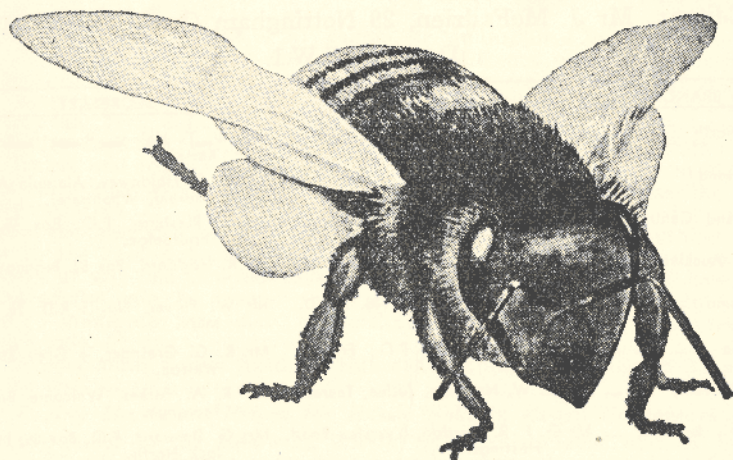


THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 19, No. 3

AUGUST, 1957



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND
(Incorporated)

*(An Organisation for the advancement of
the Beekeeping Industry in New Zealand)*

Better Beekeeping

Better Marketing

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STOP PRESS

Honey Prices have been returned to PRICE CONTROL under a Gazette Notice dated 23rd August 1957. In order that beekeepers will have immediate advice of the new prices applying under control a re-print of the Price Order No. 1718 is set out hereunder.

E. A. FRASER, General Secretary.

Extract from New Zealand Gazette, 22nd August, 1957, No. 61, page 1554.

PRICE ORDER No. 1718 (Honey)

Pursuant to the Control of Prices Act 1947, the Price Tribunal hereby makes the following Price Order:—

Preliminary

1. This order may be cited as Price Order No. 1718, and shall come into force on the 23rd day of August, 1957.

2. (1) In this order, unless the context otherwise requires—

“The said Act” means the Control of Prices Act, 1947;

“Packer” means a wholesaler who sells to another wholesaler honey packed in retail containers, and includes a producer who sells to a wholesaler honey packed in retail containers as aforesaid;

“Producer” means a beekeeper whose apiary is registered pursuant to the Apiaries Act, 1927;

“Retail container” means a jar, carton, or tin supplied by the vendor of the honey and containing not more than 10 lb. net weight of honey.

“Standard case” means a case or other outer container containing in the aggregate approximately 60 lb. of honey packed in retail containers;

“Wholesale free delivery area” means any area within which any wholesaler normally undertakes the free delivery of goods to retailers.

(2) Terms and expressions defined in the said Act when used in this order have the meanings severally assigned thereto by that Act, unless the context otherwise requires.

3. For the purpose of this order, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the said Act, any person who sells by retail to any one purchaser for delivery at any one time not less than two standard case lots of honey shall, in respect of the sale, be deemed to be a wholesaler, and the provisions of this order as to maximum wholesale prices shall apply accordingly with respect to every such sale.

4. The maximum prices fixed by this order apply with respect to sales by auction as well as to other sales.

Fixing Maximum Prices for Honey Sold in Retail Containers

5. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause and of clauses 7 and 8 hereof, the maximum price that may be charged or received for honey packed in retail containers of the kinds described in the first column of the Schedule hereto shall be the appropriate price fixed in the second, third, or fourth column of that Schedule.

(2) Where the quantity of honey sold by a packer to a wholesaler or to a retailer in any one transaction is six standard case lots or more the cost involved in effecting delivery to the port (where carriage by sea is entailed), a railway station (where carriage by sea is not entailed) that is nearest or most convenient of access to the wholesaler's or to the retailer's place of business shall be borne by the packer.

(3) The maximum prices fixed in the fourth column of the Schedule hereto are fixed in respect of supplies of honey available to the retailer free of freight for delivery at his store from any source whatever.

(4) Where supplies of honey are delivered to a retailer (other than a retailer situate within a wholesale free delivery area) otherwise than free of freight charges as aforesaid the price that may be charged by the retailer shall be the appropriate price fixed as aforesaid, increased by a proportionate part of the freight charges incurred by him in obtaining delivery: Provided that the amount added to the price in respect of freight, pursuant to this subclause, shall not in any case exceed 3d per pound.

(5) The several prices fixed by this clause include the price of the containers.

Fixing Maximum Prices for Honey Sold Otherwise Than in Retail Containers of a Kind Described in the Schedule Hereto

6. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause and of clauses 7

and 3 hereof, the maximum prices that may be charged or received for honey sold otherwise than in retail containers of a kind described in the first column of the Schedule hereto shall be determined as follows:

	Maximum Price Per Pound At the Rate of
(a) For honey, cut and wrapped	s d 1 7
(b) For other honey—.....	
(i) Sold by a producer to a consumer—.....	
(a) In lots of over 60 lb.	1 3
(b) In lots of 60 lb. or less but more than 20 lb.	1 4
(c) In lots of 20 lb or less	1 6
(ii) Sold by a producer to a packer, wholesaler, or retailer	1 3
(iii) Sold by any person whomsoever to a wholesaler	1 3
(iv) Sold by a wholesaler (not including a producer) to a retailer	1 4
(v) Sold by a retailer	1 6

(2) The maximum retail prices fixed by the last preceding subclause are fixed in respect of supplies of honey available to the retailer free of freight charges for delivery at his store from any source whatever.

(3) Where supplies of honey are delivered to the retailer otherwise than free of freight charges, as aforesaid, the price that may be charged by the retailer shall be the appropriate price fixed as aforesaid, increased by a proportionate part of the freight charges incurred by him in obtaining delivery. Provided that the amount added to the price in respect of freight, pursuant to this subclause, shall not in any case exceed 2d per pound.

(4) The several prices fixed by this clause include the price of the containers.

General

7. If in respect of any honey the retail price charged in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this order is not an exact number of pence or halfpenny, the maximum price shall be computed to the next upward halfpenny.

8. Subject to such conditions, if any, as it thinks fit, the Tribunal, on application by any person concerned, may authorise special prices or margins of profit in respect of any honey to which this order applies where special circumstances exist or for any reason extraordinary charges (freight or otherwise) are incurred by any producer, packer, wholesaler, or retailer. Any authority given by the Tribunal under this clause may apply with respect to a specified lot or consignment of honey or may relate generally to all honey to which this order applies sold while the approval remains in force.

SCHEDULE

Maximum Prices of Honey Packed in Retail Containers

Size and Kind of Container	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Packer to a Wholesaler	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Wholesaler (including a Packer) to a Retailer	Maximum Price that may be charged by a Retailer (including a Packer) to a Consumer
	Per dozen	Per dozen	
	s d	s d	s d
½ lb. Cartons	12 3	13 5	1 4 per carton
12 oz. Glass jars	21 6	23 6	2 4 per jar
1 lb. Glass jars	25 6	28 0	2 9 per jar
1 lb. Cartons	21 6	23 6	2 4 per carton
1½ lb. Glass jars	29 0	31 9	3 2 per jar
1½ lb. Glass jars	35 0	33 6	3 10 per jar
2 lb. Glass jars	45 3	49 9	4 11 per jar
2 lb. Cartons	41 9	45 10	4 7 per carton
2 lb. Tins	46 3	50 10	5 1 per tin
2½ lb. Glass jars	56 6	62 0	6 2 per jar
2½ lb. Glass jars	62 3	68 4	6 10 per jar
5 lb. Tins	104 9	115 0	11 6 per tin
10 lb. Tins	194 0	213 4	21 4 per tin

Dated at Wellington this 22nd day of August, 1957.

The seal of the Price Tribunal was affixed hereto in the presence of—

H. PEARCE, Presiding Member.

F. F. SIMMONS, Member.

The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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J. McFadzien, Editor.

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VOL. 19, No. 3

AUGUST, 1957

ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen:

The beekeeping industry in New Zealand has seen some important changes during the past year. In some cases these changes have been immediately apparent to the average beekeeper in his everyday life—others, equally important, will be felt in the year ahead, but in all it is significant that this Association has continued to play a leading part both in determining policy and in seeing that it is carried out in the best interests of the industry as a whole.

Price Decontrol:

Without doubt the most important development of the year and one which has affected beekeepers both large and small has been the return to free marketing. After sixteen years of price control which has hampered the economic progress of the industry we have been given the opportunity of serving the consumer on a market free from restriction—a Government decision which should be welcomed by any healthy industry which is prepared to accept the challenge of competitive trading. Not only will this enable producers to maintain their production in the face of increasing overhead charges, which is of immense importance to the security of the individual beekeeper, but it has given the desired incentive for meeting the demands of a selective public who appreciate a wider diversity of packs and varieties of honey of all grades. The steps which were taken by the Executive prior to decontrol taking effect will be known to you all and require no further elaboration at this stage. It is noteworthy, however, that the responsibility for establishing a reasonable initial price for honey under free marketing and the publication of this information for the guidance of all producers and the protection of the public was assumed by the Executive of this Association. The Honey Price Index No. 1 sought to gain for the producer a reasonable price increase of approximately 1d per lb. for bulk honey, at the same time preserving the recognised profit margins of the merchant and retailer, and while the retail prices of honey have in some cases risen beyond the levels which we recommended, this is in no way attributable to the producer, but rather to the trade's desire for a higher return for handling. It is hoped in the future to resolve our differences of opinion over margins of profit for handling with the representatives of retailers' organisations. The responsibility for future policy on honey prices appears to have passed to the Association, and in this producers, distributors and consumers can be assured of fair and reasonable treatment.

Toxic Pesticides:

When our last Conference closed, considerable concern was exercised by beekeepers over the continued danger created by the absence of regulations governing the proper use of agricultural pesticides. Through the co-operation of aerial applicators and departmental officers, and perhaps a measure of good fortune, no serious losses of bee stocks occurred last year as the result of improper or untimely use of toxic agricultural chemicals. However, your Executive, regarding the problem of far-reaching importance, have continued to press for the introduction of permanent measures of control which would be satisfactory, not only to beekeepers, but also to farmers and other interested parties. In this connection it is pleasing to record the sympathetic interest of the Minister of Agriculture in providing the industry with a temporary though

immediate measure of protection under an amendment to the Apiaries Act which your Executive were pleased to accept on the assurance that wider measures under proposed new legislation would not be jeopardised. I refer, of course, to the proposed Agricultural Chemicals Bill and our latest advice would indicate that some measure of success may soon be accorded our efforts to secure satisfactory control measures through this medium.

Identification of Out-Apiaries:

Consequent upon the failure of beekeepers to act upon the appeal made by the Executive and the Department for co-operation in so marking out apiaries as to render them easily identifiable as to ownership the Executive has supported the Department in promoting regulations to make the marking of out-apiaries compulsory, and these measures will be coming into force at an early date.

General Marketing:

The unique position of the Association in its ability to represent the views of the industry as a whole, rather than the interests of purely sectional factions, has, over the years, demonstrated its worth in a variety of situations. The value of such broadly based representation has had no more practical expression than through the Association's appointee on the Honey Marketing Authority, who, in a non-elective position, has continued to express a view on the functions and policy of that body in line with the interests of the industry as seen by your Executive. The value of such free expression is inestimable, both in providing reasonable balance and truly representative thought on problems which affect the industry as a whole.

Your Executive is still convinced that the Marketing Authority as an industry-controlled organisation provides the best possible set-up for the marketing of our produce. Producers and packers alike have the opportunity of a voice in its affairs through their elective qualifications, and in this year's elections voting rights will be based on a two-year qualification in line with last year's Conference recommendation. It is noteworthy that from the time of the first election an island balance of representation has been established, and while there is no regulatory provision to ensure that this position is maintained, it is in many respects a desirable state of affairs.

Pollination:

The increasing importance which is being attached to the value of bees as pollinators is bringing new problems to the commercial honey producer. Under more intensive farming conditions, seed growers and other primary producers are beginning to attach far greater significance to the results of overseas experiments which have shown vastly improved crop yields and pasture maintenance through adequate pollination by bees with the result that the demands upon the beekeeper in some areas have become embarrassing. However, while agriculture stands to gain in substantially increased returns from better pollination service, the beekeeper can only stand to lose in providing the farmer with a greater density of bee population than is economically required for honey production, and the time is fast approaching when farmers will have to consider the provision of the service as a commercial proposition in which the beekeeper must receive some reward. The growing awareness of the invaluable contribution which bees make to a successful agricultural economy has been recently demonstrated at the Dominion Conference of the Agricultural section of Federated Farmers where a resolution was passed supporting this Association in its efforts to obtain the appointment of an addition research officer to study the whole question of effective pollination in New Zealand.

Publicity and Public Relations:

Your Executive has, from time to time, felt it desirable that publicity

should be given to certain matters, and it is pleasing indeed to record the readiness with which press and radio facilities have been made available. In such matters as decontrol of prices the necessity for acquainting the public with the attitude of the industry and its policy on future prices is indisputable, and I feel sure that members will agree that any statements which have been released have only enhanced the standing of the beekeeper and the industry.

Internal publicity and information play a big part in any organisation, and in this the Association's quarterly journal, "The New Zealand Beekeeper," has continued a useful job throughout the year. The consistently high quality of this informative organ reflects considerable credit on our Editor, especially in view of the fact that throughout the year he has been working under a severe personal disability.

Membership:

During the year the Manawatu Branch has been wound up, and Buller, King Country and Taranaki are considering similar action. However, this is far from being a sign of declining faith in the Association, in that it is brought about mainly by the changing pattern within our industry whereby the small man is going out of existence and beekeeping is becoming concentrated in larger and more economic units.

