

# THE APIARIST.

OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

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## BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE.

### SUCCESSFUL DELIBERATIONS.

### IMPROVED OUTLOOK.

The twentieth annual conference of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand was held in Wellington on July 18 and 19.

The president, Mr. F. A. Hillary (Tuakau) was in the chair. Also present were: Messrs. C. A. Pope, vice-president (Canterbury), W. Nelson (Otorohanga), H. R. Penny (Okatawa), and W. Watson (Geraldine); the executive; A. Ecroyd (Christchurch), the general secretary; Miss Barrett (Feilding), Mrs. Ecroyd (Christchurch); Messrs. R. K. Hooper (Marton), J. H. White (Tapanui), A. Barrett (Leeston), L. F. Robins (Temuka), A. H. Davies (Hamilton), L. J. Leviea (Hawke's Bay), G. V. Gow (Watson), A. Pearson (Hamilton), A. R. Bates (Kaponga), Williams (Te Awamutu), K. Bassett (Wanganui), E. Sage (Ohaupo), Fraser and Short (Feilding), Raikes (Levin), R. E. Keown (Barrytown, West Coast), J. A. Campbell (Director of Horticulture), E. A. Eary (Senior Apiary Instructor), and D. S. Robinson (Apiary Instructor, Palmerston North).

The annual report and balance sheet were adopted, the president drawing attention to the seriousness of the financial position of the association. In reply to Mr. Davies, the secretary stated that subscriptions had shown a decrease. The opinion was expressed that the operation of the insurance scheme would greatly increase the subscriptions. Mr. Watson said the secretary's report would not be assured if things became worse;

and Mr. Ecroyd stated that, in view of the work done by scores of other beekeepers for no remuneration, he would have no hesitation in giving his services for nothing if it were necessary. (Applause.)

#### Combination of Primary Industries.

Mr. L. F. Robins moved the South Canterbury mill advocating the National Beekeepers' Association supporting a central organisation representing all the smaller primary industries. Mr. Watson (seconded): We think the time has arrived in New Zealand when no small body of producers can stand on their own. We should join up with other bodies, such as poultry keepers, flax growers, etc. A lot could be done with co-operation such as this. The poultry keepers, for instance, brought a bill before Parliament which was lost, and that might not have happened if we had been behind them. Denmark has given us the example.

Mr. Davies: Are any of the primary producers combined at the present time? Would we have to start the movement?  
The Secretary: Some time ago one of the other primary industries approached us with a view to the same thing, and we thought that we would give the question serious consideration. But later the other people dropped the whole thing.

Mr. Nelson: The idea is a very good one indeed, provided we are not pool on to take the initiative. We have

troubles of our own, but should representations be made to us we should assist as far as we can in that direction.

The remit was deferred until later in the conference so that other matters relevant to it could be discussed beforehand. When it was put forward again Mr. Watson said he would have no time in which to put the case. The conference was rushing through in two days what was really the work of three days, he said, the president agreeing.

Mr. Davies moved that the executive take the question up and see what could be done with the remit. This was seconded by Mr. Pope, and the motion was carried.

#### Scouting By Government Employees.

Mr. Watson, for South Canterbury, moved, "That the practice of Government employees selling honey at very low prices should be the subject of protest."

Mr. Nelson pointed out that the practice was common everywhere, and only legislation permitting the stabilisation of prices would be effective.

After discussion the remit was carried.

#### Junior Members.

The Feilding remit, "That pupils of primary and secondary schools be admitted as junior members of the National at a fee of 2/6" was moved by Mr. Short, who said: "This is a matter that our branch is vitally interested in."

In our Feilding Agricultural High School there are many scholars who are very anxious to join the Beekeepers' Association. Most of them have from one to five hives. Others also have started on commercial beekeeping since they left the agricultural school."

Mr. Fraser: Some first-class beekeepers have been trained at that school. Scholars are attending it from all over New Zealand. If we can get the young people to join the association as junior members we will have every chance of keeping

them members after they have scattered about the country.

The President: As this entails an alteration to the constitution it will have to be a notice of motion.

Mr. Short then gave the necessary notice.

The President: We can do something unofficially to meet the position, but any new junior members will not be official members until the constitution is amended.

