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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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EDITORIALS

HONEY MARKETING—1950.

The 1950 Conference, confronted by the rather negative results of a decade of "organised" marketing and meeting in an atmosphere of frustration caused by divergent opinions which have become almost legendary, stirred itself into a united effort after hearing the forthright address of the Minister of Marketing, the Hon. K. J. Holyoake. Turning its attention to the future instead of the stormy past, and setting aside for an hour or two the distractions of the remit paper, the Conference started with a clean sheet and set down its specifications for a marketing structure to serve the honey industry in New Zealand.

The plan, which follows the general trend of the recent negotiations between the Executive and the Minister of Marketing, is stated in the form of five resolutions, and is notable for two reasons. In the first place it provides, in one statement, the fundamental points of a complete, logical and equitable scheme. In the second place it was approved, in every detail, by a decisive majority.

The most significant part of the plan is the request that the franchise for the Honey Marketing Committee should include both suppliers of honey and contributors to the seal fund on an equal basis, ton for ton. The adoption of such a franchise will make no great difference in the actual distribution of votes, but it will mean that every producer who is embraced by the regulations becomes a shareholder with a direct interest in the concern, instead of being merely an unwilling contributor. And that means a very great deal because the system cannot hope to function unless it is based upon good will and co-operation. It is worthy of note that after deciding in favour of a broad franchise the Conference itself immediately made a gesture of confidence by requesting that reserve funds and current seals revenue should be administered at the discretion of the Marketing Committee rather than be tied up for any one specific purpose.

Although the industry has thus made a distinct forward step, it must not be assumed that nothing remains to be done. The scheme which has been laid down is one which will work, but it will not work automatically. The marketing authority must merit the confidence of producers by giving a frank account of the marketing position from time to time and by supplying reasonable information concerning the state of the pool and reserve accounts. It must also endeavour to iron out some of the difficulties which impede the marketing system. For example, it is important to devise a system of grading and payment which will encourage the supply to the Department of the finest quality honey. Again, it is only fair and reasonable to search for a levy system which will eliminate the tedious and exasperating work of applying seals to containers.


The producer also has some responsibility. He must be conscientious in marketing his honey and he must be honest in observing the regulations. Above all, he should take a lively and practical interest in the work of the Honey Marketing Committee, the body which exists to serve his interests in the sphere of organised marketing.

No doubt the coming decade will bring many problems. Assuming that the Conference recommendations are accepted, we will now have the equipment to deal with those problems and if producers are willing to pull together they should go into the future with every confidence.

THE DOMINION PRESIDENT.

Mr. E. A. Field brought to a close a term of eleven years as Dominion President when he decided not to offer himself for re-election at the Wellington Conference. This record of service, which is without parallel in the history of the Association, is the more meritorious because it covered a period of unusual difficulties. The upheaval caused by World War II. was in itself a severe test for the unity of a growing industry but Mr. Field handled the situation at all times in an able manner. In the midst of some widely dissenting schools of thought he worked hard to keep alive the nucleus of a coherent marketing system, and the dignity and perseverance which attended his efforts have contributed to the present strength and prestige of the Association. Mr. Field's experience and his firm grasp of current problems will in future be of great value to the General Executive and the Association generally, and if producers can stand together to preserve the welfare and the status of the industry it will be the finest tribute that can be paid to his example in leadership.

The new Dominion President, Mr. E. D. Williams, has been associated with the beekeeping industry over a long period and has served on the Executive almost continuously since 1942, being Vice-President during the last three years. His broadminded and realistic approach to the problems of the industry are well known, and his election as the successor to Mr. Field was warmly received by the Conference.



NOTICE BOARD

MARKETING COMMITTEE

An election of one producers' representative on the Honey Marketing Committee is to take place during September. The retiring member is Mr. W. W. Nelson. Full particulars of the election procedure have been supplied to Branch Secretaries.

HIVE MATS

Cloth for hive mats is available in lengths of 70 yards by a width of 20 inches, the price being 1/3 per running yard, nett, f.o.r., Foxton.

For an extra charge of 7/6 per roll, the cloth will be cut into any lengths desired.

Orders for quantities of not less than 1 roll, accompanied by cash, should be sent to the General Secretary, P.O. Box 19, Foxton.

PERSONAL

Mr. W. B. Bray, for many years a leading figure in the honey industry, has recently purchased a property near Auckland where he intends to taken up queen rearing. The apary business at Leeston will be carried on by Mr. Bray's son Jasper.

Next to having a great aim is to recognise the psychological moment to pull the trigger. Many beekeepers are gifted with the great aim and the proper time to pull the trigger in getting their colony strength at the right time, but the weatherman changed his plans. Or the farmer cuts the fields of clover just as the nectar flow starts. Most beekeepers get only one shot a year and a miss is quite unfortunate.

—W. A. Coulter in Gleanings.

"Soil erosion is probably a greater threat to peace than the atomic bomb . . . erosion outranks all other causes of malnutrition, hunger and famine—which are prime contributors to disturbance of world peace and good-will."—Dr. Bennett, U.S.A. Soil Conservation Service.

FRANCHISE AMENDED

HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

The Honey Marketing Committee Regulations, 1948, Amendment No. 2, gazetted on July 20, was introduced to meet the request of the 1950 Conference that the franchise for the purchasers of seals and suppliers of honey to the Marketing Department should be on an equal basis.

The Amendment provides for a maximum of 20 votes for suppliers of 9 tons and over and a similar maximum of 20 votes for purchasers of seals to the value of £42 and over.

AN ANOMALY

While the prompt action of the Government in recognising the principle of equal franchise is much appreciated, it appears that the Regulations contain an anomaly. The amended Clause 4, c, provides that a producer who both supplies honey and purchases seals may exercise the aggregate number of votes so authorised, with no maximum stated, and in such cases a total of up to 40 votes may be exercised.

It is evident, therefore, that a producer who supplies 20 tons is entitled to 20 votes, and a producer who sells 20 tons under seals is entitled to 20 votes, whereas a producer who sells 10 tons each way is allowed to exercise a total of 40 votes.

It is obvious that this provision is both illogical and inequitable and it is to be hoped that the matter can be rectified so as to meet the intention of the 1950 Conference.

LIBERTY

There are two kinds of liberty—the liberty of anarchy, which is death, and the true liberty, which alone is worth a wise man's caring for, the liberty which is made possible by obedience to rational authority.

—Froude.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the General Executive was held in Wellington on 3rd July. The President, Mr. E. A. Field, was in the chair and all members were present. The greater part of the meeting was devoted to the consideration of a large volume of correspondence, especially that relating to the marketing proposals which had been put forward at the February meeting.

Marketing Committee

The Minister of Marketing intimated that he was prepared to amend the franchise as suggested by the Executive, but that first of all he must have a clear expression of opinion from the industry on this question.

Seal Levy

The Minister stated that it was considered impracticable to extend the incidence of the Seal Levy by making it applicable to sales direct from apiaries.

Seal Fund

A letter from the Director of Marketing (Mr. L. C. Webb) indicated that the Honey Marketing Regulations provide no specific authority for making disbursements from the Seal Fund and that payments therefore require to be approved either by the Minister of Marketing or by the Minister of Finance.

High-grade Honey

The Executive has given considerable thought to the necessity of attracting supplies of the higher grade honey to the Marketing Depot. As a basis for the solution of this problem the following proposals were submitted to the Minister in a letter dated 7th March, 1950:—

The outcome of the discussion on this particular matter was the passing of the following resolution:—

"That owing to the urgent need for maintaining the 'Imperial Bee' pack on the English market and for satisfying the consumer demand for a high-grade standard pack on the local market, the Executive feels that the following changes should be effected without delay:—

- (1) That the Marketing Department be authorised to put up a specially-graded pack of not less than 90 points grading, for sale on the local market at a premium of not less than 2d. per lb. above the existing price which covers all ungraded honey.

- (2) That the Marketing Department be authorised to guarantee to producers in advance of next year's production season, a special bonus payment of 2d. per lb. on all honey received by the Department which grades 96 points and over.
- (3) That in order to achieve this, portion of the existing reserve funds be utilised if necessary, for the purpose of meeting any deficiency which may result from the above-mentioned guarantee."

It has always been understood that these reserves are for use in an emergency and the Executive is of the opinion that the present danger of losing the English market constitutes a state of emergency in the Industry.

In connection with the foregoing I wish to state that these proposals are put forward by the Executive as an earnest endeavour to secure for the Marketing Department the opportunity to offer producers the added incentive to supply more of the better-class honey produced in the Dominion and of which so very little is at present being sent in to the grading store.

There is widespread dissatisfaction among consumers in New Zealand to-day, because of the fact that ALL honey packed in retail containers is sold at the prices fixed by the Price Control authorities, irrespective of quality, and people who have no knowledge of any particular brands are often dismayed to find that different brands of honey sold at the same price vary so much in flavour and quality.

It is proposed therefore that the specially-graded pack which the Department may be authorised to place on the market at a premium, should be additional to the existing pack marketed by the Department.

It is expected that if the suggestion put forward by the Executive is adopted, it will, within a reasonably short time, have the effect of eliminating much of the very poor quality honey at present on the market and which to-day is selling at the same price as the good quality article.

The proposal should also enable the Department to maintain its valuable overseas connection and at the same time to regulate

supplies more efficiently on the local market. It is a new approach which warrants the most favourable consideration. . . .

In his reply to this letter the Minister indicated that the proposals set out were at present receiving consideration.

The importance of this question was emphasised in the course of a general discussion and it was agreed that some incentive payment was the only solution, but that if possible such payment should be made on a graduated scale.

Beeswax

The Secretary reported that a number of producers had supplied particulars of beeswax available for sale, as requested, and that so far it had not been found necessary to grant licenses for importation.

General

The final business for the year included consideration of Branch balance sheets and reference was made to the excellent work being done for the Association by the Branch Secretaries.

The Executive Report and the Balance Sheet were approved and the final arrangements made for the Annual Conference.

Glendower: I can call spirits from the vasty deep.

Hotspur: Why so can I, or so can any man; but will they come?

—Shakespeare.

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONFERENCE

Address by the Hon. K. J. Holyoake,
Minister of Agriculture and Marketing

I must first thank you for your invitation to be here (said the Minister in his address). It is an honour to be invited and I am happy to accept the invitation and in my humble way play some small part and officially open your Conference. I count it a pleasure and privilege to be here and I hope your meeting will be as productive and harmonious as possible. I must confess frankly at the outset that I don't know a great deal about beekeeping and honey, for the reason that I have never been engaged in it; but I know as much as the average farmer—perhaps a little more. I have been a horticulturist for most of my life and kept the odd colony of bees, and I know of their benefits.

Your relations have not always been happy and so I hope this meeting and its results for your organisation will be happy ones.

When I was invited to talk to you this morning I thought I had better look up the history of beekeeping and bees in New Zealand as a most appropriate subject on this first contact with your Association and with you. I thought it necessary to know a little more of the intimate background and on looking up records I found the first bees were introduced into New Zealand in 1839—incidentally by mission people who came to New Zealand; also again in 1840 and 1842. The last one—1842, was the year the Holyoake family arrived in New Zealand and I would hope that the Holyoakes have produced something which has done a thousandth part of the good bees have done in New Zealand in the last hundred years.

Looking up the records of beekeeping, I find it "escaped interference" from the Government for quite a few years. In 1905 the Government turned its attention to the beekeeping industry and appointed a Government Apiarist in 1906. At first the apiarists were greatly opposed to this. In the early stages, however, the Government

interested itself in queen bee raising in the interests of the apiarists of New Zealand. In 1917 Regulations were first passed for the registration of apiarists with one hive upwards. That first year there were 50,721 hives of bees registered in New Zealand. The industry grew pretty rapidly and to-day there are 6,487 registered beekeepers in New Zealand owning 11,369 apiaries containing 174,386 hives. A pretty considerable industry and I feel that all too few people in New Zealand realise that it is as large as it is. It is assessed that the capital involved is valued at £1,250,000 and the estimated production last year was 4,517 tons of honey. That is a lot of honey.

Then there was 153,000lbs. of bees wax. The estimates given to me show a total value. It is almost a guess estimate, but it is about £250,000 for honey and about £24,000-£25,000 for beeswax each year. That is pretty considerable for one of the minor primary industries.

A pleasing feature for last year was not only better production overall, although there were poor patches due to the dry weather, but the production generally was higher and the quality was up, which gave general satisfaction to all.

Now the nature of your organisation. I find there was a national organisation of beekeepers away back in 1884. But you have had a rather chequered career in your organisation, and this particular organisation did not start, I think, until 1910. I now find you have twenty-seven branches from Kaitaia in the north to Invercargill in the south, with somewhere around a thousand in membership. That includes at least approximately 80 per cent. of the total number of commercial beekeepers in New Zealand. That is not bad, although I, as a farmer who has given almost 20 years to organising farmers, think that 80 per cent. is not high enough. If my words this morning could in any way persuade 90 per cent. to join I would raise my voice loudly if I could help you to achieve that.

As well as charging me with the administration of Agriculture and Marketing in New Zealand, this Government has also charged me with the administration of Scientific and Industrial Research and I find your

industry is interested in scientific research. My investigations lead me to believe that over the years you have gained something from research work. I am happy to say there have been extensions to the Wallaceville station this year to carry out research into your various problems. We know it has always been a great deal of concern to your industry to secure and to breed a better type of bee. We all know it is not a very easy problem to control the mating of the queen bee, but over the recent years we have been carrying out research work into the artificial insemination of the queen bee. Although it is only experimental, yet my information is that quite worthwhile progress is being made. There is reasonable hope that there will be a considerably improved strain of queen bees available to honey producers in the coming years. After very extensive work it is something we can do to assist the honey producers in New Zealand. I will do all I can to assist.