I feel that it is fair comment to state that the Association has never enjoyed greater confidence of beekeepers than it does to-day, and this has been strikingly evidenced by nearly one hundred new membership applications during the past year. The majority of our branches, being established in intensive areas of beekeeping, continue to maintain and in many cases improve in strength, demonstrating that they continue to provide an important service within our organisation.

The year generally has, I feel, been a most worth-while one, in the amount of work which has been done and the success which has been accorded our efforts. In addition to the major problems of prices and pesticides, action has been taken on Union membership, transport regulations, pollination, licensing of Honey-mead production, and other minor matters too numerous to mention. In all, we have been fortunate in having the sympathetic consideration and assistance of the Minister of Agriculture and officers of his department, and it is only fitting that we should record our appreciation of this valuable interest in our welfare and aid in overcoming our problems.

Branch officers have continued to serve the Association well, while in our central administration the willing and able assistance of my fellow Executive members has made our work both pleasurable and satisfying. The General Secretary, as the Association's principal administrative officer, has again proved himself to be a most valuable servant of the industry and has carried out his duties to our entire satisfaction. Bearing in mind that the secretarial position is necessarily a part-time one, but at the same time conscious of the fact that we often require his full-time services, usually at short notice, when matters of importance arise, the Executive has decided to increase his retainer by £25 per annum as from 1st June, 1957.

We have met and overcome many of our problems during the past year, but the next year will undoubtedly, indeed is already bringing forth new ones. I am convinced that as long as unit and amity which is evident to-day within the industry is maintained in the future, we will continue to achieve worth-while progress which will ensure the maintenance of our general welfare.

J. W. FRASER, President.

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NOTICE BOARD

MARKETING AUTHORITY

The election of two producer representatives to the Honey Marketing Authority will take place during September. The closing date for nominations was August 14. The two retiring members are Messrs W. Nelson and T. E. Pearson.

* * *

N.B.A. REPRESENTATIVE

At a meeting of the Dominion Executive held in Hamilton following the Conference, Mr J. W. Fraser was re-appointed as the N.B.A. representative on the Honey Marketing Authority for the coming year.

* * *

CIRCULAR SERVICE

Members are reminded that as from the commencement of the financial year 1957-58, those desiring to receive copies of Conference Agenda and Head Office Circulars may do so on payment of ten shillings (10/-) per year in advance, direct to the General Secretary.

* * *

MAILING JOURNALS

It is intended shortly to introduce an addressograph system for mailing Journals, and it is important that the correct addresses should be recorded on the plates. Will readers therefore please check the addresses on their Journal envelopes and notify the General Secretary of any inaccuracies.

MR WILLIAMS LEAVES EXECUTIVE

After sixteen years, the Executive is without the services of Mr E. D. Williams. In this time "Des" has served as Executive member, Vice-President, and for six consecutive years as Dominion President. At all

times he has approached the problems of the day in a scrupulously fair manner—his one criterion has been, "Is it good for the industry as a whole?"—and his unfailing good humour has often relieved tense moments.

As the Association's representative he took part in many negotiations of importance, notably with the Price Control Division and in connection with the establishment of the Honey Marketing Authority, on which he served as the N.B.A. representative.

Although Mr Williams felt that his place on the Executive should be taken by some other member, he has offered his services to the industry as a producer representative on the Honey Marketing Authority this year.

COMBINED MEETING

At the conclusion of the Hamilton Conference members of the Honey Marketing Authority met the Executive, and the opportunity was taken to discuss current affairs and the approach to matters requiring attention during the coming year.

SUCCESS IN QUIZ SHOW

A return air trip to England for herself and her son, Robin, was won by Mrs E. O. Ball, of Hook, near Waimate, when she answered 10 questions correctly at a radio quiz show in Waimate. As a result she will be able to visit her home town, Wallasey, in Cheshire. Mrs Ball is the first winner of this prize, which includes £200 spending money to help on the journey.

Mrs Ball is the wife of a well-known commercial beekeeper and prominent member of the South Canterbury Branch. We extend to her our cordial congratulations and we hope she and Robin have an enjoyable trip to the Old Country.

"THE INDIAN BEE JOURNAL," official organ of the All India Beekeepers' Association. 10/- per year (International Money Order).

Address: Ramgarh, Dist. Nainital, U.P., India.

MEETING OF SUPPLIERS

A meeting was held in Hamilton on Tuesday evening, July 30, to decide the future of the Honey Suppliers' Association, a body which has been in recess for about ten years. After a full discussion it was decided that the Association should go into further recess for an indefinite period. A committee of three was set up to act as trustees for the Association's funds.

AUCKLAND BUILDING

At the conclusion of his address to Conference the Minister of Agriculture (the Rt. Hon. K. J. Holyoake) was asked to comment on reports that the Marketing Department building in Auckland had been "hawked around" the country and eventually sold to the N.Z. Packing Corporation for £70,000. It was suggested that the building should have been offered to the beekeeping industry in view of the fact that the Marketing Authority was now erecting much smaller premises at a cost of about £80,000.

Reports of "hawking around" referred to the factories at Pukekohe and Motueka, said the Minister, and the figure of £70,000 quoted as the sale price of the Auckland building was incorrect. There were other industries as well as the beekeeping industry which might have been interested in the building, but it was regarded by the Government as an essential part of the larger venture and it had been decided as a matter of policy to sell it together with the other factories as a single unit.

ROYAL JELLY

The subject of Royal Jelly was raised briefly at Conference, and Mr T. Palmer-Jones reviewed recent developments in the use of this substance. Preparations containing royal jelly are being sold at fancy prices, especially in Europe, both as cosmetics and for their medicinal properties. However, their actual value in either direction has not yet

been proved. Mr Palmer-Jones considered that there would be no difficulty in the production of royal jelly by the usual cell-raising methods if a market for it should develop.

The discussion on this topic provided some of the more hilarious moments of Conference when the prospect of prosperity for beekeepers and rejuvenation for all brought forth some entertaining comments. One speaker mentioned the reproductive powers of the queen bee, and suggested that royal jelly might have a surprising effect on human beings.

A voice: "We could take a course of treatment and report back at next Conference!"

Chairman: "Thank you, gentlemen. I think the debate has concluded with a well-timed word of warning."

POLLINATION RESEARCH

Support for Federated Farmers

Two matters of interest to the beekeeping industry was discussed at the Annual Meeting of Federated Farmers' Agriculture Section at Palmerston North on June 19th, and by courtesy of the Section the General Secretary (Mr R. A. Fraser) and Mr T. Palmer-Jones were in attendance.

The subject of toxic pesticides was raised by a remit asking for the reasons behind the banning of metasystox as a chemical to be applied aerially for aphid control. Mr Fraser informed the Conference of the information available on this subject, drawing attention to the fact that it was another example of materials being imported and recommended for use in New Zealand without proper testing under local conditions, and demonstrating the need for Federated Farmers to continue pressing for the introduction of the Agricultural Chemicals Bill. Mr Palmer-Jones reported on the experiments which he had carried out in field trials with metasystox which proved that the claim that the material was of low toxicity to bees and humans was incorrect.

Federated Farmers had approached the Department of Agriculture requesting the importation of long-

tongued bumble bees from Canada for red clover pollination, and this request had been refused. A remit sought to take the matter further with the Minister. In the discussion on this remit Mr Fraser quoted evidence showing the effectiveness of honeybees in red clover pollination and emphasised the value of honeybees generally as the most reliable pollinating agents in agriculture. He mentioned the extent of research facilities in New Zealand and the need for extension in this field in the interests of farm production.

The Conference passed a resolution supporting the National Beekeepers' Association in their request for the appointment of an additional research officer to carry out studies in pollination.

A sub-committee was set up to meet the Director-General of Agriculture and discuss the importation of bumble bees for pollination purposes.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

All members were present at a meeting of the General Executive held in Hamilton on July 29th, 1957. The Editor (Mr J. McFadzie) was also in attendance. The President (Mr J. W. Fraser) was in the chair.

Agriculture Department

Mr A. M. W. Greig and Mr T. S. Winter were welcomed to the meeting, and there was a discussion on the control of toxic pesticides and other issues.

Mr Greig indicated that the Agricultural Chemicals Bill was at present the subject of negotiations with the various parties concerned. Members drew attention to the potency of the preparations now becoming available and emphasised the need to provide protection not only to pollinating insects but also the public generally.

The Apiaries Protection Regulations have now been drafted to prohibit the application of toxic pesticides to flowering cruciferous and leguminous crops from September to March, except with a special permit.

Mr Greig advised that the appointment of a Research Officer in the South Island was receiving con-

sideration, and it was agreed that a more specific statement of the Association's request, together with the support of Federated Farmers, would give more weight to this proposal.

Other matters discussed included the establishment of a Diploma in Beekeeping, regulations for the identification of apiaries, and the proposed measures to combat any possible outbreak of acarine or other bee diseases.

Marketing Authority

The report of the N.B.A. representative was discussed, and members complimented Mr J. W. Fraser on his work in this capacity during the past year.

Hive Mats

The manufacturers advised that the fraying of the edges of hive mats could be avoided by sewing the edges (at a cost of 4d each) or by treating the edges with latex (at a somewhat lower cost). It was decided to ascertain the cost of the latter treatment and to refer the matter to Branches for their opinion.

Overseas Visitors

In response to a request Mr Greig advised that where possible the Association would be notified of the impending arrival of any visitors from overseas connected with the beekeeping industry. In this connection it was indicated that Dr. J. Eckert, of Davis University, California, would perhaps be visiting New Zealand within the next year or so.

CONFERENCE REPORT

The Annual Dominion Conference was held in Hamilton on July 30 and 31 and August 1. The President (Mr J. W. Fraser) was in the chair. There was a very good attendance of 100 or more, including about 25 members from the South Island.

Delegates were welcomed to the city by His Worship the Mayor of Hamilton (Mr R. Braithwaite), and the Minister of Agriculture (the Rt. Hon. K. J. Holyoake) opened the Conference.

In his address Mr Holyoake traced the history of beekeeping in New



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Zealand since the first introduction of honey-bees in 1839, and mentioned that the Waikato had been one of the earliest centres of commercial honey production. The trend had been toward larger commercial units and a steady growth of the National Beekeepers' Association as the organising body. Today there existed a close relationship between beekeepers and the general farming community with a better understanding of the place of bees in agriculture, and the control of toxic sprays by regulations was now accepted by the primary industries.

Mr Holyoake referred to the work of the Department of Agriculture in the development of apiculture through the efforts of the apiary instructors and the specialist activities of the Research Officer and Apiculturist. The incidence of disease last year had been the lowest on record.

It was now four years since the establishment of the Honey Marketing Authority, and the acceptance of the responsibility of self-government, and as with other industries he was sure that beekeepers had within their ranks the ability and collective wisdom to run their own affairs efficiently. The Authority had profited from the conservative valuation of stocks which they had taken over from the Department at the commencement of their operations, and from the subsidy towards the rental of the building they had since occupied. Finance had been provided for the Authority's own building, which would be completed in November, and he felt that the industry could go forward with some sense of achievement and confidence in the future.

In opening the Conference Mr Holyoake assured producers of his continued interest in their welfare, and he wished them a successful and profitable meeting.

Mr Holyoake answered a number of questions and showed his interest in the Conference by remaining to hear the address by Mr E. A. Field (Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority) and the Annual Report of the Association presented by the President.

Mr Holyoake was thanked by the President for his attendance at Conference and for his interest and as-

sistance in the affairs of the industry.

The Annual Statement of Accounts was then read, and after some discussion this, together with the Annual Report, was adopted.

Mr A. M. W. Greig (Director of the Horticulture Division) then addressed the Conference, outlining matters of interest in the work of the Division.

In reply to questions Mr Greig emphasised that no system of quarantine or import control could be absolutely watertight, and he appealed to producers to assist in preventing the introduction of new pests or diseases. Referring to the importation of bees, Mr Greig stated that the present policy, on the recommendation of the Association, was to import only Italian bees, and only from countries free from acarine disease.

The following remits were discussed:—

Association Policy

"That Conference be held as early as possible in July." Carried.

"That while this Conference desires the supply of the Journal to be continued free to members, it is of the opinion that a charge to cover the costs involved should be made to members." In the course of a full discussion it was decided that the Association derived support from industry funds and that under the present system the Journal provided a full coverage for the Marketing Authority and the Department of Agriculture and was an excellent medium for advertising. The remit was lost.

"That the minimum subscription for membership be raised to ten shillings per annum and that the scale of subscriptions be extended to a maximum of five pounds for 600 hives, provided always that a member with less than 30 hives receives only one vote." This remit, which was brought forward by the Dominion Executive, was carried.

Marketing Policy

"That Conference recommend to the Honey Marketing Authority the abandonment of the contract system." Lost.

"That we deplore the fact that the Executive did nothing to implement

the remit to last year's Conference regarding the loan for the H.M.A. building, and that we press for a loan from the Reserve Bank at one per cent. interest to pay off the State Advances." Carried.

"That the Marketing Authority's close of contract be extended to the end of February." Lost.

"That owing to the apparent discrepancy between the amount of honey bearing seals, honey supplied to the H.M.A., and the total crop estimate, the incoming Executive take whatever steps are necessary to make a thorough investigation into the method of collection of and accounting for seals money, and the basis of arriving at the total crop estimate." Carried.

"That the existing price per pound range in retail price, i.e. 11lb. to 20lb. and from 20lb. to 60lb., be changed to 11lb. to 30lb. and from 30lb. to 60lb." Carried.