Mr. Bates moved that a committee be set up to go into the question of fees and report to the next conference. He would suggest that the association was losing a lot of members through the subscriptions being too high. He would like to see the maximum subscription at £1. However, a committee might be able to come to some workable solution.

Mr. Davies seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Davies: We are asking the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to look into this matter. We all know that there seems to be something wrong with the means of trading our produce.

Mr. Pope (who was temporarily in the chair): This has been brought up by the Farmers' Union. If you ask for a Royal Commission to sit at the present time they will probably say that the orthodox way of doing things will obtain. You would need a commission composed of men who could see their way clear to put something to the Government different from the orthodox. We must face this situation: that the producers want to sell their goods, that the people want to buy them, but there is not the wherewithal to market the products.

Mr. Davies: An inquiry is being asked for all over the Dominion. When the Government see that there is a big

had been achieved by the secretary in securing a duty on beeswax and foundation.

The Secretary: These things can't be done in five minutes. In regard to the duty, I am just as keen as anyone else to get the duty put on both beeswax and foundation; but those of you who have read reports of the of you who mission's sittings will see that the Commission's sittings will see that nothing gets past them. Professor Murphy is a particularly astute man.

Mr. Sage: The duty on beeswax is a matter that we should press again and again. At the present time it is being able at 9d and 10d a pound. As long as beeswax is entering the country we have little hope in that direction.

Mr. Davies agreed to withdraw the remit.

Mr. Sage moved that a strong committee be set up to go to the Tariff Commission in Christchurch to press the



DELEGATES PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

SITTING (left to right): — Levien (Napier), W. Nelson (Otorohanga), E. A. Egan (Chief Apiary Inspector), C. A. Pope (Christchurch, elected President), P. A. Hillary (Dunedin, retiring President), J. R. Burland (Chairman Honey Control Board, Auckland), Miss C. A. Barrett (Pelling), Mrs. Eroyd (Christchurch), STANDING (middle row left to right): A. H. Davies (Hamilton), A. Eroyd (Secretary, Christchurch), W. Watson (Geraldine), D. S. Robinson (Apiary Inspector, Palmerston North), Mr. Barrett (Christchurch), Mr. Short (Pelling). BACK ROW (left to right): K. Bassett (Wanganui), H. R. Penny (Okaiawa, Taranaki), E. D. Williams (Te Awamutu), G. V. Gow (Matamata), A. Pearson (Hamilton), A. R. Calliox (Dunedin), A. Anderson (Pelling), E. W. Sage (Ohapu, Waikato), L. Robins (Tumaru), P. Smith (Palmerston North).

Mr. Bates' suggestion for the national executive to be the committee was agreed to.

#### Banking and Currency Inquiry.

The Auckland Central remit, "That this annual conference of the National Beekeepers' Association demands that the Government accedes to the request from public meetings held all over the Dominion for an immediate, full, open and exhaustive inquiry into the banking and monetary policy and possible alternative thereto," was carried unanimously.

majority of people asking for a readjustment, they may take steps.

Mr. Nelson moved an amendment as follows:—"That this association express dissatisfaction with the present monetary system, and we recommend that our executive co-operate with other organisations in behalf of readjustment."

Mr. Davies seconded the amendment, which was carried.

#### Duty On Beeswax.

Mr. Davies moved the South Auckland remit, regretting that nothing

application of a duty on beeswax and foundation.

The Secretary: I think it would be a splendid idea. We will need all the support we can get and for my part I will do my best. We should have a particularly strong committee set up.

Mr. Gow: We should have some figures as to the wax that is being imported. If it is necessary to import large quantities, it is not much use asking for a duty on it.

The Secretary stated that about a quarter of the total of beeswax used was imported and the rest locally pro-

There was probably no need for the importation of wax, he said. The motion was then carried, and it was decided to appoint Messrs. Pope and Eeroed to the committee, with power to add.

**Honorary Inspectors.**

Mr. Fraser moved, on behalf of the Feilding branch, "That inspection of hives for foul brood be more frequent, either by part time inspection being reinstated or by members of the National Beekeepers' Association being given authority to inspect a certain area in their own district."