Now my next heading is the seals levy. It is an interesting topic and I want to discuss it quite freely and frankly. It is discussed almost a little more than frankly sometimes when beekeepers meet. But it is a serious question and I want to treat it as such. I found early in my job as Minister that there seemed to be considerable opposition to this seals levy. But I have been advised by your Executive that it should continue and be extended and if possible applied to the sale of honey at the apiary. That is the desire and request of your Executive. That is a frank expression of opinion. I know there is a difference of opinion here and I want to say this: You have to settle your differences of opinion. I am anxious to see this primary industry organised and if necessary and desirable to organise it. As Minister I have no axe to grind; I don't keep a hive of bees at the moment. If I could wash my hands of bees altogether my life would be an easier and happier one. We have plenty of other jobs with all the other primary products. But I am informed and I want to be informed again by this Conference, and not in any hesitating or equivocal way, whether you want an organised marketing scheme or not. I want to know and to know clearly and un-

equivocally if you do want the seals levy to continue. If the great majority are against it, it will not continue. If the majority are in favour the Government must give considerable consideration to it. I will not, as Minister (for I have offered myself simply to serve the farmers of this country, nothing more than that), be placed in the position where the great majority of an industry says it wants a thing and then I am to be fired at from an ambush or in the open by a minority, or individuals, for carrying out the desires of the great majority of that industry. I say it as firmly and as strongly as I can—this is still a democracy. Your own industry must be run on democratic lines. You must thrash out in this room and arrange with your branches what policy you want. From then on the minority must keep inside that policy; otherwise you cannot expect a Government to lay down rules whether for marketing or seals. If you cannot come to an agreement in that way, you and I representing the Government cannot come to any agreement. Inside your own organisation thrash the thing out as much as you like, but I will not be placed in the position where a minority can bully. It is not for the good of the industry that we should all hold the same views, but that majority decision must prevail.

Regarding the sale of the seals, there is some clarification needed. I understand that the seals levy fund has built up to about £22,000. The original intention of the use of the honey seals fund is not quite clear, but I do know from reading the correspondence and discussion, some difference of opinion exists as to how it should be or should have been used. Generally I understand the industry is of the opinion that it was originally intended to be used for advertising. But that was not exclusively; it was for that time because you had an oversupply on the market. Since then some of the money has been used as an equalisation fund. But it is the future on which you have to make up your minds and this Conference in 1950 has to decide if you want the seals levy continued. And you have also to tell me what you want it continued for. In 1950 language and not that of twenty years ago. It will not be helpful for me or you to be arguing

about what happened twenty years ago and you must now, in the light of 1950 circumstances, make up your minds what you want that levy used for. For advertising, for an equalisation fund, for the equalisation of price in any year or for other purposes for the good of your industry. Let us have a clear and unequivocal statement of that. It is no use coming to me or to the Government through me unless your voice is clear on that. I am prepared to do a good deal for you in the use of my time and thought and energy to help a primary industry and I think I am, as a quid pro quo, entitled to ask my brother farmers to give me all the assistance and cooperation they can. That is all I ask. I ask you to make clear your opinion and voice on that question. Probably it will be necessary for this Conference in the light of the fact that you have new circumstances, a new Government and a new Minister, to come to a decision as to what shall be done with the funds already in hand.

Now for marketing. I find on looking back over the industry's history that the marketing of your honey has not followed a straight line. The policy of the National Government, so far as it is practical, is for producer control. That again is democracy. If not all, most of you know my background in farmers' organisations. I have been appointed to look after farmers' interests under this Government, and I have been one who believes, as a producer, that a producer has the right and should be prepared to take the responsibility of running his own show without Government partnership and supervision. You cannot just take a rule and say: This is the plan for marketing of any and every primary industry, because one differs so much from another. You may say here is a scheme for eggs, or fruit, or potatoes, or citrus fruit, but we cannot say that it is quite the type of organisation we want for our honey marketing. I stand for the greatest degree of producer control. But that carries producer responsibility. In the marketing sphere it seems to me, at least, that the industry does desire some form of organised marketing. It appears that we are running into overproduction and we have to look more carefully at our markets. The desire of the majority appears to be for some form

of organised marketing, but it must be a clear and unequivocal statement from this Conference as to whether you do or not. Even though you feel clear on that point I want this Conference to re-state again to the new Government whether you want a marketing organisation. I don't want to convince you or persuade you in any way, but I am prepared to take on the headache if you want the organisation.

I notice there is a greater quantity of honey coming into the Department's blending plant at Auckland. Over 600 tons this year, which I think shows that the producers need some organised outlet for their honey, but that plant, to be run economically, must have about 800 tons—and not your poorest honey, but reasonable grades of honey. It does seem that your industry wants that outlet, but I want you to tell me from this Conference whether you do or not. Then you have to accept a little more responsibility in the matter. I say that very firmly and determinedly. They should know whether they can enter into contracts with the producers to ensure they play their fair part in supplying honey to that plant—if you want it to continue. I understand it is an integral part of the Marketing Department set up in Auckland otherwise I might say you could have the whole darn thing and run it yourselves. But I am told from the actual physical set-up that might be a difficulty. Take our town milk supply. They run a pretty good show and enter into contracts with their members for the supply of a certain quantity of their production, and I see no reason why that should not be done in the honey industry. If you want that organisation to continue we shall have to know clearly where we stand.

Your marketing committee at the present time is purely an advisory one, and although I have had practically nothing to do with it up to date, I understand it has been given a fair amount of executive control. As I understand it, it is representative of all branches of your organisation. (A voice: No.) If you tell me what you want in a reasonably clear voice, I will recommend it to the Government, and if we can get a representative organisation acceptable, if not to all,

to the majority, then that organisation should have an increasing responsibility in the running of your industry, as I said a little while ago.

I have had some information over the years and have debated in the House on the question of honey and my impression is that the voting of your organisation is unduly weighted in favour of those who supply the packing plants and loaded against those who buy the honey seal. You have to come to some reasonable agreement: I think, upon what is the fair weighting for these two classes of people who get their voting power in these ways. It seems it is unduly weighted in favour of those who supply the blending plant. I don't know the reason for that. If you can come along with an election method which is generally acceptable to you, then I, as your Minister, will give earnest consideration to it and put it to the Government that it be accepted.

This is my first opportunity of talking with you and I want to stress again that any difficulties, or the major difficulties which exist within your industry must be thrashed out inside your industry and you must speak with a reasonably unanimous voice. I, as Minister, am prepared to recommend to the Government and you must be prepared to accept an increasing responsibility in the organisation. I think the Government would be willing to continue the selling section of the Marketing Department if you wish it, and the seals levy, if you wish it, but neither I nor the Government will force anything upon this industry, and coincident with that statement is this: we will not accept from this industry any recommendations unless the voice is fairly clear and unequivocal on these questions. You will have your differences and difficulties; there will be a minority and a majority. And please remember this is a democracy and the minority should and must for the future of the industry, accept the ruling of the majority. The question of voting must be settled before you can take votes. The weighting of votes is an important point. I would stress this point again; if you want the Department to continue with the blending plant it is up to this organisation to guarantee a minimum quantity of honey. That

will have to be done or else we shall have to close the plant. I, as Minister, state it is not fair for you to put me in the position where I am shot at by all and sundry in your industry. You must speak through your organisation, as an organised body. There are about 100,000 farmers in New Zealand and I cannot deal with private and personal representations of every individual farmer. You must learn to speak more clearly through your organisation.

I think that is about all I wanted to say to you. I really must apologise for speaking at greater length than I had intended, but I feel that your industry is rather at the crossroads. I am making a fresh approach, as a new Minister representative of a new Government. I feel you will pardon me if I took ten minutes longer than I should, to let you see into my mind and to find out from you your reactions to what I am thinking, and also what you wish. Thank you for your invitation to be here. It has been a great pleasure and I look forward to your new Executive coming to me or contacting and advising me of the decision you have made. I trust and feel sure your Conference will be as productive and harmonious as it can be. That is my wish. I now declare your Conference open.

GOLDEN RULE

There is one thing beekeepers in general could do a lot of, it costs nothing, but would accomplish much for the industry, and that is co-operation—get together—the Golden Rule—or call it anything you like, but consider your fellow beekeeper with less selfishness. There should be some way of reaching a just, common ground between the class of beekeepers who think nothing of moving in on the other fellow, with his theory that in a good season you can't overstock a territory, and the class who erect state laws under various guises and mean to wall off their territory with a dog-in-the-manger attitude. Both are lacking in the milk of human kindness, and intensify the age-long struggle between the "haves" and "have nots."

—E. C. Reed, in Gleanings.



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CONFERENCE REPORT

The Annual Dominion Conference was held in Wellington on July 5th, 6th and 7th, 1950. The President, Mr. E. A. Field, was in the chair, and there was a representative attendance of over sixty members.

Official Opening

The Conference was officially opened by the Hon. K. J. Holyoake, Minister of Agriculture and Marketing. In his address (which is reported in this issue) the Minister traced the history of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand, and he made a vigorous and stimulating comment on the present marketing situation.

The address made a deep impression and the speaker was accorded an enthusiastic vote of thanks.

Address By Mr. A. C. Bridle

The Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee, Mr. A. C. Bridle, addressed the Conference on the work of the Committee and the honey marketing situation generally. The address was received with close attention and at its conclusion the speaker answered a number of questions.

Report and Balance Sheet

The Report and Financial Statement for the year 1949-50 were presented and after a free discussion were

Marketing

It was decided that urgency should be accorded those matters which had been raised by the Minister of Marketing. The Conference therefore postponed consideration of the Remits, and proceeded to set down a clear-cut marketing policy for the future. Basing its deliberations on the experiences and achievements of the past and viewing the whole marketing structure as a unit, the meeting defined its wishes in the form of five resolutions, each one being carried by a substantial majority.

(1) "That this Conference supports the principle of organised marketing through a central packing depot or depots."

(2) "That if the Government is prepared to operate an organisation for

the marketing of honey, this Conference considers that the Government should secure contracts of supply from producers before it is committed to such a policy."

(3) "That this Conference is in favour of a levy to stabilise organised marketing, but would appreciate some simpler scheme than the present system of collection." This resolution was carried on a delegates' vote by 1845 to 323.

(4) "That the franchise for the election of the Honey Marketing Committee be amended as proposed by the General Executive in their Report." Also carried on a delegates' vote, by 1685 to 498.

(5) "That the seals reserves and current seals revenue be administered at the discretion of the Honey Marketing Committee."

Remits

The remits then came before the meeting and the following is a list of those remits or amended remits which were carried:—

"That the policy of the Marketing Department be to export a maximum amount of honey to overseas markets and to pack a minimum amount for the local market."

"That the Honey Marketing Committee institute a vigorous campaign to advertise New Zealand honey in New Zealand when surpluses occur and that a substantial grant from the Seals Fund be made for this purpose."

"That the previous system of a full pro rata payment according to grade, for honey supplied to the Marketing Department, be re-instated, and that we support the Executive proposals recently forwarded to the Minister." (Note. The proposals referred to are set out in the report of the Executive meeting.)

"That the payout on honey by the Marketing Department be increased by way of reduced overhead costs."

"That export licenses be granted to individual beekeepers for the export of honey to England, and to individual consumers and not for resale, the honey to be graded if not packed in containers showing the name or brand of the producer."

"That the Honey Marketing Committee be asked to have investigations made into the use, for industrial purposes, of low grade honey."

"That the attention of the Health Department be drawn to the fact that honey is being sold on the open market contrary to the provisions of the law, and that a request be made to have the position rectified." (Note. This resolution arises from a complaint that honey is being sold in containers which do not bear the producer's or the packer's name.)

"That members of the Association be urged through Branch secretaries to endeavour to maintain the Tribunal price of 3/6 per lb. for beeswax by refusing to sell their wax for less than 3/6 per lb."

"That unless and until the supply of cartons be more reliable, import licenses be granted."

"That the Honey Marketing Committee be asked to investigate the possibility of coming to new and better arrangements with regard to the supply of carton lids."

"That the Honey Marketing Committee be given administrative powers, provided that the power to commandeer be excluded."

"That if the Marketing Department continues to operate, a depot for receiving supplies be opened in the South Island and elsewhere if necessary."

"That the Apiaries Act be amended so as to give the permanent Apiary Instructors power to destroy grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease."

"That for the purpose of eradicating disease (foul-brood) a recommendation be made for Apiary Instructors to concentrate on comprehensive apiary inspection and to devote less time to instruction in the field."

"That a larger amount of finance be made available for part-time apiary inspection."

"That this Conference is concerned over the possibility of the destruction of manuka through the introduction of disease and that the Department of Agriculture in the interests of beekeepers be asked to investigate the sale of diseased manuka plants."

"That the Conference considers that the deterioration in the yield of clover such as to warrant an investigation, and requests that the Department of Agriculture institute an inquiry into the causes."

"That the Department investigate the possibility of the introduction of sweet clover and nectar-bearing plants."

"That representation be made to the Minister of Agriculture with a view to having regulations enacted to ensure that only Italian bees from reputable overseas breeders be imported, and only by the Department."

"That the Department make available to beekeepers a quicker destructive agent than DDT for the destruction of wasp nests."

"That the appropriate authority be approached regarding supplies of flat galvanised iron sheets."

"That the Executive investigate during the year the question of affiliation with Federated Farmers and report back to the next Conference."

"That the attention of the Minister of Internal Affairs be again drawn to the opossum menace, and that a bounty be paid."

"That next year's Conference be held in Christchurch."

General

Several matters were raised during the course of general business and the following resolutions were carried:—

The Wasp Menace. "That this Conference is of the opinion that the Government should deal with the wasp menace in a much more serious manner than in the past so that we can rest assured that in future they will do more to stop their spreading."

Representation on Marketing Committee. "That it be a recommendation to the General Executive that this Conference conveys to the Minister its wishes that the personnel of the Honey Marketing Committee be two members from the North Island and one from the South Island."

