

**NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW
ZEALAND.**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1914.

The annual Conference of the New Zealand National Beekeepers' Association opened in the Esperanto Hall, Wellington, on June 17, 1914, Mr. Jas. Allen (President) in the chair. Other delegates present were:—Messrs. J. S. Cotterell (Vice-President), R. W. Brickell (secretary), F. C. Baines, Allan Bates, W. E. Barker, J. Irving, W. A. Elliott, J. Hobbs, Geo. Ward, Isaac Hopkins, E. J. Pink, A. Askew, Sinton Hutchinson, C. A. Jacobsen, A. Ireland, C. E. Grainger, W. B. Bray, C. J. Clayton, G. Edwards, H. Mannix, G. Flanagan, Arthur Low, Hooper Teed, H. W. Gilling, J. A. Moreland, A. L. Feist, L. Bowman, E. A. Earp, G. Nicholls, W. Parrant, G. V. Westbrooke, A. Phillips, C. H. Young, R. Walker, H. Bryans, W. Bryans, W. Waters, W. Nelson, W. L. Bird, E. G. Ward, J. H. Todd, R. Bath, E. H. Penney, G. Butt, J. Grindley, Mesdames Palmer and Elliott, Misses Perry, Meek, and Hammond.

Mr. T. W. Kirk (Director of Orchards and Apiaries Division of the Department of Agriculture) also attended.

OPENING PROCEEDINGS.

SPEECH BY THE HON. R. HEATON RHODES.

The Hon. R. Heaton Rhodes, when he arrived to formally open the Conference, was welcomed by the President.

In his speech, the Minister said:—

“Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—This is the second occasion on which it has been my pleasant duty to open the Conference of beekeepers in Wellington, to offer you a welcome to Wellington, and to express a wish from my colleagues that this Conference may be again fruitful of good to the Beekeepers' Association. On the last occasion you will remember that I had to convey Mr. Massey's regrets that he was unable to be present. I forget the duty that called him away on that occasion. On this occasion he has been called to Palmerston North to open the Winter Show.

During the year it has been very pleasant to note the cordial relations that have existed between your Association and the Department. Your Association has from time to time made most valuable suggestions with regard to regulations and legislation necessary for dealing with the beekeeping industry. As the outcome of your Conference last year the Apiaries Amendment Act was passed by Parliament. It was, as you know, a session that was crowded with much business—there were little things that hung up business from time to time—(Laughter)—there were certain delays that prevented our dealing as quickly as we wished with legislation. However,

in spite of the crowded legislation, Mr. Massey was able to find time to provide for the Apiaries Bill.—("Hear, hear.") That Act contains most of the suggestions advanced by your Conference. It provides for regulations being gazetted dealing with the prevention of disease and control of disease, the registration of apiaries, and particularly the grading of your export honey. The regulations dealing with the export of honey have not yet been gazetted, but they are in course of preparation, and I hope, in accordance with the Act, we shall be able to lay them on the table of the House within fourteen days of the commencement of the session. In spite of there being no compulsory regulations, a voluntary system of grading is in existence, and that voluntary system has been accepted, so I am told, by the beekeepers throughout the Dominion. The value of grading is evident to all when you look back to the time before grading was the practice here and the price you obtained then in the Home market. That price, I am told, was 37/6 per cwt. Under the grading in practice you obtain for your honey 45/- per cwt., and up to 50/- has been obtained. This, to my mind, marks at once the benefit of grading to the export industry.

"Your prospects for the year are good, and these figures may be of interest to you as showing the advance that has been made in the export trade. The export of honey for the year ended March 31, 1913, was 586 cwt., valued at £1,182. For the nine months ended December 31, 1913, the export was 1,690 cwt., valued at £3,293. The figures for the March quarter are not yet available, but of course they will go to swell the amount which I have just given. It will be of interest to you to know that since April 1, 1913, 1,200 cwt. had been graded by the Government graders, and a further increase is looked for by March 31 next year. It was interesting to note that the estimated value of honey produced in the Dominion this year is just over £50,000. One result of grading, I am told, has been to steady the local market. There has been no glut, and generally better prices for honey have ruled in the local markets. Your honey, owing to the advice given by the instructors being followed, has been better packed, and has generally been placed on the market in a very much better condition. One interesting fact that has been brought under my notice is the establishment in Taranaki of a co-operative company. Those of you who are interested in dairying, as I expect some of you are, know what co-operation has been to the dairy industry in this country. You know the value of a good, well-known brand to that industry. So it must follow that with honey, when a well established brand is marked and known, it will be recognised and command a price at once. I am told that Canterbury also is following on the same lines and establishing a co-operative honey producers' association. I congratulate those who are working on these lines, because I am quite certain that it will benefit the industry. I am glad to know, too, that beekeepers generally appreciate the regulations under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—("Hear, hear.") You recognise that it is to your benefit as well as to the benefit of the public that there should be no adulteration of

the honey placed on the market.—(“Hear, hear.”) Of course, that comes under my control as Minister of Public Health, and I am very pleased to know that I may be able in some small way to help your industry.

“The Government instructors report that the industry is steadily growing, that people now realise there is a steady means of livelihood in it, that there is a fair market here, and oversea markets which will be valuable when they are more fully developed, and that the industry generally is capable of considerable development. We recognise that it is our duty to assist you by passing such legislation as you may suggest to us—of course, after mature consideration by our experts—and by issuing further regulations if they should be necessary. I can assure you of Mr. Massey’s goodwill towards you, and generally of the goodwill of the whole of my colleagues. I can only again wish you a fruitful conference, and, should you deem it necessary that there should be further legislation—well, I am not sure that we can promise you any this session. It is the last session of the Parliament, and we may have a briefer time to pass our legislation than we had last session. At any rate, I am quite sure that any suggestion you may place before Mr. Massey will receive favourable consideration.”—(Applause.)

The Minister then formally declared the Conference open.

The President thanked Mr. Rhodes for opening the Conference and for what the Government had done for the industry in past years. “We fully recognise,” he said, “that they have our interests at heart, not only beekeeping, but fruit culture (which is allied to it), and general agricultural interests. We feel perfectly safe in approaching them with our wishes, knowing that they will get the fullest consideration.”