Mr. Fraser: What we want is honorary inspectors, to be approved by Government instructors. We are not satisfied with the work our present Government inspectors are doing, although that is hardly their fault. They are to be congratulated for what they have done, but it is impossible for them to cover the vast areas they are appointed to and visit all the apiaries once or twice a year.

Mr. Levison: In our district there are over 100 beekeepers in a small radius, and the inspector has said that in his area, which goes from Gisborne to the Manawatu Gorge and the Rimutakas he can make in most cases only one inspection a year. I have been directed to apply the full weight of my branch to this remit.

Mr. Earp: Under the Act, we have power to appoint honorary inspectors; and put them in the field to-day. In northern areas there are about six men appointed for the coming year. It is already working in Taranaki district and also in Southland, and the men there have done very excellent work. The idea is for beekeepers to protect their own interests by becoming part-time honorary inspectors, and this has been availed of, as I have said, by a number of men. As for foul brood, beekeepers have little to complain of now, except in some isolated districts. If the beekeepers who apply for the position of honorary inspectors have some standing and desire to keep their own areas and those nearby clean, then they will be appointed. It is not so much the matter of inspection alone; you want men who can drop good hints for eradication, the disease on good lines. Much of the damage done by the disease is through men not being conversant with what foul brood can do and how to treat it. I feel sure that when times get back to normal the Government will be able to put on a number of part-time officers. It is the second and third visits to an apiary that count. If you take Mr. Robinson's district here, I doubt whether he could cover every apiary in three years. Our efforts have been as far as possible to concentrate upon the commercial areas, gradually extending inspection to the more remote parts of the districts.

The remit was carried unanimously.

**Control Board.**

After the address given by Mr. J. R.

**THE NEW ZEALAND SMALLHOLDER.**

Butland, chairman of the Honey Export Control Board upon the overseas remits were read:—

From South Auckland branch: "That this meeting recommends that the Export Control Board be increased to five members."

From Southland branch: "That the present number of members on the Control Board is sufficient on the score of expense."

Upon the remits being referred to Mr. Butland, he said: "It makes no difference to us whether you increase the membership to five or fifty; but, if you increase the number on the board, you increase the expense to the industry. Members cannot be expected to pay their own expenses. Also, with a greater number there is likely to be cross-currents in the board's working."

Mr. Davies: There has been a feeling in our branch that there was a lack of information from the board. "However," Mr. Butland has indicated that we will have all the information we require," he said, "by means of periodical reports, and this is all we really seek. I would ask permission to withdraw our remit."

The meeting granted permission, and the discussion ended.

**Association Label.**

Mr. Fraser, for the Feilding branch, moved that a universal ticket or label be adopted by the association, to be issued to financial members with safeguards to ensure only first-class quality honey being packed under the label.

The delegates, in discussion, considered that there were considerable difficulties in the carrying out of the remit, and the remit was subsequently withdrawn.

**Thanks to Minister.**

Mr. Nelson moved: "That we send a letter of thanks to the Minister of Agriculture for his valuable assistance and helpful advice to the beekeeping industry. We particularly appreciate his successful effort to secure for the industry our English brand, 'Imperial Bee,' by using his influence with his colleagues in securing the £2000 loan." This was carried amidst applause.

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**Confidence in Central Board.**

The delegates unanimously expressed confidence in and support of the Central Board, and deprecated the agitation by irresponsible or ill-informed persons against the board.

A motion of complete confidence in the board was carried enthusiastically.

**Honey Exporters' League.**

Mr. Nelson: I move that an organisation called the Honey Exporters' League be formed so that we will be able to protect our interest when required, and that immediate steps be taken to form such an organisation.

The president pointed out that such a league would be able to speak with authority for the honey exporters of the Dominion, and would be able to support the National Beekeepers' Association in any movements to benefit the industry. The league would have political influence, and its voice would carry weight with the Honey Export Control Board.

The motion was warmly supported and was carried unanimously.

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New Advertisements are received up till the 7th of the month. All Replies must reach the Office not later than the 1st of the month.