"That the Honey Marketing Authority be requested to advise the industry from time to time of honey price fluctuations." Carried.

"That in view of the impossibility of the H.M.A. returning to suppliers costs of production or a return comparable with that of the non-supplier, the Executive request an investigation of the position to securing a subsidy on the H.M.A. payout." Carried.

"That this Conference recommends that the H.M.A. defer the installing of a honey packing plant until such time as it can be proved that producer-packers are not able to supply sufficient quantity of honey of a quality to meet the market's requirements." Lost.

"That the Honey Marketing Authority consider the introduction on the local market of separate colour packs." Carried.

"That of any advertising done by the H.M.A., half be applied to the Authority's own brands and half to honey generally." Carried.

"That the position of suppliers and seals purchasers in regard to the ownership of assets and responsibility for debts incurred by the Honey Marketing Authority be clarified, and that the Executive be instructed to negotiate with the Min-

ister with a view to putting the industry in a position of security." Carried.

Research

"That Conference expresses its disappointment at the delay in giving effect to the remit carried at last year's Conference asking for the appointment of an apiculturist in the South Island and that the Executive bring to the notice of the Minister the inadequacy of research facilities in this country as compared with those available in other countries where honey production is of lesser value." Carried.

"That the Department of Agriculture be requested to investigate the value of bees in regard to pollination and its ultimate effect on the economy of the country." Carried.

"That experiments be conducted by the Department of Agriculture to prove the economic value of bees in assisting in the regeneration of back or high country pastures where at present it is uneconomic for honey production." Carried.

"That the Department of Agriculture be requested to investigate the problem of wax moth control with particular reference to the use of ~~para~~ Bromide or similar substance." Carried.

Administration

"That this Conference appreciates the value of part-time apiary inspection and desires the work to continue as previously." Carried.

"That wherever possible part-time apiary inspectors be drawn from financial members of the Association." Although speakers agreed that it was desirable that part-time inspectors should be members of the Association, it was considered of more importance that the best men available should be obtained for this work and that the efforts of the Department should not be restricted by this consideration. The remit was lost.

General

"That the Executive go fully into the possibility of honey mead production on a commercial scale for sale to the public." Carried.

"That the Executive examine the position of electric power charges in

bulk suppliers' sheds in an endeavour to bring them into line with those charged to other primary producers." Carried.

"That the manufacturers of bee-keeping material exercise more care in the selection of timber." Carried.

"That Branches of the Association be reminded of the necessity for articles, including photographs, to be sent to the Editor with the idea of improving 'The N.Z. Beekeeper'." Carried.

"That the Association explore the possibilities of Glass Manufacturing Companies producing fancy jars for the attractive packing of honey." Speakers estimated that the cost involved would be out of proportion to the number required, and the remit was lost.

Notice of Motion

At this stage the following motion was brought forward by Mr G. E. Gumbrell and seconded by Mr H. Cloake: "That this Conference is of the opinion that the ward system should operate for the nomination and election of producer representatives on the H.M.A. There was a wide difference of opinion on this subject. Although it was agreed that a balance of representation was desirable, it was feared that under the ward system members might consider the interests of their own districts only instead of those of the Dominion as a whole. As the present system has achieved balanced representation so far, and as the matter is one which should be decided after consideration by Branches, it was agreed that the motion be deferred in the meantime.

Life Member

On the recommendation of the Dominion Executive, Mr W. W. Nelson was nominated for Life Membership in the Association.

In bringing forward the nomination Mr J. D. Lorimer referred to Mr Nelson's long and active association with the industry. From the early nineteen-twenties until quite recently he was engaged in commercial honey production on an extensive scale in the Waikato, and during that time he has taken a full part in the work of the Association, and more particularly in the operations of the various

honey marketing organisations. He was prominent in the activities of the Honey Producers' Association and N.Z. Honey Ltd., and a member of the Honey Export Control Board. During the course of several visits overseas he investigated the marketing procedure in other countries, and he was largely responsible for the design and layout of the packing plant set up by the Marketing Department. Mr Nelson served on the Honey Marketing Committee during the second World War and has been a member of the Marketing Authority since it was established four years ago. At all times he has been alert to the problems of the day and he has approached them in an energetic and painstaking manner.

Several members supported the nomination, mentioning Mr Nelson's sterling qualities and his impressive records, and his election to Life Membership was carried by acclamation.

In acknowledging the tributes which had been paid, Mr Nelson referred to the friendly assistance which he had been given down the years, and he thanked the Conference for the honour which had been accorded him.

Election of Officers

There were two nominations for the office of President, Messrs W. B. Bray and J. W. Fraser, and on a ballot being taken Mr Fraser was declared elected.

Mr Bray extended his congratulations to Mr Fraser, remarking that it gave him added credit that he had been returned to office after a ballot.

The following are the officers elected for the coming year:—

President: Mr J. W. Fraser (Ryal Bush).

Vice-President: Mr J. R. Barber (Pio Pio).

Executive: Messrs R. R. Chandler (Matangi), J. D. Lorimer (Hamilton), H. Cloake (Tamaru), and G. E. Gumbrell (Geraldine).

In closing the Conference the President thanked Mr Greig and officers of the Department for their attendance and continued interest in the work of the Association. He also expressed appreciation for the hospitality of the South Auckland Branch

in arranging so generously for the comfort and entertainment of visitors to Conference.

It is likely that the Conference next year will be held in Wellington.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY

ADDRESS BY MR E. A. FIELD AT THE 1957 DOMINION CONFERENCE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to have the opportunity of addressing Conference again and I hope that my remarks and any discussions which follow will prove of value not only to suppliers but also to the industry as a whole.

The only change in the membership of the Authority during the last twelve months has been the replacement of the nominee of your Association, Mr E. D. Williams, by your new President, Mr J. W. Fraser. Mr Williams served on the Authority since its establishment in 1953, and as the Association representative took a full part in the deliberations and decisions of the Authority. He co-operated with other members to the fullest possible extent, and we have recorded in our minutes our appreciation and acknowledgment of his services.

In accordance with the Honey Market Authority Regulations an election for two producer members takes place shortly. The producer members have decided among themselves that the two to retire will be Messrs Nelson and Pearson. They are both eligible for re-election. They have given good service to the industry, and should you decide to re-elect I am sure their services will continue to be given as previously.

The Government has agreed to the request of the industry that the number of votes to which producers are entitled are to be based on the quantity of honey supplied to the Authority or on the value of seals purchased during the previous two years instead of one year. This procedure will operate for the coming election. Provision has also been made for declaration votes in those cases where voters' names may have been omitted from the roll.

I shall now deal with the operations of the Authority for the ten months since 31st August, 1956, when our last annual accounts were prepared. Full details of the transactions up to that date are set out in the report accompanying the financial statements. These have already been published in the "Beekeeper" but some additional copies are available for those who require them.

Production

The contract system for the supply of honey to the Authority was continued for a further year. To satisfy repeated requests from producers, they were allowed an additional six weeks this year to send in contracts, but even with this extension and the clear warning given that no late contracts would be considered a number were still sent in after the closing date. Those received in time totalled 1239 tons as against 1858 tons last year.

The quantity of contract and non-contract honey supplied for the ten months to 30th June amounted to 1504 tons. This compares with 1669 tons for the previous twelve months.

I notice that a remit sponsored from this district dealing with the abolition of the contract system is on your agenda. The other members of the Authority and I will be interested to hear the suppliers' views.

The difficulty of dealing with late contracts is a very real problem.

Blending

During the ten months period ended 30th June, 1957, our packing plant put through 427 tons of honey. Of this quantity 289 tons comprised packed honey and 138 tons bulk honey.

Marketing—Local

At a number of meetings the Authority discussed putting a second pack on the local market of a honey slightly darker with a more pronounced flavour. It may be an advantage to have a pack to meet the demand of those who prefer this class of honey. Designs for a suitable carton are now being prepared.

During the year the Authority decided to appoint an agent to sell its retail packs in the Auckland province. The firm appointed for this work was Messrs James Crisp, of Auckland, and their agency commenced on 1st February of this year. At that time merchants and retailers were fully stocked up in anticipation of the price rise and it is too early yet to judge the results of the appointment.

During the ten months ended 30th June, 1957, we sold 258 tons of packed honey and 78 tons of bulk honey in this country.

Marketing—Export

Our London agents, Messrs Kimpton Bros., have continued their good work on our behalf and their agency has been placed on a permanent basis. Prices were well maintained until the last few months, since when there has been a reduction in all grades of approximately 20/- per cwt. or 2d per lb. This is in line with market adjustments for honey from other countries. Darker grades have sold well and are still meeting with a ready demand at the lower price level. There has, however, been a definite slackening of demand for the whiter honey, not to an extent as to cause undue concern. I believe that there has been an impression in the industry that we have carried forward tremendous stocks into the new season, but this is not so. In normal years we carry forward sufficient honey to see us through until the new season's supply comes in, and the extra stock carried forward as a result of the hold-up of sales did not exceed 200 tons. I am glad to report that the latest overseas rates are showing a slight firming tendency.

We are receiving more enquiries from Eastern and African markets and small but steady sales are being made at satisfactory prices. Correspondence we have received leads us to believe our honey is well liked.

For the first ten months of the current financial year we exported 528 tons of bulk honey, principally to United Kingdom and Europe, and 18 tons of retail packs to other overseas markets.

Premises

The tender of the Fletcher Construction Co. Ltd. for the erection of premises on the Parnell site was accepted in January last and the building is now well under way. We hope it will be ready for occupation before the end of the year.

The present rental payable to the Packing Corporation is £5212. This will go a long way towards the interest and sinking fund payments and create the first real asset the honey producers have in land and a permanent building.

Plant and Equipment

We are making extensive enquiries as to the most suitable plant and equipment for installation in our new building. A panel comprising four prominent packers and officers of the Department of Agriculture have kindly agreed to assist in the discussions, and a meeting was recently held in Auckland to consider certain proposals made by the Architect, Mr James. He has had considerable experience with heating and refrigeration and is at present working on a plant for melting honey.

The aim of the Authority is to instal a blending and packing plant capable of operating at an economic level on a moderate output but which can be adapted if necessary to handle three or four times this quantity. With up-to-date handling equipment we expect considerable savings in wages and store costs.

Seals Revenue

The seals revenue is higher this year. For the first ten months we have already received £16,126, whereas the average for the last three years has been £15,718. The granting of limited credit to large purchasers of seals has been welcomed by the packers concerned.

Advertising

The Authority has decided to spend approximately £1000 from the seals revenue to finance a campaign for advertising honey. Messrs Inglis Wright and Co. Ltd., Advertising Agents, have been engaged to carry out this work. It has been agreed that the allocation will be divided between radio advertising and advertisements in daily papers and in weekly and monthly periodicals. The radio advertising is being broadcast at present.

The Authority indicated previously that an advertising campaign would be carried out on the local market when heavy stocks were apparent.

Price Guide

A good deal of misunderstanding has resulted from the fact that the Honey Marketing Authority did not put out a fully printed price list immediately price control was abolished. I must accept responsibility for the fact that this arrangement was not carried out. Speaking for the Authority at the last Conference I stated that this would be done, and at that time I could see no objection or repercussions for the Authority. Immediately we became aware that there was a chance of price control being abolished on honey the Manager and I visited the General Secretary of your Association and drew up a schedule of wholesale, retail and consumer prices to cover the Authority's packs. These took into account increased production and packing costs plus appropriate margins for wholesaler and retailer.

This Price Guide when printed was to be sent out by the National Beekeepers' Association in conjunction with the Honey Marketing Authority. It was at this stage that I learned that neither the wholesaler nor the retailer was prepared to work under the margins we had proposed. Under these circumstances I felt no good purpose would be served by sending out a Guide under the Authority's name, but the N.B.A. not being a trading organisation was quite entitled to come to a contrary decision. It is regrettable, in my opinion, that following this difference of views so much has been made out of so little in some parts of the country.

I am disappointed that the price to the public has risen to the extent it has. Our costings would have justified a higher price to merchants, but in an effort to avoid too drastic an increase we restricted our increase to approximately 10%. Unfortunately, owing to decisions by other organisations, the price to the consumer has gone up approximately 20%.

Acknowledgments

I would like to make mention of the work of our Manager and all members of the staff who continue to give good and loyal support. Our Store Foreman has been responsible for handling record quantities of honey during the last two or three years under very trying conditions.

I would also like to express our appreciation of the assistance given us by the Director of Horticulture, the Beekeeping Superintendent, the Honey Grader and all other departmental officers who have assisted us directly and indirectly during the year. All members of the Authority value greatly the regular attendance of the Beekeeping Superintendent, Mr Winter, at our meetings, and all hope to have his continued support.

in the future. The co-operation and assistance we receive from our Government Departments cannot be fully appreciated by those who have not been in office.

My report would be incomplete if I did not again refer to the great interest displayed in our affairs by the Minister of Agriculture, the Rt. Hon. K. J. Holyoake. His interest at all times in our different and sometimes difficult problems is much appreciated by the whole Authority.

E. A. FIELD, Chairman.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

ADDRESS BY MR A. M. W. GREIG, DIRECTOR, HORTICULTURE
DIVISION, 30th JULY, 1957, AT THE DOMINION CONFERENCE

Mr President,

To-day there are subjects which I should like to review briefly for you.

1. The National Diploma in beekeeping.
2. The use of agricultural chemicals and the Apiaries Protection regulations.
3. The identification of apiaries.
4. Beekeeping quarantine measures. Eradication campaign for any serious new disease, such as acarine, if it should be necessary.

I. The National Diploma in Beekeeping

Progress is being made towards the gazetting of this diploma.