The Minister then took his leave.

THE PRESIDENT’S OPENING ADDRESS.

A PLEA FOR UNITY.

The President said that there were a few words he wished to say before the Conference proceeded to further business. “Looking over the past year,” he remarked, “we started away from our Conference in great hope, and although we have had a wonderfully good year, still I have a feeling that it might have been somewhat better. We expected to meet you again at the beginning of this year with at least double the number of members that we have got now, but difficulties cropped up—difficulties that we did not anticipate—and as a consequence of these difficulties some of our District Associations were not able to join hands. Now, I just want to say my few words for one purpose, and that is that we as beekeepers in this Dominion, if we want to be united, must for the future make up our minds that when we have a personal or district difficulty we are going to sink it all for the good of union. I want to give you just a wee bit of past history. I am pleased that my old friend Mr. Hopkins is sitting in front of me, because he will recognise the truth of what I am going to say. When the battle was being fought for the Apiaries

Act, Southland formed a District Association, the first Association of the kind, and do you know I think it gave Mr. Hopkins the push that got us the Apiaries Act! Isn't that so, Mr. Hopkins?

Mr. Hopkins: "Your Association helped, but, by heavens! I was pushed long before that—by the box-hive man."

Mr. Allan: "Seven or eight months ago an amendment to the Apiaries Act was in some danger owing to those little difficulties that Mr. Rhodes told us about. Just at the right time the secretary gave it a push, and it was the National Association behind his back that got us our amendment this year. I am just giving you these facts to show the advantage of union: it spells something every time, and helps us every time. I must take you back a bit further—I don't know how many years ago, Mr. Ward can tell you—there was an abundant amount of common-sense in Canterbury——"

Mr. Ward: "There is a little left now."

Mr. Allan: "As a result of that common-sense the National was established and set going, and somehow last year they lost it."

Mr. Ward: "Rub it in!"

Mr. Allan: "But do you know the National was very nearly wrecked. I believe that we were in a pretty severe difficulty for some time. Our secretary-treasurer here, he is a great man for push. He wrote me—I think I had better not tell. Well now, up in Auckland somewhere we have Waikato—(Laughter.) They have got push up there, and they have got organisation. They have got Mr. Cotterell and Mr. Teed, and I believe the three of them have averted a wreck, and got us out into the middle of the ocean again and going all right, with Canterbury installed as pilot of the organisation. You see where I am as far as the boat is concerned. I am going to sink everything I have got in order that we may keep her afloat and all on board."—(Applause.)

The minutes of previous Conference were taken as read.

At the request of the President, the Secretary read portions of the minutes affecting the business of the meeting, and said letters asking for information had been sent to the Colorado Honey Producers' Association and the Western Australian Honey Producers' Association, but that no information had been obtained.

As instructed, he had approached the organisers of the Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society, with the result that this body had acted as this Association's export house for the present season.

The Secretary stated that the Executive had been instructed by the 1913 Conference to formulate a co-operative scheme and report in six months. The Executive met in Christchurch in November, but did not feel justified in recommending any scheme at that time, and the matter lapsed.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING POWERS.

A question was raised as to the standing of members and non-members. The President ruled that all beekeepers were invited to attend and take part in the proceedings of the Conference.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 31st, 1914.

The President moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet, as follows: —

Your Executive have pleasure in submitting their first Annual Report since the reconstruction of the constitution at the Conference held last June. Owing to the smallness of our funds and the difficulty of standardising honey, your Executive so far have not been able to carry out any work in connection with the advertising of honey in the local markets. We trust, however, that this will be undertaken during the coming year.

Export.—An arrangement was made very early in the year with the Farmers' Co-operative Society whereby every beekeeper in the Dominion could export his honey on particularly advantageous terms. The arrangement has been taken advantage of by a large number of beekeepers. It is to be desired that every member of this Association will use his endeavour to induce every beekeeper to export through this firm in the following years. It is only by concentrating our exports that we can eliminate competition and get good returns.

Legislation.—Early in the year the Executive asked the Minister of Lands, through the Agricultural Department, to consider the advisability of reserving ten-acre blocks at about three-mile centres as apiary sites on all suitable lands which are cut up from time to time. The Minister approved of the suggestion, and the apiary sites are now being reserved as opportunity offers.

Apiaries Act.—It is particularly gratifying to be able to report that the very important amendments which were approved of at Conference are now law.

Pure Foods Act.—The regulations under this Act are very stringent, and in more than one instance are so unreasonable that they cannot be enforced. Conference no doubt will have something to say on these matters.

During the latter part of the year Mr. Robt. Gibb resigned his position on the Executive, and Mr. C. A. Jacobsen (Canterbury) was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Our membership now stands at 256, and as the organisation and its work become known, it is anticipated that this number will be at least doubled during the coming year.

The past year's work has been uphill and difficult, as all initial labour is in the building up of a new organisation. However, beekeepers all over the Dominion are beginning to see the advantages which will accrue from combined and united action. Your Executive anticipate that the incoming year will witness the establishment of this organisation on a broad and solid basis. Prospects are good and the future bright. All that is needed now is to obtain the thorough and hearty co-operation of every beekeeper in the Dominion.

BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
Cash in hand, 1913	2 0 10	Expenses of Conference 1913 ...	10 18 4
Government Grant	10 0 0	Vote Hon. Sec. 1913	12 12 9
Subscriptions	69 10 9	Postages, Telegrams	5 18 0
		Stationery, Advt., Etc.	9 13 7
		Ex. Executive Meeting	12 15 0
		Duplicator	2 17 6
		Report 1913	14 0 0
		Sec's. Salary (6 months)	12 10 0
		Cash in hand	0 6 5
	£81 11 7		£81 11 7

Audited and found correct,

FRED. C. BAINES, *Auditor.*

Liabilities about £20.

In moving the adoption of the report, the President said that the Executive had worked under great difficulties from being so far apart. The report showed a considerable amount of work had been accomplished.