Address by Mr. T. S. Winter

At this stage the Conference was addressed by the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, Mr. T. S. Winter, who surveyed the work being done by the Division, mentioning the progress which had been made and policy now being followed in the control of foul-brood disease.

In the course of a general discussion reference was made to the valuable service being rendered to the industry by officers of the Horticulture Division.

Election of Officers

There were four nominations for the office of President, Messrs. E. A. Field, E. D. Williams, P. Berry, and R. Davidson. Mr. Field sought permission to withdraw his nomination, and upon a ballot of the remaining nominees being taken, Mr. E. D. Williams was declared elected.

Mr. Berry and Mr. Davidson extended their congratulations to Mr. Williams, who then assumed the chair to the accompaniment of loud applause.

The election of the remaining officers was then taken and the list of those elected is as follows:—

President: Mr. E. D. Williams.

Vice-President: Mr. E. A. Field.

Executive: Messrs. E. J. Kirk and J. R. Barber (North Island), Messrs. G. E. Gumbrell and T. F. Penrose (South Island).

Messrs. Moir and Campion, Levin, were elected auditors for the ensuing year.

Tributes were paid to the work of Mr. Field during his long and strenuous term of office as President and the Conference decided unanimously to place on record its appreciation of his service to the Association during the last eleven years.

Mr. Field briefly replied and acknowledged the assistance and support he had received during Conference and throughout his term of office.

Votes of thanks were extended to the Director of the Horticulture Division (Mr. A. M. W. Greig), the Assistant Director (Mr. W. T. Goodwin) and to the officers of the Horticulture Division and the Marketing Department for their interest and their assistance during the various sessions, and the 1950 Conference was formally brought to a close.

Aristippus to Diogenes: If you knew how to flatter kings you would not need to live on herbs.

Diogenes: If you know how to live on herbs you would not need to flatter kings.

He who rides a tiger cannot dismount.
—Chinese Proverb.

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N.Z. QUEEN BREEDERS' SOCIETY

The first Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the Returned Services' Social Hall, Wellington, on Wednesday, 5th July, 1950. Mr. Geo. Swanson, President, was in the chair, and the Director of Horticulture, Mr. Greig, many Queen Breeders and members attending the N.B.A. Conference, were present.

The President introduced Mr. T. Palmer Jones, Research Officer of the Animal Research Station, Wallaceville. Mr. Palmer Jones commenced his talk by screening lantern slides of the instruments used in the artificial insemination of queen bees, discussing their nature and use. After this he gave a very comprehensive review of what was being done at Wallaceville in an effort to breed a superior strain of queens. He thanked the 19 Queen Breeders in different parts of New Zealand for their generous donations of their best queens. Nearly 60 had been received and of these 52 had been successfully introduced to colonies which had been set up. Due to the time necessary for the setting up and the collection of queens the breeding period had been a comparatively short one. However, quite satisfactory results had been obtained in that three generations had been reared, each generation taking approximately 60 days. It would probably be two or three years yet before any breeder queens would be available for distribution to the various donors. The co-operation of these breeders at that stage could be very helpful in that certain data which they could collect in their own apiary and which would be forwarded to the Research Officer would assist him to assess what improvement had been made. Mr. Palmer Jones answered many questions and was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks for his interesting and informative talk.

Mr. Greig, Director of Horticulture, was then introduced to the meeting. He gave an outline of what his Department was doing for the benefit of the beekeeping industry. Members who had sons with matriculation or university entrance qualifications will have an opportunity of applying for

a cadetship in the Apiary Division later on in the year. Mr. Greig was also given a hearty vote of thanks.

A few who were not interested now left and the Annual Meeting commenced, the President reading his Annual Report. Special mention was made of the good work done by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. P. Carter, who had collected a lot of information and made many contacts all without cost to the Society. The report was duly adopted. The need for a Society was then reaffirmed. The following Officers were appointed:—President, Mr. Geo. Swanson, Gore; Committee, Messrs. T. H. Cropp, Nelson; T. E. Pearson, Darfield; D. H. Dahlberg, Ashburton; G. E. Gumbrell, Geraldine; Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. P. Carter, F.C.S.N.Z., Lower Hutt.

It was unanimously agreed that the first objective of the Society should be "to foster and improve the strain of Italian bees." That Queen Breeders who had donated queens for the purpose of research work during the past season should be deemed to be the foundation members of the Society. That the Committee should examine the draft rules and proceed to the enrolment of members, who will have an opportunity of amending and adopting the Rules at the next annual meeting which will be held in Christchurch during next N.B.A. Conference. Several cash donations were made to assist the Hon. Secretary to carry on. A very successful evening terminated at 11 o'clock with a hearty vote of thanks to the chair.

Extracted honey may have a considerable number of coarse-grained crystals in it. These can be the result of not drying out extracting combs the previous autumn, or extracting a few combs of the past season's honey that has partially granulated. Honey in this condition may not respond to the addition of starter honey, as the coarser crystals predominate. The only way to rectify this is to heat the honey to approximately 130 degrees F. until all crystals are destroyed.

ON LEISURE

What is this life, if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?

—W. H. Davies.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Two years ago (season 1947-48) a survey was made by the Department to determine how much foul-brood was to be found in New Zealand apiaries. Reports covering the inspection of 128,708 hives showed a total of 1.7% of disease that season.

Another survey was made this year to see what results were being achieved under the present methods of control. Reports obtained from all Departmental Apiary Inspectors and from beekeepers covering a total of 136,915 colonies of bees inspected during the 1949-50 breeding season showed a total of 2.02% foul-brood.

Following are the figures for each Apiary Inspection district:—

District	No. of Inspected colonies	Percentage found of foul-brood
North Auckland	13,440	0.9%
Auckland	8,021	2.5%
Hamilton	23,643	1.2%
Palmerston North and Hawera	21,562	1.3%
Hastings	16,750	1.5%
Christchurch	15,634	3.5%
Oamaru	16,688	2.1%
Invercargill	13,049	2%
Greymouth-Nelson	8,128	4.8%

The two surveys and records going back ten years showed that under the present methods of disease control where beekeepers were allowed to use the shaking method in certain circumstances, the incidence of disease could not be reduced much below 2%. It would, therefore, appear necessary to alter our present methods of control a little if the disease situation is to be improved and foul-brood eventually eradicated in all settled beekeeping areas.

In future beekeepers will be required to destroy the contents of diseased hives found by Inspectors and to sterilise thoroughly any remaining hive equipment by approved methods. It is not considered necessary to burn good apiary equipment such as hive boxes, lids and floor boards provided these are sterilised thoroughly. A suitable pamphlet will be prepared by

the Department dealing with this subject for the guidance of beekeepers.

During the past two seasons the permanent Instructors personally destroyed a total of 1044 neglected and diseased hives.

It is not the intention of the Department, however, to give power to part-time Apiary Inspectors working solo, to burn diseased hives, but where beekeepers fail to clean up disease as directed the permanent Apiary Instructor will attend to the work assisted by a part-time worker where required.

Last year £789 was expended on part-time apiary inspection work. A sum of £1,000 has been placed on the Estimates for this work during the coming season, and this sum will be spent provided the number of competent beekeepers required to put the new disease control policy into operation, are available.

Registrations

Apiary registration figures to the end of June, 1950, completed since the Hon. Minister of Agriculture's address to Conference, show an increase of 196 beekeepers, 752 apiaries and 9,596 hives since 31st March, 1949.

Totals for New Zealand at present are:—Registered beekeepers, 6,683; apiaries, 12,121; hives, 183,982, made up as under:—

Hive Groups	No. of Beekeepers	No. of Apiaries	Hives
1 to 5	4,197	4,282	9,586
6 to 20	1,503	1,770	16,119
21 to 50	422	743	13,812
51 and over	561	5,326	144,465

Export of Bees

A trial shipment of queen bees from New Zealand to England was made by the Department early last April at the suggestion of the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London to test the feasibility of queen-breeders in this country developing a trade in this class of business with English beekeepers.

Special arrangements were made with Airways authorities for their safe carriage in a pressurised cabin. The bees left Auckland on a Tuesday afternoon and reached their destination in England the following Sunday. Advice has been received at Wallaceville from Dr. Butler at Rotheramsted Experimental Station, to whom the queens were addressed, that they arrived in good condition, were successfully introduced, and were doing well.

A trial shipment sent by a Canterbury beekeeper under similar arrangements about three weeks later to a queen-breeder in England also arrived in good condition.

Further tests will be necessary to find the lightest and most suitable queen-cages for future use in consignments by air overseas, to ensure minimum freight costs per queen, if there is a worthwhile market in the United Kingdom.

Any beekeeper who decides to export bees to the United Kingdom should first obtain a certificate of cleanliness from the Department of Agriculture to accompany the packages in accordance with overseas requirements before making application to the Customs Department for the necessary permit to export. A copy of the certificate may then be used by the beekeeper to support his application. Intending exporters should, however, apply direct to the local Apiary Instructor, Department of Agriculture, for full particulars of the procedure to be followed.

No authority would be granted for the importation of bees into New Zealand from the United Kingdom or any other country or State where Acarine disease of bees occurs.

Harvesting Honey

Once again I wish to draw the attention of producers to the danger of careless handling of Phenol boards used for the removal of surplus honey from the hives, also to the excessive use of creasote as a preservative for wooden hive parts.

The Department is concerned about the quality of tainted honey reaching the market this year.

Experience has shown that where Phenol boards are used carelessly or where wooden hive parts have been liberally treated with creasote, there

is danger of the honey becoming badly tainted.

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to reject several lines of tainted honey at the Grade Store this year.

T. S. WINTER,
Superintendent, Beekeeping Industry.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1950

TO MEMBERS:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The work of the Association during the year ended 31st May, 1950, was associated mainly in matters pertaining to marketing and although much effort has been expended little appears to have been achieved in effecting a solution of the Industry's problems on a long-term basis.

The cause of this lack of progress, which is probably more apparent than real, is undoubtedly due to the change in the political situation, brought about by the General Election in November last.

Following the Rotorua Conference, negotiations were immediately opened with the then Minister of Marketing and also with the Directors of the Dominion Producers' Co-operative Agency Ltd., in endeavours to effect an overall improvement in the honey-marketing position.

In so far as the Dominion Producers' Co-operative Agency was concerned however, it was found that little could be achieved unless the Industry was prepared in the first instance, to form a Co-operative Limited Liability Company of Honey Producers to be linked to the D.P.A. Organisation.

In view of past experiences, your Executive decided against any such move being taken by the Association.

On the other hand negotiations with the Minister of Marketing appeared to be progressing favourably and the Minister had stated his intention of calling a conference of representatives of the Marketing Department, the Honey Marketing Committee and your Executive, for the purpose of examining a proposal to institute a written agreement between the Government and the Industry in regard to the marketing of honey and possibly beeswax also.

The General Election put an end to that proposal and from then onwards representations have been made to the present Minister of Marketing in an endeavour to ascertain the policy of the new Government regarding the future of the Packing and Blending Plant at Auckland and Honey Marketing in general.

It will be appreciated by members that much of this work has, of necessity, been duplicated. In the first place the decisions of the last Conference were conveyed and fully explained to the previous Minister and subsequently a fresh approach had to be made on the same lines to the present Minister.

In February the Hon. K. J. Holyoake advised that the Government's policy in regard to marketing was as follows:—"Internal Marketing Division to be handed over, as quickly as possible without disorganising trade, to producer co-operative organisations prepared to undertake the present functions of the I.M.D." In this connection the Minister also advised that the existing arrangements were to continue pending re-organisation, but if producers preferred the present methods, these would be retained.

In drawing attention to the alternative which had to be considered, the Minister stated that before the Government was in a position to make its decision in the matter, it would be helpful to have a definite recommendation from the National organisation of the Industry and he asked that the Association furnish him with its proposals for the future, as soon as possible.

With this object in mind, the General Executive held a two-day meeting in Wellington at the end of February, when the whole aspect of the marketing situation was fully discussed. Your Executive reached very definite conclusions which may be summarised as follows:—

1. The urgent necessity for organised marketing.
2. The retention of the present marketing organisation for (a) an assurance of supply to established overseas markets, and (b) for the disposal of surplus crops if and when they occur.

Realising that the continuance of the present marketing organisation is

possible only if sufficient honey is sent forward to enable the plant to be operated as an economic unit, consideration was then given to the vital question of securing the necessary supply. The underlying difficulty here, is of course, the wide disparity in the price payable through the depot as compared with those ruling on the open market.

If an improved basis of pay-out is to be formulated by the Marketing Department, the first essential is increased revenue. Under existing conditions this does not appear possible and a way has to be sought to overcome this difficulty.

In reviewing the situation, your Executive decided that an important feature in the future operations of the Department should be that of maintaining and developing the supply of honey to the British market, where the New Zealand product has always earned a premium in price. Here again the question of price to the producer comes into the picture, as it is impossible to even maintain the existing overseas market for the "Imperial Bee" pack, unless a much greater quantity of high-grade honey is supplied to the depot. In an endeavour, therefore, to meet the position, both as regards to increased prices to the producer and increased supplies to the depot, your Executive have recommended to the Minister that careful investigations be made as to the practicability of giving effect to the following proposals, which, incidentally, would also have the effect of countering the widespread and growing dissatisfaction among the consumer public within the Dominion, at the very noticeable increase in poorly packed and blended honey sold on the local market at the same price as the first-grade article.

The proposals put forward are:—

1. That the Marketing Department be authorised to put up a specially-graded pack of not less than 90 points grading for sale on the local market at a premium of not less than 2d per lb. above the existing price which covers all ungraded honey.

2. That the Marketing Department be authorised to guarantee to producers in advance of next year's production season, a special bonus payment of 2d per lb. on all honey received by the Department which

grades 96 points and over and a smaller bonus payment on honey received which grades from 90 to 96 points.