## THE 1933 CONFERENCE.

## POINTS OF INTEREST.

## SUPPORT OF HONEY BOARD.

The outstanding feature of the 1933 Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, held at Wellington on July 18 and 19, was the address by Mr. J. R. Butland, chairman of the Honey Export Control Board. Mr. Butland dealt comprehensively with the overseas marketing of honey—past, present and future. So clear and frank was his statement that the doubts and misgivings that had clouded the minds of a small proportion of the delegates were banished. A unanimous vote of appreciation of Mr. Butland's action in attending conference, and taking the delegates fully into his confidence was carried by acclamation. Also a unanimous vote of confidence in the Honey Control Board was carried amid applause. Mr. Butland undoubtedly achieved a great personal triumph.

## Rally to Co-operation.

The rallying of delegates to the principle of co-operation was so decided and unanimous that it seemed that beekeepers had at last learned their lesson through bitter and dearly-bought experience. A meeting was held after the conference to discuss the proposed co-operative company (New Zealand Honey, Ltd.), and so strongly did the large attendance urge the immediate commencement of operations of the company that it was decided to make a big effort to secure the support of any large producers who have not already signed up, and, if the response were favourable, to proceed with the immediate steps of operation.

It was announced that Mr. Walworth, of Palmerston North, the largest honey producer in the Dominion with 2400 colonies of bees, had joined the company. This gave greatly increased confidence in the future success of the company.

## Promising Young Producers.

The delegates and members present (about 40) were almost all producers in a substantial way, and represented all parts of the Dominion. One noticeable feature was the large proportion of young producers present—able, sound, progressive men, keen and critical. A number of them are destined to make their mark in the history of beekeeping in New Zealand.

## Splendid Addresses.

The able addresses by the Hon. C. E. Macmillan, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. J. A. Campbell, Director of the Apiary Division, and Mr. E. A. Earp, Chief Apiary Instructor, were listened to with

keenest attention. They all showed a deep and sympathetic interest in the industry, a ready appreciation of the problems confronting honey producers, and a wholehearted wish for beekeepers to again adopt and fully practise co-operation in its best and widest sense.

## Finance Threatened.

The balance-sheet of the association showed a disquieting balance, which was somewhat disquieting. Delegates pointed out that the adoption of an insurance scheme would greatly strengthen the association's finances. The Hopkins Memorial Fund showed £10 15/6 in hand. The Robbins Appeal Fund had a cash balance of £2 2/6, which will form the nucleus of the insurance scheme fund.

## An Interlude.

A laugh at the expense of the president (Mr. P. A. Hillary) relieved the solemn discussions for a few moments. In speaking of the value of honey as a food, and its almost immediate effect in the production of staying power and energy for athletes, Mr. Hillary stated that a team of schoolboys was suffering defeat at half-time by three points to nil. They were given a desertsoponful each of honey, and upon resumption of the game they overran their opponents and scored six points, winning, he said, "by six points to nil." Mr. D. S. Robertson, apiary instructor, Wellington district, said he had not hitherto come across such wonderful testimony to the marvellous value of honey, in that the team receiving a ration of honey had not only scored six points, but had wiped out the three points scored by their opponents in the first half. The president's explanation could not be heard for roars of laughter.

## Officers of the National.

The election of officers of the National resulted:—Mr. Pope was elected president for the ensuing year; vice-president, Mr. Nelson; Executive, Messrs. Watson and Robins (South Island), Messrs. Hillary and Penny (North Island). A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the past president for his services.

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To the Editor,  
Sir,—At a recent meeting of the N.Z. Honey Co. Ltd. held in Auckland, I had to report that the largest producers in the country were reported to be forming a private limited liability company, I was informed that this group, with appropriate backing from their support for N.Z. Honey, Ltd., was possible.

The meeting took place some days ago, and it affords me an opportunity to say that all present provided me with a list of reasonable and fair in the matter of discussion. It was agreed that the group be given a variety of proposals by Cooper very kindly volunteered as the basis of a discussion. It was also agreed that a breach in the ranks of the N.Z. Honey Co. Ltd. and a caucus of the members will be arranged shortly.

Within the past month or so, I have been largely occupied with the territory of the N.Z. Honey Co. Ltd. in the Dominion, and I have approximately 5000 hives in progress on the other two months, and I have represented N.Z. Honey, Ltd. in the greatest assistance I can offer the company at the present time. The means in the caucuses of those who are in the fence. The forms will be sent from any one of the directors.

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