The Minister of Agriculture has advised your Executive that he intends to introduce an amendment to the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture Act whereby the Institute may be granted authority to define courses of study, examine, or grant without examination, a Diploma in Beekeeping.

The Institute already has authority regarding Diplomas in horticulture and fruit culture, and issues certificates to seedsmen, to school teachers of gardening, and to market gardeners.

After discussions between Mr T. S. Winter, the Superintendent of Beekeeping, your Executive and myself, it appears that there is general support for the National Diploma in Beekeeping, or N.D.B. as it will probably be known by. This diploma should interest all beekeepers of standing, whether you are under or over 40 years of age. This age is mentioned because under the Act the Institute has authority to grant honorary diplomas to persons 40 years of age and over who have practised beekeeping or the art thereof for not less than 20 years. Your Executive and I are recommending that the minimum period be six years as a commercial beekeeper, and the balance in beekeeping or any allied occupation, such as that of an Apiary Instructor. Details should be finalised with the Institute soon after the Act is passed and the Gazette notice issued, because this authority for the granting of honorary diplomas lapses after a period of two years. There is normally a fee of £2/2/-, and after obtaining the consent of any beekeeper concerned it is suggested that each branch of the National should forward a list of beekeepers who it considers worthy of an honorary diploma. Application for the

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award may also be made direct to the National Secretary.

For those under 40 years of age, a study course and series of examinations are to be prescribed. The candidate must have managed at least five hives of bees for six years before he may sit the final examinations, but should be encouraged to register and sit earlier examinations—a junior exam. after two or three years' work and an intermediate examination after four years' work. The examinations are essentially scientific and practical—in fact, at least three of the exams. are oral and practical exams.

The candidate for the diploma examination is expected to have a detailed knowledge of: The honey bee, races of bees and distribution, the inmates of the hive and their life history, anatomy of the honey bee. Foraging habits of bees—what bees collect and what they produce. Diseases of honey bees and their treatment. Floral sources of nectar and its main constituents. Honey granulation. Location and general arrangement of an apiary. Layout of a honey house. Beekeeping equipment. Management of bees. Production and uses of beeswax. Queen rearing. Value of bees in agriculture and fruitgrowing.

I haven't mentioned every item, but I think I have shown that the holder of a diploma by examination will have a sound and comprehensive knowledge of beekeeping.

Undoubtedly the examiners will be persons considered suitable by your Executive, but this will have to be arranged with the Institute.

I hope this move to establish a Diploma in Beekeeping will have the wholehearted support of the National Beekeepers' Association, as well as the support and interest of all who realise the importance of bees in our national economy.

2. The use of Agricultural Chemicals and the Apiaries Protection Regulations

Through the unfortunate loss of bees in Canterbury about two years ago, the Government has gazetted the Apiaries Protection Regulations 1957, on 13th June last.

The regulations prohibit, except with a permit issued by the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, the application to cruciferous field crops—such as rape, chou moellier, swedes and turnips, and to leguminous field crops, such as clovers and lucerne—of sprays and dusts that are toxic to bees, at any time during the period 1st September in any year and 31st March in the following year when the crop is in flower or when flowering plants which attract bees are present in such quantity within the crop that any such application would be likely to damage or destroy foraging bees.

The intention of the regulations is to give protection to honey bees against the effects of toxic sprays that might previously have been applied to cruciferous and leguminous seed crops—they do not apply to pastures.

The regulations place a responsibility on the beekeeper during the period specified whether the material is toxic to bees and whether the crop comes within the regulations.

Permits issued by the Director-General or by those to whom he may delegate this authority will not be readily granted, and a comprehensive procedure is being drafted whereby the Apiary Instructor for the district will be consulted, and if it is considered essential for spraying to be done, the beekeeper is to be advised five days before the spraying is done.

Until all the details are finalised beekeepers should give publicity to the regulations, and anyone desiring to apply for a permit after 1st September next should be advised to lodge his application with the nearest office of the Department of Agriculture.

3. Identification of Apiaries

Because of the increasing use of new insecticides, possibly toxic to bees, it is essential that each Apiary Instructor must improve his local

knowledge of all apiaries in his territory in order to assist in safeguarding you as beekeepers. In addition, in recent years the movement of apiaries into comparatively remote back country areas and into land development blocks, where an address may mean any point miles away from any settlement, has given Apiary Instructors some trouble and unnecessary travelling finding the owners of many of these apiaries in order to deal with any outbreak of disease or finalise registration if it has not been done. As all efforts by your Association to get beekeepers voluntarily to mark their apiaries have been unsuccessful, it is now recommended that the Apiary Registration Regulations should be amended, making it compulsory for all beekeepers to mark their out-apiaries with a code letter and number issued by the Apiary Instructor in his capacity as registrar. Each Instructor's district will have a separate code letter—North Auckland A, Auckland B, Hamilton C, etc. In each district the registrar will allot a number, A1, B17, etc., to each registered beekeeper, and it will be compulsory for each beekeeper to brand or stencil his registered number in 1½-inch block letters on the outside of the bottom box of at least one hive in a conspicuous position in each of his registered apiaries more than 10 chains from his residential address.

If any beekeeper has apiaries in two or more registration districts he will be expected to apply for separate registration numbers to cover the apiaries for each Apiary Instructor's district.

4. Beekeeping Quarantine Measures

You are well aware that if every importer of bees adhered to the legal quarantine procedures—obtaining a permit and making the importation through Wallaceville Research Station—this country would undoubtedly remain free of some of the serious bee diseases known overseas. Unfortunately, no quarantine is watertight. In fact, during the last twelve months two bees arrived at Whenuapai as stowaways on two separate planes from overseas and were duly destroyed by the routine spraying of aircraft done by Health and Agriculture officers at the airport.

But the risk always exists that one day acarine may be detected in New Zealand. If it is found, then the Department with your co-operation must undertake an eradication campaign necessitating wide powers. Recommendations are being made now that the Apiaries Act should be amended next year to cover such an eventuality, and giving powers to gazette any land on which acarine is found, and all land within two miles of the apiary on which acarine is found to be declared an infected area, restricting movement of bees and beekeeping appliances as far as possible into or out of the infected area and providing for the measures to be taken to eradicate the disease.

Owing to the presence of acarine now in South America and the fact that the number of queen bees now imported from U.S.A. are small and of doubtful value to the beekeeping industry, it is proposed that in future applications to import bees from U.S.A. will be declined except for scientific or special purposes. I am sure that we have your support in these protective measures which we are initiating.

It is also proposed that the Department should be empowered to issue orders requiring the spraying of aircraft arriving from overseas to be done before the aircraft is landed, and that it is considered essential for spraying to be done before the aircraft is landed.

A LAMENT

By "Starling"

Alas! nobody seems to care about our tragic plight,
The poison sprays are killing every dad-durned bee.

The bulk supplier's nett return is far too low,
And they cut down that old pine tree
Because of its essential use for new insecticides, possibly toxic to bees, it is essential that old pine trees should be cut down.



AUCKLAND CENTRAL

For various reasons Auckland Central seems to have missed out in these columns recently, but let it not be thought that the Branch has been inactive. In fact, our meetings have been getting later and later finishing in order to include all the material.

The September meeting was almost a quiz session with Mr Smaellie answering the questions and adding to the answers in his usual interesting way. In October Mr Reisterer took the floor and explained his method of swarm control by hive manipulation. Also in October we attended en bloc a talk given to beekeepers generally by Mr Todd, of the Beekeeping and Insect Pathology Section of the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture.

Mr Todd proved to be an entertaining as well as an instructive speaker, and we learnt quite a lot about the difficulties of beekeeping in Arizona. His talk was followed up with an excellent display of slides from Messrs Walsh, Pullin and Smaellie, and we all enjoyed a very well organised meeting.

Our President wound up the year for us with a talk on Section Production. This is very much his line of country and there proved to be more in the commercial side of it than at first meets the eye.

The January and February meetings were filled with discussions on the approaching Field Day and with vigorous argument about honey prices. We did manage to squeeze in a little talk by Mr Lawson on "Making Increase" at the end of the February meeting.

Our Field Day was blessed with

excellent weather, in fact, when I arrived our host, Stan Broadhead, was mopping a copiously perspiring forehead while erecting extra shade for the visitors. Most of the talks and demonstrations were aimed at the beginners, and we would have been glad if our attendance had included a larger proportion of possible new members; however, we were pleased to see several strange faces. In any case, the Branch members had an enjoyable and pleasant day.

During the meeting following the Field Day we had Mr Walsh in to taste and discuss our honey, and of course honey grading in general. His "busman's holiday" was of great interest to us, especially as we were able to fire questions at him afterwards.

Now to bring these notes completely up to date I'll just mention that, amid our consideration of Conference remits, Mr W. Nelson answered some of our queries over honey prices and brought us up to date with the H.M.A. side of the situation. We are now looking forward to Mr Smaellie's screening of the films which have been mentioned several times in these columns recently.

—R.V.H., 16th May, 1957.

NELSON

The Field Day held in May at the Branch's Demonstration Apiary at Mr Gunnion's Orchard, Stoke, was fairly well attended, when Autumn Re-queening was demonstrated.

Messrs T. A. Cropp, J. A. C. Bell, D. H. Dahlberg and L. T. Cropp carried out the manipulations, which



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seemed so easy, especially when the weather could not be termed a "Nelson" day, the queens being easy to find in the centre of the brood nest. Mr Gunuion later supplied tea, which was followed by an open discussion on honey prices.

Once again we have to thank the Dahlberg family for supplying the secretary. Miss Joyce Dahlberg having taken up the nursing profession, we wish her every success in her new career; her sister Judith now takes up the secretaryship.

It is not often the Nelson notes appear; though our honey tonnage may not seem very large in comparison with other districts, we may point out that the primary function of the honey bee is pollination, and no doubt the Nelson apiarists have helped the orchardists to obtain their record crop this season.

Our Branch would like to see more apiarists from the Waimeas and further afield. Their experiences would no doubt be of assistance to the Branch.

—A. V. Hewlett.

WEST COAST

Wasps could be kept down by burying and burning their foods, said the Apiary Instructor at Greymouth, Mr R. Hobbs, addressing the Annual Meeting of the West Coast Branch. Mr Hobbs pointed out that the public could co-operate in this matter.

It was reported that Mr W. Buchanan had won the Baty Memorial Cup, which is competed for annually on the West Coast. It is awarded for the best-kept apiary.

Six meetings and a field day were held during the year. The balance sheet showed the Branch to be in a satisfactory position.

The meeting stood as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr T. Smithers, who died during the year. Mr Smithers was a foundation member of the Branch and he acted as Auditor for a number of years. He was at all times a keen and active supporter of the Branch.

The following officers were elected: President, Mr S. Graham; Vice-President, Mr W. Buchanan; Secre-

tary-Treasurer, Mr R. Glasson; Committee, Messrs W. Baty, L. A. Ilton and T. W. Holland; delegate to Conference, Mr S. Graham.

For the first time as far as this Branch is concerned, we had the use of Department film, and though it obviously was made several years ago and in England, all agreed that it contained many talking points and that we should try to get the use of others from the film library.

From general discussion it appears that most areas have experienced a larger than usual late autumn and early winter flow, from rata vine, white pine and other sources.

—Tom Holland.

OTAGO

In Otago we will be glad to see the first signs of spring. The early winter brought serious floods throughout the province, and at the end of July we had a severe snowfall followed by heavy frosts—the coldest snap for many years. The gale-force snow storms isolated several districts and below-zero temperatures were recorded in some instances. A few apiaries suffered damage in the floods, but as yet we have heard of no losses from the snow. Apparently the bees can stand the cold provided they are dry.

From other South Island districts come similar reports of extremely low temperatures. Greymouth has experienced the coldest winter in ten years.

The only way women can get equal rights now is by surrendering some.

"THE INDIAN BEE JOURNAL,"

official organ of the All India Beekeepers' Association. 15/- per year (International Money Order).

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DUNEDIN CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of Otago and Southland Beekeepers was held in Dunedin on Tuesday, June 4th, when there was a good attendance including visitors from Canterbury.

At the afternoon session for Commercial Beekeepers, Mr N. Glass was elected to the chair.

Discussing the balance sheet, several speakers urged that Branches continue to support the Convention with regular contributions as in the past.

Several members suggested resuming the Show Display at the Winter Show, and it was decided to procure material provided by the H.M.A. when this is available.

Mr J. W. Fraser, Dominion President, gave a review of the year's work in the Association and also

spoke as the N.B.A. representative on the Marketing Authority.

The second speaker was Mr W. T. Herron, a member of the Honey Marketing Authority, who discussed the activities of that body during the past year.

After a discussion of marketing matters, the following resolution was carried on the motion of Mr R. D. Bennie, seconded by Mr M. M. Morrison: "That this Convention expresses its disapproval of the policy of the H.M.A. in not packing honey to the full extent that the N.Z. market can absorb."

In the evening a social function was held, and Mr I. W. Forster gave an entertaining account of his recent visit to the Chatham Islands to make a survey of beekeeping conditions.

The Convention closed with supper and a social hour.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By "Skep"

I commence my term as "Skep" with a certain amount of fear and trepidation. The previous writers under this nom-de-plume have put out some excellent matters, well written and punctuated, with a spot of humour. I fear that my contribution may be somewhat dull in comparison but I will do my best.

This article is headed "Notes for Beginners." That, taken in its literal interpretation, means those about to begin beekeeping. However, taken in the broader sense, it really applies to all beekeepers. The craft is so complex and at the same time so interesting and exacting, that it takes a lifetime to acquire a true understanding of the work of the honey bee. True beekeepers are too wise to assume that they are clever, and even the successful among them are humble in their success.

