We are a small industry so we are trodden on, and it does not seem to matter: I will not accept the Government's reasons for the present payout to producers as valid.

Barclay: I repeat that the strength of the beekeeper depends on the N.B.A. and the H.M.A. You must take your ups and downs. It is no good comparing honey with other primary products. This Government is trying to help the H.M.A. and the N.B.A. to become stabilised so that they can get on their feet, become united and progress.

Poole: The Under-Secretary's reference to the H.M.A. might give the impression that their decision on payout was irresponsible, in that they wished to pay out all overseas realisations to the beekeepers in full. May I correct this and say that the present Authority did not want to pay out all this money but wanted to be guided by their own responsible decisions.

Barclay: I did not mean to convey the impression that the H.M.A. was likely to act irresponsibly, merely that they were not taking the security of the industry into account.



Conference Group. (Left to right): Philip Cropp, President, Nelson Branch; R. F. Poole, Chairman, Honey Marketing Authority; I. J. Dickinson, National President; Bruce Barclay, Under-Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Poole: In the "N.Z. Herald" on Tuesday of this week, someone believes that the H.M.A. wants to depress the payout to producers.

Ward: The restricted payout has to be reconciled with the fact that the industry has a low asset base and normal development has to be done out of income. This is the reason for the State Advances being reluctant to make advances to beekeepers.

Barclay: The comments are valid. The State Advances lend mainly in relationship to the borrower's ability to make regular payments. I promise to discuss with the Minister in Charge of State Advances the matter of H.M.A. reserves being taken into account when considering loans to beekeepers.

Stuckey: How long after agreement is reached on the new levy will it take to be implemented?

Barclay: I will do all I can to see that this is expedited.

Lorimer: The Minister should be told that there is a deep and abiding bitterness in the industry over the limited payout. It might have been different had discussions started at a more realistic point. Increasing costs make 20c average payout grossly unfair. In terms of reserves any supplier supplying H.M.A. contributes an amount which is out of all proportion and is a gross injustice. I had been hopeful that the Under-Secretary would make a pronouncement that the actual payout figure would leave some points open for conciliation and negotiation. I do not wish to give the Minister the impression that I am opposed to reserves which I think are necessary to a degree. Government should have accepted the peculiarity of this industry with its major crop fluctuations when discussing payout. (Applause).

Barclay: I cannot give any assurance that there will be a variation in the payout because this has been fixed at 20c average by the Minister. However, there is nothing wrong with H.M.A. making representations to the Minister in October at the end of the season.

I.J.D. thanked the Minister for his address and for joining in the discussion.

Carey Resolution: "That this Conference rescind those resolutions carried by previous Conferences relating to the Seals Levy."

Bray Mover; Whalley Seconded: "That this Resolution be received and be placed on the Order Paper." Carried. (Unanimously.)

This was dealt with later in Conference.

Penrose Mover; Cloake, Seconded: "That the Motion increasing Subscriptions by three and a-half times be uplifted." Carried.

Amendment by Robinson; Seconded. Tuck: "That subscriptions be doubled and that the N.B.A. obtain bridging finance from the H.M.A. until they adopt an acceptable levy plan." Carried. (After discussion, below.)

Robinson: If the main Motion is passed we will not be able to stop many members resigning in Waikato.

Poole: This Amendment refers to bridging finance which cannot be made. There are strict rules about the use of H.M.A. financial resources. This would only delay the evil moment and H.M.A. opposition to new regulations.

Lorimer: I would like to know from Poole whether H.M.A. had considered making an advance to N.B.A. of next year's payment as bridging finance?

Poole: If the question is: Can we pay in advance? The answer is no. The auditor has to see that we pay only \$4000 in each financial year.

Berry: At this point we must know what part of the new proposals the H.M.A. are opposed to.

Poole: The Authority did not oppose them.

Penrose: We were presented with draft proposals for new levy regulations by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Moyle

Poole: This is correct. We had the impression that the N.B.A. were in favour but we felt that they should go back to implement the decision of 1972 Conference.



Whalley: I am against the Robinson Amendment. As pointed out by the General Secretary, an increase in subs of three and a-half times was necessary to balance the budget. Bridging finance is also needed for a fighting fund.

Stuckey: May I ask Poole, apart from the Kaitia Resolution; is there any other reason for H.M.A. attitude?

Poole: The H.M.A. manager thinks the present system is more easily workable.

Penrose: I object that Executive has been accused of not giving Notice of Motion relating to a financial resolution.

Secretary then read Rule 9b: The Amendment says year following Conference.

Carey: I speak in support of the Robinson Amendment. It is obvious from the debate that there is confusion. But the putting of a proposition without adequate homework must now be forgotten. Because of differing views there are now many loose ends which need tying up. Without doubt we will support you (Executive) but, please, let us know where we are going.

Stuckey: Something needs clarifying.

Frazer: Could this be conditional on its being needed?

H. Cloake: Can we ask H.M.A. about possibility of bridging finance and just how long this may take?

Lee: This should not take very long. The changes in the Levy could be in operation before January 1, 1974.

H. Cloake: This simplifies the debate a great deal. We can now write in a figure to cover the gap, not \$4000. That is assuming that subscriptions are the same. But if they are three and a-half times the present we will lose something in support for the Association.

Penrose: We are now in the embarrassing position of confidential draft regulations having leaked out. Can Mr Lee now give permission for these draft regulations to be brought into the open?

Lee: I agree that it will now be better to bring these into the open. The Amendment was then put, carried and as such became the main Motion.

Restated thus: "That the subscriptions be doubled across the whole scale and that the original scale be continued at the same rate up to a maximum of 4000 hives." Carried.

Moved that remits from the floor be placed on the Order Paper: Berry; Seconded by Penrose. Carried.

Notice of Motion (called Levy Scheme for the sake of convenience):  
 "That this Association is in favour of the Levy Scheme as outlined in the President's Report and that this Association wishes the H.M.A. and the N.B.A. to meet at the earliest possible opportunity and implement this scheme and that this scheme be discussed at Conference."

Notice of Motion, H.M.A. Restriction:  
 "That this Conference of the N.B.A. require the representatives of the industry, namely the N.B.A. and H.M.A. to proceed as a matter of urgency to prepare further submissions prior to negotiations asking for a more acceptable payout for the industry."

These were then placed on the Order Paper and dealt with later in Conference.

## Report by E. Smaellie, Superintendent Beekeeping Advisory Services Division

### Staffing

The Apiary Section is at full strength except for one Apiary Instructor position at Auckland. This vacancy will be filled when there is a suitable applicant prepared to accept appointment to the position.

Mr T. G. Bryant was appointed as Apiary Instructor for the Otago-Southland district and commenced duties at Gore on June 27, 1973.

Mr G. M. Walton, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Palmerston North, has been on leave since April for a private tour overseas. He resumes duties in mid-August.

## **Statistics**

Statistics show that the previous trend of colony increase and enterprise amalgamation has continued and total numbers of hives in the Dominion is the highest on record.

As at May 1973 there were 3640 beekeepers owning 15,486 registered apiaries and 209,276 hives of bees, of which 11,054 apiaries and 192,909 hives are kept by beekeepers owning 50 hives and over.

Comparison with 10 years ago shows in the "251 hives and over" commercial group there has been a 13.8 per cent increase in the number of beekeepers, and an increase of 20.5 per cent in the number of registered hives.

Present holdings are distributed as follows: North Island 2708 beekeepers, 7869 apiaries, 112,443 hives; South Island 933 beekeepers, 7617 apiaries, 96,833 hives.

### **Honey Crops**

Most districts experienced drought conditions and crops produced in some districts were below average. Total honey production as assessed in May 1973 was 5340 tons, which is approximately the average of the previous six seasons.

### **One ton**

North Island production was about 2790 tons and in the South Island 2550 tons.

### **Honey Grading**

For the year ended August 31 1973, 1843 tons of bulk extracted honeys were graded by the Honey Grader. Of this total 109 tons were rejected as not complying with the standards for export grades.

A total of 215 tons of comb honey exported by beekeepers was graded; an increase of 60 per cent on the previous season's exports of comb honey.

Fermentation and Low Specific Gravity remain the most serious faults in the honeys rejected for export grading.

### **Disease Control**

Inspection of apiaries for control of Bacillus larvae bee disease was continued with assistance from competent beekeepers acting as part-time inspectors. The overall incidence of disease found or reported was 2.21 per cent and 0.34 per cent respectively. While these figures indicate a low and decreased incidence of this disease, the apiaries in which it was found are widespread in all regions and no area can be regarded as disease-free. With this situation there is no room for complacency if the present low incidence is to be maintained.

### **Developments in Pollination Services**

The demand for pollination services in both Islands has shown a steady increase. An estimated 2500 colonies of bees were introduced onto orchards for fruit pollination. Recent publicity on the need for bees to effectively pollinate Kiwi fruit has resulted in a well-founded pollination service in the Bay of Plenty on similar lines to those operating in other fruit-growing districts.

## **FIELD INVESTIGATIONS/EXPERIMENTAL WORK**

### **Practical Evaluation of Single and Two-Queen Systems for Colony Management**

This experiment was a two year practical follow-up to a previous experiment which statistically evaluated three methods of management. Over the two year testing period, a total of 269 colonies were manipulated and assessed. The two-queen system consistently produced more honey than the single-queen system. Greater differences occurred between seasons using the same method of management in either season. In both good and bad crop years the two-queen system required less equipment, truck mileage and apiary working time per unit quantity of honey produced, than the single-queen system.

### **Effect of Quantity of Honey in Store upon Honey Yields**

Factors causing nectar collection have been little studied and it is not known whether the amount collected is related to the amount in store. The purpose of this experiment is to statistically test this hypothesis. This project is proceeding.

### **Bees Wax Separation in Manuka Honey**

Because of its thixotropic characteristic, manuka honey requires special equipment to aid in the extraction, straining and wax process within the honey house. Basic handling techniques have remained unaltered since the early 50s and it is believed that the technique of vibration to break down surface tension has potential for improved processing of this type of honey. The effects of temperature and vibration on the separation of wax particles from manuka honey are being examined by the Food Technology Department at Massey University. This Ministry is co-operating with this project.

### **Honey Dew**

Samples of pure honey dew and honey were collected and consigned to Dr Swallow, Chemistry Division, DSIR, for analysis. Descending paper chromatography and thin layer chromatography (TLC) are being used to determine the sugar spectra of the samples with the aim of developing a working definition for honey, honey dew honey and honey dew. The definition would be included in the Apiaries Act 1969.

### **Queen Cell Incubators**

One static and one portable unit built by a commercial beekeeper are being tested for heat retention levels and relative humidity regimes.

### **Pollination of Cucumber Under Glasshouses**

Six frame nucleus hives were found to be the most effective pollinators of cucumbers under glass when established in mid-November.

### **Pollination of Freesias**

An excellent set of seed was obtained on a trial planting of freesias under glass. The plants were pollinated early to mid-August by bees in a six frame nucleus. Some problems were caused by an infestation of aphids.

## **PENROSE UNCAPPER**

This thoroughly proven machine is now available with a side delivery auger which breaks up the cappings for faster honey/wax separation. It has been under trial for two seasons and can be recommended as a revolutionary development to an already great machine.

## **"PENROSE" CAPPINGS REDUCER**

This unit together with the new power feed uncapper will give you the best honey handling unit yet produced in New Zealand. Top gradings for both honey and wax have been obtained this season and the savings in this area alone could more than pay for the unit in the first year. No more messy slum gum to skim off, no skill required to operate, unlimited capacity.

## **TAX DEDUCTIONS**

Because both the above items are under \$2000 they qualify for normal, special and investment allowances in their first year. Ask your accountant or your nearest Inland Revenue Officer about these allowances. Updating your plant may only cost you half of what you thought!

For further details:

**D. PENROSE,  
R.D.3., CHRISTCHURCH**

### **Requeening Without Dequeening**

Forty-six colonies headed by one year old queens and 46 colonies headed by two year old queens were set up and assessed with respect to food stores, drone and worker populations, etc. Protected queen cells were introduced and the fate of new queens followed. In the colonies with two year old queens, 41.5 per cent were successfully requeened, while 42 per cent of the colonies with one year old queens were requeened.

### **Honey Mead: Honey Vinegar**

Dr Mullock, Lincoln College, has been encouraged to examine the possibility of commercial production of honey mead and in particular honey vinegar using honey types that are more difficult to market.

### **Vitex Negundo**

A large number of these nectar producing plants have been propagated by the Apiary Instructor and in particular by Dr Hall, D.S.I.R., at Lincoln. These plants were given to various beekeepers in different localities. Growth patterns and nectar secretion characteristics will be observed under these different soil conditions and microclimates.

**Remit 45 (Waikato):** "That the N.B.A. Chairman or his deputy be nominated for membership of the Federated Farmers' Executive, when advantageous." Mover, Robinson; Seconded, Tuck.

Amendment to Remit 46: "That the Executive take steps to effect the most effective liaison with Federated Farmers." Moved, Frazer; Seconded, Whalley. The Amendment was passed, became the Motion and was passed as such.

Remit 3: "Moved that this remit be uplifted from the table." Moved, Penrose; Seconded, Haines. Remits 3 and 4 withdrawn.

**Remit 16 (M. Heineman):** "That this Conference expresses its deeply felt concern with the decision of the Minister to allow the H.M.A. to make a restricted payout of 20 cents per pound. While actual realisations are much higher and to direct the surplus into a General Reserve Account as this does victimise the majority of honey producers while at the same time producers in other primary industries are allowed the benefits of the present high overseas prices, and the direction, of that amount of trading proceeds the H.M.A. is not allowed to payout, into a General Reserve amounts to dispossession of lawfully gained returns from producers." Mover, Heineman; Seconded, Bradley.

Amendment to Remit 16: "That the word 'high' before overseas prices be deleted." Moved, Bartrum; Seconded, Jenkins. Carried.

Remit 16 put as amended and passed.

**Remit 17 (M. Heineman):** "That following the above remit a letter to the Minister be written now setting out reasons, etc., asking him to review or alter his directions to the H.M.A. in connection to the payout and this letter be signed by all those producers present at this Conference who feel inclined to do so." Moved, Hinemann; Seconded, Jenkins. Carried.

**Remit 27 (Waikato):** "That it is strongly felt by Conference that the honey producers are fully entitled to receive the prices now obtainable on the export market and that it is both damaging to the beekeeping industry and unjust to beekeepers to withhold to suppliers to the H.M.A. a large portion of the payout made possible by the current export realisations as has been decreed by Government per Mr Moyle. Moved, Robinson; Seconded, Tuck. Carried.

**Remit 28 (Withdrawn).**

**Remit 29 (Bay of Plenty):** "That this Conference strongly objects to any interference by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to the payout to beekeepers by the H.M.A." Moved, Bartrum; Seconded, Cloake. Carried.

**Remit 14:** "That this Conference fully supports the principal that the principal that the H.M.A. should have the sole right to determine the payout for honey received by them." Moved, Pearson; Seconded, Cattermole. Carried.

Remits 18 and 19 (Withdrawn).....