3. That in order to achieve this, a portion of the existing reserve funds be utilised, if necessary, for the purpose of meeting any deficiency which may result from the above-mentioned guarantee.

In regard to proposal No. 3, it has always been understood that the reserve funds are for use in an emergency and your Executive is of the opinion that the present danger of losing the British market and also of losing the present marketing organisation, constitutes a state of emergency in the Industry.

It must be emphasised that the proposals already mentioned, together with a further one recommending the extension of the seals levy to cover all sales of retail packs, have been put forward in an honest and earnest endeavour to build up the existing marketing organisation, and in so doing, to enable the Department to offer a more attractive return to enable producers to furnish increased supplies to the depot.

Other matters upon which representations have been made to the new Government include an alteration in the franchise relating to the election of producer members of the Honey Marketing Committee and the prohibition of imports of beeswax.

With regard to the former, the Minister of Marketing has advised that he is willing to recommend to Cabinet that the regulations be amended, provided he receives an assurance from our Executive that substantially all sections of the Industry are in favour of such an amendment, whereby equal voting rights would be granted both to suppliers to the Department and to purchasers of seals.

It should be noted here that there is no intention of altering the present qualifications of producers for nomination to the Board.

Subject to the same provisions as outlined above, the Minister has stated that he would be content to allow the present seals levy to continue. The Minister has, however, intimated that he is not prepared to consider extending the incidence of

the seals levy as suggested, unless the whole Industry expresses a desire for such action.

No reply has yet been received from the Minister concerning the proposal for increased prices for high-grade honey supplied to the Department, other than that the position is being investigated.

Your Executive is convinced that it is of the utmost importance that a firm decision be reached by the Industry as to the future basis of marketing without further delay. For too long, the position has been in a state of flux and the future of the Industry is being jeopardised by the failure of producers to reach a common understanding of the position.

The situation in regard to supplies of galvanised iron is still difficult, but through the co-operation of the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry and the Building Controller, the purchase of the quantity of iron required by beekeepers in Canterbury for re-roofing hives was recently authorised on a district basis.

The response to an appeal to Branches for information as to quantities and location of stocks of beeswax held by individual members was most disappointing and the lack hard to understand. Since the May issue of the Journal, however, a larger number of producers have forwarded information, which, as arranged, has been passed on to the Marketing Department.

In dealing with the internal affairs of the Association, it is pleasing to note that the progress reported previously has been maintained. During the year two new Branches were formed, one in the Waitomo District and one in the Buller District. The Central Otago Branch has now gone out of existence but several beekeepers in that area have since intimated their intention of becoming direct members.

The finances of the Association are in a satisfactory state. The credit balance in the General Account at 31st May, 1950, after making allowance for the transfer of £10 from the Trust Fund, amounts to £201/11/10, as compared with £201/8/7 at the close of the previous year. In the Trust Fund, the credit balance is £242/15/4 as compared with £223/15/4 at the end

of the previous year, an increase of £19.

The manner in which our official organ, "The New Zealand Beekeeper," is compiled and published, is the subject of complimentary comments from widespread sources and the thanks of members are due to the Editor, Mr. J. McFadzien, for the very good work he is doing, not only in the interests of our Association, but of the Industry as a whole. For many years "The N.Z. Beekeeper" has been the subject of popular acclaim among all sections of beekeepers and the domestic and general information furnished through this publication should be appreciated by all readers.

Appreciative reference has been made on previous occasions of the work of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture for the very fine work being carried on in the interests of the Industry and it is again appropriate to record our sin-

cere thanks to the Director, to the Superintendent of the Beekeeping Industry, to the members of their Field Staff and to Mr. T. Palmer-Jones of the Bee Research Laboratory at the Animal Research Station, Wallaceville, for their continued assistance throughout the year.

The work of the various Branch Secretaries of the Association is a feature of our organisation which is of immense value and a special word of praise is due to these ladies and gentlemen for their helpful co-operation.

THE ORATORS

Conference delegate (waxing eloquent): Mr Chairman, this amendment is a double-barrelled red herring . . .

Another delegate (referring to a gratifying business transaction): I shook hands with myself to the extent that I could hardly let go!

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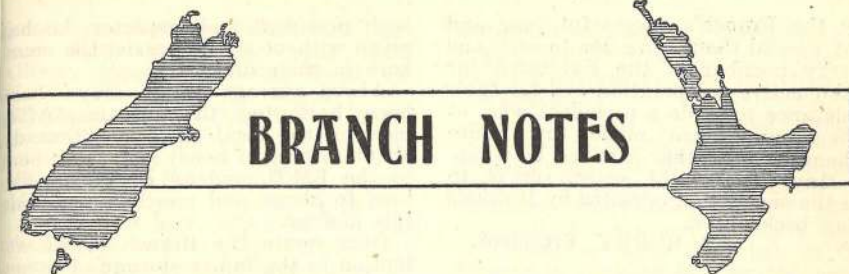
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HAWKE'S BAY

ANNUAL REPORT

The year ended 31st May, 1950, has been one of considerable activity for the Branch. In addition to the two very successful field days—one held at the Napier Boys' High School during November and the other held at Mr Gordon's Apiary in Hastings during March—the Branch has held four general meetings and five executive meetings.

At field days held by the Central Southern Hawke's Bay Branch, and those held by our own Branch, there has been a valuable and pleasing exchange of visits by members.

At the beginning of the year the Executive was successful in arranging with the Girl Guides' Headquarters the use of our present meeting room for the second Wednesday evening in each month. This has proved a happy solution to the difficulties and uncertainties that previously existed regarding a meeting place.

The financial statement for the year shows an increase of £6/12/6 credit in the bank account, bringing the total to £27/0/2, which is probably the highest since the formation of the Branch. In addition the 4 hives of bees owned and operated by the Branch help to make the overall picture appear very satisfactory.

The statement shows, however, that honey sales amounting to £13/4/- for the year have been a big factor in stabilising the Branch's position. Without the apiary the year's operations would have shown a loss. We would be wise to bear this in mind when we consider the comparative position of other branches, and when we consider the financial setup of the N.B.A. as a whole.

The Branch is once again indebted to Mr. Gordon, who has operated the Branch apiary so successfully.

The present Branch strength of 36 members might well be improved upon. Nearly four years ago a drive for increased membership brought the strength to over 60 members. The falling off since that time seems to be due to several factors. The series of seasons of low honey production has resulted in some giving up beekeeping, and in others losing interest. Further, the type of effort which increased our membership possibly tends to create an interest which it is difficult to maintain. In the long run the success of the Branch and the strength of its membership will depend on the capacity of the Executive of the Branch, and the capacity of the parent body, to serve the aims and objects of the Association, namely, "Better Beekeeping and Better Marketing." I trust that the Branch activities during the past year will prove a worthwhile contribution to that end.

During the past year our local Apiary Instructor, Mr. Robinson, has been actively associated with efforts to delay the approach of the wasp menace which, in the years to come, must inevitably prove a serious problem to beekeepers of Hawke's Bay. Reports from areas where the wasps are already established show that the magnitude of the problem might easily be underestimated.

We are indebted to Mr. Robinson on whose shoulders so much additional work has fallen. Unfortunately, we will be faced during the coming year with the retirement of this beekeepers' friend and adviser. At the appropriate time the Branch will no doubt wish to make suitable recognition of Mr. Robinson's services.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all those whose efforts have contributed

to the Branch's successful year and my special thanks are due to each and every member of the Executive for their active co-operation and for their tolerance towards a president who, at times, may have made their telephones seem rather a mixed blessing.

May the 1950-51 season prove to be the one so long awaited by Hawke's Bay beekeepers.

P. BERRY, President.

FAR NORTH

The annual meeting of the Far North branch was held in the Kaitaia Library on Monday, 5th June.

It was reported that the branch had a membership of 32. During the year ten meetings were held, the average attendance being 7.01. Although this was a decrease on last year, it should be regarded as satisfactory in view of the fact that most of our members live a considerable distance from the centre of the district.

As well as giving consideration to routine business matters, a talk or demonstration on some aspect of modern beekeeping has been given at each meeting by the President or one of the members. The newer members in particular are deeply appreciative of the instruction given at meetings. We believe the result has been better beekeeping.

The Branch regrets to learn that through indisposition, Mr. W. J. Fix has been forced to sever his connection with the Department of Agriculture Instructional staff. Mr. Fix gave a great deal of valuable assistance to all members of this Branch. It was largely through his efforts that the incidence of disease, especially American foul brood, has been considerably reduced in this district. The Branch records its appreciation of Mr. Fix's services and wishes him a speedy recovery.

A young apiary instructor, Mr. T. P. J. Williams, paid several visits to the district during the year and carried out inspections over a wide area. Mr. Williams made a good impression and members wish him all success in his career.

Again this year the Branch President has acted as part-time inspector. In this capacity Mr. Haines has done a vast amount of valuable work. As

both president and inspector, he has given without stint to assist the members in their difficulties.

Above average honey crops have been harvested this season. After meeting the local trade's demands, about 15 tons of honey have been sent to the I.M.D. and an additional five tons to shops and merchants outside this district.

Once again the Branch draws attention to the faulty storage of honey in shop racks. This has resulted in some instances in serious deterioration of honey. The quality of honey cartons is of course an important factor in the storage of honey, and members are glad to know that the National Executive has made representations to the Government and the manufacturers on this matter.

Again this year, the Branch took advantage of the offer of a honey section at the A. and P. Show, and presented an attractive display. Thanks are extended to the judges, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hancox, and to those who came forward with entries.

Finally, the Far North Branch tenders its thanks to all those who have assisted during the year, and again places on record its appreciation of the good work being done for the industry by the National Executive, the General Secretary, Mr. G. V. Fraser, and the editor of the "N.Z. Beekeeper," Mr. J. McFadzien.

Election of Officers

President—Mr. W. I. Haines; Vice-Presidents—Messrs. C. F. Werner, J. Walton, G. Hancox and C. F. Brent; Hon. Secretary—Rev. J. Graham; Committee—Messrs. W. G. MacPherson, W. S. Beckett, J. W. Thornton, I. B. Stanton.

The President was appointed delegate to the Annual Conference of the Beekeepers' Association to be held in Wellington in July.—"Northland Age."

WELLINGTON

The 12th Annual Meeting was held on 12th July. There was a good attendance of members. Mr. Geo. Ayson, J.P., was re-elected chairman unopposed and Mr. W. P. Carter was for the twelfth time re-elected hon. secretary-treasurer, also unopposed. Tributes were paid to these two

gentlemen for the good work they had done during the year. Mrs. Oliver, Messrs. Bodmin, Gadd and Kraus, vice-chairmen; Messrs. Bell, Whyborn, Hunt, Day and Hansen, committeemen; Mr. Bodmin, hon. auditor. Two new members were elected. Mr. Burt exhibited portion of a wasps' nest (*vespa vulgaris*), care having been taken to see that there were no live wasps. The report showed that there had been some falling off in membership due largely to the derationing of sugar. However, we are a strong Branch with a strong desire to be of service to all beekeepers in this area with a warm welcome to any visitor to Wellington to any of our monthly meetings. These are held on the second Monday in each month. A ring to W. P. Carter, phone 60-249, will tell you where the meeting will be and what will be on. We always close our meetings with a cup of tea and a few biscuits. This makes opportunities to get to know each other. So do not forget, please.

—W. P. CARTER.

CANTERBURY

The Annual Meeting of the Canterbury Branch was held in Christchurch on 17th June, 1950, with twenty-six beekeepers present. Mr. T. Pearson was in the chair. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet showed that the Branch continued to make satisfactory progress. The membership had reached 96 and the Balance Sheet showed a credit balance of £32/10/10. During the year the Branch secured five and a half tons of sugar for feeding bees and this was distributed to members requiring it. Four meetings, one Committee meeting and one Field Day were held during the year. Mr. T. Pearson retired from the presidency, having served for four consecutive years. Mr. E. Smellie was elected President for the year 1950-51.

—R. R. BUSHBY.

OTAGO

The Annual Meeting of the Otago Branch was held in Dunedin on 8th May, 1950, when the President, Mr. I. L. Jackson, presided over a gathering of 23 members and friends. He

welcomed several new members and hoped that they would continue to take an interest in the activities of the Branch.

In presenting his Annual Report, Mr. Jackson expressed his thanks to all members and his committee for their loyal support and interest in the meetings and field day, and more especially for the arrangements made in connection with the visit to the Branch in January last by the noted American entomologist, Dr. B. Elwood Montgomery, Fulbright Research Scholar in New Zealand. This meeting was the means of bringing members of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Dunedin Horticultural Society, Otago Seedsmen and Growers' Society, as well as officers of the Fields Division, Department of Agriculture, into contact with the National Beekeepers' Association for the first time, and hopes are expressed that more such meetings can be arranged as a great deal of mutual good and understanding must be gained for all concerned.

The thanks of the Branch were extended to the Secretary for his untiring effort in bringing about such a memorable gathering.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the editor of the "New Zealand Beekeeper," other Branches for invitations to and entertainment on Field Days, and to the ladies for their work on refreshments.

The election of officers resulted:—President—Mr. T. L. Jackson (re-elected); Vice-President—Mr. A. J. Shaw (re-elected); Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. A. F. Lindsay (re-elected); Committee—Messrs. J. K. Campbell and A. J. Simon. Mr. J. McFadzien was elected as delegate to Conference. Mr. A. B. Callick was elected Auditor.

A most interesting half-hour was spent in viewing portions of a bee mounted on slides through a microscope, including a queen bee's sting, and several slides of acarine disease, etc. All present expressed their appreciation of the action of a student, Mr. D. Singh, for his work in preparing the slides, and the members look forward with interest at the prospect of more such evenings and further mountings which will be of great value to the Association.

—A. F. LINDSAY.

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NOTES FOR BEGINNERS

By SKEP.

