

YORK - wealth from the soil



Mr. W. McNamara, of York, with some of the bees from a special hive which produced half a ton of honey in a year.

AN IMPORTANT LOCAL INDUSTRY.

Honey Production by 90,000,000 Bees.

BY no means the least important industry of the York district is the honey production business which is carried out by McNamara brothers. For over 30 years now the two brothers have made a scientific study of bees and honey producing to such an extent that they now have about 90,000,000 bees, which last year produced over 200 tons of honey.

The growth of the McNamara brothers' honey trade has been little short of remarkable. As boys in York they were keenly interested in bee-keeping, their first association with bees being when they captured a hive in the bush in 1910. At first bee-keeping was only a hobby with them, but before long they realised its commercial value and they started organised production, gaining valuable information from experienced bee-keepers.

The brothers started selling the honey in York, and quickly found a ready market for it. Three years after they started they had 32 hives and by 1918 the total number of hives had grown to 130, the production that year being 200 tins of 60lb. each. This was easily disposed of in York, Northam and Beverley. The following year, when the gums

bloomed abnormally, their hives increased to 350 and the honey extracted was worth £300.

The business received a temporary setback in 1919 when, through lack of gum blossoms, about 230 of the 350 hives were lost through lack of nourishment, but the following year was again a good one and the hives were built up to 250. During this year they became more ambitious, sending their honey to Perth, where it sold readily. The following year the brothers purchased the apary business of Messrs. C. and H. Smith, of Baker's Hill, this transaction bringing their hives up to 900. This number was further increased in 1922 when another 100 hives were bought from F. H. Lloyd, of Gilgerring. The hives reached the thousand mark in 1923 and since then they have continued to grow, until today the brothers own 2,000 hives. Each hive contains 10lb. of bees, and as there are 4,500 bees to the lb., there are now 90,000,000 bees in the hives. The cut-put last year was 8,000 four-gallon tins, weighing about 200 tons.

In 1933 the business had increased to such an extent that it was necessary to build a new factory at York. This factory, with a floor space of 1,200ft. is fully equipped to produce the best honey. In addition the brothers erected 10 large tanks, each capable of containing 1,200

gallons. The honey is stored in these tanks for several months and during that time the heat of the sun on the tanks warms and clarifies the honey better than it can be clarified by artificial means.

Today the McNamara brothers have a selling organisation which extends throughout the State, while they have also built up an excellent export trade with Batavia.

The brothers have made a keen study of all the conditions which are necessary to make bee-keeping a success. Their hives are transported as far distant from York as Manjimup, the carrying of the hives and the captured honey being done by motor truck. They have to make a careful study of the trees in the districts where the hives are taken, as they must be able to tell how many hives a certain area will carry. They have also studied the breeding of bees and have imported valuable queen bees from overseas in an effort to improve their hives. One of these hives containing a valuable queen bee last year produced 20 tins of honey of 56lb. each, which is equal to half a ton of honey. The average production for a year for all the hives was six tins.

A GRASS FOR SALT SOILS. Experiment to be Made.

SOME special Russian grass seed which has been obtained by Senator T. W. Marwick, of York, is expected to grow well on salt land in this State. Senator Marwick intends experimenting with it himself and he has also sent some seed to two farmers in other districts who are interested in the experiment.

Referring to this grass, Senator Marwick said in an interview that he had



SENATOR MARWICK.

heard about it a few years ago, but until now he had been unable to procure any. The grass had been planted in Canada and had done well there on salt land.

Last year, said Senator Marwick, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research obtained some of the seed and he also procured some. The seed obtained by the C.S.I.R. was tested only as a drought-resisting grass and, of 19 types of foreign grasses which were imported last year, it proved to be about the third best fodder plant. The Australian seed which had been obtained from this grass was a more robust seed than the original, which came from Russia.

"The grass," he added, "is a deep-rooted grass, and I believe that once it is established on lighter country it will become a permanent pasture for many years. From the reports I have had it also does well on fairly salt soil and we are going to experiment with it. I have sent samples of the seed to Mr. B. Cook, of Wagin, and Mr. J. Truman, of Calgarra, and they are going to test it out."

YORK GYMNASIUM CLUB.

THE number of sporting organisations in York was added to last year when the York Gymnasium Club was formed, the promoters being Messrs. N. Reynolds and C. Plunkett. The club was formed towards the end of last winter and only operated for six weeks before it closed down for the summer. It started with a membership of 66 senior members and 20 junior members.

When the club was started it purchased £60 worth of material, but by the time the club closed down for the summer, nearly all that money had been paid off. The club will re-open within the next week or so and it is expected that the membership will increase this year. The president is Mr. N. F. Windsor and the secretary, Mr. N. Reynolds.

HOLD-UP IN HOTEL.

Daring New York Bandits.

NEW YORK, April 18.—Three bandits entered a lift in the fashionable Del Monaco Hotel, in Park-avenue, New York, today, menaced four guests and the lift operator with guns and took £3,000 worth of jewels and money from them. They forced the victims, one of whom was a retired manufacturer and the others women, to leave the lift at the eleventh floor and threatened the operator with death unless he was silent until after their departure.

They then strolled unnoticed through the crowded lobby and escaped in a stolen motor car. The car was later found abandoned.

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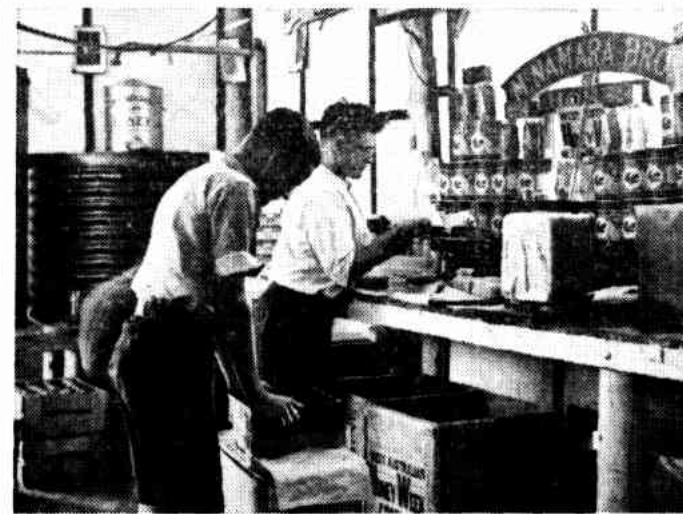
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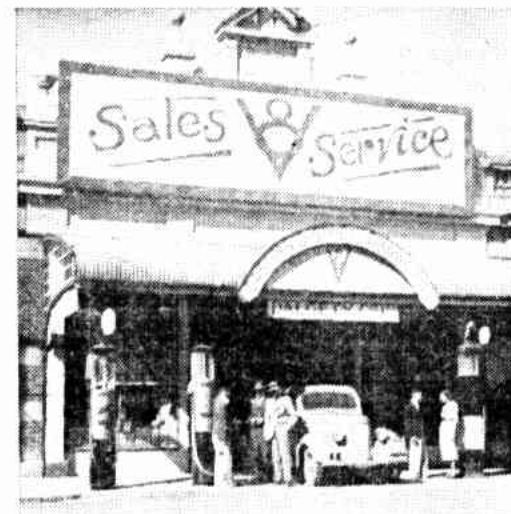
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