

The art of management was the main theme of a talk by Instructor R. Hobbs at a recent gathering—especially to plan and do as much as possible ahead of time. This is a very useful thought which should be borne in mind by every beekeeper.

—Tom Holland, 31/10/1960.

#### NORTH OTAGO

We have had a real good willow flow here this year, one of those we usually dream about, in fact it makes one wonder which is the worst at this time of the year, too much or too little honey on the hives. The prospects for the season are good at the moment. Another inch of rain would be welcome as inland the sunny faces are inclined to be drying off a bit, but on the coast it is very good and there is a real surplus of feed. The big nodding thistle that saved the day for us last season is going ahead in leaps and bounds. It is going to be a major problem in North Otago but is a boon to the beekeepers as yet.

Please note that we propose to hold our Field Day at Elderslie on the first Saturday in March and as we have a hall handy the function will be held wet or fine.

—H. S. Wilson.

#### OTAGO

A meeting of Otago beekeepers arranged by the Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. W. A. Seal, was held in Dunedin on September 16. The main part of the programme was an illustrated address by Mr. Seal on the identification of bee diseases and following this there was an open forum on all aspects of beekeeping. The lecture and the discussion proved interesting and helpful to all present.

Prior to supper being served by the local Branch, the Vice-President, Mr. D. Stewart, mentioned that Mr. Seal was about to leave the Department and he took the opportunity of thanking him for his services to beekeepers in the area and particularly for his interest and assistance in the activities of the Branch. Mr. Seal was at all times most helpful at meetings and Field Days conducted by the Association in his district. Those present joined in expressing their appreciation and extending to him every good wish for the future.

### Obituary



Mr. B. T. CLOAKE

The early generation of beekeepers in New Zealand lost one of its members when Mr. B. T. Cloake, of Springbrook, St. Andrews, South Canterbury, died on September 7.

He was born in Cornwall in 1883, and quite early in life found a way, without getting stung, of delving into his father's hives and removing a section of honey to eat straight away.

In 1912 he emigrated to New Zealand to the Winchester settlement, near Temuka. He took a position as teamster at St. Andrews and later at Holme Station. By the following year he had managed to earn enough to send for his wife and daughter, and upon their arrival he worked at Simon's Pass Station in the Mackenzie Country. In 1921 they bought the property at Springbrook, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Cloake died in 1948.

Beekeeping was started by catching swarms and some colonies bought from Mr. Pearce, of Gleniti (near Timaru). These, Mr. Cloake took home in a spring cart at the end of January and later extracted a super of honey from each colony. His apiaries increased until he was handling about 400 colonies. In those days, he sold all his honey to the H.P.A., but in 1930 he went for a trip to England, and on his return

N. Z. BEEKEEPER

started packing honey in cartons. He invented a very effective machine for cutting honey into one pound blocks ready for packing.

Whilst always taking a live interest in the activities of the local Branch of the Beekeepers' Association, he rarely took any part in administration.

In 1949 he retired from active beekeeping, when his son Harry Cloake took over all except the home apiary. In his retirement, he concentrated on the rearing of breeder queens, and by selective breeding was able to produce a line of queens that was in demand all over New Zealand. Some of his queens were sent to Australia and the progeny of one of his queens won the Blue Ribbon of Sydney Royal Show. Although he imported some queens from America about 1939, he was not enthusiastic about what he received.

In recent years, his queens were used in an attempt to establish bees in the Chatham Islands.

Shortly after coming to New Zealand, he took up photography as a hobby, and some of the photos made with his half plate camera still give testimony to the excellent quality of his work. He later became a colour slide and movie enthusiast, and his 8 m.m. film on beekeeping has been declared by many who have seen it to be a masterpiece of patience and photographic skill. At the time of his death, he had partly completed a new 16 m.m. film on his favourite topic, "Bees."

His wide circle of friends held him in high regard because of his very happy nature and his earnest desire to help his fellow men.

#### Mr. EDWARD SIMPSON

A pioneer in South Canterbury beekeeping, Mr. Edward Simpson, died suddenly in his garden at Woodbury, Geraldine, on September 23. Born at Nottingham, England, in 1875, he emigrated to New Zealand in 1897 on the S.S. Rotomahana, a combined steam and sailing ship. He took up beekeeping for a living in 1911 after a season of practical experience with the late Mr. Clayton, of Peel Forest.

Mr. Simpson established his first apiary at Orari Gorge with bees purchased from the late Eleanor Howard Tripp. That was in the horse and dray era of beekeeping and many were the stories of horses bolting and leaving a trail of hives or honey strewn along the way, to be retrieved later after dark.

Of a quiet unassuming disposition, he travelled widely both in New Zealand and overseas. In July, 1933, he reared queen bees at Raratonga, Cook Islands, from breeders he had brought from Roots in the United States. A lover of our native birds and bush, he was always concerned for their preservation for future generations. He was a keen bowler and played on greens all over the world, including that at Plymouth Hoe, of Sir Francis Drake fame.

Mr. Simpson's second wife died on July 12 last. He is survived by a daughter and three sons, one of whom, Mr. Arnold Simpson, now President of the South Canterbury Branch, is carrying on the beekeeping business established at Woodbury in 1911.

—C.D.

Below: Load of honey leaving a South Canterbury honey house many years ago.