This is the third season of writing these notes, so in order to avoid repetition of comments made in previous years Skep may diverge somewhat from the usual seasonal comments, but readers can refer to the previous two years' journals.

With the approach of spring beekeepers have an upsurge of enthusiasm which helps to maintain interest in their work. It is perhaps a mistake to time one's work by an ordinary calendar, far better to work with Nature, and use seasonal signs such as the blossom time of various trees and shrubs as a guide as to how one's hives are progressing and work accordingly. Even then it depends largely on what one wishes to attain how the hives should be managed for the year. If increase is desired then the hives should either have ample stores to build up strong and early for division during the height of apple blossom, or be regularly and steadily fed. If no increase is desired then it is preferable to retard them somewhat, so that they will arrive at the strongest possible point right at the start of the clover flow. To have your colonies all arrive in this condition at the right time demands highest skill and judgment on the part of the beekeeper and will ensure a good crop in almost any season.

NECESSITY OF GOOD QUEENS

If first-class queens are in every hive this should be possible to achieve. To replace a poor queen with a good one is very good business, and could easily mean an extra super of honey, probably more, paying for the queen several times over, and saving the worry of swarming. Hives having the best queens are those most easily starved for they exert a tremendous call on available stores by the large quantity of brood they are able to develop, and sometimes their hives appear to be gathering sufficient, but one week of bad weather will bring them to the verge of starvation. If grubs are noticed being removed on the entrance board this is a sign that a hive is right out of stores.

FIRST CHECK OVER IN SPRING

September really marks the first active month for the beekeeper. If doubt exists as to stores available a quick check is possible during any sunny warm days of August, but during the favourable days of September a thorough check over can be given. Particular attention should be paid to any signs of disease, and it is a good habit to open a few brood cells while working every colony to make sure all is in order. Skep has known beekeepers who rely largely on their sense of smell to detect foul-brood, but by the time a colony has reached a stage where the odour is objectionable it is far advanced and may have infested a number of adjacent hives. Stores are the next important consideration and, always provided careful attention has been paid to ensure they are saved from disease-free colonies, sealed combs of honey are the very best way of supplying these. If combs of honey are unavailable, heavy sugar syrup should be fed so that the bees can take it up and store it quickly. If stimulation to increase brood rearing is required then a constant and slow feeding of a thinner syrup is desirable. An inverted tin with one frame nail hole will give this.

Nuclei need constant and careful attention through the spring and early summer months or they can easily be lost or so severely retarded as to be useless for the season. A two pound syrup tin inverted over the cluster for six weeks from the beginning of September, filled every week, will build them up steadily and well. From mid-October they will probably require a five pound tin with two holes every week, and this method of feeding with a syrup of half sugar and water is safe, economical, and sure. Feeding must be regular once started, and to miss a week may easily mean the loss of the colony with consequent waste of all previous feeding. Over stimulation on the other hand will build them up too quickly, and to lose swarms is again a serious waste and loss of effort.

Hives should receive a general overhaul and levelling up. On light soils it is easy for bricks on which hives are placed to be pushed out of level when hives are carrying a heavy crop

of honey, and as the weight increases the position becomes worse until the hive capsizes, causing considerable loss.

IMPROVEMENT OF BEE PASTURAGE IN A DISTRICT

If one is young it is possible to effect some improvement in bee forage in a district by growing various types of trees and shrubs, selecting those which flower at a time most suited to the needs of the hives, and encouraging neighbours to grow them. The ornamental red gums are very easily grown from seed, and flower and yield profusely right at the close of the honey flow when a light flow will greatly help autumn queen rearing and reduce the risk of robbing. This is a long-term policy, but while perhaps not financially worth while, would give one a life-time interest in a district. Farmers are becoming conscious of the necessity of preventing erosion, and are often eager to fill odd corners of their farms with trees, and if beekeepers could encourage them to use nectar-bearing trees a tremendous help could be given to beekeepers of the future.

ATTENTION TO MATERIAL FOR THE SEASON

It is wise to estimate the quantity of extra equipment which will be needed to run the hives for the season. Most commercial beekeepers are rushed with work right through the summer months, and this is one of the disadvantages of beekeeping as an occupation. During lovely summer weather a beekeeper is often too busy to enjoy it and his slacker time occurs when weather is anything but pleasant. Every minute of work that can be put in during winter months gives extra time in the summer. Supers should be painted, frames nailed up, spare lids and bottom boards, all should be on hand by October so that no loss can occur through lack of available gear. The foundation, however, should be fitted as near as possible to the time it is to be used, as otherwise it becomes very dry and brittle.

If these things are attended to the bees should be in good order by November when the danger of swarm-

ing occurs, and swarm control measures have to be taken in many districts. Shep will deal with these in the November issue, but those whose bees build up earlier can refer to earlier articles and time their operations according to locality.

A QUESTION

To "Skep."

Dear Sir,—Your "notes for beginners" in the "New Zealand Beekeeper" prove very interesting.

A question which I would like an answer to is: "What causes combs which have some pollen in and which have been stored out in the open, i.e. in my back yard, to have the portion, where the pollen has been, cleaned out cells and all and exposing the mid rib bare just life foundation? There are many woodlice in my section which is sandy, also a fair number of earwigs.

Would the para di chloro benzene mentioned in your May notes be an antidote for these "beasties"?

Thanking you in anticipation of an interesting reply.

Yours faithfully,

H.O.B.

P.S.: Please also what is the cheapest way to purchase para di chloro benzene?

In answer to your question I would say the wee beasties which ate down your combs on the pollen patches would be mice. Some beekeepers who are troubled with pollen clogged combs welcome the work of the pollen mite, but these work the pollen over with no damage to the comb, but leave behind them a powdery residue.

Many years ago I had an apiary which appeared to have been robbed of honey, and I thought someone had sliced pieces out along the tops of the combs, it was so cleanly done, but occasional instances of the same thing have convinced me it was the work of mice. In some districts and at some times mice can assume the proportions of a major pest.

Para di chloro benzene can be bought by the pound at Wilton's Ltd., Auckland, whosale chemists, for about 4/6 per pound. I believe it is also obtainable from gas companies.

Remember the beekeeper who told his wife: "I've carried you safely over all the rough places in life, haven't I, dear?"

His wife: "Yes, and I don't think you missed any of them."

—Beekeepers' Magazine.

DUNEDIN CONVENTION

Winter Show Week in Dunedin was the occasion for the usual influx of country visitors and the usual round of fixtures for primary producers. Not the least of these was the Annual Convention of Otago and Southland beekeepers held on the evening of 6th June and the morning and evening of 7th June. There was a good attendance representing most districts south of the Waitaki and several visitors from Canterbury were also present. A widespread fall of snow on 7th and 8th June will be remembered by many as the cause of some delays on the homeward journey.

The principal speaker at the Convention was Mr. T. E. Pearson, of Darfield, who discussed the subject of queen-rearing. This splendid address, which reflected Mr. Pearson's extensive experience and his keen observation and painstaking methods, was received with the closest attention. The selection of a breeder, the intricate process of raising queens, and methods of introduction were covered in detail, and the address was greatly appreciated by all present. A short talk was also given by Mr. S. Line, Apiary Instructor at Invercargill, who dealt with the problem of feeding and general care, not of the honeybee, dear reader, but of something much more important—the beekeeper. Mr. Line's thoughtful and practical suggestions gave food for thought to those who wish to consider their own health in an occupation which is attended by some unusual circumstances.

On both evenings a short time was devoted to the showing of sound films, and three of these proved to be of particular interest. They showed the life histories and habits of three different insects, the honeybee, the wasp and the common fly. One friend and two enemies of mankind.

The morning session was devoted to the consideration of marketing problems. Mr. Pearson, as a member of the Executive, was able to give a clear and comprehensive picture of the present situation and there was a full discussion of the incidence of the seal levy and of the honey grading system.

The meeting carried the following two resolutions:—

1. "That this Convention considers that there is no justification for the formation of a Honey Producer-Packer Association outside the National Beekeepers' Association."

2. "That the Executive's proposal for increased prices for high-grade honey be supported."

The Convention concluded with a social evening at which a brief but very enjoyable concert programme was presented by a party from Mornington. Votes of thanks were extended to the speakers, to Mr. Hendry, who had operated the film projector, and to the entertainers. The success of the Convention was due in no small measure to the guiding hand of the Otago Branch President, Mr. T. L. Jackson, and to the efforts of the Secretary, Mr. A. F. Lindsay, whose well-known tireless energy was again evident in the organising of the event.

HONEY DISPLAY

Associated with the Convention was the staging of the usual honey exhibit at the Dunedin Show. The display featured live bees in an observation hive with on the one hand an attractive range of hive products (honey and beeswax in their various forms), and on the other a collection of fruit and seeds with suitable posters to indicate the value of efficient pollination by honeybees. Coloured ribbons leading from the hive to individual exhibits increased the effectiveness of the display.

Honey was well to the fore in other parts of the Show as well. The Department of Agriculture exhibit included a beekeeping section showing bees, honey, and a detailed working model of a commercial honeyhouse. The six Young Farmers' Club bays, representing six different districts, gave a lavish display of the wealth of Otago and Southland, and in each of these bays apiary products were featured in prominent positions. The entries in the competitive section for honey and beeswax were unfortunately small in number but the quality was of a high order.

Altogether the Dunedin Show presented a pleasing picture of bees and honey.

A CAREER IN APICULTURE

A feature of the Department of Agriculture's programme for maintaining a pool of expertly trained instructional and advisory staff is its Apiculture Cadet Scheme.

Every year the Department offers a limited number of cadetships for competition amongst boys of 16-19 years who have recently left school or intend leaving that year. Applicants must have the University Entrance qualifications, and show a firm interest in a career in this field. They must, of course, be of sound physique and health. Some practical experience with bees is a desirable qualification, but this is not essential. Applications are invited in the Press some time in September.

The selection process is a careful one. After preliminary selection in November the applicants who appear most suitable are employed in the Apiary Section at the Wallaceville

Animal Research Station for approximately two months, being paid at the rate of £225 per annum. On performance during this trial period a final selection is made, and successful cadets then start on a full-time University Course for the Bachelor of Science degree.

While at University cadets are given a bursary which provides, in addition to payment for University fees and text books, a cash allowance of £70 for the University year. This is increased by £40 if a cadet has to board away from home. In the University long vacation cadets work as directed either with the Department or with commercial beekeepers, and on completion of the degree start a three-year practical training period. Part of this time is spent with commercial beekeepers and part within the Department.

Full details of this and other Cadet Schemes operated by the Department may be had from the Personnel Officer, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 3004, Wellington, C.I.

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FOUL BROOD—FOUL HONEY

By TI-TREE TONY

The article on advertising and publicity, which appeared in the May Journal, gives me an opportunity that I've been waiting on for years. We talk loud and long about the attributes of honey (nature's finest sweet), and yet by one simple act of carelessness and stupidity we besmirch its character with the vilest opprobrium. There is a disease of bees, harmless to humans, known as Bacillus Larvae, and for the benefit of all and sundry we have translated this into the common name "foul-brood"—one of the most hideous terms ever coined in the English language. I want to tell you that this name is the greatest calamity that has ever befallen the honey industry; the name is a worse calamity than the disease. Foul-brood, whether you like it or not, means foul honey.

Anyone who keeps bees for a few years becomes so familiar with the word that it gradually loses its nasty flavour. For this reason honey producers don't realise how offensive and revolting it sounds to the housewife or the man in the street. The average person runs across the term only occasionally—just often enough to remind him that the inside of a beehive is liable to be one stinking, rotten mess.

Of course they don't fear the presence of disease in the honey. Not at all. They know the Department of Health will look after that. Even so, if you think you can convince anyone that real, nice honey can get past the putrid stench of foul-brood, then you have another think coming along.

Don't imagine, either, that we can hide this filthy term from the public. Recently I saw an article for beekeepers in the Journal of Agriculture. The headline fairly shouted its message across the page—"FOUL-BROOD OF BEES AND ITS CONTROL." It is possible that three or four thousand people would read this article; what is absolutely certain is that three or four hundred thousand would read the headline only. No doubt they all formed their own morbid conclusions and turned to the

next page to try for some wholesome literature.

Everyone learns a few interesting things about bees; the stings, the honeycomb, the queens, the drones. But the one thing they never forget is that bees are subject to this loathsome, incurable disease of foul-brood.

That's about all I have to say. I've used some fancy words in delivering this outburst, but you'll find them all in the dictionary if you look up "foul" or some of its near relations. Wherever that word goes it leaves a trail of nausea like a bad smell.

Is there anything we can do about it? I believe we could do something, and I suggest here and now that we wipe "foul-brood" from the slate and start talking about "failing brood." We might still use the initials AFB and EFB.

I said we COULD do something. But we won't. I don't think you will find a dozen beekeepers in New Zealand who will make an effort to give honey a fair chance by removing this blot from the industry. Yet they will move mountains to build an artificial marketing machine, hoping they can make somebody turn the handle and change their produce into money.

Never mind. I feel like I've done my bit anyway.

(Thank you, Tony. We're doing our bit by publishing your suggestion, and with sufficient encouragement we are prepared to go further. How many of our readers, and how many Branches of our Association, are willing to boycott the name "foul-brood" and begin using the term "failing-brood" or some other inoffensive alternative?—Editor.)

BEES SENT TO BRITAIN

PIONEER CONSIGNMENT

A news item in our May issue referred to the first consignment of bees to be sent by air from New Zealand to England. This trial shipment was undertaken by the Government in response to a suggestion from the High Commissioner in London, Mr. W. J. Jordon, and the queens for the experiment were supplied by Mr. A. R. Bates, of Matamata.

FURTHER CONSIGNMENT

Following the success of this trial shipment a further consignment of

queens was later sent forward on a commercial basis.

The following news item is taken from the "Evening Star," Dunedin:—

AUCKLAND, May 3.