**Remit 20** (North Otago): "That this Conference requests that the net realisation received by the H.M.A. for honey on behalf of the beekeepers remain the property of the individual supplier." Moved, Irving; Seconded, Lory. Carried.

**Remit 21** (South Western): "That the Honey Marketing Authority relinquish the physical handling of honey and become an administrative, directing and licensing body, entrusted with (a) maintaining a balance between supply and demand for the domestic trade; ((b) with disposal by export or to packers of honey entrusted to them (c) with the issue of export permits to persons, firms or groups acting within the framework of specified price and quality; and (d) with the disposal in export trade only of honey surplus to our domestic market requirements." Moved, Whalley; Seconded, Bromwell. A poll was demanded. The remit was lost, 606 for; 909 against.

**Remit 22** (South Western): "That Conference ask the Honey Marketing Authority to implement a public education campaign re the true nature of honey and of its absolute purity as presented for sale to the public (refer Pure Foods Act)." Moved, E. Whalley; Seconded, Jansen. A poll was called by the Chairman as a vote on show of hands was six for and six against. The remit was lost 716 for and 792 against.

**Remit 23** (Auckland): "That legislation be amended to give the H.M.A. total acquisition of all the extracted honey surplus to the producers own packing requirements." Moved, Stuckey; Seconded, Blair. A poll was demanded and the remit lost 287 for; 1135 against.

**Remit 24** (Auckland): "This Conference congratulate and support the H.M.A. on its efforts to have the price of honey raised on the New Zealand market and the full payout paid to producers. Moved, Stuckey; Seconded, Carried.

**Remit 25** (Southland): (Withdrawn).

**Remit 26** (Waikato): "That an accountant or someone acceptable to both parties be adopted to inspect the books, and only necessary information be passed on to the H.M.A. Mover, Robinson; Seconded, Tuck. Carried.

**Remit 15** (Otago): "That the H.M.A. consider the fairness and feasibility of reimbursing suppliers for freight charges when incurred instead of waiting until the time of the final payout." Moved, Heineman; Seconded, Jenkins.

Amendment to Remit 15: "That the words 'when honey is directed past the nearest depot' after the word 'charged' in the Motion." Moved, Penrose; Seconded, Lorimer. Carried.

Remit 15 as amended put and passed.

Berry question: Mr Poole has indicated that local prices are better than those obtained overseas.

Poole: Up to 1970 this would have been correct.

Welcome to Miss Sally MacArthur from Canada and Dave Anderson from South Africa. Carried by acclamation.

**Remit 13** (Canterbury): "That this Conference strongly deplores the action of three members of the Honey Marketing Authority namely Forsythe, Frazer and the Government Member when they intimated that they were prepared to accept a compromise payout should it be suggested by the Minister."

Moved: "That Remit 13 be withdrawn." Moved, de Wit; Seconded, Frazer. Carried.

President: In view of the fact three persons named I give them unrestricted right of reply.

Speaking to Remit 13 Forsythe said: "I am happy to explain why I think along these lines. I am not in favour of the lower payout but there are two lines of thought to consider. Firstly, a compromise was negotiated, and secondly, the Government will not agree to paying out anything like the full amount of realisations overseas."

Continued on page 45

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2. Payment of goods.
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"The foundation of Success"

# Nectar for Novices: A Section for Hobbyists, Amateurs and Others

By Paul Marshall, Hastings

## First Principles

Here in the Hawkes Bay the queens have just started laying and the first of the Wattle trees are out in flower. Spring is just around the corner and with it the start of another honey season. However, August can be cold, September-October, wet; November, dry and December, wet again. In other words take the season as you find it for we have no control over the weather, and spring may not be as close as we first thought.

For the beginner who has taken up bee-keeping this season now is the time to decide the method of how to start off with your hives. One of four methods are open to you.

- (1) Starting with a 4-5 frame nucleus.
- (2) A swarm of bees.
- (3) Package bees.
- (4) Purchasing an established hive.

The first method is probably the best for the newcomer. With the purchase of the Alliance Co. kitset hive and its construction he can, once the bees are inserted, grow in knowledge with their development to a full strength hive.

A nucleus is the name given to a small colony of bees weighting approximately 3-4 lbs and covering up to five frames. Usually there are at least 2-frames of pollen and honey for food supplies, with the remaining frames being brood of all ages. Prior to purchasing such a colony enquiries should be made at reputable beekeepers to ensure that you obtain disease-free stock.

The kitset hive has the disadvantage of its newness, and its management will be different to the hive that has drawn out combs. Comb foundation is an added burden for the bees who not only have

### The Auckland Beekeepers' Club Incorporated

President, Phil Muir, 25 Glenatkinson Street, St Heliers, Auckland, 5. Secretary, Reg Sanderson, 72 St Heliers Bay Road, Auckland, 5.

This club of about 160 members has its own apiary at Western Springs where demonstrations and lectures are held at regular intervals during the season. In the winter lectures and films are held indoors from time to time.

As a new amateur beekeeper, the Editor, along with about 100 others, attended the last meeting of the Auckland Beekeepers' Club. It was a case of standing room only.

The President, Phil Muir, covered many points of interest including the art of wiring foundation wax into frames and recognising drone comb.

The secretary was 'flat out' writing receipts for subscriptions and there could be no doubting the fact that this is a very healthy, vigorous club.

The next meeting of the club will be held on Wednesday, August 15th at 7.30 p.m. in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Cafeteria, opposite N.A.C. in Victoria Street West, Auckland. Prospective members will be welcomed at this meeting which will include a lecture and a film.

The first Club Day at the Apiary, Motions Rd, will be 1.30 p.m. Saturday, 8th September.

## Nectar For Novices: News, Notes For Amateurs and Hobbyists

### Wellington Beekeepers' Association Inc.

President, J. M. Bodmin, 39 Hobart St, Miramar; Secretary, E. J. Guyton, 69 Cluny Road, Plimmerton; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs J. J. Wilkin, 27 Awarua Street, Ngaio; Newsletter Editor, J. Sweeney, 10 Norfolk Grove, Porirua.

This Association meets on the second Monday of every month (excepting January) in the Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Willis St, Wellington. Membership is about 85 at present and is rising.

A monthly newsletter is published which is sent to members a few days before each meeting. It contains notes of interest, for sale and wanted to buy sections, also minutes of the previous meeting. It is also a valuable reference piece with the names of office-bearers and their telephone numbers.

As a community service we publish a full list of members once a year and send it to various police stations, county rankers, the Department of Agriculture. In this way members are able to collect swarms for nothing.

The Association has now voted to become an Incorporated Society, and will be registered as such in a few days time, therefore any correspondence will have to be referred accordingly. It appears this is a legal requirement.

I have pleasure in advising you that those members who received the copy of N.Z. Beekeeper in May were delighted with the broad coverage of the contents and many are keen to get this magazine in future.

One of our members has raised a point. If wooden houses are made of wood, and brick houses made of brick, what are honey houses made of? — E. J. Guyton, Secretary, Plimmerton.

to increase their population numbers, replace their field losses, but also build cells in which to carry out these operations.

Naturally, beeswax is used for the job which comes from the body glands found on the underside of the worker bees' abdomen. From the time she is 12-18 days old these glands are ripe in their development for wax production. High temperatures and consumption of large amounts of honey are the optimum requirements for wax production which is virtually sweated out of the bee's body.

It has been estimated that about 6-8 pounds of honey are needed to produce 1 lb of wax. So keeping this in mind it is necessary to feed sugar syrup to the new hive that has nothing else but comb foundation. However, this is only half a diet and a plentiful source of fresh pollen in the vicinity of the apiary is essential to keep up the bees' protein supplies.

When placing the "nuc" into their new home do not separate the frames of food and brood with frames of foundation but keep it together as it comes out of the box "nuc". In the early stages there is a risk of chilling the brood. The bees should be allowed to work their own way across the super and the feeding of syrup kept up until it is full of bees.

Once the bees appear to be bubbling out of their first super another storey can be added. Whether or not it is necessary to assist in the feed supply depends on the availability of nectar sources in your district. For example, a good willow flow will do much more than sugar and help build up the young colony to honey gathering strength. But starting this way the new beekeeper should not be looking for the big honey crop as much depends on the colony's development, weather conditions, and yield of nectar from available sources.

AUGUST, 1973



## Nectar For Novices: News, Notes For Amateurs and Hobbyists

Probably one of the most common methods of starting beekeeping is the collecting of a swarm. This unique phenomenon of the bee world where a colony can reproduce itself several times is known as swarming. An individual swarm usually consists of approximately 3-4 lbs of bees including the queen and makes an ideal way to start beekeeping.

A lack of knowledge as to where the bees came from originally is the only disadvantage in this method. There is possible danger of collecting diseased bees without knowing it.

Useful contacts for available swarms are local commercial beekeepers who during the season are usually too busy to be collecting swarms. They may be only too pleased to pass your name on to inquirers with swarms of bees that are causing a problem.

In most cases a swarm of bees is fairly docile to handle and if attached to a

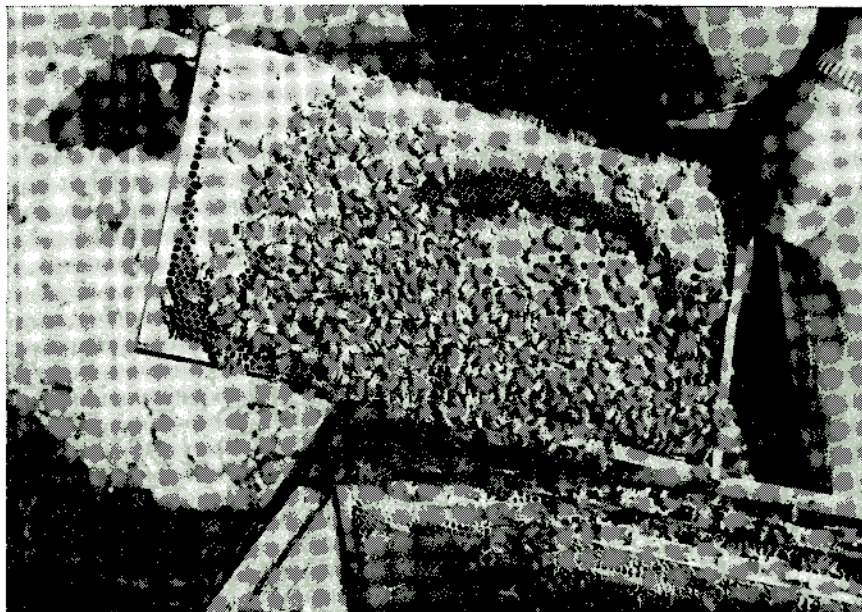
### Canterbury Branch Domestic Group

It will not be long before we will be attending to the spring management of our hives.

One of our projects this year is going to be to experiment with the "Common Storage System". In this system a queen is in each of the front two boxes and there are three storage supers at the back separated by a vertical queen excluder.

A get together to which all beekeepers are invited will be held.

Slides will be shown which are a record of Terrence Gosset's trip to China. Those who have seen these slides have been unanimous in their praise, so we are looking forward to a very enjoyable evening.



Frames which have come through winter well.

## Question and Answers

**Q.**—Alliance Bee Supplies sells kitset hives for section production as well as for standard extraction honey. Which method would you recommend for the beginner.

**A.**—Both have advantages and disadvantages. It is generally recognised that comb honey production reduces the overall yield of the honey crop, also the hive must be strong in population numbers to work the sections. However, they have the advantage that no complicated or expensive machinery is required for the harvest.

With extracted honey the harvest may be greater but the handling of the crop is a little messy if the right equipment such as an extractor is not available to the beginner. The choice is up to you.

**Q.**—What is the sugar-syrup recipe for feeding bees.

**A.**—For maintenance of brood production and hive condition I prefer to use the ratio of one part sugar to one part of water during spring feeding. However, if it was necessary to feed the hive during autumn the recipe would be changed to two parts sugar to one part water.

**Q.**—What part does pollen play in the bees' diet.

**A.**—Pollen is the bees' sole source of protein and plays an important part in the production of royal jelly. This is fed to the young bee in its larvae stage. A reasonably strong colony will harvest about 75 lbs during a season.

low branch of a tree, easy to collect. This is done by placing an open bee-proof box under the bees and giving the branch a vigorous shake so that the bulk of the bees fall in. Quickly close the lid and place in a cool, shady spot until the evening. However, bees are not always so obliging, as once they have left the hive as a swarm they can end up settling on a fence post, or low bush, or high up a tree, or in fact anywhere that takes their fancy.

Normally, swarms appear between 10 o'clock in the morning and 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The first reported location can only be regarded as temporary as scout bees will be returning with information on a new home. They may remain for 1-2 hours or as long as 24 hours. There are occasions when the time of stay is longer due to inclement weather conditions. Such a swarm cluster could have a fractious temper due to dwindling food supplies. Therefore, the golden rule for beginners in handling all swarms is to wear protective clothing. There is nothing more soul-destroying than to have to drop everything and take to one's heels, followed by a very angry swarm of bees.

Each situation must be carefully thought out before taking any action. For example, bees on a fence post may have to be hurriedly scraped into the box with the hands. It is therefore advisable to wear gloves.

In the late afternoon the new hive is set up with a clean sack placed in front leading up to the entrance. Tip out the swarm of bees on to this sack and before long they will sort themselves out and march in a very orderly fashion into the hive. For the beginner this is a sight to behold.

Should the time not be available, remove the centre four frames and with a sharp knock empty the bees into the space provided. Replace the frames, insert a feeder and close down the hive leaving well alone for at least a week.

Occasionally a swarm will abscond from its new home for what appears to be no reason at all. This is no cause for concern and the next swarm will more than likely do what is required of it. The management of the new hive is the same as the "nuc", but as its arrival is after the first flush of spring there is usually no surplus honey for the beekeeper in the first year.

Package bees, which consists of 3 lbs of bees with a queen, and plenty of syrup for feed enclosed in a mesh cage, is to my mind not a suitable unit for the beginner. As the start is made with new equipment the bees seem to lack the ability to cope with building up strength on just comb foundation. Package bees require drawn out comb and seem to need frames of brood added from time to time to assist in population replacement.

That leaves the last alternative of obtaining an established hive. These come on the market from time to time but care must be taken that you are not buying a diseased hive. Check carefully on the proposed purchase by inspecting the hive either with a reputable beekeeper who knows the score on disease, or your local apiary instructor at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

As noted in our last issue, the Apiary Act requires you not only to register your apiary but also to have any hives you are buying inspected for disease.

Honey production is not merely going up to the hive and turning on a tap—there is much to learn and this is the pleasure of beekeeping.

### Seasonal Work

First time around the apiary in spring check on the hive's dwindling food supply and if necessary feed with sugar syrup. Do very little with the bees at this stage, just tend to their immediate needs.

### THE MIND OF THE BEE

(From the Akaroa Mail)

According to the pundits, the honey bee is an automaton, going through its complicated ritual by instinct with virtually no intelligence at all. I have never quite believed this, and at the risk of boring you I should like to tell you of something that happened last November.

It began with a phone call from a friend at Takamatua; there was a swarm of bees on an apple tree near his front door, they were most unwelcome, and would I please come and deal with them?