Mr. A. Ireland seconded the motion.

AN EXECUTIVE MEETING.

A question was asked about the expenses incurred by the Executive in holding a meeting at Christchurch.

Mr. Jacobsen expressed warm appreciation of the industry and energy shown by the Executive on this occasion.

Mr. Cotterell said that one meeting during the year was necessary. At the meeting it was arranged that one agent should handle the export honey. It was also arranged that an advance of 3d. per lb. might be obtained on the grade certificate.

The report and balance sheet were adopted as read.

THE CONSTITUTION DISCUSSED.

The President said that it would be wise to discuss the difficulties that arose out of the present constitution without bringing a motion before the Conference. Afterwards they could meet in committee and make necessary amendments. This plan would give members time to think the matter over and decide what was for the best. For his own part, he considered that the only possible way in which the bee-keepers of the Dominion could speak with one voice was through a National Association. No local association—no matter how well organised and conducted—would serve the purpose. Such an association was confined to a small area. When beekeepers spoke to the Department with one voice, through a National Association, with regard to their needs, it was easier for the Department to understand them. Again, there was far more hope of satisfactory results if exports were sent out through one channel than if Canterbury sent its honey through one company, Dunedin through another, and so on. As to the local markets, they had a good many wants that they were going to pester the Department about. He was afraid Mr. Kirk would be tired of them before they were done.

Mr. Kirk: I am pretty thick in the hide.

Mr. Allan: "United we stand, divided we fall." They had been working on three-quarters of the fees of the members of the District Associations. Now proposals were coming in to cut this down considerably. They would have to give the National Association the money that was required to do what it was expected to do.

Mr. F. C. Baines said the South Taranaki Beekeepers' Association, which had joined the National, was going on exactly as before. We find, like other local Associations, that the amount refunded by the National, is barely sufficient to maintain the local Association.

Mr. Hooper Teed said that perhaps Canterbury would compromise and agree to pay one-third of the fees to the National. He was quite sure that one-half of the fees would not cover the whole of the Waikato expenditure.

Mr. Moreland (Marlborough) said that the members of his Association found a local market for most of their honey. The district was isolated, and any attempt to develop the export trade was blocked by the heavy freight of 17/6 per ton across Cook Strait. This virtually crippled the export of produce from Marlborough. His idea was that the National Association should be composed of local Associations, and that the amount required to finance the National should be levied pro rata on the local Associations in accordance with their membership.

The President: That is the most liberal offer we have had yet.

Mr. E. G. Ward, President of the Canterbury Beekeepers' Association, said he had been secretary of the old Federation, and carried on its business for twelve months on six or seven pounds. They landed up in debt, but laid the foundation for the present National Association. It is money that makes the mill go. The Canterbury Association wanted to know what it was going to get for its money. During the last twelve months the Canterbury Association's membership had risen from fifty to something over one hundred members. When they joined the National their contribution would amount to something like £12 at 25 per cent. of the fees.

Mr. W. E. Barker (Peel Forest) said that he had had an experience which showed the practical value of the National. Having lately exported some honey, he had obtained an advance of 3d. a pound on it within three weeks. That was very nice, and a great improvement on the old order of things.

The Secretary (Mr. Brickell) said the whole point seemed to him to be one of finance. When members gave money to the Executive, they must say what they wanted the Executive to do with it. If they did not want much done, then the Executive did not want much money. "If you give us 25 per cent. of the fees," said Mr. Brickell, "you will get value, and if you give us 75 per cent. of the fees you will get value." He went on to state that in his opinion the work before them fell naturally into two classes. The work of the District Associa-

tions was purely local in character. The National Association had work to do which was of Dominion scope and which was common to them all. For instance, the various Associations had under consideration the question of showing honey exhibits at the San Francisco-Panama Exposition and other exhibitions in London. It was unfair that the producer of a five-ton parcel of honey should be expected to bear the cost of sending a display to London, and it was in every way preferable that the cost should be borne by the National Association, because the whole of its members would benefit as a result of the advertisement.

Mr. Penney (South Taranaki) said that he thought Canterbury beekeepers were looking at the matter from an entirely wrong point of view. Mr. Ward had said that the National did not show a substantial return for the amount it had received, but he (Mr. Penney) thought that the better way in the long run would be to support the National body, put good representatives on the National Executive, see that the money was spent to the best advantage; if they carried on the District Associations in their own way, by having a sliding scale, they would still have sufficient to carry on the New Zealand Association. Under a sliding scale in Taranaki most of the beekeepers would be giving £1 or more instead of 5/- to the old Association, and still be able to carry on its work.

CANTERBURY'S ATTITUDE.

Mr. Jacobsen said that there would be no difficulty about Canterbury joining the National, provided they joined under the same terms as in the old Federation, and the machinery of organisation was entirely altered. The National Beekeepers' Association was a new organisation, and the position of the Canterbury Association would be altered entirely if it joined. Hitherto the Canterbury Association had been a local body, controlling its own affairs entirely, but at the same time contributing to the Federation. Now all local bodies had to work in accordance with the constitution of the National. If Canterbury had fallen in with this constitution, the Canterbury Beekeepers' Association would not have been in existence to-day; but, through the efforts of its officers, the Canterbury Association was in a far stronger position to-day than it was a year ago. It had been preserved for the purposes of the National Association. If the constitution could be amended in such a way that the local Associations would remain separate, independent bodies, Canterbury was prepared to join.

Mr. Clayton said that, as one of the earliest members of the Canterbury Association, he was one of the believers in amalgamation. At this juncture he thought it would be best to take the rules one by one and revise them.

THE WAIKATO PROPOSALS.

Mr. J. S. Cotterell said that this was only a preliminary discussion, with no motion before the Conference. He spoke, not as a member of the Executive, but as a member of the

Waikato Beekeepers' Association. The constitution, as framed and passed at the previous Conference, had now had twelve months' trial, and, according to the experience of the Waikato Association, it required amendment. Proposed amendments had also been drawn up by the Waikato Association. He (Mr. Cotterell) strongly approved the Waikato proposal that every member of the National should be a member of a District Branch. Any existing Beekeepers' Association could become a branch of the National, and the general idea was that every branch should be kept thoroughly in touch with what was going on at the National headquarters.