A B.C.P.A. air liner which left here for Vancouver yesterday carried a batch of bees to pioneer a new trade between New Zealand and Britain made possible by the speed of air travel. In three days' time the bees will have a new home in Devon, in time for the start of the English honey season.

A trial shipment of New Zealand bees was flown to England a few weeks ago. They arrived in such good condition that immediate arrangements were made for the first commercial consignment. Yesterday's lot, of four queens and about 80 workers, was packed in four small boxes. A piece of candy in each box keeps them nourished.

English honey producers are keen to get breeder queens from New Zealand's top quality stocks, because honey bees in Britain and parts of the Continent are subject to serious diseases, which are not present in New Zealand.

The Department of Agriculture did all the research for the experiment. The queens were reared by Mr. G. E. Gumbrell, of Geraldine, South Canterbury, and were tested at the Animal Research Station, Wallaceville, Wellington.

The first consignment is going to Mr. E. L. B. James, of Leigham Apiary, Marsh Mills, Devon.

Subsequently Mr. Gumbrell received the following letter from Mr. James:

Leigham Apiaries,
Marsh Mills,
Devon.
22/5/50.

Dear Mr. Gumbrell,

Glad to say all the queens arrived safely on 5th May and are all safely introduced and laying well. Will let you know how they get on.

... We are very busy just now, and I have never known so much nectar stored in May before with the exception of in the fruit-growing districts of Kent. This is one of those infrequent seasons in which Hawthorne is yielding heavily; some supers already being sealed.

With kinds regards,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) E. L. B. JAMES.

In response to our request Mr. Gumbrell has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

"Regulations governing the import of bees to the United Kingdom are fairly strict and specimen bees from the hives concerned had to be sent to Wallaceville for testing and a certificate of health obtained. Certain Customs regulations have also to be complied with.

"A new type of mailing cage was used and only 25 nurse bees went with each queen. The cage itself measures approximately 6in. x 2½in. x 1½in., and

apparently is very suitable for such a journey. The bee space is approximately ½in. wide and 1½in. deep and runs along one side and one end of the cage. An ample supply of candy is carried in the other side and is available to the bees only through a ½in. hole.

"The bees travelled in the pressurised cabin of the overseas airliner and N.A.C. took the bees from Harewood to Auckland the evening prior to the departure of the B.C.P.A. plane from Auckland.

"Freight charges are high and if the trade is to develop it is essential that some concession be made in this respect.

"Should the experiment be successful and a demand sets up, it will be essential to take steps to ensure that quality is kept up. This is where the newly formed Queen Breeders' Association may come in.

"It will indeed be interesting to hear how our stock does in the United Kingdom."

WORLD NEWS

AUSTRALIA

The rapid expansion of the honey industry in Australia during the past few years, together with the record production season of 1948-49, has created an overflow on the established honey markets. In order to meet this situation the industry has commenced a campaign to promote increased consumption of Australian honey both at home and abroad.

Local Market

The Australian Honey Institute was incorporated as a company in May, 1949, its chief objective being the publicising and advertising of honey and other apiary products. The broad policy of the Institute is laid down by the Directors who are appointed through the Apiarists' Association in each of the States, and its operations are carried on by the Manager and Secretary.

The Institute has the support of all the State Associations and is financed by voluntary subscriptions. The aim is to secure contributions from pro-

ducers at the rate of one penny per 60lb. tin of honey produced, and it is considered that if this amount were forthcoming an effective advertising scheme could be maintained throughout Australia.

Although the support given has been somewhat disappointing during the first year it is hoped that producers will realise the importance of the movement and provide sufficient finance to launch an effective publicity campaign.

Export Market

The United Kingdom is by far the most important overseas outlet for Australian honey and the amount exported in 1948-49 reached the record figure of 14,000 tons. The accumulation of stocks on the London market is causing some concern and the industry has asked for Government assistance in developing this market. On 2nd May, 1950, it was announced that the Commonwealth Government had decided to make available a sum up to £10,000 for the promotion of the sale of Australian honey in the United Kingdom by means of a publicity campaign on a £ for £ basis with money provided by the industry.

CANADA

Figures given in the Canadian Bee Journal show that the Canadian honey crop for 1949 is estimated at 33,204,000 pounds (about 15,000 tons), which is equal to the five year 1940-44 average. This quantity is over three times the amount normally produced in New Zealand and the yield of 63 pounds per colony is rather higher than the New Zealand average.

KENYA

"I am endeavouring to introduce beekeeping into this country," writes Mr. E. P. Townley, Nakuru, Kenya, "where it is absolutely unknown. The only effort to make use of the enormous bee population out here is the native's barrel hung up in a tree. With this incredibly primitive method it is possible to collect over 100lbs. in a year from a barrel.

"The possibilities are wonderful but the general population are terrified of the local bee, which is as quiet as the quietest Italian if properly handled."

GADGETS AND IDEAS

MAGNET FOR TACKS.

How often have you pricked your fingers when taking tacks one at a time from a packet or dish during the process of wiring frames? "Why not pick them up with a magnet," says Mr. W. B. Bray, of Leeston. "Dip the magnet into the packet and then lay it on the bench. The tacks stand up in all directions and they can be taken off individually with no trouble."

TWO-QUEEN HIVE.

Another hive that we seem to be waiting for the other fellow to try out is the two-queen system where the brood nests are located one on each side of the pile of supers. The main feature here is that the brood nests can be examined without tearing down the hive. It sounds good and I suppose I'll try one before long.

—Ward Smith, in the *Beekeeper's Magazine*.

HAND GRIPS.

In these days of 11-comb hives the weight to lift is considerable. The usual recessed hand grips are NOT deep enough, and I myself make handles of 1in. square wood by nailing a 9in. piece on the side of the hive, about 2in. from the top, on top of two supports of same wood so as to make a bridge about 5 or 6in. wide that one can grip firmly with all the hand. An assistant can take one handle, and the operator the other, and the weight of the body full of honey or bees becomes of no account. The makers will no doubt still issue the recessed grips, but any beekeeper can make the roomy grips, that I advocate, for himself.

—W. J. Farmer, in the *British Bee Journal*.

He that will not reason is a bigot;
he that cannot reason is a fool;
that dare not reason is a slave.

—William Drummond.

MARKETING TOPICS

An address by Mr. A. C. Bridle, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee, at the Wellington Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address your Conference in the hope that I may add some useful contribution to the solution of some of your industry problems, and at the same time to cover briefly the activities of the Honey Marketing Committee and of the Honey Section of the Marketing Department.

May I, in the first place, suggest to you that your solutions do not lie in thrashing the past. You cannot alter past events but we should all be able to learn from past mistakes and to profit by them in our future decisions.

It is your future that you are concerned with and your future problems that we must solve.

At present, your industry has entrusted the Marketing Department with the handling of that produce which is sent in to it on a voluntary basis. All sales proceeds from honey received are credited to a Honey Pool Account and other industry receipts are recorded to the credit of industry accounts. All payments, advances and bonuses are paid from these sources.

The Marketing Department does not control the local market, but in the handling of receipts it is assisted and advised by the Honey Marketing Committee, comprising three producer members and two Government members.

This gives a preponderance of producer votes, and while legally the Committee is advisory, in effect it operates as an executive Committee.

HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE

Let us now deal with this Honey Marketing Committee on which there still appears misunderstandings. In Dunedin, in 1948, Mr. Greig dealt with the establishment of the Honey Marketing Committee and its purpose, and I would suggest to you that this Committee is but a first endeavour to unify the views of various sections so that an industry body can assist and advise the Department in directing and controlling the marketing of honey and in determining any matters in relation to the receipt, storage, blending, packing and distribution of honey received by the Department.

This is its main function.

The Committee may make recommendations to the Minister to improve conditions between producers and the Department and to advise on present and future marketing trends.

We have been particularly cautious in such recommendations while watching the interests of suppliers, that where these recommendations may conflict with the interests of the private packer, that such matters are referred through the National Beekeepers' Association.

It is essential that your Conference Remits should express the substantial views of your industry and such resolutions acceptable to Government make it possible for alterations in your marketing set-up to implement these wishes. I would repeat that the Honey Marketing Committee was brought

into being in an endeavour to unify the divergent views that existed and may still exist within the industry. Do not let us imagine that complete unity within your industry is possible, but on basic points it should be within your reach to come to some satisfactory agreement. It must also be realised that when the Committee was first formed the various sections within your industry held hard and fast principles and in order to make progress each group, I am glad to say, was prepared, in the interests of all, to concede some of their more fixed ideas. I would suggest that haste should therefore not be made in pressing those points on which strong grounds of difference existed, and still exist. If this is done, it is possible that the breaches which we are gradually endeavouring to narrow will be reopened.

The prime object of the Committee is, as already stated, to advise the Department in the handling and marketing of produce which is sent in to it on a voluntary basis.

I will, therefore, deal briefly with two points which are still causing some concern, and on which wide difference of opinions existed.

The Regulations, however, can be amended to meet the substantial views of the industry.

NOMINATION QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMMITTEE.

The Honey Marketing Committee advises the Department in the handling and marketing of honey sent into the Pool on a voluntary basis. With this duty the suppliers should, I suggest, have the substantial vote, as one would expect private packers to maintain a substantial vote in any organisation established primarily for their own purpose. The voting qualifications and qualifications for nomination are obviously not beyond the reach of any producer to attain. These qualifications are based on supply to the Division.

I believe it is true that the supply of quantity and quality honey to the local trade is the responsibility of the industry as a whole and not that of the suppliers to the Pool in particular. It is also true that most beekeepers who supply honey to the Pool have made local sales and where these local sale contacts have been discontinued then those beekeepers have thrown their lot into an industry marketing organisation and are entitled to have that trade which they previously enjoyed retained by their marketing organisation, and to supply such trade by the delivery of the Pool's quality Honeyco pack. Nevertheless, although there have been repeated requests for Honeyco (I believe that we could release 400-500 tons to the local trade without difficulty) the Committee have decided to concentrate on export.

The New Zealand local market price is dependent upon supply and although your local market is your main outlet, export is essential to avoid a glutted local market. I would suggest, therefore, that as the Committee is dealing with voluntary supplies, it is reasonable to allow suppliers to advise in the handling of their own produce, provided their actions do not materially affect those of local packers. In straight-out competition the quality of honey will tell, and the local packer (and there must be a place for the local beekeepers who put up a local quality pack under any marketing scheme) who supplies quality, should have no undue con-

cern regarding the possible competition of a quality Honeyco brand in the packer's own selling area. It is, however, only too true that many beekeepers have packed much poor quality honey while honey has been in short supply.

FRANCHISE

The question of restricted voting qualifications for the local packer who only purchases seals still causes concern, but here again the Committee's prime duty is the sale and disposal of the honey sent into the Pool on a voluntary basis. I would again suggest that it is reasonable that suppliers should protect their interests in voting qualifications under such conditions.

In the original calculation it was borne in mind that the 1947 Apiary statistics showed:

7,286 beekeepers
6.6% produced 74% of production.
2.1% produced approx. 50% of production.

We have endeavoured to weigh votes, therefore:

80% for suppliers.
20% for seals purchasers.

1949-50 POLICY.

The policy outlined has been formulated with the advice and help of the producer members of the Committee. This policy has been clearly set out for the advance information of the industry as under:—

1. The operation of a Pool Account.
2. (a) To maintain within New Zealand a standard pack or packs netting maximum prices.
- (b) To encourage the sale of honey and to place no obstruction in the way of private producer-packers.
- (c) To ensure the use of honey seals, the proceeds from which to be used in assisting towards equalisation of returns to producers.
3. To maintain and develop our export market.
4. To maintain close liaison between the Marketing Committee, the Marketing Department, and producers.

1. Realising the importance of an export market your Committee has concentrated on the re-supply of honey to England to re-establish your "Imperial Bee" sales and therefore little honey has been supplied to the local market; that supplied chiefly being manufacturing honey or priority supplies to hospitals and military forces.

(a) Endeavours have been made to encourage the sale of honey to manufacturers.

We have assisted beekeepers with experiments, both local and export, of comb honey packs and we have made arrangements with a proprietary firm for the sale of a Manuka honey pack, specially treated. Enquiries are being made into the possibility of some of our lower grades being sold in England. We are not over-optimistic in this respect.

(b) We have implemented Conference remit in the enforcement of the Seals Regulations, and a good coverage is obtained from the Department's various Branch officers throughout New Zealand.

2. I am aware of the views of certain beekeepers against the seals contribution, but it cannot be denied that except in a few cases the ready sale of their local pack is dependent on the overall New Zealand supply. Without the removal of surpluses from the

New Zealand market, the present local market prices would, in most cases, not be obtained by the private packer. The private packers' returns can be higher than the price paid to the supplier to the Division only if he can sell direct, quantities of his pack, but these returns would be lower, under present conditions, than the present figure if no supplies were sent to the Division and exports not maintained. I contend that the private packers' contribution, therefore, is towards an organisation which makes his local market possible and profitable, and I believe that this contribution is essential to any marketing scheme. This position was appreciated by honey organisations prior to the inception of the Marketing Department in 1938.

The seals levy, as outlined in the 1950 policy, is to be used to endeavour to equalise suppliers' returns with those of the private packer and whilst this may not be fully achieved it can assist materially towards this objective.

SEALS FUND

The seals fund stands at £22,000 as at 30th September, 1949, and could be also used for advertising if necessary. Whilst honey is not supplied to the Pool, then obviously direct selling is reasonably easy and advertising is hardly justified. It cannot be denied that the best advertising is the supply to the consumer of a quality pack, but during the past few years while sugar and jams were in short supply, quality was not closely observed and this may now react to the detriment of the private packer by strong consumer, retailer and wholesaler resistance. Some of the honey sold has been of a very inferior grade and these "get rich quick" methods are most undesirable from a marketing point of view.