I drove to Takamatua and shook them into a box, then I returned after dark to bring them home. I had a queenless colony which had laying workers, and I meant to unite this swarm to them to re-queen them; so I placed them in their box a foot and a-half away.

Next day they decided to unite themselves. When I went out at midday there was a column of bees, five or six across, walking from the box to the queenless colony.

How did this come about? I suggest that a bee from the swarm must have strayed into the queenless hive; he noted that they were queenless and had good combs, and when he returned to the swarm he reported what he had seen.

The bees did nothing contrary to their nature, of course. But the opportunism, the prompt action to grasp an advantage, this surely shows an alert intelligence—unless of course you deny intelligence to a man who acts in the same way. And it seems to me that an observation like this is worth a hundred "controlled" experiments. — W.M.

## Nectar For Novices: News, Notes For Amateurs and Hobbyists

### Postage Stamps Showing Bees & Hives

By Kenneth P. Pruess  
University of Nebraska,  
Lincoln, Nebr., U.S.A.

The honeybee has appeared on more postage stamps than any other insect. A collection of stamps related to apiculture can be formed at modest expense, and makes an attractive and interesting display.

Many listings of stamps showing insects have been published, but even the most recent are both outdated and not generally available to beekeepers. Articles on "bees and stamps" have appeared in European beekeeping journals from time to time, which describe and are often of topical interest. One such article, in Flemish, lists over illustrate selections of stamps 40 stamps relating to apiculture. But there are very many more than this, and the checklist published here has been made as complete as possible.

In conjunction with an introductory article by Moulton on collecting stamps related to apiculture, I prepared a mimeographed listing of stamps which could appropriately be included. This listing was slanted towards North American collectors and gave Scott Catalogue numbers for reference purposes. In response to the large number of European requests for this list, I have revised it and added Gibbons catalogue numbers. Most stamp dealers and larger public libraries around the world will have at least one of these catalogues, which are standard reference works and provide a basis for pricing stamps offered for sale.

The listing provided here is confined to postage stamps. However, collection possibilities are almost unlimited,

When spring is a little more advanced make a thorough check of the hive to see that it is disease-free and that the queen is laying well. If she is not up to standard try and obtain and introduce a new queen. However, spring queens are difficult to obtain and difficult to introduce into a hive.

When spring is well under way the hive should have its spring clean. Place the lid on the ground and stand the hive on it. This exposes the floor board covered with the debris of winter. Clean and replace if necessary. Tilt slightly forward to make sure rain-water does not flow into the hive.

Check supers and replace if showing signs of decay. Remove frames one by one and scrape off excess burr comb. Check hive mat and replace if showing too much wear and tear. The same goes for the lid.

When all is back in place the hive will be in tip-top order. The bees may be a little upset by this treatment and a warm, fine day should be chosen to carry out the operation. Once the hive has been re-closed they will settle down again quickly.

Also during this operation check all brood frames yet again for disease.

It is essential that the beginner learns what good, healthy brood looks like so that he recognises the symptoms of diseased brood. This has darker cappings perforated with holes and once again opened up exposes a decaying grub that is gluey brown in colour. If stabbed with a match-stick and withdrawn from the cell it will rope out. If in any doubt contact your local apiary instructor.

During spring the hive strength builds up and at first should be contained in a double super brood nest. To make sure both supers are fully utilised they should be revised towards the end of spring otherwise the queen is apt to remain in the top box and leave the bottom empty of brood.

The art of beekeeping is to judge the start of the honey flow and aim at having maximum population numbers to coincide with this event.

Not all goes according to plan and swarming can raise its ugly head just at the wrong time. This subject deserves an article on its own for the beekeeper should be fully conversant with this phenomenon.

### SWARMING

By John Smith, Apiary Instructor,  
Christchurch

Perhaps one of the greatest pleasures I find of being an Apiary Instructor is that of visiting the little-known beekeepers, the ones not seen at Field Days nor at meetings. The time spent in the company of this breed I find really stimulating for due to their self-imposed isolation the only chance they have to talk bees is during my visits.

One such man in my district has scant regard for what he calls the scientific approach to his craft, stating often loudly and proudly that he is a practical man. If only he knew it he is one of the most scientific men I meet. For taking my dictionary definition "science" is any branch of study concerned with observed material facts, and observe the countryside and bees this man does.

Recently on a visit the talk got around to swarming, and I made a remark that it was funny that some hives in spite of requeening seemed to swarm year after year,

since a bee or hive is included in many cancellations, advertisements printed with postage meters, revenue and tax stamps, saving bank stamps, etc. Unfortunately, few dealers specialise in this type of material, and only highly specialised catalogues, most unavailable to the average collector, provide even incomplete listings. For persons desiring to expand a collection postage stamp, I can provide a mimeographed sheet giving selected examples of philatelic material that might be included. If readers are interested, and sufficient information can be obtained, perhaps I can describe some of these interesting items in a future article.

The order of listing used here is by country, year of issues, a brief description of the design, denominations, and Gibbons and Scott catalogue numbers for stamps of the same basic design. Where several catalogue numbers are listed, stamps differ only in colour, denomination or overprint. In some cases more stamps are listed in one catalogue than the other. Just as the publishers of these catalogues do not agree how many stamps deserve separate listing, so must each collector must decide for himself how many stamps are required for completeness. Many collectors will desire to have only one stamp of each basic design, whereas this, and acquire minor variations listed only by highly as Gibbons.

For sake of completeness, I have included stamps with symbolic, and often stylised, honeycomb designs. Often these show only a group of hexagons and could well be omitted from a basic collection. I have also attempted

## Nectar For Novices: News, Notes For Amateurs and Hobbyists

to include stamps in which the bee or hive comprises only a small part of the design, and visually adds little to a collection. These tiny parts of the stamp design may, however, have considerable symbolic significance for persons interested in this usage of the hive or honey-bee.

Since many beekeepers are interested in bumble bees, these have been included in the list.

The list referred to is quite comprehensive but is too long to warrant publication in this magazine. Readers who wish to have photostats of this list and the page of stamp replicas may have same by sending 25c to cover costs to the Editor, P.O. Box 4106, Auckland.

### Hamilton Amateur Beekeepers' Association

At a meeting held on July 24th the Hamilton Amateur Beekeepers' Association was formed. Mr Alf Bennet, Waikato Apiary Instructor, gave a talk on spring management and bee diseases.

Officers elected were: President, Mr D. A. Plowright; Secretary, Mrs Pam McAdam, 9 Manning Street, Hamilton.

Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday in each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Charles Heaphy Building, Anglesea Street, Hamilton.

In addition to evening meetings, practical sessions will be held in our Club Apiary on Saturdays. Mr Phil Reed, one of Waikato's progressive beekeepers has loaned the club two beehives with which to start our own apiary.

Further information may be had from the secretary or president, who lives at 32 Southsea Crescent. Ph. 66-967.

and how I have never read any ideas why this should be. As expected, my non-scientific beekeeper had observed, correlated and produced results on this phenomenon and he has found that hives or apiaries which lost the sun early in the afternoon seemed to be more prone to swarming than those in the full sunshine. That it paid to re-site hives to ensure late sunlight even if that meant at the expense of the early morning sun. Of course both, if possible, is to be preferred.

While it is known that the length of daylight and the intensity of the light have an effect on the brood rearing, it's the first time I have heard the idea that the sunlight timing effects swarming. Therefore, the idea is put forward to any other person troubled with the odd hive or apiary which always wants to swarm.

Finally, to my beekeeping friend of many cups of coffee, and many beekeeping arguments, I've tried writing to you, talking to you, telephoning you, so now I ask you through this journal: why won't you attend the field days and meetings? On any programme I arrange you can have as much time as you like to talk about your scientific observations, but as I know you will never take me up on that offer, keep the tea pot hot for my next visit. (I've changed to tea since somebody has recently condemned coffee as suspect in the coronary heart disease debate.)

# Minutes and Debate, Nelson Conference

(Continued from page 35)

Frazer: "A few years ago we would have been glad to accept this payout. I can understand the anger and frustration felt by producers at the present. To that extent they have my sympathy. But we must all be aware that the only basis for negotiation was 'we down, they up'."

Lee: "I agree with the two previous speakers. The Minister did set a maximum of 20 cents to be paid out but did compromise to the extent that the H.M.A. is now paying out an average of 20 cents."

**Remit 33** (Bray): "That approved producers, groups of producers or packers be permitted to export honey under the jurisdiction of the Authority and that they be licensed for this purpose." Moved, Bray; Seconded, Whalley. Speaking to this remit, Carey said: "I find the injustices of this remit appalling."

Ashcroft: "It appears that there will be profit for approved exporters only." When put a Delegates' Poll was called for and the Motion was lost, 494-1012.

**Remit 34** and **34** withdrawn.

**Remit 44** (South Western): "That Conference urge the establishment of a minimum 'in tank' value for honey based on a national survey of the cost of production plus a margin allowing a reasonable standard of living. Such 'in tank' value to be reviewed half-yearly." Moved, Whalley; Seconded, Jansen. Carried.

**Remit 45** (Waikato): "That the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries assess beekeepers' costs, to get the cost per pound of honey, to prove to Mr Moyle that beekeepers deserve the maximum H.M.A. payout."

Amendment to Remit 45: "That the words 'of product' be added after the word 'costs' in the remit and that all words after 'honey' be deleted."

In moving this amendment M. Cloake said that it was needed to prove to the Government what packers', producers' costs were in the hope that the Minister might thereby be persuaded to see reason. Amendment Seconded by Haines. Passed. (Unanimously.)

The Motion now amended to read: "That the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries assess beekeepers' costs of production, to get the cost per pound of honey." Passed.

**Remit 6**: "That Remit 6 be now uplifted." Moved, Jenkins; Seconded, Carey. Carried.

"That Remit 6 be returned to lie on the table." Carried.

**Remit 47** (M. J. Heineman): "That Conference expresses its dissatisfaction with the extremely poor service experienced by beekeepers who ordered tins from Alex Harvey Industries Ltd. at Dunedin during the 1972-73 season and that Executive be asked to take up this matter with Alex Harvey Industries Ltd. without delay." Moved, Heineman; Seconded, Ashcroft. The remit was amended by deleting the words "at Dunedin" and then the amended remit was carried.

**Remit 48** (Canterbury): "That in view of the relatively light penalties imposed on people convicted under the Apiaries Act 1969 this Conference requests the maximum fine under this Act be increased to be in line with other Agriculture Acts. Moved, Pearson; Seconded, Cattermole. The remit was amended by deleting all words after the word "increased". The amended Motion was carried.

**Remit 49** (South Western): "That the 1974 National Beekeepers' Association Conference be hosted by the South Western Districts Branch in Palmerston North. Moved, Whalley; Seconded, Morris. Carried.

**Remits 30, 31, 33, 34, 35:** (Withdrawn.)

## Friday, 13th July

Notice of Motion, called H.M.A. Restriction for the sake of convenience:

"That this Conference of N.B.A. require the representatives of the industry namely N.B.A. and H.M.A. to proceed as a matter of urgency to prepare further submissions prior to negotiations asking for a more acceptable payout for the industry." Moved, Carey; Seconded, Broadley. Carried. (Unanimously.)

Notice of Motion re Levy Scheme:

"That this Association is in favour of the Levy Scheme as outlined in the President's Report and that the Association wishes the H.M.A. and the N.B.A. to meet at the earliest possible opportunity and implement this scheme and that this scheme be discussed at Conference."

President: I suggest to Conference that this Motion be taken in two parts. Firstly, that the Levy Scheme as outlined in the President's Report be discussed at Conference, and then having completed that, the latter part of the Motion could be dealt with. It would be more practical this way.

Conference agreed to this suggestion and it was then Moved, Stuckey; Seconded, Gavin, that Conference discuss the Levy Scheme as outlined in the President's Report. Carried.

President: I now propose to explain as much as possible the scheme and then open up the debate on the Motion now on the table.

The President then explained in detail the proposed Levy Scheme.

M. Cloake: Did the Government produce a scheme to replace the Scals Levy?

Roberts: I see more problems since we are not sure what production figures are to be taken.

Poole: The average.

R. Cloake: Are there to be two levies?

President: Yes.

H. Cloake: I am not prepared to guess what these figures are going to lead us to. We have a figure of \$10,000 for next year from the N.B.A. But it could easily escalate to \$15,000 in future years. Production is at present about 5000 tons. Therefore the levy must be \$2 to \$3 per ton. The H.M.A. overhead is \$60,000 to \$90,000 so it will cost \$14 to \$18 per ton to run the H.M.A., a total of \$14 to \$21 per ton, or .7 to 1 cent per pound.

Ashcroft: H. Cloake is all wrong. The present Seals Levy totals \$28,000 but if it was paid by everybody honestly it could be double that figure. The H.M.A. expenses are not as stated.

Carey: While the figures which H. Cloake has given us are interesting, such details are not really important. The total sum will be the the same no matter what means is used for collecting it, or how it is calculated.

I.J.D.: This issue must be decided on the underlying principles involved. It is no use trying to split hairs. The beekeepers are safeguarded in that the Minister has to approve whatever is to be done.

Bartrum: Who decides what the levy is to be?

Carey: The beekeepers' money will of right be transferred to N.B.A. But we cannot justify compulsory membership.

Penrose: The Association is against compulsory membership. However, all beekeepers will be paying the levy to support the N.B.A. and they will therefore have the right of choice as to whether they belong to the N.B.A. or not. If they do not choose to become members all their levy contributions will have to be sent direct to the H.M.A. But the N.B.A. share will still be sent back by H.M.A.

de Wit: I am against the levy but agree that we should have a strong Association.

Carey: Messrs Bartrum and de Wit can be assured that this will not work out as they fear. The sole aim of the Government is to keep the price of honey down on the local market. They will therefore keep the levy down to keep the public happy. That is to say, it will have just the reverse effect from what de Wit and Bartrum fear. I do not think it will be a large sum. It is the best thing I have heard in the industry for many years.



Penrose: Berry has got the essentials of the matter. This will be a production levy which will be added to the cost of production when calculating selling prices.

R. Cloake: May I ask Berry through the Chair? Could you assure us that you will reduce your prices if the amount of the levy is reduced?

Berry: I will not reduce my prices below what the Government will allow me to charge. The maximum price will be adjusted by Government.

Blair: The levy will be paid on declaration quarterly whether the honey has gone to a packer or to the H.M.A.

Ashcroft: We should be able to get a figure for the approximate amount of the administration costs from the chairman of H.M.A. We should have some idea what these are likely to be before we proceed.

I.J.D.: Administrative costs are hard to define but if the H.M.A. Chairman wishes he can answer Ashcroft's question.

Poole: A short answer is no. Our balance sheet figures have not been broken down because there was no need for this in the past. Now there is a reason for this. A point to be borne in mind is that not all honey is subject to levy at present. And some by avoiding and some by legitimate exemption do not pay.

H. Cloake: How did we arrive at the figure of \$45,000?

Poole: Salaries of manager, staff, rent, travelling expenses of Board members. I am sure the new levy will be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ c per pound.