A MAGNIFICENT RETURN.

Mr. S. Hutchinson ridiculed the suggestion that good value had not been obtained for the funds allocated to the National Association. The position was, he said, that the beekeepers of New Zealand had spent £80, and had got the magnificent return of 10 per cent. on £50,000. That was a good investment—they would never get a better one. Mr. Hutchinson also emphasised the necessity of getting small producers of honey into some sort of organisation. At present these men were made use of by merchants who wanted to "bear" the honey market. There was another thing he had always been out to fight—that was localising. No district in New Zealand could give a guarantee that next year it could produce the same amount or quality of honey that it had produced this year. This made it very important that all the honey exported from New Zealand should be sent out through one agency. A constant supply in standard qualities would thus be secured, one province furnishing supplies when another failed, and this would make for a steady market. Already united action on the part of beekeepers had brought about a 10 per cent. increase in the export output, and producers would get 2½ to 5 per cent. better terms than if they worked alone. Some years ago people engaged in the butter industry had made £60,000 by one move in reduction of freights. Individually they could not have done it.

HOURS OF MEETING.

It was agreed that the hours of sitting should be:—10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (or other convenient hour).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Hon. W. F. Massey wired an apology, and expressed his keen interest in the work of the Association. Apologies were also received from thirty beekeepers in various parts of the Dominion.

Before the Conference rose Mr. T. W. Kirk said that Mr. Cooper and other beekeepers whom he had met at the Palmerston Show had asked him to suggest that the next Conference should meet at Palmerston during Show Week.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CO-OPERATION.

Mr. H. W. Gilling (Taranaki) read the following paper on "Co-operation":—

CO-OPERATION.

The acknowledged success of co-operative concerns in various parts of the world has caused both consumers and producers alike to look upon co-operation as the panacea for many of their woes. It is unnecessary for me to name particular concerns, and give figures to convince you that co-operation on the part of the consumers has resulted in a benefit to them. Neither is it necessary for me to prove that co-operation on the part of the producers has resulted in a benefit to them. We have around us abundant evidence of this in the successful co-operation of the dairy farmers. It is argued that it does not necessarily follow that because the dairy farmers can co-operate to advantage that the beekeeper can. We are deaf to the gloomy utterances of the pessimist, and we return again and again and try to get a clearer vision of co-operation amongst the beekeepers. Beekeepers everywhere, with but few exceptions, long for co-operation. We take up the report of the annual meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association, U.S.A., and we find on almost every page some expression of a desire for co-operation. Two co-operative Beekeepers' Associations have been in active operation in U.S.A. for some years with satisfactory results, and one at least—the Colorado Honey Producers' Association—is gradually but surely extending its operations. A more or less successful co-operative concern has been in existence in South Australia for about five years. Although the reports of this concern do not point to unqualified success, the lot of the beekeeper there has been greatly improved through this institution.

Beekeepers in New Zealand have through their existing Association been able to combine to advantage in the purchase of some of their requisites. But it is not possible for our Associations as at present constituted to transact the kind or volume of business we desire. Strictly speaking, it is not a fair thing for an unregistered association to incur liability, as in the eyes of the law it does not exist, and therefore has no remedy in our courts. Your instruction to the ingoing Executive last Conference to evolve some co-operative scheme is evidence that you are not satisfied with existing conditions. In accordance with your instructions, your Executive sought information from the Colorado Honey Producers' Association, the Western Honey Producers' Association, and the South Australian Beekeepers' Association, but the information gleaned was of no value to us in seeking to evolve a comprehensive co-operative scheme for New Zealand.

It has occurred, however, to a few of the beekeepers in Taranaki (the hot-bed of co-operation amongst dairymen) that there is no need to go so far afield for ideas regarding co-operation. Would it not do to simply follow the dairy farmer as far as his methods are applicable to our business? With that

idea, a few of the beekeepers there decided to attempt the formation of a Co-operative Honey Producers' Association. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of one of the most successful dairy companies was selected as a basis to work upon, and as far as possible that was adhered to, with the exception of the necessary alteration to make it applicable to the bee-keeping industry. A number of beekeepers were canvassed, and soon a sufficient number of shares had been subscribed to enable the Association to be registered and to make application for the certificate entitling the company to do business. On the receipt of this certificate the policy for the season's operations were decided upon, and supplies of tins and cases arranged for. In the absence of a bottling depot, arrangements were made with individual beekeepers to do the necessary bottling and tinning for the company. So far this concern has proved an unqualified success.

It is truly remarkable that we failed previously to notice the many lessons we might learn from the dairy farmer. What a vast difference co-operation and the establishment of the factory system has made for him. He no longer sets his milk in shallow pans and skims it with a skim dish, and weekly or oftener laboriously churn his cream into butter, journeying to town with the product to sell to his grocer at the best price he can bargain for. The coming of co-operation amongst bee farmers will too eventually work vast changes. He will no longer be at the mercy of the merchant and grocer. Under the present system all too often he is compelled because of financial difficulties to accept their price. Like the dairy farmer, he will deliver his honey and receive his cheque the following month, and will not be kept awake at night with anxiety lest he does not sell his honey. He will no longer feel in any sense a traitor to his brother bee-keeper, for he will no longer be compelled to cut prices to effect a sale, but they will both work together for the common good. Bottling depots will sooner or later be established. Our first thought is that this city will, of course, be the place for these, but I am not quite sure that such will be the case. We will need to go very carefully into all the pros and cons before jumping to that conclusion. At present I am disposed to think that on investigation it will prove best to follow the dairy farmers here, too, and put our bottling depots in the centre of the supply, which may be some distance from the city. Honey would be delivered to the depot in liquid form, the honey weighed in, and the supplier take back his empty cans. These will need to be strong, with large open mouth similar to a milk-can. On being received, the honey will be treated to hasten granulation, first exposing it to a heated atmosphere to raise the temperature with a view to clarifying. It will then be run into shallow tanks, and some partially granulated honey stirred in to act as a starter. Some means will be evolved for treating the honey to improve the grain. Stirring we know accomplishes this, but necessity, the mother of invention, will eventually lead to the discovery of better methods. I am satisfied that our honey can be improved by good manipulation. The establishment of bottling depots and the possession of capital

will provide the ways and means for experiments in this direction. In a few years' time the isolated beekeeper will find it as hard to compete with the co-operative company's honey as the isolated butter-maker finds it hard to compete with the factory product.