3. To maintain and develop an export market.

With export as a priority, we will have at least 300 tons of "Imperial Bee" honey for export this year and probably more.

Last year we shipped only 37 tons of "Imperial Bee" brand but your Committee did endeavour to establish on the English market a light amber pack to sell in conjunction with our "Imperial Bee" brand. Approximately 110 tons was exported and it is to be sold as New Zealand Light Amber Honeyco honey.

I am sure that you all will readily agree that the irregular exports over the past years could not be continued if "Imperial Bee" is to retain its place on the English market.

The approximate quantities of New Zealand honey exported to U.K. are as under:—

	tons		tons
1938	.. 776	1944	.. 100
1939	.. 179	1945	.. 65
1940	.. 399	1946	.. 26
1941	.. 375	1947	.. 31
1942	.. —	1948	.. 146
1943	.. —	1949	.. 77
		1950	.. 350

It may be of interest to you to learn that the total imports into U.K. were:—

	tons
1945	.. 4,785
1946	.. 1,881
1947	.. 8,727
1948	.. 6,827
1949	.. 17,010
1950	.. 2,845 to the end April.

and prior to 1938 the tonnage varied from:
1,903 tons in 1934
to 3,629 tons in 1938

The percentage of imports from New Zealand which during the period 1926-1930 represented 16.5% of the total of U.K. imports fell to 10% for the period 1934-38 and then to .86% for the period 1945-49. In addition during this latter period it must be appreciated that the total tonnage of imports excluded honey of North America and Canada.

During the period 1926-1930 imports into the U.K. were represented on a percentage basis as:—

New Zealand	.. ..	16.5%	
British West Indies	.. ..	18.0%	
Canada	.. ..	9.3%	
Australia	.. ..	2.2%	
Other British Countries	.. ..	1.1%	
			47.1%
United States of America	.. ..	24.6%	
Chile	.. ..	6.2%	
Cuba	.. ..	7.9%	
Russia	.. ..	6.1%	
France	.. ..	.8%	
Other countries	.. ..	7.5%	
			52.9%

New Zealand must, therefore, supply regular quantities or lose this export market. Although our target of 500 tons will not be reached we will have made a worthwhile contribution towards retrieving the position.

The loss of exchange credits reduced our London returns. Prices were pegged until 5th April, 1950, when controls were lifted in England. With increases in costs our retail prices have been stepped up to compensate your Pool returns. At present the returns equals 10d. to 10½d. per lb. in New Zealand.

Endeavours are being made to re-establish our Eastern trade.

4. To maintain a close liaison between the Marketing Committee, the Marketing Department and producers.

We have endeavoured to do this by periodic visits by producer members of the Committee, and officers from our various Branches have also made personal contacts with beekeepers, with, I believe, worth-while results.

In addition, your Committee:

- Has assisted the National Beekeepers' Association in the restriction on the imports of beeswax.
- It has worked towards the elimination of the export of low and inferior food parcel packs. These can only detrimentally affect the name which New Zealand honey has achieved overseas.

HONEY SECTION

Over the last few years the Honey Section has received irregular supplies and it has not been possible to keep regular staff on this account. You have lost the services of Mr. Woodford and Mr. Stoupe and the Section work has been handled this season by temporary staff.

The blending has been attended to by an officer whose work has been highly commended.

In our endeavours to make closer contact with producers, we are endeavouring to establish a closer contact with beekeepers through our officers in Dunedin, Christchurch, Nelson, Hastings, Gisborne, Auckland and our Head Office, Wellington. I believe that this is a correct procedure and I trust that beekeepers are finding this to their advantage.

The receipts to 26th June amounted to

531 tons of honey, but with honey awaiting shipment and in transit our receipts should exceed the 635 ton mark. Of the quantity: 443 tons was secured from the North Island, 192 tons was secured from the South Island.

The average grading of receipts to 26th June was 85.769 points against 79 points for last year.

The receipts of honey received in the blending depot have been analysed to only the end of May but even these partial receipt figures will be of interest.

District	Tons Received
Auckland	127
Hamilton	174
Tauranga	61
Hastings	5
Palmerston North	4
Hawera	27
North Island total	398
Nelson and Greymouth	30
Christchurch	8
Oamaru	14
Invercargill	23
South Island totals	75
Total Analysed	473

The amount of honey received to 26th June amounted to 531 tons of which 206 tons has already been exported, 6 tons packed and sold to priority orders in New Zealand, with straight line sales of 40 mainly to manufacturers.

The total seals revenue collected to 26th June amounted to £6,822, representing 1,483 tons of honey, against £5,400 collected for all of the 1949 season and £3,850 for the 1948 season.

The highest previous collection was an amount of £5,289 collected in 1941.

LOW GRADES

Beekeepers have been advised that unblendable lines such as Manuka and Strong Birch are not acceptable by the Pool, but will be received as straight line purchases.

The price offered is reasonable and no beekeepers have so far refused our offers.

LARGE LINE BONUS.

The payment of this bonus leaves much to be desired and this aspect will be reviewed before next season's operations.

No organisation can be maintained without supply and in the past this has been determined by relative financial returns from the local market or from the Pool Account.

It is difficult to weigh present returns against the average returns over a number of years and yet I believe that it is unwise to endeavour to continue a policy of encouraging supplies unless it produces the quality of honey required. The Pool also cannot be maintained as an outlet for only those grades that cannot be readily sold by beekeepers direct to the local market. In other words it cannot be a dumping ground for otherwise unsaleable lines.

An answer must, however, be found, as the industry has agreed that organised marketing must be retained. With this desire must come a willingness to make it effective and a contribution towards the scheme in some form or other.

In conclusion, may I extend my sincere thanks to all members of my Committee who have so willingly assisted me and helped the Department in its work.

GRANULATION

Honey varies greatly according to the nectar from which it is derived, and very few honeys will remain in a liquid condition for any length of time. The floral source of honey not only has a definite bearing on the time taken to granulate, but also on the smoothness of the grain. It can generally be accepted that honeys which granulate very quickly will have a comparatively smooth grain, and those which take a considerable time will have a coarse grain. Honeys from pohutukawa and rata come into the first group; most other honeys take longer to granulate, and if left untouched, may granulate with coarse crystals. For many years it has been known that beekeepers can remedy this drawback of coarse-grained honey if they are prepared to undertake the adding of a small amount of starter honey, stirring, and temperature control.

The temperature of the honey should be about 75 degrees F. before the starter honey is added. Temperatures above this level are liable to melt the very fine crystals in the starter honey.

The starter honey has to be thoroughly mixed into the liquid honey. This is done by stirring without incorporating any air bubbles.

The proportion of starter honey added is generally from 5 to 10 per cent. of the bulk. More starter will hasten granulation, provided temperatures are right.

Once starter has been thoroughly incorporated throughout the honey, packing can begin.

After packing, honey should be subjected to a temperature of approximately 57 degrees for about 4 days. (This applies more to summer packing when air temperatures are well above 57 degrees, and cooling rooms are necessary only for these periods.)

Toward late autumn, and winter when evenings are cooler, stirring can be carried on a little longer, and after packing, the honey will be found to set firm in a few days.

—From an article by C. R. Paterson, in the *Journal of Agriculture*.

TEMPERAMENT IN BEES

There are a few rules as to procedure which the young beekeeper should follow closely in order to control the average colony of bees.

First of all, before opening up the hive, the bees at the hive entrance must be given a few puffs of smoke. The guard bees are posted at the entrance and it is necessary that they should be temporarily subdued. Then the hive cover should be carefully lifted a few inches and a light smoking applied over the tops of the frames. The cover may now be completely removed and the manipulation of the frames commenced, a little smoke being applied now and again as required to keep the bees down in the hive, particularly those exhibiting a tendency to become excited.

Temperamental Colonies Should Be Requeened.

A young beekeeper recently wrote to the Department stating that although he was carefully observing these recommendations, much trouble was being experienced, the bees attacking him during any attempt to manipulate the hive. It was evident from the particulars given that the colonies being operated were rather "temperamental" and he was informed that, in order to overcome this difficulty, arrangements should be made to requeen with young Italian queen bees secured from a reliable queen bee-breeder. Nothing is more discouraging to the young beekeeper than to find that he has to deal with temperamental bees. His first impression, usually, is that all bees have this characteristic, which, of course, is far from being the case.

Closer observation will always disclose that there is some difference in temperament and other characteristics between any one colony of bees and others; actually this fact makes for added interest in the apiary work. Whilst the average colony can be handled without any thought of it becoming really hostile, any bee-farmer may find an odd colony which, through a change in breeding, has developed a temperament which makes the manipulation of this hive a rather uncomfortable business. Such stocks are, or should be, promptly

requeneed, not only because of the difficulty of handling this colony, but also to prevent dissemination of the trouble through the apiary.

Factors Which Influence Colony Temperament

Apart from this inherent occasional tendency to become hostile, there are other conditions which at times influence the temperament of bees. For instance, during honey flows from certain species of flora, such as orange trees and, in some cases, ti-trees, bees which are generally of a quiet nature may for the time being become quite temperamental and difficult to control. Then occasionally robbing raids, or certain odours, may cause them to adopt a hostile attitude. A young beekeeper recently found that cotton waste which had been previously dipped in kerosene and used in cleaning work caused trouble. Body odours arising from perspiration may be resented on occasions; also dark, woolly clothing and, in some instances, the type of hat worn may cause some hostility. The experienced beekeeper will certainly guard against offending in this way.

Hostile Bees Are Not the Best Honey Producers

Occasionally we hear a beekeeper express the opinion that "temperamental" bees are the best honey gatherers. However, this does not work out in general practice. Even if they were, the average beekeeper would prefer to produce a little less honey per hive than put up with the discomfort, and the loss of interest in his work which would surely affect apiary management.

The idea that temperamental bees were the best honey gatherers was responsible, in earlier days, for importations of Cyprian bees. Fortunately, the idea did not prevail and efforts were made to eliminate the breed. However, it is quite possible that some Cyprian blood still exists in odd colonies in some apiaries, and as breeding from the drone side cannot be altogether controlled, some trouble from this source may be expected to arise occasionally in some apiaries.

— W. A. Goodacre in N.S.W. Agricultural Gazette.

HONEY CLARITY

In any program for honey improvement, clarity should have a more important place than is usually given to it. This is not because clarity is a new thing, for the bees knew how to store the honey in the cells with almost perfect clarity many ages ago and they still do in most honeys. Any loss of clarity is usually caused by microscopic particles, usually wax, induced into it during extracting and processing. A slight cloudiness is not a characteristic of honey as is generally supposed.

Dr. Beck once stated that liquid honey was harmed somewhat during extraction, and if a person wanted to get it in the most perfect and healthful condition, he should mash the combs and collect the honey in that way. He did not say anything about clarity, but that is the easiest way at present to get clear honey. This is a somewhat messy method and impractical commercially, but it makes a worthwhile experiment.

All that is necessary is to cut or mash combs so that the desired amount of honey can drain from them, or this honey could be drained from cappings if a cold knife is used to do the uncapping. Care must be taken that there be no undue agitation or heat during the cutting or draining. This sample is then kept in a warm place of about 90 degrees Fahrenheit for two or three days at the end of which time it should be so clear that a hair can be seen through a one pound jar of said honey. My result on this experiment was a product much clearer than that produced by any commercial means including filtering.

I had honey clarity first brought to my attention by Mr. R. G. Richmond when he was apiary inspector of Colorado. At that time capping melters were criticised because those then in use darkened honey considerably. He said that was true, but that they also made the honey cloudy by homogenizing a small amount of the wax. This can be proven easily and is well known now. There is another important item doing the same thing and few have suspected it. This is the hot uncapping knife. In searching

for the source of the cloudiness in capping honey, I took different samples drained slowly from cappings cut by a hot knife and those from a cold knife. At any time after the samples were collected the difference was evident and after settling in a warm place a couple of days it was pronounced.

It seems that strong agitation while wax is present will also cause cloudiness. For this reason, high speed rotary uncappers like a wire brush also cause this trouble. No present practical uncapper is known that does not cause this damage.

Bubbles are usually blamed too, but in my experience they caused less damage to clarity than is generally supposed. It would be more accurate to say it is a more temporary handicap. I took a sample of clear honey and beat it up with an egg beater until it was white and then beat it some more. It was settled several days in a warm place and outside of the ugly froth on top it practically regained its original clarity and it was one of those samples of exceptional clarity.

It would be nice to be able to offer a solution to this subject. I have been working on it more or less since 1939 except for a recess during the war, but wax homogenization by the capping device is a stumper.

The regular advice given will help some. Just plain cleanliness is important. Anything that will make water look muddy will make honey muddy. It is important to remove all wax by settling or straining before honey is heated enough to melt the wax. This is a reason why the packer wants to buy clean honey. It is probably granulated before he gets it and he must melt the wax while reducing the granulation thus incorporating a part of the wax in the honey.

Maybe some day we will learn how to take as good care of the honey as the bees.

—V. C. Culhane in *Modern Beekeeping*.

J. H. Jowett: The real measure of our wealth is how much we should be worth if we lost our money.

BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLIES

COMB FOUNDATION.

There is no need to send your beeswax a long distance for sale or conversion. Have it attended to in your own district. Genuine ROOT machines used in conversion of beeswax to foundation. Please send your beeswax along early to avoid the last minute rush.

Enquiries and inspection invited.

BEE WOODWARE.

I can supply any quantity of Bee Woodware, to prepare for the coming season. Beekeepers who have already decided on their requirements are advised to ORDER EARLY and avoid the last minute rush.

Enquiries and Price List, from:

A. B. TURNER
TE RAPA, R.D., FRANKTON

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor.
Dear Sir,

Preliminary reports of Conference show that the beekeepers have begun to return to the policy advocated in 1944 and which some of us believe is still the only wise one. After persuasion and intimidation from self-styled leaders to follow their path, it turns out that we have been led in a circle back to where we started out seven years ago. It is to be hoped that some lessons have been learned from this excursion into the land of the planners and organisers.