Whalley: The present levy costs \$17.92 per ton. The proposed levy will be \$12 per ton.

Carey: I am concerned that the Association does in fact lay its affairs before the Minister, and he then decides the level of their activity. He then becomes the beekeepers' banker and they will look to Government for authority to spend their own funds. I am not clear about the implications of this.

I.J.D.: My opinion and the opinion of Executive is that the reason behind this is the Government's wish to see that we do not come asking for \$30,000, or something equally ridiculous.

A Voice: Try asking for \$30,000 and see what happens to you. I think that in the long run this is safeguarding the beekeepers.

Carey: With due respect I think we must look at the proposal most carefully. We must suppress rugged individuality no matter how small. If you seek Government approval, snags will appear you have never dreamed about. This is not said destructively but from my own personal experience.

Secretary: Do you realise that the only alternative is to go it alone?

Hansen: The answer to Carey's misgivings is to be found in the Under-Secretary's assurance, also depends on our unity. If we are united this is the greatest guarantee to being not dominated.

R. Cloake: If we pay this levy ourselves we should not require the Government to tell us how much to spend since it is our own money.

Carey: When we are demanding payments from other people who do not belong to this Association surely the Government must come in.

Herron: Someone has said that this levy will be paid quarterly. But there could be a big variation from year to year.

Penrose: Here is the easiest answer. This proposal is only the machinery and the levy would be fixed for two or three years. With an average of 5000 tons per year fluctuations would tend to be levelled out.

Blair: As this is an increased cost to the public the Government will be involved.

Stuckey: Under any other scheme we would have to have Government approval.

President: I suggest that you all read the Under-Secretary's speech again. Especially the part where it says that the Government is reluctant to extend the present Seals Levy.

# It pays to brand 'em

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honey blind!  
If you want people to  
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## NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE FOR 1973-74

President: I. J. Dickinson. Only nomination, and was duly elected.

Vice-President: (Nominations), D. Penrose, M. Cloake. D. Penrose elected.

Executive (North Island): (Nominations), H. Tuck, N. Blair, M. Haines, H. Stuckey, D. Lorimer, R. Jansen. Haines and Lorimer elected.

(South Island): (Nominations), J. de Wit, M. Cloake, J. Bray. de Wit and Cloake elected.

Chairman: I now propose to put the remaining part of the Notice of Motion on the Levy Scheme, which is:

"That this Association is in favour of the Levy Scheme as outlined in the President's Report and that the Association wishes the H.M.A. and N.B.A. to meet at the earliest possible opportunity and implement the scheme. Moved and Seconded, then opened for debate.

Carey: This is a difficult Resolution to speak to because it is difficult to assess the full implications of it. Because all the factors are not clearly understood by all those present I am opposed. We should endeavour to toto to obtain the same objective as that passed at the 1972 Kaitiaki Conference. It is also not clear how Executive proposed to implement a scheme to iron out the significant variations in production from year to year. I am also concerned that Conference has been relegated to a secondary position by implication and what we are presented with is in fact a Ministerial decision. I am not convinced that this Association is not still capable of making its own decisions and paying its own financial way. The 1972 way was easier and more flexible. If simpler then it must be cheaper to administer therefore I ask Conference to do it this way. Furthermore I take umbrage to politicians telling me what to do whoever they are.

Ashcroft: In my opinion the fears expressed by this speaker about the Levy Scheme being too much in the hands of the Minister are groundless. The purpose of the levy is limited. Any Levy Scheme would place us under Government domination to some extent.

H. Cloake: We are now over a barrel. We have been sold out by Executive and I am certain that their decision to support the Minister's scheme was not unanimous. We will now lose money from the present Consumer Seal's Levy. And I am prepared to say that the new levy will be not less than ½c per pound and will ultimately rise to 1c per pound. We have lost 1c from the present levy and now we are going to lose another 1c from the new levy. What other primary producer organisation will levy themselves to pay 5% of their income. This is going to cost some of us a lot of money.

Whalley: I want to remind Conference that this is really our last chance to consolidate and stabilise the industry. We have got to stand on our own two feet.

Davies: May I ask H. Cloake a question? In view of Barclay's recommendation that there be no extension of the present Seals Levy what alternative has he to offer? Is he perturbed with both the Minister and the Executive?

H. Cloake: I have no alternative. We are forced into being in favour. But I am perturbed with both schemes. The present levy proposal is near enough to being an ultimatum.

Forsyth: I oppose this scheme on two grounds. Firstly, this new levy has been confidential up to now when it should have been on the Order Paper. Secondly, I would like Branches to discuss it first. I therefore support H. Cloake and Carey.

Stuckey: We have got to look at the basics. Firstly, something must be done. Secondly, either scheme will save us money on the present payout. Thirdly, both Executive and the H.M.A. have given their support and there has been no other way proposed.

Berry: I am happy that H. Cloake and I are going the same way. I am going happily but he goes unhappily. If ever the industry had a chance to get on its feet it is now. This Levy Scheme is not perfect but I must congratulate the President and the Executive for their part in it. If we go from this Conference united and get the support of Government we will have made a big step forward.

M. Cloake: I was the one on Executive who opposed this scheme. But once a vote had been taken I had to go along with the majority decision. I am now duty bound to support the Executive and feel that any more delay will be intolerable. We must be united, strong and give a good image to those we are dealing with. If Government sees we are always changing our minds they will not respect us.

R. Cloake: This is a good scheme . . . in the absence of any other. Before I buy a car I want to know all about its performance and what I will have to pay in costs to run it. This scheme does not have any clear indication how it will perform or what it will cost. Executive should have given us the cost. We must now get a price lift to cover the new levy. Conference passed a scheme by 80% of votes at Kaiaia and Executive is now duty bound to carry out these proposals. Any future Executive must carry out what Conference has passed by a majority.

Jansen: Can I ask the chairman of H.M.A. a hypothetical question? Will a producer of 100 tons per year have to pay \$1200 in levy?

Poole: Money from any levy will be earmarked for H.M.A. expenses other than trading. We are not allowed by law to do anything else.

Penrose: Executive did not give any idea what it would cost because at that stage Executive did not know. You have now been told what has been budgeted for costs for the ensuing year.

Notice of Motion, Levy Scheme put to the meeting and carried.

Carey Resolution: "That this meeting of Conference rescind all those resolutions carried by previous Conferences relating to Seals Levy. Seconded, Whalley. Passed unanimously.

Remit 30, 31 and 32: Withdrawn after the passing of Remit 50.

**Remit 10:** "That the rules of the N.B.A. be amended so that the voting at the Annual Meeting (Conference) be by voices or show of hands by financial members present or by a delegate vote as previously, before the rules amended at last Conference, except when a delegate vote is called for. The decision to take the delegate vote be on all financial members present and not by delegates as previously."

M. Cloake: We have now seen the principle of voting by delegates in action. I think it is bad because (1) It may affect attendances at future Conferences. Having said that I am bound to admit that this is one of the largest Conferences I have seen, so this may not be the case. (2) I have doubts about the leadership of the Association because this is related to attendances at Conference. Under the present system members, not delegates could have less opportunity to speak. (3) I am disturbed that there could be large numbers of remits but few speakers to debate the remits. But it is good because (1) There is little confusion and the polls appear to be conclusive. The only reason it has not been withdrawn is that it was the only way to get an expression of the opinion of Conference.

**Remit 10 (South Canterbury):** "That the Rules of the N.B.A. be amended so that voting at the Annual Conference be by voices or show of hands by financial members present or by a delegate vote as previously, before the rules amended at last Conference, except when a delegate vote is called for. The decision to take the delegates' vote be on all financial members present and not by delegates as previously." (Withdrawn).

Carey: My interpretation of the Rule 28c is that delegates are still entitled to exercise the principle of voting under conscience.

R. Cloake: While we have the right to change our vote I would not do so on important matters because of the serious responsibility.

Bartrum: The new voting system has worked quite smoothly but some improvements are possible. Delegates must have the power to change their instructions after hearing the debate on a remit. Nomination of the Executive should be made at Branch level and then put on the Order Paper. Executive should have the power to combine and/or delete remits.

Poole: May I ask the previous speaker a question? How do you think this can be done?

Whalley: The new voting system has been successful. Most delegates have some power to vote as they see fit. I suggest that perhaps 90% was decided by delegates.

Berry: Only in the case where a poll has been called for has it been obvious whether delegate is voting for and against a remit. Unless there is a poll a delegate cannot vote for and against. This procedure has been well thought out, is soundly based and I think it could be a practical factor in the survival of this Association when it has nearly been on the rocks. I am sick of going to Branch meetings where no notice is taken. Look at the case of a sole agent charging commission to sell goods to himself. Branches have in the past cast up to 400 votes either way when they should have some for and some against as instructed at the Branch meeting. If we follow procedure we will take it another year. The N.B.A. is at last on the way up.

Jenkins: As a delegate I can say that only the floating vote of my Branch was decided by me. I think the system works well.

Heineman: If a man comes to Conference he should have some vote. But this is not practical, so I support the present system.

Forsyth: The purpose of the remit on voting passed last year was to strengthen Branches. This is the only opportunity to vote for many of our members.

Penrose: The present voting system gives the strength to the Branches and the new Levy System will be the incentive to belong to the N.B.A.

Hansen: As a delegate I think the system is working well. Perhaps delegates would like to throw it over.

R. Cloake: Ask for opinion of the floor.

Remit 10 was then withdrawn.

**Remit 8:** "That this remit be uplifted." Moved, Carey; Seconded, Robinson.

Carey: As mover of the 1972 Remit I am delighted with the result so far demonstrated at this Conference. Remit 8 is different from an entirely appropriate system. I concede areas of success but there are areas of not success which should be tidied up. I am unhappy with the implications of a vote drop from 5000 to 1500 as seems to be the case this year. I think it would be unwise to continue this system.

Poole: This Branch is wasting Conference time and should have withdrawn this remit.

Whalley: The difference between 5000 and 1500 may indicate apathy but as far as this Conference is concerned it has enabled us to get cracking.

Remit 8 put to delegates' vote: Lost with four for, nine against.

**Remit 6:** "That this remit be now uplifted." Moved, Jenkins; Seconded, Penrose.

Mr Jenkins: As delegate I would like to alter this remit. Conference did not permit this.

Moved by Penrose; Seconded, Whalley: "That this remit not now be put." Carried.

Mr Heineman Moved; Penrose Seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chair.

After Presidential thanks to Scrutineers, Timekeeper, Delegates and all present, Conference finished at 12.45 p.m.

## *Executive Meeting at Nelson After Conference*

A meeting of the Executive was held in Nelson on 13th July, 1973. Those present were Mr I. J. Dickinson, President (in the chair), Messrs M. D. Cloake, J. de Wit, M. D. Haines, J. D. Lorimer, D. Penrose.

**In attendance:** E. R. Neal, Association Secretary, N. S. Stanton, Editor of "N.Z. Beekeeper".

### **WELCOME:**

The President welcomed Messrs de Wit and Lorimer duly elected members to the Executive and congratulated them upon being elected.

### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

The President also congratulated those members of the previous Executive who had been re-elected. He said to all members that he looked forward to working with them. It was very important that they all keep in mind that the industry in his opinion was on the verge of a marked forward movement.

### **CONFERENCE:**

Mr T. Palmer-Jones. The President traversed the circumstances leading up to the non-inclusion of Mr T. Palmer-Jones' speaking to his report on the Wallaceville Research Station.

On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Haines it was **resolved** that the President write to Mr Palmer-Jones expressing regret at the omission and assuring Mr Palmer-Jones that Executive look forward to seeing him at the next Conference and giving him adequate time to speak to the members.

### **REMIT 6:**

Remit 6 from Otago. This Branch is alarmed at the intention for voting to be based on hive holdings and requests that the Conference institute a system of "one-man-one-vote". Note: Our forefathers fought for the Democratic principle of "one-man-one-vote" and we feel that under the proposed system there is a danger of domination of the Industry by a few large beekeepers. It was not dealt with by Conference 1973. It was agreed that this be carried forward to Conference 1974.

### **NOTICE OF MOTION RE HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY:**

Conference had passed a notice of motion that the incoming Executive meet urgently with the members of the Honey Marketing Authority Board without delay regarding the restricted payout. It was agreed that the Executive meet with the H.M.A. members at 3 p.m. on Friday the 13th July 1973 in the lounge of the Hotel Nelson. On the motion of Mr Penrose seconded Mr Lorimer it was resolved that Mr Heineman's draft letter be considered after the Executive had met with the Board members of the H.M.A. on the 13th July, 1973.

### **MEETING WITH BOARD MEMBERS OF THE HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY:**

At 3 p.m. the meeting adjourned so that members of the Executive could meet representatives of the Honey Marketing Authority to discuss proposals for a joint submission to the Minister on the restricted payout. At 3.45 p.m. the meeting resumed.

# BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

## New Members Executive

Dudley Lorimer

My introduction to bees came from a swarm which landed in the bucket of hot tea I was carrying and also down my neck. This state of affairs was only to be expected when I had prodded the swarm to see if there was any honey in the middle of it.

One could have been excused making a prediction that, as a result of this experience, I would have chosen a career far removed from beekeeping. But in time my insatiable curiosity to find out how honey was produced got the better of me and I applied for an apprenticeship with the late Mr Bert Davies of Hamilton.

I am indebted to him not only for teaching me the basics of beekeeping but also for teaching me the need

for a well-organised Beekeeping Association dedicated to the advancement of the industry in New Zealand.

With the exception of a period of three years in the armed services, I have been a member of the N.B.A. continuously for 30 years.

I was on the Executive of the then South Auckland Branch for six years then for nine years a member of the H.M.A., six years of which I served as deputy-chairman.

John de Wit

I am a second generation beekeeper, my father having been a hobbyist in Holland.

Before leaving Holland in 1952 I enquired from the New Zealand Immigration Department about beekeeping positions in New Zealand. Their reply that "there is no beekeeping in New Zealand" did not deter me and I came anyway.

I took up fulltime beekeeping in partnership with Mr P. H. Barber. In 1960 I bought the old Woodlands Dairy Factory which I now use as a honey house.

For a period of two years I have served as president of the Southland Branch.



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, 1973-74

Back row from left: Mervyn Cloake, Dudley Lorimer, Malcolm Haines, John de Wit. (Front): Eric Neal (Secretary), Ivan Dickinson (President), David Penrose (Vice-President).