Beginners in beekeeping can aptly be divided into two categories: those who intend to become full-time commercial beekeepers and those who only intend to pursue the work as a hobby. Whilst the ultimate aims are somewhat different, the rudimentary

principles of beekeeping apply equally to each—in fact, the former must of necessity start as the latter. Beekeeping is an absorbing occupation that places exacting demands on the individual and calls for almost split-second timing to achieve the maximum results. No one will stay at beekeeping merely for the financial gain, there are many easier ways of making money. It requires faith, hope, and courage to face and overcome the problems and setbacks. On the other hand, the work, although heavy, is intensely interesting and fresh knowledge is always being gleaned. There is also the comradeship and helping hand of the established beekeeper who is always willing to assist the beginner.

It is not everyone who wants to keep bees; this is fortunately so. Likewise, beekeeping is not for everyone who would like to keep bees; it is no job for retired gentlewomen or elderly males. Physical strength and good eyesight are among the essential qualifications. Within limits it is safe to say that you cannot start too young. I myself made the big mis-

take of not taking beekeeping up commercially until I was 40. Capital was almost non-existent and time was short. Lifting numbers of heavy supers is not for the over fifties. Do not assume, however, that a beekeeper ceases to be effective at fifty; on the contrary, he is just beginning to really understand the work, and provided he realises his limitations and delegates the heavy work to a younger man, he can achieve the maximum results from the knowledge and experience he has gained over the years.

So much for the introductory remarks. If, in spite of having read these notes, the prospective beekeeper still intends to pursue his intentions, he will be looking for some guidance as to how to go about setting himself up and making plans for the spring.

My advice to anyone starting is to "make haste slowly." Do not be too ambitious and launch out on too big a programme for a start. There is a lot to learn and sometimes the going can be tough. Two or three hives are ample for a start. These can be purchased in the spring either as established hives or as four framed nuclei. Be sure to get a good quiet strain of bee: nobody likes getting a bad stinging and a beginner can easily be put off by savage bees. Make sure, too, that the hive or nucleus is headed by a young queen; this is vital, you will have enough to learn the first year without having to cope with a failing queen. I would suggest that you order your requirements now from a reliable beekeeper who caters for the sale of queens and nuclei. At the same time it would be advisable to buy and assemble the necessary hive equipment. If you have decided to buy four frage nuclei—and that would be my choice—you must remember that the box that the bees will come in is returnable and that the young colony will need more room in a very short time. You will need a bottom board, lid, two supers and 16 frames fitted with foundation for each nuclei purchased. That will keep you going for a few weeks, but as you will, in a favourable season, need another two supers and eighteen frames fitted with foundation for each hive, it would be as well to purchase and

working bee under

MALTHOID



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assemble these now. It is fatal to be short of gear at the critical time.

A word may not be amiss about assembling this equipment. Make a thorough job of it; it will last all the longer if you do. The supers require nailing with cement-coated nails, 36 to each half checked type super but the lock-jointed type can be made secure with less. Paint the joints before assembling, paint top and bottom edges. Give the super itself a coat of red lead and then two coats of white or cream paint. A number of commercial apiarists now use paraffin wax instead of paint but the beginner will not have the necessary plant to do this work.

The frames have to carry a big weight and at the same time withstand handling. Use four 1½ in. cement-coated nails, one each end top and bottom, and then one through each end bar to catch the shoulder of the top bar. Wire the frames properly. The wire must be tight and each wire separately strained and fixed. This will take six tacks and a lot of perseverance to make a good job. Next fit the frames with full sheets of foundation and embed the wires into the foundation with the current from a six volt battery. This needs care or the foundation can easily be burnt through. Use seven sheets to the pound foundation and do not wax the foundation to the top bar; the bees will make a far better job than you will and waxing often causes breakages if the supers have to be carted around in cold weather.

The lid rim needs three coats of paint and the flat iron properly and carefully fixed to ensure that the job is waterproof; solder the corners. The lining under the iron should not be a tight fit: two or three spaces of say ½ in. allow the moisture to escape. You will need a mat to go under the lid. Some use a jute mat, but you will find that the best and cheapest in the long run, is made from hardboard. It needs to be framed so that the rim lifts the mat itself ½ in. above the frames and so gives a bee space. Bore a hole 1 in. diameter in the centre of this mat for ventilation and fit a metal slide so that the hole can be closed when using bee escapes or moving the hive.

The bottom board is best treated with creosote, but this must be done some weeks before the board is brought into use. Put it out in the open to allow the smell to disappear. Creosote gives off pungent fumes when new and bees have been known to abscond from a hive placed on a newly treated board.

Some beekeepers aspire to making their own equipment. This, of course, lessens the expense, but unless access is obtainable to woodworking machinery and the beginner is skilled in the use of the machines, it is not to be recommended. Every piece must be exact. Nothing is more frustrating than having gear which is not interchangeable. You will, of course, need a smoker, hive tool and veil.

There is a book entitled "Beekeeping in New Zealand," by T. S. Winter, and obtainable at any branch of the Department of Agriculture. I would strongly advise every prospective beekeeper to get this book and study it thoroughly. It is the best half-crown's worth that I know of.

As my next contribution will not appear until the eve of the honey flow, I must take my reader up till then. I will presume that you have decided to give beekeeping a trial, have made up the supers, etc., ordered the nuclei and that same have arrived. If the time is not later than the third week in September so much the better.

Set the bottom boards on the selected site and raise these off the ground by placing four bricks at the corners. The boards should be level across but have a slight slope to the front. In the evening place the newly-arrived nuclei on the bottom boards and open the entrances. Next day, or the first fine day, move each nucleus box to one side and place a super containing six frames of foundation on each bottom board. Open the nucleus and gently transfer the combs and bees to the new hive, making sure that the queen is present and laying. Place the pollen comb on the outside, then the honey, and lastly the brood. Put on the mat, contract the entrance, and provided that there is enough honey for a few days, leave to settle down.

It will be necessary to feed the new colonies for some time. The small

force of bees present in a nuc. will not be able to keep themselves and draw foundation even if the weather is favourable. Feeding should be done in the late evening. Secure a 5lb. honey tin, punch seven or eight holes in the lid with a frame nail, fill with a syrup made of equal parts sugar and water and invert the tin over the hole in the mat. Put an empty super over this and then the lid. Examine the tin after 24 hours and if empty refill. Keep a prosperous condition within the hive, this is important if the queen is to lay well. You will need to manipulate the combs from time to time, putting those containing honey to the outside and moving over empty frames next to the brood. Never split the brood at this time of year. Watch the feed position closely, make sure there is ample pollen present and that there is no brood disease. When this super is getting full of bees, brood and honey, add the second super.

To manage bees properly it is essential to have an understanding of the life cycle and habits of the honey bee. Make yourself fully conversant with all aspects appertaining thereto and do not be afraid to seek the advice of the local Apiary Instructor or a fellow beekeeper.

In the next issue we will take the bees to the honey flow and make preparation to extract some honey. Until then, "So long."

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting.

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The Editor, P.O. Box 20, West
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ODE TO ROYAL JELLY

Some bloke at Hamilton when we met there
Said, "Here's something on which we should
pounce.
Why bother producing honey at a bob or two a
pound
With royal jelly at a hundred pound an ounce?"

We'll all become benefactors of mankind,
Everybody's pains, wrinkles and old age will go.
Of course it is just incidental
That we may make a fair bit of dough.

We'll use trade names like "Revivo", "Restoro"
and "Hairogro",
Or "Wrinklestay" if we think any fit,
Our slogan will be, 'Take Royal jelly today
And so increase your child benefit'.

The H.M.A. will become the R.J.M.A.,
Bob Walsh the first jelly juggler ever seen,
The storeman will be a hoarder of hormones,
And the salesman a purveyor of pantotheine.

On old N.B.A. members we could give some a
trial,
Just to stave off their last ride in the hearse,
Though for some that I know for many years now
I've been planning just the reverse."

—Box-Hive Bertie.

PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

The final afternoon session of Conference was devoted to an address by Mr T. Palmer-Jones, Research Officer at Wallaceville, and a Demonstration by Mr C. R. Paterson, Apiculturist at Hamilton.

Mr Palmer-Jones described with the aid of colour slides experiments conducted in Canterbury with the new systemic insecticide Metasystox. In these experiments Metasystox was applied from the air to 11 acres of chou moellier in flower, at a rate estimated to be 16 fl. oz. of Metasystox per acre. The spray was applied in the evening when no bees were flying. Before the application it was established that bees from a nearby experimental apiary were collecting nectar and pollen extensively from the crop.

The Metasystox spray killed virtually all field bees within two days. It was shown that nectar in the chou moellier flowers was toxic to bees for five days after spraying. Bees appeared unable to collect pollen from the crop after spraying.

It was considered that all bumble bees visiting the crop were killed.

The experiments showed that *Metasystox* should on no account be applied to plants with flowers attractive to bees. Such plants should be sprayed at least a fortnight before they flower.

Perhaps the main lesson to be learned from this investigation is the need to test the many new insecticides before they are released in New Zealand for general use.

Mr Paterson's demonstration showed the latest ideas on handling and the most stubborn of all the practical loading hives and equipment—one of problems facing the beekeeper—and delegates were able to take home some new thoughts on this matter. In particular, an effective truck-loading device, demonstrated by courtesy of H. Denton and Co., of Auckland, appealed as likely to take some of the really hard work out of beekeeping, and those present gave the keenest interest to the display.

JOTTINGS FROM HAMILTON

Delegates learned with regret of the illness of Miss Shepherd, of Rangiora, a long-standing and respected member of the Association. A bouquet of flowers was sent to her with the greetings and good wishes of all at Conference.

* * *

The emblem of the college being built near Hamilton by the Latter Day Saints is a skep, complete with bees, and the motto, "Thrifty and Industrious". The co-educational college will take 600 students, of whom 450 will be boarders.

The project at Hamilton is to be the headquarters of the movement for the South Pacific area. Sited on an area of about 1400 acres, its central feature is the temple, placed in a commanding position, and now nearing completion.

Conference visitors were impressed by the courteous and attentive welcome they received at the centre, and by the sincerity confidence and gen-

eral demeanour of those engaged on the project.

* * *

Afternoon tea at the home of Mr and Mrs John Jay was a welcome interlude for those who took the all-day trip to Wairakei as guests of the South Auckland Branch. John runs a large and successful outfit on the newly developed farmlands at Reporoa.

This trip showed us a country that is really tugging at the reins. The vast pine forests now being harvested at Tokoroa and Murupara, the fifth power station rising on the Waikato at Atiamuri, the inferno of steam roaring from the bores at Wairakei, the wilderness melting away into pastures at an astonishing rate. And the river itself, at first charging impetuously over the Huka Falls and later flowing sleepily through Hamilton, tired out but happy, after a job well done.

* * *

Mr W. B. Bray: Mr Chairman, as mover of the motion I think I have the right of reply.

Chairman: But there have been no objections to reply to!

Mr Bray: Well . . . er . . . I kept some of my ammunition back!

* * *

Mr P. Berry: We aren't so important as we sometimes think we are. On consulting the Year Book I find that our industry is smaller than the crayfishing industry—a somewhat humiliating position!

President: I declare the Conference to be now in committee. (Uneasy pause.) Will somebody please remind me later to come out of committee!

Interjector: A point of order, Mr Chairman. He's not speaking to the motion.

Speaker: It's all right. I'm going to sit down in a minute.

Mr Bray (eloquently): We've been ditched. We've been thrown to the wolves. And now we're being saddled with an £80,000 outfit!

On the day prior to the opening of Conference members of the Executive were invited to the Rotary Club luncheon in Hamilton, and President J. W. Fraser was the speaker for the occasion. Rotarian Dudley Lorimer was in the chair, and Jack spoke easily on the topic of bees and beekeeping, and the meeting generally was a most friendly and enjoyable event.

A trip to the famous glow-worm caves at Waitomo was one of the outings organised by our South Auckland hosts. This proved very popular with those who made up the party, providing an opportunity to see one of New Zealand's most widely known attractions.

The South Auckland Branch entertained the visitors at a social function on the Wednesday evening. A film from the Superior Honey Company showed how they do it in America, and they do it very well. A man with a mike then startled the audience with a series of realistic noises—veering all the way from an air raid to a farmyard scene—so realistic, in fact, that any ordinary duck or any Waikato bull would have envied this man's vocabulary!

Mr E. W. Sage then presented a series of attractive colour slides, with interesting comments, illustrating his recent trip to Britain and the Continent, and the evening concluded with supper and a social hour.

Hamilton was certainly a great show, and the hospitality something to remember. But the hospitality didn't all come from the Waikato. Time 1 a.m. A supper party. Guests assembled from Kaitiaki to Invercargill. Menu—muttonbirds and oysters from Southland and meat from the West Coast. And ginger ale.

Yes, a time to remember.

"GLEANS IN BEE CULTURE"

A 64-page monthly Bee Magazine, generously illustrated, featuring timely articles on beekeeping practices in the U.S. Rates: One year, \$2.50; two years, \$4.50; three years, \$6.50. Sample copy on request.—The A. I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio.

GADGETS AND IDEAS

Steam Supply

Writing in "The Scottish Beekeeper," C. L. Bruce quotes the experience of a small beekeeper who finds that his wife's pressure cooker provides an excellent supply of steam for his uncapping knife. The steam vent pipe of the cooker is joined to the knife blade by a length of rubber tubing while another length of tubing runs from the blade to a tin or pail to catch any water that drips from the tubing.

Roller Painting

Walter Fliedner, commercial beekeeper, of Riverton, Wyo., says that he and others of his neighbourhood paint their supers and other equipment with rollers; a big improvement and time saver over the brush.—(Colorado Bee Notes.)