Emphasis is again being placed on the value of the export market. Provided that payment for honey is pro rata, according to grade, this is a step in the right direction. There is still an urgent need to give more information on the financial returns from this market, before the future of the seal levy can be properly decided.

When the real worth of the export market is known, the value or otherwise of the Auckland depot for local packing can be determined.

From a Ministerial statement on 21st July it appears that the franchise for the election of producer representatives is to be extended. Beekeepers will now be encouraged to show an interest in the election of their representatives to their Statutory Board and this encouragement should bring a better understanding of their common problems. While there will be little sympathy for those few larger producers who have tried to secure influence under a limited franchise, the problems of the larger producers must not be overlooked. The possibility of their having an unmanageable marketing problem in years of heavy production is the same problem that will face smaller producers in the same years.

Packing in Auckland for the local market involves heavy transport and other costs that may prove less economic than following the export policy, even if this latter policy involves the continuance of the seal levy. Patience in continuing to support this levy which Conference has again approved, should be exercised until the real value of export policy can be assessed. Remember that 1000 tons were supplied before the war on a pro rata payment on grade, without a seal levy as it applies to-day. But also remember that the same thing was achieved at the end of the twenties but the market collapsed. Then there were no reserves.

Beekeepers have a fairly good market from which to secure an adequate living. By producing a better pack they will hold their market. "Hasten slowly" and "Patience is a virtue" are wise sayings to bear in mind, while we marshal information to guide us in making decisions for the future.

It is said that the onlooker sees most of the game. If I am more of an onlooker at present, I have not lost any of my interest in this willing game.

W. J. LENNON.

307 Victoria Street, Hastings.

The Editor,

Dear Sir,—In view of the confusion (fostered mainly by a propaganda of half truths and a distortion of facts) that exists in the minds of a number of beekeepers

regarding the origin and purpose of the "seal levy," kindly allow me space to briefly repeat the substance of the explanation I was requested to make to Conference on this important matter.

Past experience of the honey industry has proved that no producer marketing organisation can survive under conditions of unrestricted competitive selling by individual producers who contribute nothing to the organisation that exists solely for the purpose of establishing marketing stability and a payable price level to producers.

Whilst recognising the vital necessity for organised marketing, beekeepers have never been sympathetic towards any scheme of compulsion to supply the whole of their crop to the organisation. This was very plainly demonstrated at the conference of beekeepers in Wellington about 1932 to consider the formation of another producer marketing company, following on the collapse of the H.P.A. At this meeting I advanced the proposal of the 3d per lb. seal levy obligation to apply to all honey which producer shareholders chose to retain and sell through the usual trade channels. The necessity for this seal levy fund was clearly understood by all producers. It was to be used by the Company to establish an equalisation fund from which the Company could draw upon to assist the pay-out to suppliers and thus ensure a return to them that would compare favourably with that of non-suppliers. This policy operated during the entire period of the Company's four years of existence. It can be truly said that this seal levy obligation was a vital and integral part of the Company's structure. The Company, however, had no control over the operations of non-shareholders who were of course free to sell their honey without either a seal levy charge or share capital obligation. This undermining factor had the obvious weakening effect on the position of the Company, and was one reason for the Company going into liquidation and disposing of its assets to the Internal Marketing Division. The seal levy obligation then became applicable to all non-suppliers and the I.M.D. continued the same policy as that practised by N.Z. Honey Ltd., as far as the collection and purpose of the seal levy money was concerned. In 1938 (shortly after the I.M.D. took over) the market, both overseas and local, was threatened with a glut that would tax the strength of the organisation to dispose of honey at a payable price to producers. The Industry displayed considerable anxiety over the position and naturally looked to the Honey Board which served in an official advisory capacity to the Government, to provide an answer to the problem.

It was under these circumstances that in the course of my address as chairman of the Board to the 1938 Beekeepers' Conference I said that the seal levy would be used "mainly for advertising."

In view of the use to which the seal levy fund had been applied by the producers' own Company during its entire period of existence and the recognised necessity for that policy to continue, it seems incredible that anyone at that conference could possibly interpret my words "mainly for advertising" in regard to seal levy money as a binding policy for all time covering the disposal of seal levy money. War-time conditions that developed twelve months later

completely altered the marketing position. Honey quickly became a commodity in short supply and the necessity for an advertising campaign no longer existed. The seal levy fund was then free to be used for the purpose it had all along been applied to, namely, to stabilise the pay-out to suppliers at a level comparable to that obtained by non-suppliers.

The alternative to the seal levy would be for the Government to subsidise the pay-out to suppliers of the organisation. The industry, however, has never put forward such a proposal and we have good reason for believing that neither the late Government nor the present one would favourably consider subsidising the pay-out to honey suppliers of the Marketing Department.

Yours faithfully,
WALLACE NELSON.

TESTS OF NOSEMA REMEDIES

By P. H. HALLER

(An Abstract by P. S. Milne published in "The Bee World").

For some time constant attention has been paid to the testing of so-called Nosema remedies. Some 48 substances, including a number useful against protozoal diseases of animals and man, and other specially prepared by a firm of chemists in an attempt to find something suited to the conditions obtaining in the honeybee and in the colony, were tested by R. Lotmar. The results are not yet published but are summarized here. Not one of these substances was capable of preventing complete infection of the mid-gut by Nosema at any dosage which was harmless to the bee. Further lines of work suggested by these experiments are, however, being followed up.

A detailed account is given of tests with three materials—Sporobon, Bienol, and colloidal sulphur. Sporobon and Bienol are proprietary preparations issued, with instructions for their use, as specific remedies against Nosema. Two samples of Sporobon were found to contain hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, camphor and water; a third sample contained hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, ethyl acetate and water. Bienol is stated by the makers to contain "physiological salts, plant nutrients and thyme." Tests were made with bees in cages, using about 50 bees per

cage, from Nosema-free colonies, at 30 degrees C. (86 degrees F.). The bees were fed with syrup containing the required concentration of the material to be tested. Nosema spores suspended in syrup were fed to the bees either before, concurrently with, or after the first feeding with the syrup containing the test material. None of the three materials had any detectable inhibitory influence on the development of Nosema infection. In one experiment newly emerged marked bees were added to the cage containing infected bees, and feeding with Sporobon was started at the same time; Sporobon did not prevent the spread of Nosema to the young bees. In another experiment the mid-guts of bees from a previous experiment, in which Sporobon had been fed, were used as the source of infection: they proved just as infective as the mid-guts from untreated Nosema bees.

Hydrogen peroxide has been mentioned in earlier papers on Nosema as a substance which causes the extrusion of the polar thread from the Nosema spore and also the germination of the spore. Gontarski & Seek stated that hydrogen peroxide was giving promising results against Nosema by causing the extrusion of the polar threads and the premature germination of the spores, thus rendering the latter non-infective. In a later paper, however, Gontarski concluded that hydrogen peroxide fed at the necessary concentration is harmful to bees. Confirmation of this property of hydrogen peroxide was not obtained during the experiments at Liebefeld; the results show that the decisive factor in the extrusion of the polar thread was the degree of ripeness of the spore. If the spore is at the proper stage of ripeness the polar thread is extruded just as easily in water as in hydrogen peroxide, whereas if the spore has not reached this stage, or has passed it, then even hydrogen peroxide does not help.

The chemo-therapeutic treatment of Nosema still remains an unsolved problem.

Let us not pray for a light burden,
but a strong back.—Theodore Roosevelt.

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THE WASP THREAT

ALEXANDRA, Aug. 1.

Wasps may soon invade the South Island. This was forecast by Mr. W. T. Goodwin, assistant director of the Horticulture Division, when speaking on plant quarantine at the annual conference of the Otago Fruitgrowers' Association here to-day.

"My department suspects that insect pests are coming to this country by plane," Mr. Goodwin said. "We think that the wasps which recently spread through the North Island came in by plane, and it will not be long before you get them in the South Island."

Mr. Goodwin added that fumigation apparatus was being installed at all ports, and to a lesser extent at aerodromes.

—"Otago Daily Times."

The secret of patience is doing something else in the meanwhile.—
 The Sun Dial.

STRONG FLAVOUR

A questioner at Conference inquired whether any progress had been made in treating strong-flavoured honey to make it more suitable for marketing.

Mr. W. Nelson explained that while such honey could be treated with some degree of success, it was found that the natural characteristics of the honey were impaired during the process. In addition there was a considerable loss of weight in the honey so treated. At present the expense involved in securing the necessary plant is considered to be unjustified.

BRIGHT IDEA

A bee-man from the deep south suggests a little more initiative in the designing of honey labels. To give an example, somebody should make a picture of a graceful bird on the wing, and below this picture he should print the pithy legend: "Swallow Honey—why not!"

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REPLIES TO CONFERENCE

Office of the Minister of Agriculture,
Wellington, N.Z.,
3rd August, 1950.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z., Inc.,
P.O. Box 19,
FOXTON.

DISEASE CONTROL.

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of 12th July, 1950, conveying certain resolutions passed at the recent Annual Conference of your Association.

- (1) "That the Apiaries Act be amended so as to give the Agricultural Department's permanent Apiary Instructors power to destroy grossly neglected apiaries on the outbreak of disease."

Departmental Apiary Instructors have power under Section 9 Sub-section c of the Apiaries Act, 1927, to destroy grossly neglected apiaries when disease is found so no amendment to the Act is necessary.

- (2) "That for the purpose of eradicating disease (foul-brood) a recommendation be made for Apiary Instructors to concentrate on comprehensive Apiary Inspection, and to devote less time on instruction in the field."

Apiary Instructors have a wide range of instructional and inspectional duties but are to concentrate on Apiary Inspection duties during the breeding season from August to March. Experience has shown that the previous practice of shaking to control foul-brood in certain circumstances has not reduced incidence of this disease in New Zealand much below 2%. In future beekeepers will, therefore, be required to destroy any diseased bees and bee-combs found by Inspectors and thoroughly to sterilise the remaining hive equipment by approved methods. By this procedure it is hoped eventually to eradicate foul-brood in all settled beekeeping districts.

- (3) "That a larger amount of finance be made available for part-time Apiary Inspection."

Last year there was an expenditure of £789 for part-time apiary inspection. This year a sum of £1,000 has been provided on the Estimates for inspection and control of bee diseases and a start has already been made to organise the work for the coming inspection season.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) K. J. HOLYOAKE,
Minister of Agriculture.

BEE IMPORTATIONS

Office of the Minister of Agriculture
Wellington,
1st August, 1950.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z., Inc.,
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of 12th July conveying the following resolution passed at the recent Annual Conference of your Association:—

"That representations be made to the Minister of Agriculture with a view to having regulations enacted to ensure that only Italian bees from reputable overseas breeders shall be imported and importations be made only by the Department."

"This remit to be made effective necessitates an amendment to the Apiaries Act, 1927, and this could not be done during the current session. I am, therefore, obtaining a report from my departmental officers regarding the desirability of restricting importations of all bees other than strains of Italian bees.

The Department now undertakes a strict supervision over the importation of bees in order to protect beekeeping in New Zealand against the possible introduction of bee diseases. However, I do not consider it desirable for the Department to undertake importations of bee-stocks on behalf of producers as this work is more suitably done by commercial queen breeders.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) K. J. HOLYOAKE,
Minister of Agriculture.

GALVANISED FLAT IRON

Office of the Building Controller,
Wellington,
3rd August, 1950.

The General Secretary,
National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z., Inc.,
FOXTON.

Dear Sir,—I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28th July in reference to supplies of galvanised flat iron required for roofing bee hives.

The present supply position of flat iron is reasonably satisfactory, but of course insufficient for an unrestricted demand.

The requirements of your members can be met without difficulty, and should be available through normal trade channels. No permit is required to purchase. In the case of any difficulty, however, I will be pleased to assist on your further advice.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) R. B. HAMMOND,
Building Controller.

THE DRONES

BY A. J. BLAKEMAN.

Drones are carefully nurtured, particularly in prosperous colonies, but in times of scarcity and at the end of the season when all is well with the colony they receive short shrift. They are the colony's insurance policy and are produced quite early in the year so that should matters go wrong with the queen, the colony will be able to produce a mated queen.

The presence of drones in a colony is not indicative of swarming preparations. Note from the following how unfitted they are for "directed labours":—

- (a)—Tongue is very short, too short for him to gather nectar from

the flowers, and so he lies abed until late in the morning—no use for him to go out into the market place.

- (b)—Jaws are weak, incapable of working the wax or of defending himself or the home.
- (c)—He has no wax glands—no house-building for him.
- (d)—He possesses a very small honey sac, just sufficiently large for him to carry a light lunch when he goes abroad.
- (e)—He has no well-developed gathering hairs or well-developed combs on the body.
- (f)—His brain is very small, no thinking and planning for him (if bees do think).
- (g)—He carries no pollen baskets on his legs, so there is no queueing up in the flower market, no outdoor activities except for flying and buzzing around, often frightening nervous beginners.
- (h)—He has no sting, no weapon of defence. He is no old soldier ready to defend the home.
- (i)—He has no scent gland. For him no marking of floral spots, swarm site or home situation.
- (j)—His glandular system, compared with that of the worker bees, is very poor.

But the drone has:—

- (a)—The largest wings of all the bees.
- (b)—The largest compound eyes (13,000 facets in each).
- (c)—His single eyes are fixed in front of the head.
- (d)—There are thirteen joints to the antennæ to accommodate more sense organs.

May not all these aid the drone in the marriage flight?

It is important for us to realise that although after mating the drone dies, his influence continues through the sperms he has left in the spermatheca—these may last until the queen dies and so the drone becomes part and parcel of every worker or queen produced through this mating.

—Scottish Beekeeper.

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