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th APRIL, 1973**

1972		
1982	Subscriptions — Remitted by Branches	2012.42
553	— Direct Members	395.88
2967	Grant from H.M.A.	4000.00
—	Commission	95.62
37	Interest	42.09
282	Journal Income — Advertising	375.15
230	— Subscriptions	350.83
—	Donations	754.20
—	Branch Balances remitted to National Secretary	1121.27
—	Seminar Profit	180.00
<hr/>		
6051	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>9327.46</b>
<b>Less</b>		
2500	Administration Fee	2607.64
137	Audit Fee	100.00
424	Conference Expenses — Accommodation	395.92
362	— Travel	500.48
52	— Hall Hire and Sundry	73.00
254	Executive Meetings — Accommodation	221.75
500	— Travel	780.36
97	— Sundry	95.54
241	Insurances — Public Liability — Members	112.38
350	Journal — Printing	450.31
385	— Editor's Honorarium	481.25
318	— Sundry	344.76
50	Legal Expenses	205.00
123	Nectar Source Bulletins written off 1972	—
430	Postages and Tolls	602.04
120	President's Honorarium	120.00
1137	Printing and Stationery	498.93
201	Travel Expenses — Other Meetings	83.80
18	Sundry	32.04
11	Depreciation	80.52
<hr/>		
7710		<b>7785.72</b>
<hr/>		
1659	Net Deficit 1972/Net Surplus 1973	1541.74



**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th APRIL, 1973**

1972	<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
4418	These totalled at 1/5/72	.....	2755.27
250	Plus Travel Bursary Fund	.....	250.00
433	Library Fund	.....	433.01
157	Seminar Fund	.....	157.23
<u>5258</u>			<u>3595.51</u>
4	Less Decrease in Branch Balances 1972		
	Branch balances written off 1973	.....	1719.80
<u>5254</u>			<u>1875.71</u>
1659	Less Surplus of Expenditure over Income 1972		
	Plus Surplus of Income over Expenditure 1973		1541.74
<u>3595</u>			<u>3417.45*</u>
	* (Includes Travel Bursary Fund	.....	250.00
	Library Fund	.....	433.01
	Seminar Fund	.....	337.23
			<u>1020.24</u> )
	These are represented by:		
371	Bank of New South Wales	.....	1901.67
280	P.O.S.B. Timaru	.....	288.41
710	Sundry Debtors	.....	797.96
410	Subscriptions in Arrears	.....	129.20
233	Deposit with N.A.C.	.....	556.90
50	Advance to Sth. West'n Dist's Branch		—
<u>2054</u>			<u>3674.14</u>
450	Less Sundry Creditors	.....	447.69
<u>1604</u>	<b>Net Current Funds Available</b>	.....	<u>3226.45</u>
	Other Assets are:		
170	Library and Blocks	.....	100.00
101	Filing Cabinets and Plates at Cost	.....	91.00
			<u>191.00</u>
	Branch balances excluding Central and Southern		
	Hawkes Bay and Nelson, Canterbury and		
	Otago.		
<u>1720</u>			<u>191.00</u>
<u>3595</u>			<u>3417.45</u>

To the members of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Incorporated).

I have examined the Books and Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 April 1973. I have obtained all the information and explanations as required by me. In my opinion proper Books of Account have been kept. In my opinion the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account have been drawn up so as to show a true and fair view of the affairs of the Association.

Lower Hutt, 27th June, 1973.

N. RYDER-LEWIS,  
Chartered Accountant.

# Letters to the Editor

6 The Rise, Christchurch, 8.

29/7/73

Dear Sir,

Could we, through your columns, express our sincere thanks to the ladies at Conference who supplied the "cuppa" and "tucker" for our morning and afternoon tea. This small band of voluntary workers with their other commitments, still found time to bake daily and have it ready for our tea breaks. It certainly was appreciated by all present.

CANTERBURY BRANCH MEMBERS.

237 Waimairi Road, Christchurch, 4.

22/7/73

Dear Sir,

Your issue of May 1973 contained two letters critical of myself in relation to my position as a producer representative on the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority. Mr Davies was critical of the present system where a producer who neither pays levy nor supplies the Authority with honey is eligible for election to the Authority. He then says, "Messrs Ecroyd and Poole are both implicated in this moral aspect and their resignations would pave the way for the removal of a gross anomaly." I would point out that both Mr Ecroyd and myself supplied honey to the H.M.A. Mr Ecroyd retires this year by rotation and is offering himself for re-election, so in his case at least, resignation is unnecessary and the electors are being given the opportunity to remove this "gross anomaly" if they see fit.

As for my own position, I said at the Southland Branch meeting that I would resign if the industry felt that it was undesirable for two members of the Authority to be employed by the same firm. During business sessions of the recent Conference in Nelson that matter was never raised, and speaking to beekeepers socially, only one person spoke to me about it. I therefore asked a number of people if they had heard any expression of opinion, as I thought that beekeepers may be talking to each other about it, but not saying anything directly to me. Here again I heard no unfavourable comments. One N.B.A. Branch has written to me disassociating the Branch from the sentiments expressed in the letters of Messrs Davies and Gavin.

After consideration I have decided not to resign but to continue in office until my present term expires. I feel that the main consideration of the electors when deciding who to vote for, is the ability of the candidate to act in the best interests of the beekeeping industry, rather than the number of hives he operates or the amount of seals levy he pays. In this respect it is significant that three years ago when Mr Ecroyd first offered himself for election, he made no pretensions of being a beekeeper, but offered himself as a capable businessman closely allied to the beekeeping industry.

The result of that election was that he polled a record number of votes. As both of our livelihoods depend on the economic well-

being of the beekeepers of New Zealand we will continue to strive on behalf of the industry as we have in the past.

R. F. POOLE.

110 Effingham Street,  
Christchurch, 7.

26/7/73

Great and Illustrious Sir,

So honoured does this lowly person feel to receive a letter (carbon copy) from yourself, requesting this your humble servant's writings, all other editors either ignoring his presence or getting his 43rd secretary to send him a tear-off rejection slip, I felt duty bound at great pain to my typing fingers, to sit at home and bash out an article which you in your great wisdom may deem suitable for publication.

May I now seriously congratulate you on your last edition and perhaps make a suggestion for future editions. For some time now I have felt there is scope within the journal for inclusion of articles on other entomological disciplines. To that end the horticulture handbook leaflets could well be reproduced. There are those who could well help you in obtaining copies of these leaflets, and while permission no doubt would have to be obtained prior to their publication this I'm sure could be obtained from the powers that be.

JOHN SMITH.

P.O. Box 52, Ngongotaha,  
New Zealand.

20/7/73

Dear Sir,

I, and members of our association, are concerned that misleading and untrue statements about the lack of co-operation by the N.Z. Honey Packers' Association have been made in the N.Z. Beekeeper and by the Executive of the N.B.A. I wish to place on record that our association has continually pursued a policy of co-operation with the N.B.A. and from the time I was President, forwarded various written communications to the N.B.A. Executive.

The main matter for concern has always been the Seals Levy question. Although I could point out numerous instances where the N.B.A. have been completely at fault, my sole intention in having this letter published is not one of recrimination but an attempt to bring about mutual understanding and co-operation to the benefit of the industry as a whole. The Honey Packers' Association however constituted must continue to be a vital and very necessary part of the commercial side of the beekeeping industry.

W. L. HOLT

[My only comment on this letter is that as Mr Holt has not specified what untrue statements have been made by my Executive I am not in a position to reply to such a generalised statement. The Association believes that to avoid these so-called misleading and untrue statements being made it is necessary that unity must prevail within the industry and one of the means of achieving this is to have a Honey Packers' sub-section within the framework of the present Association.—I. J. Dickinson, President, N.B.A.]

## **N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority Elections, 1973**

When I offered myself for election to the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority in 1970 I promised to use all the business experience and ability that I may have to represent the producers of honey in New Zealand and to secure the highest possible returns for them.

I also stated that if elected I would do everything in my power, using what experience I had, to raise the price level of bulk honey to the producer, to ensure that he secures a reasonable return on his capital outlay and for his labour. I believed that by the application of sound business principles the payout of the H.M.A. could be increased and that this would result in a general increase in the price level of all bulk honey.

Since my election, sound business principles have been applied by management and to an increasing extent by members of the Board, which, quite apart from increases in overseas prices, have had a significant effect on the sum available for payout.

During the last three years the H.M.A. payout, and price of all bulk honey on the local market has steadily and significantly increased. This year's payout would have been, and may still be, significantly higher than the proposed 20c per pound average, had the Board been able to implement its policy without Government interference.

If elected I promise to continue my efforts on behalf of the producers of bulk honey to secure prices that can justify the labour and capital involved in the production of honey.

May I solicit your continued support.

P.O. Box 5056,  
Christchurch.

KEVIN ECROYD.

Much has been said and written recently about world honey prices and how beekeepers in other countries are reaping the benefits of these prices. We felt that a comparison of the cost of some items of beekeepers' equipment in Australia, New Zealand and America would be of interest and the following figures were taken from various manufacturers' price lists and converted to New Zealand currency equivalent.

	N.Z.	AUSTRALIA		UNITED STATES	
	Sole Manufacturer	Brand 'A'	Brand 'B'	Brand 'X'	Brand 'Y'
Full Depth Hoffman Frames per 100	12.45	18.05	17.10	14.39	12.87
Full Depth Lock Cornered Storeys					
each .....	1.69	2.88	2.74	2.50	2.99
Full Depth Commercial Storeys each	1.30	not quoted	2.32	not quoted	not quoted
Medium Brood Comb Foundation Converted from Beekeepers Wax					
(case lot price) per pound .....	.16	not quoted	.27	.28	.29
Medium Brood Comb Foundation					
(case lot price) per pound .....	.94	1.17	1.05	1.05	1.18
Wood Framed Queen Excluders, each	1.50	1.80	1.50	1.86	1.21
Prices Current at .....	Feb., 1973	Oct., 1972	Mar., 1972	Feb., 1973	Feb., 1973

It is interesting to note the variations within the countries where there is more than one manufacturer and the comparative low prices of the sole New Zealand manufacturer. Another point worth noting is that the only item in which the New Zealand price is not the lowest is that for Queen Excluders. These are imported into New Zealand, thus carrying various freight and Customs charges whereas we understand they are manufactured in both the other countries quoted above.

# HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

## NEWSLETTER

3rd July, 1973.

### NEWSLETTER TO SUPPLIERS AND PAYERS OF SEALS LEVY:

The Authority met in Auckland recently and set out below is a summary of the matters discussed.

#### INTAKE:

To 31st May the intake of honey amounted to 1955 tons, and a total for the season of over 2000 tons is anticipated.

#### SALES:

Overseas prices continue at a high level and much of the honey so far received has been sold, mainly to Japan, at very satisfactory prices.

Local sales had been restricted to 20% of last year's quantities and, in anticipation of the Price Tribunal giving us an increased price, we amended this restriction to 50% of last year's quantities. Before the Price Tribunal had ruled on our application the Government imposed a price freeze. Representations have been made to the Minister of Trade and Industry to have honey removed from the price freeze and to have our application dealt with by the Price Tribunal promptly.

#### PAYOUT TO SUPPLIERS:

Because of the good prices received for our overseas sales, our financial position has improved to the point that the Reserve Bank overdraft was extinguished. As it has always been our policy to pay the suppliers as much money as possible as early as possible, we applied to Treasury for permission to make a further advance payment for honey supplied this season. Approval was given and cheques were mailed last week giving further payment on honey graded up to 31/5/73 of:

- 6c per pound on honey grading 86-100 points
- 5c per pound on honey grading 76- 85 points
- 4c per pound on honey grading 75 points and under

Honey graded since 31/5/73 will be paid the higher amount in due course.

The above payment brings the total advance for the season to:

- 18c per pound for honey grading 86-100 points
- 16c per pound for honey grading 76- 85 points
- 14c per pound for honey grading 75 points and under

We are sure that suppliers will appreciate receiving this money at this point of time, but we would ask them to budget for a final payment, taking into account the high total advance payments already received.

#### FINAL PAYOUT:

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has instructed the Authority to restrict its payout to such a figure as will give an average payout of 20c per pound. This would mean an actual payout pro rata of 21 to 21½ cents per pound. The Authority feels this is too low in view of world prices and is continuing its efforts to have this restriction raised or, better still, removed.

#### GIFT PARCELS:

Our present selling price for 5 lb gift tins is showing a loss and as the price freeze does not allow us to raise the price we have decided to discontinue this service when the stocks at present on hand are exhausted.

R. F. POOLE,  
Chairman.

NEW ZEALAND HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

16th July, 1973.

Amendments to conditions under which applications for private exports of packed and bulk lines would be considered are as follows:

AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD 7th-9th MARCH 1973

- (1) That an additional condition be laid down that the purpose of private exports of packed lines of honey the maximum sized container be 5 lbs or 2.5 kgs nett weight.
- (2) That there be complete prohibition on exports of packed lines by private exporters except those by established exporters of extracted honey who were selling on overseas markets as at 27/10/72. Applications from these established exporters will be considered on the same terms and conditions as were ruling prior to this date. They shall not be allowed to supply new customers not being supplied by them during the two years preceding this date.
- (3) That fully documented applications for exports on hand as at 7/3/73 be considered by the General Manager and approval given if conforming to the policy ruling immediately prior to this date.

AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD 10th-11th JULY 1973

"That the Authority's policy on the export of crushed comb honey be amended immediately to restrict exports to crushed comb ling heather only and that the market be restricted to the United Kingdom.

C. W. CARR, General Manager.

## Our Not So Innocent National Flower

By Murray Reid, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Christchurch

Beekeepers and research workers alike have long known that the nectar from our national flower — the beautiful kowhai (*Sophora sp.*) has a narcotic effect on bees at certain locations and at certain times of the year. Last spring, bees thought to be dying from pesticide poisoning were found floating on the Mokihinui River in Westland and Jack Varley, the Apiary Instructor for the area, was called in to investigate. Both pesticides and kowhai nectar were ruled out as possible causes of the bee mortality and the blame was eventually placed on strong, cold winds that had been affecting the area.

However, the words "narcotic effect" caught the imagination of the press and elicited small headlines in papers around the country such as "kowhai sip sends bees tripping out", "Nectar blamed for bees' trance", and "Bees on trip after kowhai sip".

The first N.Z. Whole Earth Catalogue also covered the story in a review section on all the locally available plants and fruits that have a narcotic effect when chewed, smoked or drunk as an infusion. Apparently Californians get high by smoking the official flower of their State, so perhaps New Zealanders can get high by chewing seeds of our national flower.

The kowhai is a very close relation of the Mexican mescal bean (*S. secundiflora*) which has powerful psychedelic properties but which can also cause nausea and convulsions and in excessive doses, it has caused occasional death. According to the Auckland Museum Handbook "New Zealand Medical Plants", the kowhai contains the hallucinogenic alkaloid cytisine, which is also the active principle in mescal. The Maori used kowhai bark infusions as a medicine for internal pains but apparently did not use the seed. I guess they knew better.

REFERENCE:

Palmer-Jones, T. 1970. Causes of adult honeybee mortality in New Zealand. N.Z. Beekeeper 32(3) : 16-20.