Smore Fuel

Take's the wife's wash tub and dump water two inches into the tub. Dump 4 oz. saltpeter into the water. Grab an armful of newspapers, and throw down by the tub. Chuck the paper sheet by sheet into the water and keep moving it around with the wife's mop stick. Keep going until the water is all soaked up.

Then squeeze the paper into balls and spread the balls in the sun. When dry better put the balls into something like a 10 gallon milk can for safety sake, as a spark will light it. A smoker can be jammed full of this stuff and never goes out and does not tar, or gum up the smoker. Good Smoke.

—Roscoe Alderman in American Bee Journal.

Warming and Drying Honey

The following tip for hobbyist beekeepers is contained in an article by G. F. Townsend and A. Adie in "Gleanings in Bee Culture," June, 1957.

"All honey should be less than 17.8 per cent moisture before it is extracted. This is necessary in order to avoid fermentation and to meet the requirements of a No. 1 honey. It is also advisable to warm the honey in the comb to help with the extracting of the honey from the combs. Both these requirements can be met with the aid of a good

vacuum cleaner. Cut a hole in a super large enough to permit the entry of the vacuum hose. Above this super stack seven or eight supers of honey and turn on the vacuum so that it will force air upwards through the sugars. The vacuum cleaner will force a large volume of warm dry air through the combs, removing as much as 1 to 2 per cent. moisture overnight."

BEEKEEPING IN WEST GERMANY

Beekeeping in West Germany

West Germany beekeepers are hoping that the abundant blossom produced by this year's unusually early and mild spring may help to improve their prospects of remaining in business. About 10,000 beekeepers, some ten per cent. of the total, last year

gave up the unequal struggle to obtain a reasonable yield from their swarms.

Experts say that intensive farm cultivation, removing the source of much pollen and nectar, is one of the main reasons for a smaller yield of honey. The use by fruit and flower growers of chemical preparations, some of which are poisonous to bees as well as to insect pests, is also playing a part.

In addition, indifferent weather during the past four years here has produced less nectar and pollen than usual, and many bees have died as a result of an insect disease, nosema.

In the four years ending last December, the number of swarms of honey bees in West Germany fell by about 400,000 to 1,227,000, a drop of about 25 per cent. Experts fear that the decrease will continue, though good weather this year could help to stop it.—(Reuter.)

* * *

PACKAGE BEES

Packages with young Italian Queen from disease-free apiaries can be supplied from late September onwards.

Replace winter losses, or start new colonies.

Approximate build up time 10 weeks.

Orders forwarded air freight and advised.

PLACE ORDERS NOW FOR 1957 SEASON

Prices	3 lb. pkgs.	2 lb. pkgs.
Up to 24	32/- each	29/- each
Up to 100	31/- each	28/- each
Over 100	30/- each	27/- each

Weight of four 3 lb. packages crated approx. 28 lb.

Queenless packages less 6/-

For further particulars write ...

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A PLANT FOR TREATING HONEY BY THE VACUUM PROCESS

(By D. Roberts, Apiary Instructor,
Auckland)

Plant nectars, which honey bees collect for conversion to honey contain water in amounts varying from 35% upwards, depending upon the plant source from which the nectar was gathered and the degree of relative humidity existing at the time. During the conversion of the nectar into honey, the bees, by evaporation and manipulation usually reduce the water content to 17.2% or less. In normal circumstances this is always achieved, but in conditions of abnormally high rainfall or relative humidity they may be unable to effect a reduction to this point. As well as varying percentages of water, plant nectars contain sugar-tolerant plant yeasts. In honey containing not more than 17.2% moisture the high degree of sugar concentration inhibits the further growth of these yeasts. When the water content is above this figure the yeasts may become active causing fermentation and souring. The degree of moisture present in any line of honey is therefore one of the main factors taken into consideration by buyers, and where it exceeds the acceptable standard of 17.2% the price offered is reduced accordingly or the line is refused. In certain areas of New Zealand relative humidity is frequently very high throughout the period of the main honey flow and the bees have difficulty in evaporating the excess moisture. Beekeepers in these areas may thus suffer considerable financial loss as a big proportion of their crop may have only a very reduced market value.

The successful development in 1954 by C. R. Paterson and T. Palmer-Jones, of the Department of Agriculture, of a continuous vacuum process designed to remove excess moisture from honey has provided a means whereby beekeepers can economically maintain their honey at the required standard despite the influence of unfavourable weather.

Messrs Gauthern, of Citrus Apiaries, Kerikeri, after becoming established in the Bay of Islands area,

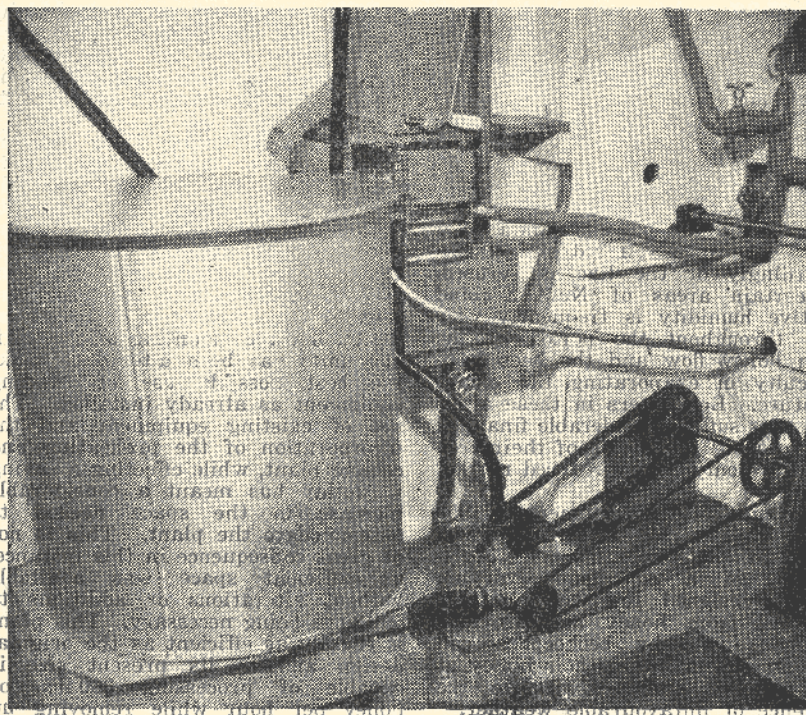
found that in some years part of their honey crop was likely to contain excess moisture. Because they aimed at maintaining a very high standard of quality in their pack a considerable loss was experienced periodically when much of this low gravity honey was harvested. On learning of the development of the vacuum process they decided to incorporate the principle in their honey treatment plant. Prior to the establishment of the vacuum plant they had developed and installed equipment which, through a system of rapid heating and cooling, destroyed any plant yeasts present in the honey. While this system removed the immediate risk of fermentation through development of the yeasts it did not remove excess moisture and the risk of subsequent contamination by air-borne yeasts remained. The vacuum plant as originally designed by Paterson and Palmer-Jones is compact and contains all the necessary equipment such as cylinder, condenser motor and drive in one neat framework which takes only a little space and could readily be adapted to fit in most extracting rooms without extensive additions to the room.

When constructing their vacuum plant Messrs Gauthern decided to depart from the type of assembly used originally and to incorporate within the design the preheating and cooling plant used by them previously. The vacuum cylinder, condenser, vacuum tank, pulsator and releaser are similar to the original design but the mounting of the various units has been altered to make the best possible use of existing equipment as already installed. The use of existing equipment and the incorporation of the preheating and cooling plant, while effecting a saving in outlay has meant a considerable increase in the space needed to accommodate the plant. This is not of great consequence in this instance, as sufficient space was available without alterations or additions to buildings being necessary. This plant is equally as efficient as the original design and in its present size is capable of processing 360 lbs. of honey per hour while removing up to 2.5% of moisture. The preheater used has been evolved from a section of a milk-cooling unit. In place of

cooling water, steam at 2-2½ lbs. P.S.I. is fed into the heater and honey is allowed to flow over the corrugations at a rate sufficient to keep the vacuum cylinder continually supplied. This heater is highly efficient, the honey being brought from room temperature to 120 degrees Fah. in only the time it takes to flow across the corrugations of the heater. From the heater the honey is pumped to the vacuum cylinder, whence it passes through the releaser into a sump from which it is directed to the cooling unit. On leaving the cooling unit it is fed into storage tanks in an adjoining room. With this plant the entire process of heating, drying and cooling is continuous and automatic. The plant is operated in conjunction with the extraction process so that a continuous flow of honey from the extractor to the final storage tank can be maintained the whole time

extraction is being done. Thus in the course of only a few minutes the honey, on leaving the extractor is strained, preheated to 120 degrees, excess moisture removed, and cooled to 80 degrees Fah. ready for the addition of starter and subsequent packing.

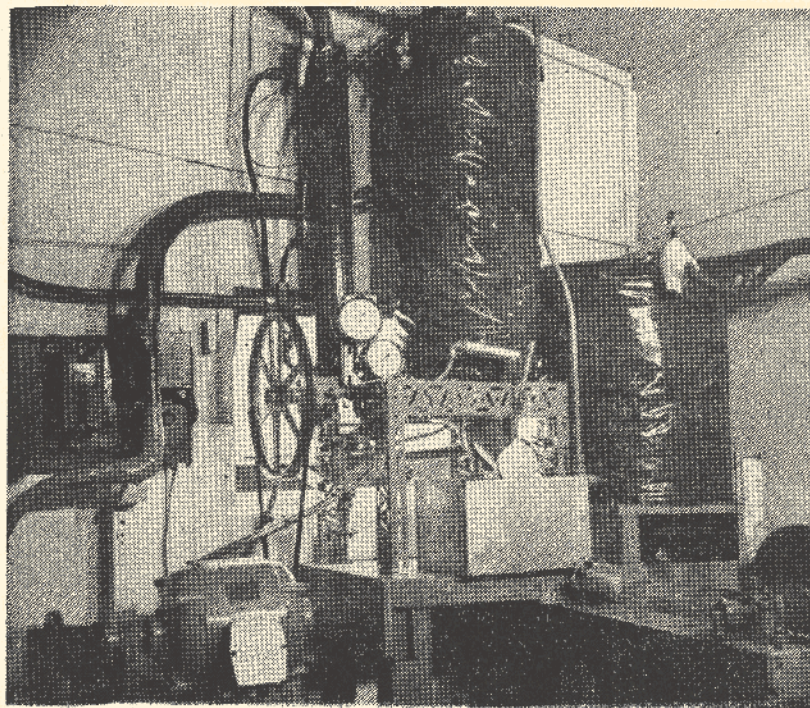
The extracting room is separate from the processing room and the honey is pumped from the extractor and allowed to flow through the strainers to a half-ton tank in the processing room. From this tank the honey is pumped to a reservoir immediately above the heater. This reservoir is simply a 60-lb. honey tin fitted with a honey gate and provided with an overflow back into the half-ton tank. From the reservoir the honey flows down across the heater into a sump whence it is pumped to the vacuum cylinder. The flow across the heater is regulator



PRINT NO. 101 of Curtis
Showing honey tank and preheater with reservoir immediately above, honey pumps and steam leads.

by adjusting the gate on the reservoir. These features, together with the sliding vane type honey pumps, countershaft drives, and steam leads are shown in illustration No. 1. Upon entering the vacuum cylinder the honey is heated further, the temperature on discharge from the releaser ranging from 130 degrees to 135 degrees. On leaving the releaser the honey enters a small sump from which it is fed to the cooling unit. This unit consists of a hollow stainless steel roller 12½ in. long by 12 in. diameter turning in a trough and cooled by a continuous flow of water fed into the interior through a hollow shaft. Water at temperatures prevailing in the local supply was used in the first instance but was generally too warm to provide good cooling. To ensure consistent and efficient cooling it was found neces-

sary to considerably reduce the initial temperature of the cooling water. To this end a header tank of 15 gallons capacity was installed and a cooling coil fitted inside. The coil was then connected to the refrigeration unit used in the cool room. By-pass valves fitted in the refrigeration pipe line allow the refrigerant to be diverted to the cooling water coil whenever desired. In this way the cooling water is maintained at a constant temperature of 34 degrees at the point of input to the roller. Cooling water is not re-circulated, the system being of the constant loss type with the water level in the header tank maintained by a ball valve. The heated honey from the vacuum cylinder is fed to one face of the cooling roller where an attachment spreads it into a thin film. The honey is carried around by



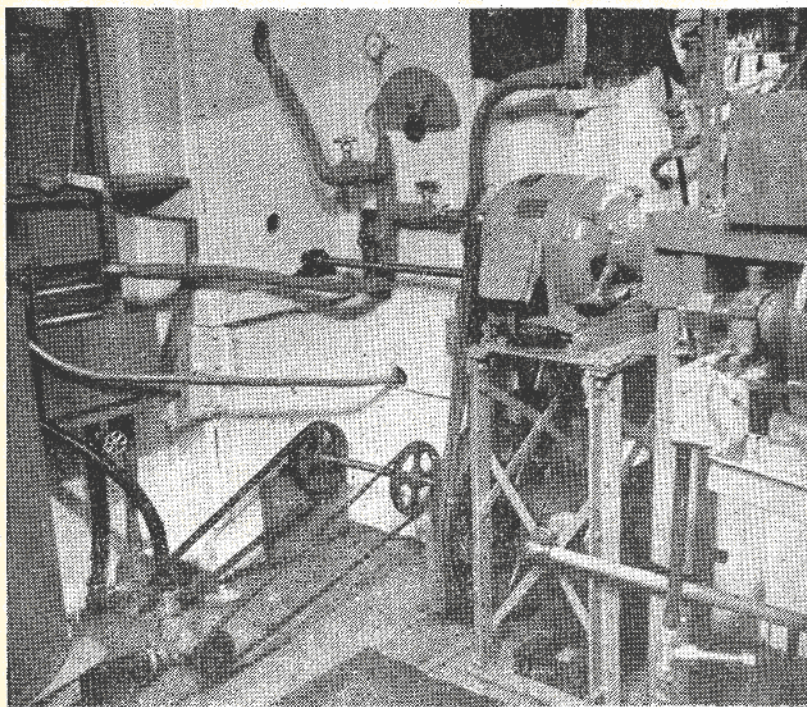
PRINT No. 2

Showing disposition of vacuum cylinder, condenser, releaser, pulsator, steam and vacuum gauges, cool water header tank and portion of cooling roller.

the roller to the opposite side where it is removed by a scraper and directed to the storage tank in the packing room. The cooling roller is driven by an auxiliary drive from the main countershaft at 12 revolutions per minute. The cooling unit is most efficient, the temperature of the honey being reduced from 130-135 degrees F. at which it leaves the releaser to 80 degrees F. during the two and a half seconds taken by the roller to make one half revolution. Capacity of the unit is 400 lbs. per hour at 12 R.P.M.