In conclusion, I venture to say that the whole outlook for the bee farmer will be much brighter. Taranaki beekeepers are now enjoying a foretaste of this. I think I can safely say that all associated with the co-operative concern there are satisfied with their prospects, and feel that, when the beekeepers of New Zealand as a whole realise the advantages of co-operation and join issue with them in the establishment of a co-operative concern embracing the whole of the Dominion, that the dawn of a better day will have come.

Mr. Jacobsen said that Canterbury had taken some steps towards establishing a co-operative scheme, but Taranaki had left them in the lurch. Canterbury would most likely fall in with what Taranaki had done, and endeavour to form one co-operative association for the Dominion. If they could get sufficient support and unity, that would be the solution of their difficulties. They would be able to demand a proper living and a good price for their honey. He moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Gilling for his able paper.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. F. C. Baines said that he was secretary of the company formed in Taranaki. He mentioned that he had recently quoted an Invercargill merchant 4d. per lb. f.o.b. for honey. The merchant said that he could get honey in Christchurch for 3½d. He (Mr. Baines) could imagine no stronger argument for co-operation than this sort of thing. Under co-operation also tins and other supplies could be obtained to better advantage. If merchants knew that the price for honey was 4d., and that they could not get it for less anywhere else, every beekeeper would benefit.

Mr. Ireland said that the advantages of co-operation were undeniable—every industry that wanted to keep abreast of the times had to adopt it. One great object of the Association should be to increase the consumption of honey. At present many families did not use it at all. He had not sold any honey in Christchurch that year for 3½d., but had secured 4d. and 4½d. If he could secure these prices, why should others take any less? There was no doubt that small prices were due to people who sold small lots, and a scheme would have to be evolved under which all beekeepers would be induced to sell through a depot. Canterbury intended to have a conference with Taranaki in regard to co-operation straight away, and he hoped that a Dominion co-operative scheme would be floated.

Mr. Moreland said that attempts to beat down prices were not unknown in Marlborough, and gave instances, but added that a sort of local co-operation prevailed, under which one pound was recognised as a standard price for a 56-lb. tin of honey.

Mr. E. G. Ward said he believed there would be no obstacle to Canterbury joining in with what had been started by the Taranaki Association. Taranaki had furnished the nucleus of a good scheme. His experience was that merchants had a fixed price, which they would not go beyond, and the smaller shops were doing something very similar. He was satisfied that the time was now ripe for the adoption of co-operation.

Mr. Isaac Hopkins emphasised the importance of maintaining steady supplies of honey, and also of maintaining standards of quality. People in New Zealand did not consume anything like enough honey. The export trade and the local trade must go on hand in hand. The price here would tend to rise in accordance with the price obtained at Home. Of course, beekeepers must undertake to place on the market, both here and at Home, an article ripened and matured properly. He cautioned beekeepers against using tanks that were too deep.

At Mr. Gilling's request, Mr. Hopkins gave his experience of a co-operative association started years ago in Auckland. Mr. Hopkins said that the concern was floated in the eighties (he thought in 1887). He was secretary. The grocers at once started to "get at" the outside beekeepers, and offered them a better price than they had been getting on condition that they did not join the Association. In course of time the grocers were able to sell honey at less than the depot price. The Co-operative Society then employed hawkers to go round from door to door. On this plan the Association did very well for a time, but in the end the grocers got hold of this trade, too, and knocked the Association into a cocked hat. Now they had a better lot of beekeepers throughout New Zealand. At that time they had all the riff-raff in the country.—(Laughter.) He believed that co-operation might very well be successfully established now. Mr. Hopkins' concluding remark was: "If you are satisfied with the National, go for that all you know; if you are satisfied with something else, go for that; but don't, for heaven's sake, split up."—(Applause.)

Mr. Jas. Allan said he suspected that there might be some difficulty in establishing co-operation in the same way as had been done in the dairy industry, but it should have an excellent effect in tending to make the price firm and in standardising the packages. Co-operation would probably help in getting honey put up in a way acceptable to the consumer, and if it introduced a proper regulation of price it would certainly do a great deal for beekeeping so far as the local market was concerned. He had been offered prime Canterbury honey in tins at 3¾d. per lb. If honey were more attractively packed the demand would largely increase.

Mr. W. E. Barker said that he was not sure that it was advisable that all the honey should be put through one firm. Why should it not be divided between two firms if their terms were equally satisfactory to the National? He thought some of the honey might be entrusted to the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association.

Mr. Jacobsen said that to employ more than one distributing agent would result in unnecessary competition on the English market. Under that plan one parcel of New Zealand honey would sell against another, and the price would fall.

Mr. F. C. Baines said that the agents handling New Zealand honey this year had depots in all the principal centres at Home. Formerly merchants did not know where to look for New Zealand honey, but now they knew that by going to a particular firm they could always get it.

Mr. Gilling said that the Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society was a purely co-operative concern, whereas the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association was a proprietary concern. In the meantime they were supporting a business in which members of the National would eventually take up shares.

Mr. Bray contended that to send Home small parcels on consignment tended to steady and harden the market there, besides paying those who sold in this way.

Mr. G. Ward (Porirua) strongly dissented from this view.

Mr. Ireland said that agents in London sold all that they had bought outright in the first instance and afterwards the honey sent Home on consignment.

Mr. Clayton said he did not think they could hope to set up a honey depot of their own. In other countries associations existed to sell all sorts of produce, but in this country producers were a long way from central points. Co-operation on less ambitious lines might, however, be very useful.

