

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Research Work on Problems Affecting the Apiarist: During the coming season work will commence on the problem of providing satisfactory pollen substitutes, the effect on honey flavour of the storage of wet combs, and the relation between keeping qualities of honey and moisture content, when extracting is carried out under humid conditions.

Much research work of great benefit to beekeepers generally has been carried out overseas, and work done locally should be of great assistance to beekeepers in this country. The beekeeping industry is important in New Zealand, not only by reason of its valuable crop, but also by the much greater value of bees as pollinators.

The work carried out on bees at Wallaceville is directed by the Superintendent, Dr. C. S. M. Hopkirk. It will be connected directly to the industry through the office of the Director Horticulture Division and district Apiary Instructors. This supplies the necessary link between the apiarist, to whom the local Apiary Instructor is readily accessible, and Wallaceville.

The officer chosen to carry out the diagnostic and research work for the industry is Mr. T. Palmer-Jones, B.Sc. Mr. Palmer-Jones has had field experience as an apiarist before he joined the staff at Wallaceville prior to the war. Later he was able to gain considerable knowledge of bacteriology in work on mastitis. Recently, too, he has had experience in commercial production to biologically produced acids. Therefore, in the opinion of the Department, Mr. Palmer-Jones is suited for the position and with facilities which will be developed he should give very great assistance to the industry.

Part-time Apiary Inspection Work: Sixty-two reliable beekeepers have been appointed to assist the Department's permanent Instructors this season in control of brood diseases of bees in apiaries. The work on which these men will be engaged is of importance to the national economy, and all beekeepers are earnestly requested to co-operate with the Department in this important work.

Apiary Registration: Many beekeepers continue to notify this office of any change in the number of hives kept in their respective apiaries at any time during the year. This information is not required until December, unless in special circumstances, such as the removal of part of an apiary or sudden loss of stocks by floods, etc.

It is incumbent upon all beekeepers under the Apiary Registration Regulations, 1937, to furnish particulars to this office of any increase or decrease made in the number of hives kept in each of their respective apiaries during December each year. Beekeepers will greatly assist the work of keeping the Apiary Register up-to-date if they attend to this matter promptly.

Materials Essential to Industry: Where established beekeepers are unable to secure locally materials essential for the production of honey and beeswax, they may write direct to the Commissioner of Supply, P.O. Box 3025, Wellington, stating the quantity and the purpose for which the materials are required. If supplies are available they will be given full particulars where the goods may be purchased. This procedure applies to all essential requirements of individual beekeepers, such as tin plate, timber and wire gauze, etc.

W. K. DALLAS,

Director of the Horticulture
Division.