Illustration No. 2 shows the disposition of the vacuum cylinder, condenser, releaser, pulsator, steam and vacuum gauges, cool water header tank and cooling roller. Header tank and roller are at the extreme right. The vacuum tank is situated beneath the platform supporting the vacuum cylinder and condenser. Steam for

the preheater and heating the vacuum cylinder is supplied by an oil-fired boiler at pressure 2-2½ lbs. P.S.I. Power for the vacuum pump, honey pumps, pulsator, and cooling roller is provided through countershafts by one 2 h.p. electric motor. The oil feed to the boiler is controlled from within the processing room by an articulated rod to which is attached a pointer working on a vernier dial. This can be seen in the upper centre of illustration No. 3 which shows the arrangement of steam leads, pumps and countershaft drives. While the vacuum plant was primarily designed to deal with honeys of high water content Messrs. Gauthern consider that the condition of all honey is improved through treatment with this plant. Accordingly all their production is so treated irrespective of the degree of moisture content. Where the moisture content is at or below



PRINT No. 3

Showing motor vacuum pump, counter shafts, steam leads, vernier dial for controlling oil feed to boiler.

normal levels the vacuum is reduced so that excessive drying does not occur. For a plant of this nature to function satisfactorily some means of easy determination of the moisture content of the honey is essential. Messrs Gauthern find that a small pocket type sugar refractometer is quite satisfactory for the purpose.

No accurate records of the cost of manufacture of the various components have been kept but Messrs Gauthern estimate that apart from their own labour the total cost of manufacture and conversion was approximately £150.

BEE TISSUE STUDIES

(EDITOR'S NOTE. — The following article by Mervin Lynch appeared in the November, 1955 issue of *"Gleanings in Bee Culture."* It throws some new and interesting light on the process of reproduction and sex determination in honeybees).

Hybrid bee breeding presents excellent prospects of increased profits for the commercial beekeeper. Control of the honey yield, temper, and other economic characteristics made possible by bee-genetic studies are the key to these increased profits.

Heredity in corn, chicken, hogs, and other livestock and farm crops has been studied extensively for years, but almost nothing has been done in the study of bee breeding or bee genetics.

In view of this, research work in bee genetics has been recently intensified in a few colleges and experiment stations. At Iowa State College two major lines of bee research are under way. They are:

1. An intensive study of the genetic aspects of gynandromorphic bees.
2. A study of disease resistant strain bees.

The second of these two, a study of disease resistant strain bees, concerns itself with the elimination of such bee diseases as "American Foul-brood."

The first line, a study of gynandromorphic bees, is one which research scientists at Iowa State College hope

will lead to eventual explanations of sex determination and reproductive phenomena in bees.

This research was begun in 1948. Dr. Walter Rothenbuhler, then a member of the undergraduate staff, spotted a bee in a college bee colony that had a male head on a female body. Further examination revealed other abnormal bees. Some had one leg with a pollen basket and the other leg with none. Frequently a male eye appeared on one side and a female on the other side.

Dr. Rothenbuhler was curious about these features. His major professors, Dr. John W. Gowen and Dr. O. W. Park, told him that this was a gynandromorphic bee. A check in the library showed him that gynandromorphs had been known for the past 150 years, but no one had ever been able to explain why or how they had developed.

He learned that three explanations had been submitted in respect to the origin of gynandromorphic tissues. These are: (1) that the male tissue originated from the queen; (2) that the male tissue originated from the drone; and (3) that the male tissue originated from both parents.

(1) The queen-bee origin of the male tissue was proposed by Tt. Boveri in the following manner: One sperm enters the egg in the fertilization process. Something delays it from reaching the egg's nucleus. In bees this nucleus does not need to be fertilised but can develop into a drone by itself. Thus the egg cell might divide into two cells as a start toward the development into a drone. If the sperm then fertilises one of the two egg cells, this union would begin the development of the female or worker tissue. The unfertilised egg cell would continue to develop into the male tissues of the gynandromorph.

(2) T. H. Morgan believed that the male tissue might be originated from the drone. He conceived that two sperms might enter the egg where only one nucleus was present. If one of these sperms fertilised the egg nucleus, the fertilised egg nucleus would develop into the female tissues. The other sperm would degenerate in the case of a normal bee or it might develop into the male tissues

of the gynandromorph.

(3) Morgan later altered his concept while working with T. H. Bridges. The two men proposed that the male tissue might originate from both parents, and explained their theory in this way: Occasionally a chromosome, which is a carrier of hereditary traits, might be lost from an egg cell nucleus that is otherwise normal. This might result in male tissue formation in an otherwise female bee.

Dr. Rotherbuhler examined each one of these proposals experimentally on gynandromorphic strains at the Iowa State College bee farms. He found that the male tissue developed from an accessory sperm, as was the case of the second explanation. This meant that the male tissue originated from the drone.

Biologically this was quite a discovery. Cases of sperm reproduction were extremely rare if they existed at all in biological history. Sperm reproduction had been reported as only possible explanations for the origin of male tissues in pigeons, silkworms, and flies, previous to this time.

His evidence had to be thorough and here's how he gathered it. His first job was to show that one of the three hypothesis was the correct one. He set up a mating between a gynandromorph producing queen with ivory eyes and a drone with chartreuse eyes.

Under the first proposal offspring would be expected to have black female eyes and ivory male eyes; the female part would have inherited characteristics of both parents whereas the male parts would have inherited characteristics of only the mother.

The offspring under the second proposal would have black female and chartreuse male eyes; that is the male parts would have the characteristics of both parents.

Under the third proposal the gynandromorphic offspring would have all black eyes; that is both male and female parts would have inherited characteristics from both parents.

Among 5,000 worker progeny born in the test at Iowa State College, 350 gynandromorphs were produced. Worker facets in the eyes of the

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gynandromorphs were black indicating that they arose from both parents. The male eyes of the gynandromorphs were chartreuse, which indicated that the male tissues all originated from a sperm produced by a drone bee.

In support of this conclusion Dr. Rotherbuhler not only showed that the male tissue looked like the drone, in later tests he showed that it breeds like the drone. He also showed that when two genetically different males are mated with one queen which then has two kinds of worker offspring, the queen produces all four expected kinds of gynandromorphs in expected numbers.

Now it may be thought that gynandromorphs are hard to find. Dr. Rotherbuhler found less than one per cent. in college colonies when he began his experiments. Since that time he has developed a strain of bees that has produced as many as 15-30 per cent. gynandromorphs; in fact one queen produced 49 per cent. offspring that were gynandromorphs.

Much more work is needed before any great number of the factors of bee genetics and bee breeding are known; but, the gynandromorph promises to be a hand tool in these investigations.

Reflections

... from the Editor's Desk

Royal Jelly

Up to the present we have no authoritative confirmation of any medicinal value in royal Jelly, but there seems to be a world-wide interest in preparations derived from this substance. "The Australasian Beekeeper" of June, 1957, publishes inquiries from the Australian and United States manufacturers who require royal jelly in 100 oz. lots. It appears that it is being offered for sale in several countries in various forms and is being credited with phenomenal curative and restorative powers.

Royal jelly plays such an important part in the honeybee society that it would not be surprising if it had unusual medicinal qualities. But so far its chemical composition is obscure and it is doubtful whether its vital properties persist after a few weeks of storage, so in the meantime its indiscriminate use should not be encouraged. The distribution, at this stage, of vague concoctions possessing supposed miraculous power derived from royal jelly could lead to severe disappointment or injury and might well bring the beekeeping industry into disrepute.

Sun Navigation of Bees

Commercial beekeepers usually have little to say about Professor von Frisch's interpretation of the honeybee dances; evidently it has only a limited significance for them, or perhaps they have some doubts about its validity.

According to von Frisch, the bees perform directional dances within the hive and show the way to a source of honey by reference to the sun's position. Even after an interval of time, during which the direction of the sun has changed considerably, they can "allow" for the sun's movement, both in their flight and in their dances within the hive.

What happens when bees are moved from the northern to the southern hemisphere where they find that the sun takes an apparently opposite direction of travel, i.e., anti-clockwise instead of clockwise? Recently this question was investigated in a series of experiments which are discussed by H. Kalmus in "Bee World" of February, 1957. It was found that the navigation sense of the bees is upset by the change (i.e. they allow for a movement of the sun in the wrong direction), but with the passing of time it becomes adapted to the new environment. How long this process of adjustment takes is not clear, but the author suggests that it is brought about by an evolutionary change rather than by a change in the individual bee as a result of its own experience.

It might be argued that bees recently imported to southern climes from the northern hemisphere are as successful in foraging as the old-established strains; but this does not

disprove the above finding, says Kalmus. It merely indicates that the role of sun navigation in the foraging of workers is not an important one.

Advertising

A programme of honey advertising starts off with the advantage that our commodity is a genuine product. It is nutritious, good to eat, and a natural food. Consequently it requires no high pressure salesmanship but only a quiet publicity scheme to keep it before the consumer. In fact, the occasional opportunities for educational work, if properly taken, are probably of more value than direct advertising of the more obvious type.

The qualities of honey were aired rather effectively at the popular request session from 4YA recently. It was a wintry night, with snow falling softly outside, and the announcer had the beginnings of a bad cold. Early in the session a listener calling herself "Ex-Nurse" phoned in a sure remedy for colds and influenza and the announcer repeated it two or three times during the evening as a topical item for his informal patter. Two crushed aspirins mixed into a tablespoon of honey—as simple as that. "Take the bixture with alacrity," said the announcer cheerfully. "If you dote have eddy alacrity—well, just eat it raw!"

Weather Forecast

According to the "British Bee Journal" of March 30, 1957, the long-range weather forecasters predicted that this season would bring to Britain the hottest summer for many years, and that in future there would be a gradual change to warmer and drier summers. Since that date we have read of pronounced heat waves in many parts of Europe, so the prediction for this year has come true, in part at least.

This gives New Zealand weather prophets something to work on in forecasting the nature of the coming honey season. But most beekeepers probably have enough experience of our fickle climate to take the forecasts with a grain of salt, whatever they are. Our recommendation is to be prepared, as the boy scouts have it, and make the best of whatever comes.

ITALIAN QUEENS 1957-58

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CORRESPONDENCE

Darfield, 12/7/57.

The Editor, "N.Z. Beekeeper"

Dear Sir,—As a retiring member of the Honey Marketing Authority, I wish to offer myself for re-election. During my two years of office I have endeavoured to obtain the maximum information as to the overall operations of the Authority with a view to passing on this knowledge to honey producers, and also in a sincere endeavour to play my part in overcoming the problems which from time to time have arisen.

As an active beekeeper I have found my duties no easy task, and I see no immediate solution to the chief concern of suppliers, namely, How can the payout be substantially increased? When it is realised that an increase of 1d per lb. to suppliers on an intake of 1500 tons of honey would require approximately £15,000 additional revenue, it will be quickly recognised that only a corresponding increase in overseas prices or a marked rise in the volume of local sales could achieve this desirable goal.

The Authority continually reviews its cost structure, and where economies can be made they are made immediately.

Cheese-paring can only lead to less effective service, and the savings made by such practices would be so small as to be incalculable in terms of fractions of a penny per lb. in payout.

From my close observations and investigations I have formulated the following opinions:—

1. The Authority must establish an efficient melting and packing plant when it occupies its new building. The wide variety of colours, flavours and condition of honeys received makes a considerable amount of blending necessary if all lines are to be sold to the best possible advantage. It is logical to pack a good proportion of this honey once it has been satisfactorily blended and conditioned.

2. The Authority must not only take surplus and difficult honeys into store. It must sell them on the best possible market. Strong competition exists on the overseas market and

prices tend to fall. Shipping and handling charges continue to rise. Many lines can still be placed advantageously there, especially darker grades which are difficult to dispose of in New Zealand, but figures taken out by our manager recently show conclusively that the local market, particularly in or near Auckland, shows the best returns. Our population is increasing by 50,000 annually, and it seems likely that within a few years all the good table honey produced here will be consumed by New Zealanders. A modest sum spent annually through approved channels on advertising honey generally is, in my opinion, a sound investment.

3. Honey packers are rendering an excellent service to both the buying public and bulk honey producers. The Authority's policy in marketing should always recognise this fact, but its duty to suppliers must also be recognised, and it is not unfair that it should compete with packers on the local market on equal terms of quality, price and service to the trade. High and ever increasing freight charges will largely confine its operations to territory closest to the packing depot.