Mr. Hutchinson said their aim should be to sell export honey through a co-operative agent, who would sell in their interest. In the same way their aim should be to sell in New Zealand through a co-operative concern. If they got that he was certain that they could put the price of honey up, and they could advertise that honey would be obtainable at a certain wholesale price in all the cities. Buyers would have to give this price or the honey would be exported. He thought there was a good deal in Mr. Gilling's idea of bottling the honey at a central depot. At the depot they could get cheap boy and girl labour. It was really the dairy system over again.

Mr. Gilling said that a good deal had been said which showed that there was not a clear understanding as to what could be done by a co-operative concern. Mr. Clayton thought that it was not practicable because there would not be enough business to make it pay. The concern which had been established in Taranaki engaged in various commercial undertakings, including the sale of engines and other plant. Bees also had been bought and supplied. These dealings had proved remunerative. Possibly they would be able to get supplies at reduced rates if they placed orders for large quantities.

Mr. Allan: Can you give any idea of the capital required for a company of that description?

Mr. Gilling said that he could not. In Taranaki they had started on somewhat unique lines—they started the company without any paid-up capital at all until the honey came in;

then they got it from the honey. He had been asked, "Why take up shares in a concern such as this instead of taking up shares in the Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society?" One reason was that shares in that concern were of £10 each, and it was thought that this might discourage the small beekeeper. It was also thought that beekeepers would not provide enough capital to run the business on satisfactory lines if it were run as a department of the Farmers' Co-operative.

Mr. Baines said that a co-operative concern would be able to take the place of the merchants, and advance a fair amount on the crop.

Mr. Cotterell complimented Mr. Gilling on his paper and the Taranaki Association in taking the lead.

Mr. Moreland said that he had been asked by Mr. R. McCallum (M.P.) to wish the Conference every success, and to state that he would be glad to give his support to any proposal calculated to assist the beekeeping industry.

DEVELOPING THE LOCAL MARKET.

Mr. Jas. Allan addressed the Conference on "The Development of the Local Market." He said that after the last Conference Mr. Cotterell and himself consulted Mr. Kirk about grading. Mr. Kirk said that he was willing to do anything he could for them, and he (Mr. Allan) drew up a scheme which made it as easy as it could be made for the Department. Still, it was far too much for the Department to undertake. Consequently that scheme had been held over in the meantime. The idea was by some means or other to standardise the honey for the local market.

A HORRIBLE EXAMPLE.

An example of what was possible at present, Mr. Allan remarked, was supplied in a tin of honey which Mr. Brickell had bought in Dunedin.

The tin was placed on the table. The honey was dirty, evil-looking and sour, and elicited from those present expressions of disgust.

Mr. Brickell said that there were six hundred similar tins on the Dunedin market. It was Canterbury honey.

Mr. Kirk said that there was a very simple way of dealing with honey of that kind. The Health Department officer should have been rung up. He presumed there would have been a job for the destructor.

LOCAL GRADING.

At the request of delegates, Mr. Kirk made a statement on the subject of local grading. He had no hesitation in saying that in the present condition of the industry it was quite impossible for the Government to undertake the grading of honey for the local market. Even if it were possible, it was a matter of policy, and of course the Minister would have to be consulted. "Mr. Brickell winks at me," added Mr. Kirk. "He means that I have done grading that I had no authority to do."

Mr. Brickell: "No, I don't, sir!"

Mr. Kirk said that he had sometimes gone a little beyond his routine instructions in matters of grading. Giving his personal opinion—not an official one—he would say that if co-operation were adopted and a central depot were in operation, then local grading might be feasible. Local grading would necessitate a staff of about twenty. Personally, said Mr. Kirk, he pinned his faith for the honey industry, as he did for the fruit industry, upon the export trade.

Mr. Allan said that what Mr. Kirk had said was the strongest possible argument for Mr. Gilling's position. Without co-operation they could not have depots.

Mr. Brickell said that earlier in the year Mr. Jas. Allan had prepared a scheme for local grading for the consideration of the Executive, but it had been found impracticable at the present time. What interested beekeepers more was the development of the local market. Something had been accomplished by means of show competitions, and the price had risen this year because there had been a larger demand for honey as the result of the report of Conference and the general honey news which had appeared in the press of the Dominion. He emphasised the advantages of showing in the shop windows, and remarked that at present there were attractive displays of nearly everything except honey.

SHOP DISPLAYS AND SHOW EXHIBITS.

Mr. Kirk agreed that shop-window displays had an enormous influence on the public. He suggested that the National Beekeepers' Association should arrange a national exhibit at the two principal Winter Shows. The exhibit, he suggested, should be on trade lines. Sent to Palmerston and Dunedin, it would be a first-class advertisement and a cheap one.

Mr. Isaac Hopkins said that it was a disgrace to the Associations that they had not better displays at the Winter Shows.

Mr. Gilling also emphasised the value of advertising, and suggested that standardisation of honey might do instead of local grading.

Mr. Moreland said that he had done some useful advertising by writing paragraphs for the local paper.

Mr. Ireland agreed with Mr. Hopkins as to the advertising value of shows, and mentioned with regret that the Canterbury A. and P. Show had been a complete failure so far as honey was concerned.

Mr. Clayton said that some of the Agricultural and Pastoral Societies offered little inducement to exhibitors in the honey class. The only Association he knew of that had made a special class for honey was Ashburton. There had been a regrettably poor display at the Christchurch Winter Show last year though good prizes were offered.

Mr. Hutchinson said that he was a member of the Waikato Winter Show Association. It had always been pleased to receive exhibits of honey, and made a special class for honey. He was sorry to say that there had been a very poor response from beekeepers.

The Conference adjourned at 5 p.m.

THE EVENING SESSION.

When the Conference resumed at 7 p.m. for the evening session,

Mr. J. S. Cotterell read the following paper on

HOW TO INCREASE THE HONEY CROP.

IMPORTANCE OF YOUNG QUEENS INTRODUCED AT THE RIGHT TIME.

