

# BEEKEEPERS MEET

## SUCCESSFUL HAWKES BAY CONVENTION

### PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION BY COMMERCIAL APIARIST

Held in ideal surroundings in the garden of the home of Mrs and Miss Dalglish, Frederick street, Hastings, the field day which opened the Beekeepers' Convention, under the auspices of the Hawkes Bay branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, was largely attended by Hawkes Bay apiarists, and several leading figures in the beekeeping sphere in New Zealand were also present (says the "Telegraph").

A welcome to these visitors, including Messrs K. Dallas, Director of the Horticultural Division, B. C. Goodwin, Horticultural Superintendent at Palmerston North, E. A. Field, Dominion

President of the National Beekeepers' Association, and John Gillan, President of the Dannevirke branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, and several members of that branch, was given by the president of the Hawkes Bay branch, Mr Arch Lowe, who said that they in Hawkes Bay could now congratulate themselves that they were now on the map as honey producers. In proof of this, he pointed out that in the opinion of the judge, Mr G. V. Westbrooke, Government Apiary Instructor in Hawkes Bay, the display of honey from this province at the Autumn Show had not been equalled anywhere in New Zealand.

### HIGH OPINION OF H.B. HONEY

Expressing his thanks for the welcome, Mr Dallas said that on account of the splendid clover growth and the nature of the other crops which the bees gather, Hawkes Bay apiarists were able to produce a honey of very good quality, and he was particularly pleased to hear from their president that a number of young people were taking a keen interest in beekeeping in the province.

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Mr Dallas referred to the problem experienced in past seasons in the Spring, when bees were lost through arsenate of lead poisoning due to the use of this material as an orchard spray. He was glad to hear that this trouble was likely to be mitigated in the future through co-operation between the beekeepers and the orchardists.

Some alarm had apparently been caused in some quarters by the reappearance of European foul brood, as distinct from American foul brood, continued the speaker, but he was of the opinion that this trouble could be handled and eliminated without unduly drastic steps being taken.

An appeal for co-operation amongst beekeepers in their own interests was made by Mr Field, who said that if the honey industry was to keep pace with other industries from the efficiency angle they needed an organisation with the support of the growers and showing a high stage of efficiency. He was hoping that some of his hearers would be at the National Conference in Wellington next month.

The opinion that costs of production were far too high was expressed by Mr Gillam, who also considered that the time had arrived when the Internal Marketing Department should operate in such a way as to cut out the wholesaler in the marketing of honey. There was ample scope for improvement in the fields of reducing costs and of marketing.

#### **HIVE MANIPULATION DEMONSTRATED**

The fundamentals in the successful manipulation of hives for maximum honey production were, firstly, the selection of a good district; secondly, the use of queens from selected stock, and thirdly, efficient management for maximum production at minimum expense, material and effort, said Mr Wallace Nelson, chairman of the Honey Control Board who was the only demonstrator. Mr Nelson said that a

queen excluded was, to him, just as essential as a top or sides to his hives. The successful use of the queen excluder method of management involved knowledge of a specialised technique to obtain the certain results. The first of these was the standardisation of operations; then there was the use of hive material to its fullest capacity, swarm control, control of hive strength, easy requeening, super separation of grades of honey, the efficient use of unskilled labour, ease in detection of disease, handling of supers instead of combs, and the facilitation of the removal of honey.

He was hoping next year to have between 700 and 800 hives, and he had an excluder on every hive, continued the speaker, going on to say that a site that would not run 50 hives was, in his opinion, not worth considering. Over five seasons he had averaged over 140lbs of honey per hive, which, so far as he knew, was a New Zealand record.

Mr Nelson proceeded to provide a practical demonstration of his technique, at the conclusion of which he was called upon to cope with a running fire of questions, which was the best possible indication of the interest of his audience.

The function closed with the carrying of a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs and Miss Dalglish for their hospitality and to Mr Nelson for his able demonstration.

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## **OPEN MARKET**

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### **FOR NEW ZEALAND HONEY**

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### **GREAT WARTIME OPPORTUNITY**

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A call for increased honey production as a wartime effort from Hawkes Bay and elsewhere throughout the Dominion was sounded in the course of an address delivered under the auspices of the Hawkes Bay Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association in Hastings by Mr Wallace Nelson, chair-

man of the New Zealand Honey Control Board. The speaker, who was introduced to the meeting by the chairman, Mr Arch Lowe, dealt comprehensively with a number of problems arising out of the marketing of honey.

Considerable anxiety had been experienced by the Honey Control Board on the outbreak of war, when it was found that our honey export was in danger of being reduced to less than one-third the normal annual export quantity, said Mr Wallace. Thanks to the efforts of senior Government officers, however, the representations made to the Imperial authorities resulted in the restrictions being entirely removed and the Internal Marketing Division was now free to export to Great Britain the full amount of honey offering.

#### A UNIQUE CHANCE

"As a wartime economy measure no foreign honey is allowed entry to Great Britain and you will appreciate from this that New Zealand has a unique opportunity to consolidate and greatly extend our overseas business," he continued. "More able tongues than mine have stressed the point that it is vital in the interest not only of the producers, but of the nation as a whole, that the maximum of production should be made available for our overseas market, and particularly—as in the case of honey—when this market is a highly profitable one.

"It is very unfortunate that we should have experienced two extremely poor seasons. A short supply is the result. I appeal to you, therefore, to send forward to the Internal Marketing Division all the honey you have available. The honey is required now to meet overseas commitments and I need not stress how seriously the future interest of the producers would be affected should we find ourselves unable to maintain regular supplies to meet our overseas business.

## LOCAL MARKET MATTERS

"Whilst our overseas trade is our most urgent consideration at the moment, I can assure you that the matter of orderly local marketing has not been neglected. You will be glad to know that the final portion of the new premises now under construction at Auckland for the Internal Marketing Division is well in hand. As was intimated at your last annual conference, the premises have been planned to provide floor space for the honey section of the division. Every effort will be made to ensure the maximum efficiency in the handling of our honey.

"In the course of my travels I have had the opportunity to visit several of the most modern honey plants in Canada, U.S.A., Australia and England, and I can assure you that the packing and blending plant that will be installed in Auckland will surpass anything I have seen before.

"For some considerable time the honey section has been labouring under difficulties owing to inadequate space, necessitating the use of additional temporary premises some considerable distance away from the depot. You will realise, therefore, that the new premises have not been provided any too soon.

"I understand that your association is much concerned over the existing competitive selling market—particularly in the main centres," continued Mr Nelson. "The Honey Control Board candidly admits that the position is unsatisfactory in this respect, for it is obvious that the new depot will require to operate a full capacity if overhead costs are to be held at the low level desired by everyone. The points at issue in this connection will be very fully discussed at your annual conference next month in Wellington."

At the conclusion of his address the speaker was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.