4. Honey from depots distant from Auckland should, where possible, be made available to packers at prices which will show them a workable margin of profit. The day is long past where honey can be moved about the country, except for the most urgent reasons.

6. The high cost of tins and cases is an irksome burden on suppliers. Their use is continued because no better alternative has yet been found. Also because this type of packaging provides a selling point in England and elsewhere, by reason of the fact that cases there are at a premium and can be used or disposed of to the advantage of the buyer.

The more honey we pack and sell locally the more tins and cases could be returned to suppliers in the North Island, especially to those who pay high freight charges to the depot. Return empties rail cheaply.

The new melting plant must, if possible, obviate the necessity to purchase tins in order to release the honey, thus allowing the tins to be used many times.

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The new building when completed will be a tremendous asset to the Authority and to the industry generally. Much of the physical difficulty of handling large quantities of cased honey will be removed. Some economies will result.

The new conditioning and packing plant must incorporate facilities for an improved pack of softer texture. Spreadability sells honey today.

7. I approve the appointment of a selling agent in Auckland. Selling on a competitive market is a specialist's business.

8. The issue of price indexes from time to time should be the duty of the Honey Marketing Authority.

The recent price index issued by the National Beekeepers' Association was a highly commendable effort. It should be noted, however, that the only prices on that index which have been strictly adhered to by the trade throughout the Dominion are the wholesale prices which, after consultation with the Wholesalers' and Re-

tailers' Associations were recommended by the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority.

9. I support Mr E. A. Field as Chairman of the Authority.

Assisted by the recently adopted standing rules of procedure, his leadership and executive ability are, in my opinion, of paramount importance to the Honey Marketing Authority at the present time.

Yours faithfully,
T. E. PEARSON.

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To the Editor, "The N.Z. Beekeeper."

Sir,—Letters under a non-de-plume invariably come from those who endeavour to disparage the efforts of others, and by sheltering under the cloak of anonymity their identity escapes publication in a retaliatory reply. "Time for a Change" seems to be in this category.

In my letter of a previous issue, to which your correspondent refers, I did not make the ridiculous assertion that the removal of price control in itself would result in improved returns to the producer. Every primary industry knows from experience that without organised marketing there would be no possibility of a payable price to producers. This is particularly applicable to the Honey Industry where we have anything up to 2,000 tons over our local market present intake.

It surely is of some significance that in spite of the fact that price control was removed at the most unfavourable period of the season for the industry, organised effort actually lifted the local price to the beekeeper 10 per cent. practically overnight.

Does your correspondent seriously suggest that producer representatives on the H.M.A. should have calmly remained indifferent to an enforceable price order decree that consistently refused to allow for the recovery of tins, cases and freight to the H.M.A. depots from suppliers? This issue is still before us, but at least we have removed one stumbling block to its solution.

I fail to see how my Auckland address places me out of touch with the beekeepers in view of the fact that about half the production of the Dominion comes from the Auckland province, and I think it would be readily conceded by my colleagues that my residing in this city has operated to the advantage of the Authority.

In the course of my thirty-three years in the industry I have not missed more than seven or possibly eight meetings of the Hamilton meetings of N.B.A., and I was overseas during four of these meetings. Furthermore, I believe that since coming on to this Authority I have addressed as great a number of meetings throughout the country as any man

in the industry.

If I am "out of touch" with the beekeepers (as your correspondent asserts) I would like to be informed what more one is expected to do to be "in touch" with them.

However, should the beekeepers in the area of your correspondent feel that I have neglected them and will advise me accordingly I will cheerfully visit their district at my own expense and regardless of the distance it may be from Auckland.

Yours, etc.,

WALLACE NELSON.

July 15th, 1957.

Sir,—You have not yet published a reply to that part of my letter, appearing in the May issue, which referred to Mr Nelson, and the evidence he gave in the February issue of being completely out of touch with events regarding de-control of honey prices, when he said, "it is clear" and "it would appear" that efforts to have price control abolished have failed, at a time when to others, apparently better informed, de-control was imminent. I suggested that Mr Nelson had, belatedly, realised that the abolition of price control, in itself, would not enable the H.M.A. to increase the pay-out to suppliers.

The gaining of a free market has often been associated with stepped-up sales from the Authority through the appointment of an agent. The agent has been appointed, and what is the result? Local sales of the H.M.A. packs seem to have reached an all time low.

Sir, the retiring representatives have been announced, and I am still of the opinion that it is—

TIME FOR A CHANGE.

25 Carlton St., Te Awamutu.

Sir,—As a nominee for election to the Honey Marketing Authority, I should like to state my position and views to your readers.

I am the owner of 300 registered hives of bees and have a £9,000 investment in a bulk supply outfit, and am a packer of approximately 50 tons of honey per annum.

The following are some of the measures I shall try to implement if elected:—

1. To reduce the overhead expenses of the Authority to the minimum consistent with a maximum of efficiency. In this connection I advocate a reduction in remuneration of Authority members by £100 per annum as I consider that, in view of the small number of meetings now held, that the present scale is unwarranted.

2. To install initially a packing plant sufficient to pack efficiently up to 400 tons of honey per annum rather than commence with one capable of handling 1,000 tons, which may never be required.

3. To pay to suppliers of all grades of honey the nett value to the Authority, backed by figures, so that all suppliers will know the true value of their honeys and that they will not be subsidising suppliers of other grades.

Note: These figures have never been made available to suppliers.

4. To pack one or more darker packs than the present Imperial Bee 95 colour. All packs to be sold at the same price and a considerable proportion of the amount spent on advertising the Authority's brands to

be devoted to the darker packs.

5. To cream all packs put out by the Authority.

Note: Enquiries from merchants and retailers support the view that the falling off in sales of Imperial Bee honey is mainly attributable to its lack of spreadability.

6. During my term of office, if elected, I pledge myself to resist any attempt to increase the seal levy.

7. If the overseas price of honey falls still further, to draw on the reserve fund for an extensive advertising campaign throughout New Zealand.

In conclusion, I feel that my service on the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association has enabled me to appreciate the problems of all beekeepers from all parts of the Dominion, and producers can be assured that I shall not be influenced by sectional interests but will support those measures that will, in my opinion, be of benefit to the whole. I am in Auckland at least twice every month and think it advantageous to suppliers to have a member of the Authority able to keep in close touch with the manager, staff and packing operations.

Yours faithfully,

E. D. WILLIAMS.

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BEEKEEPING IN CANADA

The honey-producing industry in Canada is far ahead of its New Zealand counterpart in many respects, says Mr G. F. Toogood, of Gore, recently returned from the northern Dominion.

Mr Toogood, a well-known district

apiarist before leaving for Canada, where he spent just on three years, left New Zealand at the behest of the Peace River Honey Company at Dawson Creek, British Columbia.

The company by which Mr Toogood was employed is the biggest honey-producing concern in British Columbia, putting out 2000 hives of bees in the fields, which contain an

abundance of flora. This consists mainly of mixed clovers, and includes lucerne, or, as the Canadians know it, alfalfa.

The hives are put out between April 20 and May 6. At this time the weather is settled, the days are fine and warm, contrasting with New Zealand spring conditions which are frequently unsettled. In the British Columbian north country, under the influence of calm, settled weather, the hives are built up quickly with honey gathered from thousands of acres of dandelions. From about the middle of June the clovers are coming in, and the bees are in full production in July, August and September.

British Columbian beekeepers are blessed with very heavy yields. Two thousand hives put out in 1956 by the company for which Mr Toogood was working produced 175 tons of honey, and in one yard 15 tons were extracted from 100 hives, in which the honey was gathered from lucerne. Mr Toogood considered that in New Zealand 100 hives would produce on an average four to five tons.

The Dawson Creek company, Mr Toogood went on, had a heated extracting room which measured about 40ft by 30ft. The honey was handled by three 50-frame extractors, operated by a staff of four girls. Canning was done by a man in a room below.

All the honey was packed in 70lb drums, and shipped to Edmonton, Alberta. The drums could be returned to the company to be filled again.

16 Cents a lb.

The average price received by the producer for bulk honey was 16 cents a pound, said Mr Toogood, who added that the New Zealand pound rate was worth two dollars 70 cents in Canadian currency. Freight, he said, was paid by the purchaser, which, in the case of the Peace River company, was an Alberta concern which bought millions of pounds' weight.

All Canadian honey was sold on the home market, said Mr Toogood, and it was necessary to import a great deal to meet consumption demands.

Beekeeping, he pointed out, was one of the most profitable of Can-

ada's primary industries, and it paid handsome dividends for a farmer who undertook honey production as a sideline. Mr Toogood said farmers warmly welcomed the operations of apiarists, so alive were they to the importance of the honey bee to the pollination of clovers. He instanced a case in which up to 900lbs of seed to the acre had been harvested where hives had been established.

The last of the honey had been brought in by the end of October, said Mr Toogood, and gas was released in the hives to destroy the bees. Destruction was carried out because it was more economical to buy bees from United States breeders than to winter the hives. Bees in 2lb packages were purchased from Californian producers, Mr Toogood mentioned.

Dawson Creek, which had a population of 300 at the outbreak of the Second World War, to-day is a thriving town of 10,000 inhabitants. Mr Toogood expects that it will become a city in 1958. Dawson Creek is the starting point of the famed Alaska highway, which stretches for a distance of 1500 miles. Though it has a gravel surface, the highway is a fine one, and it is kept in very good repair in both winter and summer. It carries a heavy volume of tourist traffic from the United States, and freight haulers travel over it day and night.

Winters Not Bad

Mr Toogood said the summer in the north land of British Columbia was very hot and the days were long. The spring was good, and the winters on the average were not bad. By Canadian standards they were generally mild. However, last winter was the toughest known in the Peace River area. On one occasion the thermometer dropped to 55 degrees below zero for a frost recording of 87 degrees.

There was very little rain in the north country of the province, and in winter the ground froze 9ft to 11ft deep. Moisture from the thaw watered the crops.

At Dawson Creek water and sewerage mains were laid to a depth of 11ft to prevent freezing.

Mr Toogood, who has thoughts of returning to Canada, said the shops

were crammed with goods. Food was beautifully packaged, and clothing of all descriptions was of an excellent standard. The cost of living was much the same as that in New Zealand. "Some things are cheaper and some are dearer," he pointed out.

In Mr Toogood's estimation, the Canadian farmer works harder than his counterpart in New Zealand. In a relatively short season, he toils day and night preparing the ground for the sowing of grain, and then again at harvest time.

—*"Mataura Ensign."*

HANDLING QUEENS

I won't venture to say how many queens I have caught in the course of years working bees. The first thing I learned was NEVER pick a queen up by the body. Some people just can't handle queens safely. It is a precision job, and the good queen cager must have a light, delicate touch, yet firm enough to hold the queen securely.

Here's how I was taught and have done it for years. First know which hand you want to hold the scissors in, right hand for most people; catch the queen by the wings with that hand, then place her on your opposite thumb; she will take hold with all six feet, then place a finger on each side of the queen, holding three legs with each finger, then release the wings with the right hand and clip off part of a wing on whichever side has been agreed upon. Some breeders clip the left side one year and the right side the next year. Drop the scissors. I have them tied on with a long cord. Paint her while you have her, count 25 slowly, while she dries off, and she is ready to cage or put into a hive.

A queen usually won't stick her wings up like workers do, so put your middle finger in front of her, and bring each of your next fingers up, one on each side with a gentle stroke and raise the wings. Better practice on drones first, then you'll soon catch on and be surprised how easy it is to catch, clip, paint, and cage queens in that order.

—C. W. Lindsey, in "Gleanings."

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

By B. L. Morehouse

It is an established fact that for each colony only one queen is tolerated. That's a law of the hive—with temporary exceptions!

Here's my story—and please believe it, because it is true. Back in the '30's, one August day, I was going through a brood nest and discovered two queens in the same brood box, one clipped right wing and the other left, indicating a last year's queen and a present year's queen. I called my brother to see, because it is not too uncommon to find a mother and daughter laying in the same box for a short time. Then, to our surprise we saw a third unclipped laying queen on the same frames!

Were we excited! We could hardly leave the find. We just wanted to look at those three queens going separately about their appointed tasks. But, of course, we did close the hive without separating the queens, as we really did not have the heart to disrupt such a happy family. Eventually there was only one queen in the hive.

This is the only incident of the kind in my 30 years of beekeeping, and it was so uncommon I could not forget it.

(The late George S. Demuth, former editor of *Gleanings*, and a beekeeper for 50 years, once found three queens in a colony, grandmother, daughter, and granddaughter. Possibly some of our readers have had a similar experience. It seems probable that there are more two-queen colonies than beekeepers suspect, but three queen colonies may be very rare.—Editor)

—From "Gleanings."

Honey Nuggets

Four ounces butter, 4 oz. honey, 1 dessertspoon sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vinegar, 1 egg, 6 oz. flour, 1 oz. best cornflour, 1 cake dark chocolate, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 oz. cashew (or other) nuts, vanilla essence to taste. Cream butter, sugar and honey very well. Add vinegar, beat in egg, add flour and cornflour, baking powder. Lastly add the nuts and the chocolate cut small. Put spoonfuls on greased tray. Bake in moderate oven.



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"THE N.Z. BEEKEEPER"

This Journal is issued free to all beekeepers in New Zealand having 30 or more registered hives, and to others who are members of the National Beekeepers' Association.

Literary contributions and advertisements must be in the hands of the Editor, Mr J. McFadzien, 29 Nottingham Crescent, Calton Hill, Dunedin, S.W.I., not later than the first of month of publication.

Nom-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.

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