To quote the words of a prominent writer, "There is an idea in apiculture that is very old, and very good. I might call it the beekeeper's rule of three, and it might be stated in this form: A hive, some bees, and a field of flowers; those three things we want, and we want as little else as circumstances will permit."

In the present instance, the writer's opinion is that the first essential is location; second, style of hive used; third, race and queen; and fourth, the management by the man behind the hive, and if all of these be satisfactory success in honey production may be looked for.

Now, those who may imagine I am going to deal with hive contraptions to control swarming, with a view to augmenting the honey crop, I fear will meet with disappointment, for my experience of such fixings, extending now over three seasons, is that they are in the main unsatisfactory, as by their use the queen's function is often restricted. I would rather from the past season's work go in the other direction and stimulate brood rearing in spring by giving young and vigorous queens all the combs they can occupy and the colony take care of. Let it be understood that it by no means follows that because a colony possesses a young queen that colony is not going to swarm, for, given the right conditions, swarming will eventuate in any hive.

Quoting from another writer: "I do not at the present time look upon swarming as an instinct of the bees for increase, but I would consider it to be a provision of Nature for their distribution. Perhaps you would call the difference a small one, and yet right on that small difference hinges the idea of swarm control; for if swarming is not an instinct of increase, but is the result of conditions, it follows that if we remove the conditions which would cause bees to swarm, and yet leave to them the full use of their instinct of increase, no swarming will take place."

"Now, it is true that there is once in a while a hive containing bees in which the size of the hive, the capacity of the queen, the ratio of her egg-laying to the hatching of the brood,

the arrangement of the supers, and the temperature and ventilation, are all so nicely balanced that no swarming results during the season."

There is no getting away from the fact that the control of swarming, or the prevention of the desire to swarm, without reducing the numerical strength of the colony, either before or during the honey flow, is the capstone of successful bee-keeping.

To quote another prominent writer (Mr. Holtermann): "The successful solution of this problem makes it possible to keep more colonies, to have them scattered, to take a honey crop with less labour and anxiety, and to get a larger surplus crop (if there is a surplus) than can be obtained through swarming. In many localities keeping down swarming makes possible more successful and uniform wintering, as well as, in some seasons, the difference between a honey crop and a failure."

Now swarming, as most apiarists are already aware, can be anticipated by the shook or other artificial methods, the main points to keep in view being that the queen has abundance of room in which to lay, together with pollen and honey, or prepared feed readily available. Another and equally important matter is that the brood combs from which the bees were shaken or the queen removed be placed in such a position as to form part of the main hive, the object being to save all the eggs, larvæ, and sealed brood already deposited therein, as well as to gradually divert the working force to that portion containing the queen, care being taken to remove queen cells in nine days' time from the queenless brood combs.

All this can be accomplished by placing the queen on a frame of brood, either below or above a queen excluder, with a fresh lot of combs or frames of foundation in the newly-made brood chamber. At the end of twenty-one days an adjustment of new and old brood combs and the disposition of brood chambers can be made to suit the convenience of the apiarist, for if the queen should prove unusually prolific and drone brood started, it may be necessary to give her a fresh set of combs in which to lay. That your queens should be young and vigorous is an essential point, and J. E. Hand has this to say on the subject: "While a vigorous queen in a large brood chamber will have a tendency to prevent the development of the queen-rearing impulse, perhaps some method of separating the bees and queen from their brood at the beginning of the honey flow is the surest and most economical method of swarm control. Such a method would provide ample room for the queen to exercise her *natural functions* and therefore the forces that develop the queen-rearing impulse are not present, and swarming is controlled."

It will be readily understood by the foregoing that all the working force is kept together, and if supers are put on early they will serve the purpose as room for both bees and honey. It is also wise to keep constantly in view (when honey is not coming in freely) to have feed available in the colony, provided

there is not sufficient honey stored in supers or side brood combs.

To quote from another writer: "I do not believe beekeepers as a rule are alive to the importance of stimulative feeding. If you have good vigorous queens, large hives, and if you give a little warm syrup each night for a month before the honey flow, you will get a crop where others will not, and, what is more, your bees will go into winter quarters rich in stores where others will starve. Enough emphasis cannot be laid upon the fact that strong colonies get the surplus, where those not so strong will starve."

Doolittle has this to say: "How often has it been reiterated that a colony of bees numbering from 50,000 to 75,000, and even 100,000 produces the best results, while one from 10,000 to 15,000 gives its keeper little if any surplus. In spite of the prevalent idea that bees work for nothing and board themselves, the colonies numbering between 10,000 and 20,000 are the rule rather than the exception, and consequently they yield only a small surplus, even though a beekeeper may count his colonies by the hundreds or thousands. With such small colonies a much greater proportion of the whole colony must stay at home to care for the inside needs of the hive, thus leaving few fielders, than in case of the colony having 100,000 bees where 10,000 can care for the inside work, and 90,000 can go to the field, thereby rolling in an amount of honey that is sure to ensure success."

Now how can this be accomplished? The writer's answer to that is by stocking your colonies with young and vigorous queens of a good strain, introduced at the right time, either in early autumn or in spring.

My preference is for spring introduction in contra-distinction to autumn introduction for the following reasons:—In autumn introduction of queens you have to find the old queen whilst robbers are ready to pounce on any exposed comb. This operation of finding the old queen may take you a minute or an hour, depends upon the disposition of the colony, and whether or no you stampede the queen with smoke. You may prefer to risk the Miller plan, yet in its experimental stage, for re-queening without de-queening, by the use of smoke and entrance introduction. In any case, at the end of a week or ten days after the introduction of a new queen it is necessary to examine that colony to ascertain if it is queen right. Failing any eggs or larvæ being present, how do you know if the queen has been safely introduced or suffered injury or may suffer injury by balling due to interference with brood comb at this time of the year? Again, bees under these conditions from my experience often fail to stimulate a new queen to lay in autumn, and sometimes supersede her. On the other hand, by spring introduction the old queen is readily found (the colony not being so populous), and the frame on which to look for her, if she is laying, readily located. An important point to bear in mind is that spring disturbance of the colony is not detrimental, but rather a stimulus to the bees, whilst at the

same time the safe introduction of queens is more easily accomplished, and last, and by no means least, her laying can be kept under observation without fear of starting robbing.