AUGUST, 1973

# DRONES

## The Forgotten Caste

By Murray Reid, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Christchurch

### PART 2 — WE REALLY NEED THEM

The mating behaviour of queens and drones and bee breeding has been discussed in other issues of this journal by Gary (1966) and Forster (1967). However, one aspect which is often left to chance is an adequate supply of drones particularly in queen mating yards. The Standing Commission on Bee Biology of Apimondia, under the chairmanship of Dr F. Ruttner, has made numerous observations and recommendations with respect to queen mating stations. Some of these are summarized as follows:

#### BIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

1. Queen bees become sexually mature after their sixth day of life, drones after their sixteenth day.
2. Matings occur only under favourable weather conditions; temperatures at least 20deg. C, sufficient sun and low wind. If these conditions are not, or are only partially fulfilled, the results will be short-lived queens of poor performance through insufficient insemination.
3. A queen mates on an average with 6-8 drones. To provide for a quick and maximum filling of the spermatheca many drones should follow the queen during her mating flight (s).
4. Queens placed in an area free of drones can mate with drones from apiaries 16 km (10 miles) away but these are exceptional conditions. According to Haydak (1966) drones seldom fly further than 3.2 km (2 miles) from the apiary.
5. Drones fly in abundance between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., although single drones may fly out as early as 11 a.m. and return as late as 5.30 p.m. There are variations from colony to colony, from day to day, and from season to season. However, flight is affected by temperature, cloud cover, shade, and the direction of the colony entrance. Drones prevented from flight by confinement will fly earlier than usual the next day.
6. Drones may make an average of 3-4 mating flights on sunny afternoons when temperatures are above 20deg. C, but only one on cloudy days. These flights take from 25-60 minutes each, with an average of 31 minutes. The total flight time may be as long as 2½-3 hours. Drones will not fly far below 16deg. C.

#### HOW MANY DRONES WILL A COLONY SUPPORT

According to Ruttner, a bee colony, even under favourable conditions, usually does not care well for more than 2000 sexually mature drones at one time.

Drone production is seasonal and is dependent on colony conditions. One study showed that during the whole yearly brood period of a colony, 3600-10,900



drone larvae were reared compared to 110,000-170,000 workers. Many of the drone larvae were destroyed by the workers. Under normal queen-right conditions workers appear to be aware of the relative numbers of drones within the hive, and may actively regulate the drone population, to maintain favourable drone rearing and maturing conditions. For example, if food supplies are cut off in the spring drone larvae may be carried out of the hive. Similarly, in the autumn, workers physically pursue and drive drones out of the hive over a period of many weeks. One researcher found that a worker bee's attitude towards drones depended upon the latter's age; young drones in the observation hive were being fed while older drones were being removed.

An American, Holmes, has suggested that drones produce a pheromone(s) that are very attractive to worker bees and exert a pacifying action on guard bees. This could perhaps explain why drones can drift readily from one hive to another in the summer. Holmes thinks that the production of these pacifying hormones is probably inhibited by the cold hence the ejection of drones in the autumn. No doubt nutritional levels, particularly of protein, will also effect the production levels of these drone pheromones as is the case in the queen. Young drones (1-8 days old) are fed a mixture of glandular secretions, pollen and honey, while the diet of older drones consists mainly of honey.

#### **SOME FACTORS AFFECTING THE NUMBER OF DRONES**

- \* A laying virgin or an old queen that has become sterile for various reasons, such as virus or tumorous infections of the reproductive organs, will produce only drones.
- \* The strain of bee will also affect the number of drones produced. Italian queens generally produce more drones earlier in the season than darker strains.
- \* A plentiful supply of nectar, pollen, and young worker bees are necessary for good production and maintenance of drones. These conditions are generally confined to the spring and summer months.
- \* A diseased colony will obviously not produce as many drones as a healthy one. Drones have been known to transfer disease when drifting from one colony to another.
- \* Drifting behaviour affects the number of drones in any one colony. Drones readily drift into strange colonies especially during orientation flights. The are usually admitted provided there is no dearth of nectar. Weak colonies tend to lose their males more so than strong colonies.
- \* When excessive amounts of drone comb are added to colonies drone production will increase but not at the expense of worker brood production, nor of honey yields. The tendency to rear queens or swarm will not be increased either. It seems that the amount of drone comb produced is determined by the amount already present. The presence of a queen (virgin or mated) has been found to stimulate worker comb production, whereas an occupied queen cell stimulates drone comb production. In one experiment where 3lb package bees were supplied with "starter strips" the bees only built 1.5-6.1% drone comb, while packages with full sheets of foundation built 0.4-1.7% drone cells. These results suggest that heavy culling of combs containing drone cells is not warranted. Emphasis should rather be placed on removing only damaged or badly warped combs.

#### **HOW MANY DRONE COLONIES ARE NEEDED FOR MATING YARDS?**

According to Ruttner at least 50 sexually mature drones are needed for each queen. In mating stations which are not completely isolated the number of drones per queen should be much higher. The requirements are therefore as follows:—

For a completely isolated mating station:

— 1 drone colony per 50 queens at one time.

For an incompletely isolated mating station:

— 4 drone colonies per 50 queens at one time.

— 6 drone colonies per 100-150 queens at one time.

— 10 drone colonies per 400 queens at one time.

— 20 drone colonies per 800 queens at one time.

#### HOW TO ENSURE LARGE NUMBERS OF DRONES:

The rearing or maintenance of artificially large numbers of drones would only be of value to the commercial queen breeder or research worker. Drones can usually be produced out of season by creating conditions similar to those existing at swarming time. Crowding of bees, reducing the laying space for the queen, and feeding of sugar syrup and pollen are some of the steps often necessary.

A sure way to obtain drones is to produce drone laying queens by carbon dioxide treatment. At least two anaesthetizations of 10 minutes duration, spaced a day apart, are necessary to start egg laying, say on the fourth and fifth day after emergence. The queens should begin to lay 2-6 days after the second treatment. A more practical method is to restrict a virgin queen in a nuc. or a hive by excluders until she begins to lay drone eggs. This may take 3-4 weeks. These queens should be given as much drone comb as possible to lay in.

Drone "banks" can be established by introducing drone brood or newly emerged adults into a strong queenless colony. Drones live longer and are cared for better in queenless colonies. The colony may react by removing some of the pupae or adults.

Drones of flying age can also be trapped from other colonies and added to these "banks". A queen excluder is placed on top of the floor board and under the bottom brood box late in the afternoon on fine days. Returning drones cluster under the excluder and can be easily removed and shaken into the drone banks. To ensure good acceptance they should be placed in a top super above an excluder. The drones as well as the workers in the colony can be sprayed with a thin sugar syrup. The excluder is removed next day.

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# NEWS FROM LEADING BEEKEEPING PUBLICATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

A Selection of Gleanings of Interest to all Beekeepers in N.Z.

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## THE IRISH BEEKEEPER

**THE IRISH BEEKEEPER**—Monthly magazine of the Federation of Irish Beekeeping Associations. Secretary/Treasurer/Manager, Mr John A. Aherne, Mon Chalee, Boston Park, Cork, Irish Republic. Subscription 12½p posted.

### DOES HONEY CAUSE OBESITY?

Rich food, and on the other hand, the difficulty of getting rid of the superfluous weight gained for considerable sums of money are the cause of considerable sanitary troubles. "To remove weight without gaining it," is a scientifically tested and even sweet method. The feeling of hunger depends on height of the blood-sugar count in the body. The most important sugar in honey — grape sugar — can pass directly into the organism. Therefore it rapidly restores energy and increases efficiency. And this constitutes the whole trick: if we eat honey we get used to limited quantities of food. Thus when eating honey we do not get fat, and it helps to maintain slimness.—Hubert Preterek *DerImkerfreund*, 27, 1972, No. 8, pp. 271-272.

### BE POLITE TO BEES

Charles Butler, parish priest of Wootton St. Lawrence, Hants, in Stuart times, loved music and wrote about it: he also wrote an English grammar. And he loved and wrote about bees.

Bees not only made honey for him (he was able to give his daughter "his sweet honey girl" a good dowry), they also gave him ideas for sermons.

Bees, he warned his congregation, were sensitive creatures, not to be dealt with by anyone dirty or smelly, "or having a stinking breath, caused through eating of leeks, onions or garlic. Thou must not come puffing and blowing unto hem, nor violently defend thyself when they seem to threaten thee, but softly moving thy hand before thy face gently put them by. In a word, thou must be chaste, cleanly, sweet, sober, quiet and familiar. So will they love thee and know thee from all other."

What a good speaker he would have made for conversation meeting, this gentle, kindly parson who treated even such small creatures as bees with so much respect and courtesy!—Taken from "Church Times—Nov. 17, 1972.

## THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPER

**THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPER**—Monthly magazine of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association. General Secretary, Mr Adam F. F. MacIure, "Braemount", Station Road, Longforgan, Dundee, Scotland. Subscription £1.50 posted.

## THE GERMAN MARKET

The honey crop in West Germany lies in the region of seven to 9000 tons in a poor year and 15 to 20,000 tons in a good season. This is the produce of 1,250,000 hives worked by 120,000 beekeepers. The hive average is 10 kilos and is subject to the rigors of climate.

Heather honey is in greatest demand and comes from the Luneburg Heath and Nuremberg district. Preference then goes to fir tree honey (honeydew), acacia, lime and other. Price at production ranges from seven to 11 German marks, heather being dearest.

German production does not nearly meet demand and this is due to a lack of standardisation in production methods, to the smaller number of beekeepers and to a lack of commercial apiarists. Cost prices are therefore high, which explains why German honey is dear on the market. Eighty per cent of their honey is sold direct to the consumer; 20% to co-operatives and blenders.

Germany ranks third among world consumers of honey, after U.S.A. and Russia. It takes 72% of the total Common Market production and 40% of world imported honey goes to Germany. From 4400 tons in 1925 she rose to over 50,000 tons in 1958, supplies coming mainly from Mexico, the Argentine, U.S.A. and Guatemala.

Consumption is greatest in winter and honey is especially a breakfast food. Liquid is preferred to granulated honey. The younger generation, attracted by much vaunted new products, is not so partial to honey. As a result the market may have reached a climax. Nevertheless German honey sells dear, imported honey sells cheap. This puts a solid stamp of quality on the home product and satisfies beekeeper, importer, salesman and consumer.

The German importer takes the honey in wooden casks containing 25 to 27 kilos. The cost of returning empty containers falls on the exporter. It is not the custom to pay by bill of exchange in Germany; the importer generally pays in 10 days with 2% discount, or in 30 days by cheque. Offers must bear a label in German with the price from the frontier in Marks and a sample must be sent.

(The above facts were given in Paris at a recent General Meeting for the Advancement of Beekeeping.)

## BEE WORLD

**BEE WORLD**—Official organ of the Bee Research Association, Hill House, Chafont St. Peter, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, England.  
Subscription, £3.00 per year.

Reprinted from "Bee World" Vol. 54 No. 2 (1973)

## PROPOLIS

Propolis has recently been in increased demand, and is reported to be fetching as much as \$500 per kg in Japan. Consequent interest in this hive product has led to many enquiries about it, and the following details will answer some of the questions raised.

Propolis is a generic term for certain sticky substances secreted by plants, mainly trees. It occurs, for instance, on the buds of poplars and on the trunks of pines. This propolis is collected by honeybees, and the term propolis is also used for the material the bees use in the hive, which is usually a mixture of (plant) propolis and beeswax. The word is derived from the Greek pro — before — and polis — the city — propolis being used to make the protective shields at the entrance to a hive.

Some races of bees collect much more propolis than others. Several observers have found that collection is triggered off by a seasonal factor (not yet identified), rather than by the availability of the material, the bees in northern Europe starting in late June and continuing until the end of the flying season. So the sticky spring buds may well be ignored.

The procedure of propolis foragers has been investigated by Waltraud Meyer<sup>6</sup>, and it is most interesting. Propolis is collected earlier rather than later in the day, and packed into the bees' corbiculae like pollen. The photographs (from Meyer's article) show the process. In Fig. 1 a propolis forager detaches a particle with her mandibles; she may stand on four, five or six legs to do this. In Fig. 2 she works the particle of propolis, and when she finally takes it she holds it with her two forelegs, standing on the remaining four. She transfers the propolis from her forelegs to one middle leg, which makes waving movements forward, and then reaches out under the tarsi of the forelegs, which are beneath the mandibles. The bee now stands on only three legs (Fig. 3). She then transfers the propolis from the middle leg to the corbicula on the same side. Whilst pressing it against the corbicula, she is already groping for more propolis and beginning to nibble it off (Fig. 4). At this stage the bee is standing on five legs.

It takes the bee a long time to detach pieces of propolis, and the packing process is interrupted for visits to the hive — not to unload, but possibly to eat, since there may be no food where the propolis is collected. When the bee finally flies home with her propolis load, it may take her one or several hours to get rid of it: she seems to wait in a remote part of the hive until bees needing propolis come and pull pieces off the loads in her corbiculae.

#### USE OF PROPOLIS BY HONEYBEES

The bees that work with nectar, pollen or water in the hive are of a younger age group than the bees that collect these substances. Propolis is unique in that the individual bees that use it are those that collect it, and are of foraging age. Younger house bees build comb and cap honey cells, with wax, but the use of propolis for cementing and repair work is confined to bees of forager age, most of whose wax glands are completely atrophied. Meyer<sup>6</sup> gives three age-activity charts that bring this out clearly. All the bees that collected propolis (early in the day) themselves used it for cementing in the hive (later in the day, usually after 4 p.m.). Other bees (that did not collect propolis) occasionally did propolis cementing, but they also did other types of house work; they were not limited to propolis work, as the comparatively few propolis foragers were.

What is the propolis used for in the hive, as opposed to wax? It may be used virtually as an alternative to wax, in minor building operations that smooth off surfaces of comb; commonly both materials are used together, and

the stickiness of the propolis is thus moderated. Honeybees also use propolis to line and smooth off the inner surface of the hive. Mobus<sup>7</sup> has recently discussed this in terms of the bees' need for an impervious lining to their hive in order to prevent the escape of water vapour (needed by developing brood) from the brood nest in certain climatic situations. Walrecht<sup>10</sup>, on the other hand, has interpreted the behaviour as being similar to that of wasps and solitary bees when they use salivary secretions to coat the walls of their nests. In his view it indicates the "completion" of a certain part of the nest, after which the bees leave that area. Walrecht regards the action of honeybees in covering mice and other hive intruders with propolis as a continuation of the bees' activity in covering (finishing) the walls. Certainly the period when propolis is used is that of decline in brood rearing and of preparation for winter. The period of brood expansion in the spring is not necessarily marked by the use of propolis. More observations are needed on when the bees collect propolis, and where they spread it out in the hive: around the brood nest, or round the complete cavity accessible to the bees?

### COMPOSITION OF PROPOLIS

Propolis is derived from many sources, and its composition is bound to be complex. Among the types of substances in it are waxes, resins, balsams, aromatic and ethereal oils, pollen and other organic matter. A representative composition<sup>3</sup> is, say, 30% waxes, 55% resins and balsams, 10% ethereal oils, and 5% pollen. The presence of cinnamic acid, cinnamyl alcohol and vanillin was established in 1911, and of chrysin in 1927 (this is 5,7-dihydroxyflavone, and gives propolis its colour). Galangin (3,5,7-trihydroxyflavone) was found in 1964. In 1969 a whole series of new components of propolis were identified: acacetin; kaempferid; rhamnocitrin; pinostrobin; 5-hydroxy-7,4-dimethoxyflavone; 5-hydroxy-7,4-dimethoxyflavonol. In 1970 four others were found: caffeic acid (3,4-dihydroxycinnamic acid) tectochrysin, isalpinin, and pinocembrin. The latest addition is ferulic acid (4-hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamic acid), whose isolation from propolis is reported in "Journal of Apicultural Research" 12(1) : 52-54 (1973).

Propolis is normally harmless to the human skin, although it may be difficult to remove. A few people are especially sensitive to propolis. A recent survey at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary<sup>2</sup> suggested that perhaps one in every 2000 beekeepers may be affected, that the allergens in propolis are derived mainly from poplar but also from other tree resins, and that none of the cinnamic derivatives is the principal allergen. Silicone barrier creams are recommended<sup>2,8</sup>.

### PROPERTIES AND USES OF PROPOLIS

Lavie<sup>5</sup> carried out extensive investigations on the antibiotic properties of propolis, and his work should be consulted for detailed results. In summary, Lavie found that when propolis from hives was treated with hot water or hot alcohol, it gave an antibiotic extract that remained stable for many months in a refrigerator. Poplar buds contained an almost identical antibiotic, and no other tree gave such an active extract. Propolis also proved effective as a fungicide, and it is the only hive product known to have this property.

There has recently been an increased interest in applications of these antibiotic properties of propolis (which may lie behind the recent increase in price). More and more reports have been given at International Beekeeping Con-

gresses in recent years<sup>4</sup>, and since 1963 propolis has virtually replaced royal jelly as the hive product whose wider exploitation is most eagerly being sought.

Propolis is used in various pharmaceutical preparations<sup>9</sup>, on account of its antiseptic properties. It is also used in varnishes, including violin varnish. It has been suggested<sup>1</sup> that the special qualities of Stradivarius violins may be partly due to the type of propolis available round Cremona, where these violins were made.

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#### FOOD RESERVES OF SWARMS

The natural reproduction process of honeybees, by swarming, is subject to several hazards. The potential new colony has a queen, and worker bees of all ages, but it has no home to provide shelter and protection. It has no combs containing a reserve of food, or even empty combs in which food collected could be stored. Investigations made at Cornell University in New York State by G. F. Combs, and published in the current issue of "Journal of Apicultural Research", show that the building up of food reserves is an integral part of swarming preparations and that in the clustered swarm some of the bees serve as "reservoirs", retaining food in their honey sacs. An extreme form of the same behaviour is known in honey-pot ants, social species which build no storage pots or combs, but which keep a store of honey in the enormously enlarged crops of certain members of the colony, known as repletes.

It is the general opinion that swarming bees are "docile", and unlikely to sting, because they filled their honey sacs with honey before flying out with the swarm; they had loaded up for the journey, so to speak, and for the period when they would hang as a cluster before finding a new home. In the work just published, Combs measured the amount of food stored by individual bees in swarming and non-swarming colonies. He used for the purpose the total weight of the honey sac (honey stomach) dissected out from sample bees after they had been killed with cyanide. (The weight of the tissue forming the honey sac was only 0.4 mg, and was ignored in comparison with the substantially greater weight of the contents, 10-15 mg.) The sugar concentration of the contents of the honey sac was also measured.

The term "load" will be used here to mean the average total weight of the honey sac of a worker bee of a particular group. In colonies that swarmed, the load was around 10 mg until 10 days before the swarm issued; it then rose steadily, at the rate of about 3 mg a day, until it reached a maximum of 40-50 mg on the day the swarm left.

The "loading up" was therefore in no sense a last minute preparation for flight, but part of the long-term swarming preparations such as rearing new queens: the two processes started at about the same time, and may be initiated by the same stimulus. In any one swarming colony, there were wide differences between the loads of individual bees. But it was not a case of swarm bees loading up and bees that stayed behind not doing so; there seemed to be no connection between loading up or not loading up, and flying in the swarm or remaining behind. Most of the bees fly out with the swarm initially, but it is still not clear what determines whether a particular bee clusters with the swarm or returns to the hive. The load of bees that returned took another 10 days to revert to the original 10 mg. In one colony, however, it rose to another maximum — when a secondary swarm (cast) issued. Bees were also sampled during the same period from similar colonies that did not swarm or make obvious preparations to do so; their loads remained at the same level of around 10 mg throughout.

Some 20-30% of the weight of a swarm consisted of its food stores: did this food consist of nectar or of ripened honey? The average sugar concentration of the contents of the honey sac (referred to below as "concentration") was around 40% for bees from non-swarmed colonies, equivalent to nectar on which little if any ripening work had been done. For bees from colonies that swarmed, the concentration started to increase about five days before the swarm issued, reaching 70% on swarming day; it then dropped off again during the next five days, subsequently remaining constant at the base level. An exception was the colony that sent out a cast nine days after the prime swarm; this showed an immediate second rise in concentration, reaching a peak of 70% on the day the cast issued. So the food the swarm took with it was more concentrated than that usually carried by bees, but was either nectar not fully ripened into honey, or diluted honey: ripened honey has a concentration of 80-82%.

The "loading up" did not seem to be affected by the time of year, nor by the status of the colony's queen — whether she was the old mated queen or a newly emerged virgin. It was directly related to swarm preparations, and Combs suggests the possibility of using the measurement of engorgement of workers for swarm prediction.

The food store carried by the swarm represented 20-30% of the total weight of the swarm in Combs's observations. In order to discover how it was used, a number of "model swarm clusters" — each consisting of a caged queen and about 10,000 workers (1.5 kg) which had been fed previously — were formed. During the observations each cluster remained on a wooden cross, a cage containing the queen being attached to the cross. The bees did not build comb, since they were in full daylight; a certain threshold of darkness is needed before comb building is started, although it may be continued even in bright light, once it has begun.

Consumption of food by a clustered swarm led to an average reduction of 2 mg a day in a bee's load. But, once again, individual bees behaved



differently. The majority were quiescent, hanging in the cluster, and their loads decreased slowly during seven days of measurements. A significant minority of bees were active; they walked about on the cluster, flew off on scouting trips, landed on the cluster, and so on. Their loads decreased rapidly (by 86% in three days), as they used up their food to provide energy. Apparently they did not replenish their loads from those of the quiescent "reservoir" bees.

Bees in a clustered swarm do not normally forage; they have no brood to feed, and no combs in which to store food. In one clustered swarm that was fed 50% sugar syrup, the loads of quiescent bees increased — the swarm had nowhere else to put the food. The active bees also had larger loads than in an unfed cluster, presumably having replenished their own depleted food store from the syrup.

The problem that now needs solving is the basis of the division of labour — between active and quiescent bees in the cluster, and between bees that "load up" heavily during swarm preparations and bees that do not. Is there perhaps a link between the two groupings?

EVA CRANE.

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## THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

**THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL**—A monthly magazine published at Hamilton, Ill., 62341, U.S.A. Subscriptions: 1 year, \$4.75; 2 years, \$8.75; 3 years, \$12.25 (all U.S.).

### U.S. URGED TO KEEP PAYING FOR DEAD BEES

Spokesmen for beekeepers are urging Congress to extend a little-noticed section of a 1970 law under which the Government has paid indemnities on a roughly estimated total of over 21 billion dead bees. (i.e. 21 thousand million).

The largest single payment since outlays began in 1971, Agricultural Department records indicate, was a recent indemnity of \$611,050 to Jim's Valley Apiaries of Sunnyside, Washington, which had originally filed a claim for more than \$1.5 million.

The payments are made under a programme which authorises indemnities for beekeepers whose colonies are killed off by pesticides "through no fault of their own". The law authorised the Agriculture Department to send cheques to beekeepers who could furnish proof of losses suffered back to January 1, 1967—mostly in cases where pesticides applied by nearby farmers drifted into areas where honey bees were kept, causing losses running into millions of dollars.

#### No Extension Asked

The omnibus 1970 farm law, including the section authorising bee indemnities, expires on December 31, 1973. Administration farm officials have made no request for extending the provision in the farm act extension now under study in Congress. But spokesmen for beekeepers have requested continuation of their programme in testimony to the House and Senate Agriculture committees.

Agriculture Department officials estimate that with the bulk of the retro-active claims now settled or near settled, annual indemnity costs in the future might run about \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million a year.

Payments so far, most of them for losses going back to 1967, have totalled over \$8 million, department experts say. In many cases, the requirement that beekeepers document losses suffered years ago — before the operators knew such records would be needed — has made the task of settling claims a complex one.

Some claimants may have had money they didn't deserve for old losses, one official said privately. But on balance, the government probably had to turn down a far greater volume of genuine loss claims for which there were no adequate records, the expert added.

Agriculture Department records indicate that about half of the 11,170 claimants who received payments in 1972 got cheques for \$1000 or less. But the bulk of the money went to beekeepers who suffered and documented larger losses. The largest included:

Stover Apiaries of Mayhew, Miss., which filed a claim for \$808,823 and received \$455,834 on the basis of losses covering several years.

Vaughn Wilson, Batesville, Arkansas, which claimed \$108,810 and received \$106,000.

## THE SCOTTISH BEE JOURNAL, MAY, 1973

### BEE STINGS FOR RHEUMATISM

My neighbour has, over the past three years, suffered very badly from rheumatism of both shoulders and his right knee. All sorts of medication failed to give him relief from pains which prevented him from getting adequate sleep and which caused him to be off work, sometimes for weeks on end.

He had heard that bee stings could, in certain cases, be efficacious in the treatment of rheumatic conditions and he begged me on several occasions to apply some stings to the affected parts. This I was most reluctant to do, being of the mind that medical matters be left to properly qualified to do this work. He told his doctor of his wish to avail himself of the treatment and his doctor said that he could do so on his own responsibility "the treatment may be more painful than the disease!"

Last summer we made a beginning. I applied a single bee to his right shoulder and removed the sting at once for I wanted to be sure that there would be no violent re-action. His shoulder swelled up and became very inflamed, but there was no other re-action. Three days later I applied another sting, this time permitting the full venom to be absorbed into his shoulder. The re-action was minimal and there was no diminution of his rheumatic condition. Three days later I applied three stings, still to his right shoulder, with little effect.

This time I allowed a week to pass and I applied five stings, but I spread them along the shoulder and down his back. He told me that the actual stings caused him no more than some discomfort, but during the night his shoulder became very much swollen and inflamed — but the pain subsided considerably. Thereafter I applied four stings twice each week for six weeks, always placing them along the shoulder and down his back with an occasional one

in front of his shoulder. The pain in all the affected joints subsided and he began to be able to use his right arm freely which he had not done for some time. I next treated his right knee, applying the stings up the outside of his thigh and after three weeks he had no knee pains. Then we tackled his left shoulder, the pain of which had by now been much reduced.

Since the treatment was obviously going to extend into the winter months, I set aside one hive which I was prepared to sacrifice to the experiment. As it turned out I was able to get the necessary bees with no apparent ill-effects on the stock. Altogether I used about 380 bees.

My patient today claims to be completely free of pain and stiffness in all the affected parts. Bee stings have no terrors for him for as the treatment advanced he was able to apply the bees to the required parts himself and without fear.

He is now determined to become a beekeeper in order to keep the treatment going for an informal way.

His doctor played no part in the experiment, except to urge him that if there was violent reaction that he be called at once. The patient has had no occasion to call his doctor since last November, whereas he had not been free from medical care for more than two years before that.

What is important is that large numbers of stings be not applied until one is certain that no violent reaction is likely. Bee stings can be dangerous and that danger ought not to be ignored.

## CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

By J. D. Hitchcock, Entomology Research Division, Agr. Res. Serv., U.S.D.A.,  
Laramie, Wyoming, U.S.A.

### WHY HONEY BEE SHOULD BE SPELLED AS TWO SEPARATE WORDS!

"When the substantive part of a common name (of an insect) is correctly applied — the distinguishing part of the common name shall stand as an adjective — a separate word. — But when these substantives are used in an entirely false, arbitrary, and misleading sense (taxonomically)," 1/ "the substantive is to be combined with its modifying name (as one word) — except where the combined word would be excessively long or awkward, in which case the hyphen is to be used." 2/ Consequently, honey bee should be spelled as two words, because it is a true bee! This spelling has remained the officially correct one in all lists approved by our U.S. entomological organisations (Reference 3 through 8)!

### CORRECT EXAMPLES

**House fly** (two words), because it is a true fly: Order Diptera.

**Sawfly** (one word), because it is not a true fly, but belongs to Order Hymenoptera.

**Firefly** (one word), because it is not a true fly, but is a beetle: Order Coleoptera.

**Bed bug**: because it is a true bug: Order Hemiptera.

- Billbug:** because it is not a true bug, but is a beetle: Order Coleoptera.
- Sowbug:** because it is not a true bug, but belongs to the Class Crustacea.
- Black carpenter ant:** because it is a true ant: Family Formicidae.
- White-ant:** because it is not a true ant, but is a termite: Order Isoptera.
- Silkworm:** because it is not a true worm: Phylum Annelida, but is Order Lapidoptera.
- Wireworm:** because it is not a true worm, but is a beetle larva: Order Coleoptera.
- Ladybird:** because it is not a true bird: Class Aves, but a beetle: Order Coleoptera.
- Silverfish:** because it is not a true fish: Class Pisces, but is in Order Thysanura.
- Ant-lion:** because it is not a true lion: Class Mammalia, but Family Mymoteonidae.
- Earwig:** because it is not made of hair, but belongs to Order Dermaptera.
- Bumble bee:** because it is a true bee: Superfamily Apoidea (Family Bombycidae).
- Bee-louse:** *Braula coeca* Nitzsch: not a true louse: Anoplura, but a wingless fly.
- Honey bee:** *Apis Mellifera* Linnaeus: true bee: Superfamily Apoidea (Family Apidae).
- Alkali bee:** *Nimbia melanderi* Cockerell: true bee: Superfamily Apoidea (Family Halictidae).
- Alfalfa leafcutter bee:** *Megachile rotundata* (Fabricius): Apoidea (Megachilidae).
- Greater wax moth:** *Galleria mellonella* (Linnaeus): true moth: Order Lepidoptera.
- Lesser wax moth:** *Achroia grisella* (Fabricius): true moth: Order Lepidoptera.

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#### Editor's Note:

A letter published from Bob Blair in our May issue was not intended for publication. In my haste to get this issue off the press it was included in error, for which I offer my apologies.

## DAMAGE TO NECTAR SOURCES BY OPOSSUM AND DEER

The West Coast (South Island) beekeepers depend almost entirely on bush sources for their honey crops. Owing to the small amount of land suitable for farming, which is very scattered and is confined mainly to river bed flats, also the unfavourable climatic conditions that often prevail that do not allow for correct soil temperatures, ground nectar sources do not generally play a very important role in honey production in this district.

For several years beekeepers have viewed with concern the dying out of large areas of the main nectar bearing trees, rata and kamahi. This area extends several miles north of the Taramakau River, and in the Taramakau (south side), Arapura, Styx, Kokatahi and Totara, Mikonui, Wanganui, Evans Creek, Whataroa, Fox and Cooks Catchments.

It has not been definitely established what is causing the tree mortality in the rata and kamahi forests of Westland. However, all circumstantial evidence indicates that the main causes are the browsing habits of introduced animals opossums and deer, and the increase of coccids or scale insects caused by the dying out of native birds.

One single fact appears to be known for certain, that over the past 15-25 years, on an increasing scale there has been excessive mortality in rata stands. There are two schools of thought, one maintaining that opossums are the real cause of the present rata and kamahi deaths and the other naming the scale insect *Anoplastis Netrosideri* (Rata Scale); the causal agency.

Opossums and *Anoplastis* should not, however, be regarded as the sole possible agents, primary or secondary, in causing heavy mortality of rata. Other animals in moderate or heavy population density, e.g. goats and red deer where heavy rata deaths have been experienced near Hari Hari and in the Kokatahi Valley, goats and red deer in the Western Paparoa stands (Rata, hard Beech) where rata is succumbing to Opossum/*Anoplastis* attack.

The greatest mortality in rata, kamahi and other canopy trees coincides with the highest opossum population densities and the great damage to the protection forest is occurring where the ground browsing animals are at present in large numbers.

In all cases ground animal populations of deer, goats or cattle have been sufficiently heavy to destroy almost completely the ground vegetation with resultant improvement in habitat conditions for opossums.

Other theories concerning mortality are age of trees together with angle of slope and drought.

Much of the current mortality is occurring on steep spurs and rocky bluffs. On these sites large trees are not commonly found, and it is probable that, once trees reach a certain size their root systems are not able to support them and they are effected by droughts which may cause their death.

A further theory is that on the steep slopes, the tramping by deer and other animals reduce the normal thick duff layer and expose the rootlets of the trees. At the same time, the destruction of undergrowth leads to destruction of the site and hence reduction of water storage at the roots. The amount of mortality is certainly more common on warm than cold faces which may suggest that periodical droughts, after such damage to duff and roots, leads to widespread deaths.

# ERADICATING AMERICAN FOUL BROOD

By J. H. Varley, Apiary Instructor, Nelson

American Brood Disease (**Bacillus Larvae**) is one of the most infectious diseases of honey bees, and all beekeepers should be able to recognise it and know what steps to take to eradicate it.

Cappings of healthy brood are usually clear looking, slightly dark or light brown and convex. Such brood has a bloom of freshness about it, which diseased brood does not have, especially when the disease is well advanced.

When inspecting the brood in a hive, the experienced beekeeper can easily detect cappings which are different in colour and appearance from those surrounding them. Affected cells should be examined closely, for in the early stages of the disease only a few cells are evident. The cappings look dark, slightly sunken and often appear greasy.

The next step is to examine the larvae within the cells. If the larvae is light brown, slightly swollen, jelly-like, and lies flat on the bottom of the cell, it is very likely that the hive is infected with American Foul Brood. If the jelly-like substance ropes out when a wooden match is inserted into it and withdrawn, and if the tongue of the pupae, which resembles a piece of very fine thread, projects upwards, it can be taken for granted that the hive is infected with American Foul Brood.

**WARNING:** Any match or stick used to inspect diseased cells **must** be left in the hive.

In the final stages of decomposition the cell cappings are very dark brown with many of the cells punctured by a small ragged hole exposing the larvae as a hard, dark brown scale adhering firmly to the bottom.

Beginners, on discovering only two or three cells in the early stages of American Foul Brood disease should close the hive down and seek the advice of the Apiary Instructor.

## Destroying Diseased Hives

Destroying the diseased hives is best left until late in the evening or

a wet day when bees are not flying. For a few hives, a quick, clean and efficient method is to block the entrances with tightly packed green grass and have handy a bottle of petrol for each hive. Deal with one hive at a time. Remove the lid and pour the petrol over the frames and quickly replace the lid.

While the beekeeper is waiting for the petrol fumes to kill the bees a hole should be dug about three feet deep and large enough to hold all the material to be dealt with and as near the hives as possible and a few sheets of newspaper and kindling material placed in the bottom of the hole. The hive should now be opened and the lid placed on the ground and used to transport the supers one at a time to the hole for burning. The supers are then placed on the loose soil removed from the hole so that any dead bees or honey will fall on the soil and later will be shovelled into the fire.

Some of the dry combs are stacked in the hole on the kindling material put there to start the fire. Take care when lighting the fire. If the petrol fumes have not dispensed, an explosion may occur. As the fire gains hold, keep adding combs until all are burnt and finally add supers, lid and bottom board.

When all diseased equipment is burnt there is no risk in contracting disease from this source again. After the fire has died down fill in the hole completely, adding a few sods of grass so that the area is left tidy. If the lids, bottom boards and supers are in nearly-new condition and with the Apiary Instructor's consent they may be sterilised by scorching with a blow lamp immediately the diseased material has been burnt. Failure to sterilise all equipment that has been in contact with disease will result in another outbreak of disease. If a beekeeper is in any doubt concerning American Brood Disease he should not hesitate to contact the local Apiary Instructor.

Personal hygiene is also important. All clothing, and hands, as well as hive tool, gloves and anything else in contact with the disease should be carefully washed.

#### The Apiaries Act, 1969

This Act requires a beekeeper to notify the Apiary Instructor immediately when American Foul Brood is found in any hive, and within seven days after becoming aware of the presence of the disease, to take proper steps to eradicate it and prevent its spread. He is also required to make at least one thorough inspection of all hives during the spring months and not later than the 7th November each year, to send to the Registrar of Apiaries a statement, certified by him, setting out the date this inspection was made and the location of the hives inspected, and the number of hives (if any) in which disease was found during the inspection.

## Price Cutting

### A Dangerous Practice

Why does a man cut prices? Because he wants volume. Volume is important — very important — but volume-hunting can be carried to extremes. There are thousands of firms who get big volumes but at the end of the year their balance sheets show no net profit. The keen businessman or the keen business organisation will get volume by taking a fair profit on every unit sold and by sound, aggressive salesmanship. The danger of using that very easy key to increased volume is exemplified in this table:—

On a 25% margin of profit a cut of	
5% requires	18 2/3% more volume
8% requires	35 1/8% more volume
10% requires	50% more volume
12½% requires	75% more volume
15% requires	112% more volume

This table is worthy of careful consideration — it tells a graphic story. The sound businessman's object in life should be greater volume without the sacrifice of one iota of net profit, and the one sure way to secure this is by selling — selling quality.

AUGUST, 1973

# ITALIAN QUEENS

## 1973-74

UNTESTED	1 to 5	\$1.50 each
	6 to 10	\$1.45 each
	11 to 19	\$1.40 each
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P.O. Box 4032



### Southland's New Apiary Instructor

After one month's orientation course with J. Smith, Apiary Instructor at Christchurch, Trevor Bryant took up his position in Gore in July.

Mr Bryant has kept bees since primary school days, his first hive having been given to him by Newton Brothers of Ashburton.

After leaving school he worked on various farms in mid-Canterbury and in the North Island prior to spending two and a-half years in Australia with Mr Murray Charlton, migratory beekeeper of Orange, New South Wales and Mr Norman Rice, queen breeder, Beaudesert, Queensland. Also spent some time in South Australia with visits to Victoria and Western Australia.

Worked for the past 18 months with his beekeeper father, Mr H. N. Bryant, at Mayfield, mid-Canterbury.

### Whangarei Meeting

A meeting of all interested beekeepers will be held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Norfolk Street, Whangarei on Wednesday, 22nd August, 1973. Mr Brian Milnes, Apiary Instructor, will speak and give a demonstration on some aspects of beekeeping.

## Branch Notes

### Southland

Southland beekeepers are very pleased to have another resident Apiary Instructor at long last. We welcome Mr Trevor Bryant and wish him a successful and happy appointment.

The headlines in our papers have recorded, "The driest July since 1931."

Although this writer hasn't been near any hives lately it would be safe to say that the bees are wintering very comfortably and if stores are ample they should come through to the spring in good shape.

Temperatures have been too low for much flight for many weeks now so wives would be well advised to keep an eye on the thermometer on Mondays.—Allan Ward.

### West Coast

Firstly, an apology. It is hardly likely that all Branch scribes were on holiday when they should have been writing copy for May issue. But I was. And I didn't realise that it was too late until I returned home from my journey.

My wife and I had a wonderful three weeks being taken around the middle top-quarter of the North Island on main roads and by-roads.

Our itinerary included Auckland, where I had an informative discussion with the manager of the H.M.A. that lasted too long so that I did not have time to look over his domain. We also visited Thames, Rotorua, Hamilton, Tauranga (where I was sorry to miss seeing Roy Paterson and Doug Briscoe), Mt Maunganui, Whakatane, Taupo and Tokoroa where we were based.

I had hoped to make contact with one or two northern beekeepers but my luck was out. In fact I was astonished to note that there are very few beeyards visible from the roads in that area. There must be thousands somewhere but I only saw three and I wasn't asleep at any stage of the trip. The countryside was very dry with the possible exception of the Hauraki Plains.

AUGUST, 1973



I haven't seen much in the news about the payout except a press cutting which indicated a maximum of 20 cents which is better than less but it could be more.

Beekeeping has been referred to as a precarious living and a Cinderella industry. This could well be correct as a beekeeper needs one good season in three to survive.

However, for all its apparent insignificance it is as important as some other major industries which would not be prosperous without beekeepers. Fruitgrowing, seed production and farming are partners with beekeepers whether they realise it or not.

If the present Minister only realised just how dependent some other industries are on beekeepers he would not have the audacity to restrict the payout in the way he has. The industry is just emerging from behind the cloud of low prices and increasing costs and poor seasons into the sunshine of better times for just a season or two before pulling the shutters down.

Surely it would be better to give the beekeepers a chance to pick up on lost ground rather than to go broke, or to go cap in hand to the Government as one other major industry did.

The bees seem to be coming through the winter well and are very active in the warmer part of the day. The long dry spell has been very much to their liking.—Peter Lucas.

#### SOUTHLAND SEMINAR

A seminar will be held on Friday, September 7th, starting at 10.30 a.m. The following programme has been arranged.

Morning: Opening address, R. Rankin, M.A.F., R.A.O., Invercargill. Budgeting and bookkeeping, E. Delahunty, F.A.O., Invercargill. Metrics and the changes this will bring about, K. Ecroyd, Christchurch. Lunch.

Afternoon programme: Trends in modern farming, P. Hook, Gore. Trees: Nectar and pollen sources, also shelter and forestry purposes, G. Ramsay, N.Z.F.S. Pollen supplements also practical demonstration, M. Reid, A.A.O., Christchurch.

Programme arranged by T. G. Bryant, Apiary Instructor, Gore.

AUGUST, 1973

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Queens are sent by airmail whenever practical.

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W H A K A T A N E

Bay of Plenty

## BAY OF PLENTY

In the Mamaku/Western Bay of Plenty district the N.Z. Forest Service has planned to convert 60,000 acres of native forest to radiata pine. This, together with 28,000 acres of privately-owned bush is to be clear-felled, burnt and then planted in pines. It has been estimated that there are at least 4000 beehives in this area which produce mainly Tawari honey. Bay of Plenty beekeepers have joined other organisations in their protest at the destruction of this bush area.

We have managed to get a stay of execution with the Minister involved, Mr Moyle, who has deferred his decision until he meets the protesters.

We have not been able, so far, to save the 28,000 acres of private bush.

Because of the declining honey crops in the Bay of Plenty area some beekeepers are hiring their bees for pollination requirements to Kiwi fruit-growers.

It is disappointing to find that some beekeepers are giving a free service in some areas. Naturally, some orchardists who have been paying for the service might think they are being robbed. In this way the industry loses standing.

Shifting bees takes time, money and hard work. Pollination, however, is vital to the grower and a fair payment would make the service mutually profitable.—Ron Mossop.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

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A reliable and keen young man is required in a large commercial honey producing business in the Waikato. Experience preferred but not essential. Wages by negotiation. Apply to:

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To assist with honey production for coming season. Two queen system used, quiet bees. A good place to learn beekeeping.

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45-Frame Radial Extractor with 1 h.p. mtr.  
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Both in good condition.

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One Hot Room Fan 12" Shaft; Two (new) 10ft Panel Heaters; One Honey House Trolley; 25 Single Metal Stands; plus sundries.

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# The National Beekeepers' Association

(For the advancement of the Beekeeping  
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*'Better Beekeeping—Better Marketing'*

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0 to 20 hives \$4.00	1001 to 1100 hives \$44.00
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All financial members of the Association are automatically indemnified against Public Risk claims up to \$10,000 in any occurrence of injury or death to persons or livestock directly attributable to the action of the members' bees and arising from his or her negligence as the beekeeper. The cover is underwritten by the New Zealand Insurance Company Ltd and the premium met by the Association from consolidated funds.

## THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER

The subscription rate for all members is \$1 per year, all others \$2 (NZ) per year. Please check the exchange rate in your country and send an amount to produce \$2 (N.Z.) here. For example it now takes \$2.90 (US) to make \$2 (NZ).

Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr N. S. Stanton, P.O. Box 4106, Auckland, not later than the 25th of the month preceding publication.

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

## ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Quarter Page \$5.00	Per Inch \$1.50
Half Page \$9.00	Min. Charge 75c.
Full Page \$16.50	for each insertion

## FRONT PAGE STORY

# Steam-Heated Manual Uncapping Knife

Manual uncapping with a steam-heated knife has been largely superseded by mechanical uncappers on large commercial undertakings. However, for the smaller operator or those with limited space or other factors to consider, the manual uncapper still has many devotees.

Its successful operation depends on well-filled combs which have been spaced at no more than eight to a box.

In our picture we have shown a young man who is now a commercial beekeeper doing some early after-school work which led to his making beekeeping a career. Those who have labour problems could well take the hint and start training their own staff while they are still at school.

Photo: N.Z. Herald.

*Alliance*  
*Quality*

# Bee Supplies

## BEEKEEPERS' GLOVES

The American gloves, made from horsehide, with the ventilated wrist, which we imported last year proved very popular and are now all sold. As we were unable to secure a further import licence we have arranged for a similar type of glove to be manufactured locally. This style will be referred to as the Ventilating Glove and will replace the old type De Luxe Glove in future. Our prices are:

Standard (as previously supplied) .....	\$6.35
Ventilating (new style) .....	\$6.75

Note: All gloves this year are being manufactured from English horsehide.

## SMOKERS

Stocks are low at present and the import licence granted us is for a lesser amount than we consider necessary. In order to receive a bigger licence we need to show that the demand is greater than the supply. If you think you will need a Smoker this season, please let us know urgently.

## HIVE STRAPPERS

We have a new shipment of these arriving shortly. Replacement strapping always in stock.

## HONEY BEE STUDY PRINTS

These excellent sets of 12 full colour photographs (size 13" x 18") of various aspects of colony life were displayed at a number of field days. We have a limited number of sets available at \$18.50 per set.

## ELECTRIC UNCAPPING KNIVES

A further shipment is expected in six to eight weeks' time and orders at present on hand will be despatched promptly after arrival of the shipment.

## PRICE LIST

Many prices have changed in the last 12 months and we will be printing an up-to-date list in the near future and posting a copy to all beekeepers.

Manufactured & imported by The Alliance Bee-Supplies Co. Ltd

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