To give an instance: A young Italian queen was introduced to a full colony in autumn in the writer's apiary, but for unexplained causes by the end of September this colony was found to be weak, and only able to cover three Langstroth frames of comb, without an atom of brood being present. By careful feeding and contraction this colony returned, without brood being given, over 150 lb. of honey for the season. Again, owing to various causes in experimenting the past spring, the writer lost the greater part of his queens, but, having a supply to fall back upon, the apiary was mostly re-queened in spring and early summer. The results in regard to honey crop were surprising, the average on spring count being 182 lb. per hive (numbering 96), fully 50 per cent. over the previous season's yield.

This brings me to the subject which I wish most to interest you in—viz., how to obtain well-mated Italian queens in spring at a minimum of cost. I think you will all agree with me that one of the duties and responsibilities of any civilised Government is to develop the resources of the country. Now, as honey is one of the resources that require developing, I maintain that if the Government is sincere in its efforts, they will use every endeavour to provide apiarists with good young well-mated queens in early spring. I will go further, and say they should be supplied at cost price. This, I consider, is not too much to ask when one views the expense the Stock Department goes to in importing pure-bred stock for the benefit of settlers. Some here will doubtless say an injustice would be done to those who make a living by breeding and selling queens. In such case, let the Government buy them out or compensate them. Why? Because if early queens were available at a low cost, in twelve months I firmly believe, with proper management, the output of honey would be increased 50 per cent., and in two years it would be doubled, and that without any increase in the number of colonies.

Now, how is the Government going to supply early queens? Why, in a very easy manner; for it must not be forgotten that New Zealand has its Indies—I mean, the Cook Islands. During a winter sojourn there the writer raised a number of queens, all mated to Italian drones, which are flying the year round. As to the number of low-priced queens that would be needed, I venture to predict that it would pay no apiarist to raise his own, but rather let him devote his energies to the keeping of more bees and the raising of more honey. So that, with re-queening, say, every two seasons, some thousands would be required annually.

The writer would wish every beekeeper to give this subject his earnest consideration, as he is confident that young, well-mated queens introduced in spring, combined with careful management, are a potent factor in successful apiculture, and the keystone of the prosperity of our craft.

In conclusion, I cannot do better than quote the words of the departed Alexander:—

“I will say first the season is of more importance than any one thing; then the strain of bees; the management; and after these the location and some other less important matters.”

“My friends, there is no luck and chance in beekeeping. If your bees don't give you any surplus, pry into everything connected with them until you know the reason why. I cannot understand how some men can be so indifferent to the most vital parts of their business.”

“Above all things, don't be discouraged when the losses come, as come they will; let them find you more determined than ever to push on, until success and all its pleasures crown your years of labour.”

Editorial Note.—This paper should be read in conjunction with an article in “Gleanings,” May 15th, 1914, page 386-7, by F. Greiner, “When is the best time to re-queen?”

An extended discussion followed the reading of the paper, and Mr. Cotterell answered a number of questions. Asked whether queen bees raised in the Cook Islands were as hardy as those reared in New Zealand, he said that he had a number of queens from Rarotonga, and there was no appreciable difference between them and those raised in New Zealand. The native habitat of the bee was in the tropics. Mr. Cotterell advocated stimulative feeding. There was a considerable diversity of opinion on this subject, some of the beekeepers favouring spring feeding and others autumn feeding, while still others considered that there should be no artificial feeding at all.

Mr. Cotterell was heartily thanked for his paper, and the following resolution was passed:—

“That this Conference ask the Government to establish a queen-rearing apiary on commercial lines to supply beekeepers with queens at any time of the year at the lowest possible price as an encouragement to the industry.”

MORNING SESSION—JUNE 18.

The Conference met at 10.5 a.m., Mr. Jas. Allan presiding.

A STANDING EXHIBIT.

Mr. F. C. Baines (Taranaki) moved:—“That the incoming Executive be instructed to procure an exhibit of honey, which could be sent round to the various shows in the Dominion.”

Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion, and suggested as an addition that the Government be asked to convey the exhibit free of charge from centre to centre and show to show. He thought that the Government would make this concession. They would get a column on this exhibit at every show, which would be a very great advantage to the beekeeping industry.

Mr. Baines said that the Department of Agriculture might take the matter in hand and bear the expense. It might include the Association's exhibit in the exhibit which it already sent round to the various shows.

It was agreed that the Executive be instructed to procure the exhibit, and that the Government be asked to bear the cost of its transportation from show to show.

THE DUTY ON BEESWAX.

The Conference next considered a letter from Mr. T. W. Kirk, asking the opinion of the beekeepers as to the advisability of removing the duty from beeswax.

The President asked delegates to express their opinions on the subject.

Mr. Jacobsen moved that the matter be held over until next Conference. In the meantime the Association might establish a comb foundation plant, but at present this was in the hands of the merchants.

Mr. Ireland seconded the motion. He said that if a foundation plant were established in New Zealand, the amount of wax locally produced might prove inadequate, in which case it would be necessary to import some.

Mr. Bray said that the duty on raw wax represented a tax on local industry as against foreign industry. A lot of foundation was being imported, and it was duty free.

Mr. Hutchinson moved as an amendment that the duty be continued. He said that possibly five tons of wax per annum might be imported, and on this a duty of one penny per pound was paid. If the duty were removed the whole of the beeswax in New Zealand would be reduced one penny per pound in value. If anything, he thought that the duty might almost be raised.

Mr. Cotterell seconded the amendment.

The amendment was carried by 13 votes to 10, and on being put as the substantive motion was carried by 22 votes to 5.

The motion asking the Government to establish a queen-rearing apiary was unanimously confirmed, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. J. S. Cotterell, J. Allan and C. A. Jacobsen, was appointed as a deputation to wait upon the Hon. R. H. Rhodes in the matter.

A REDUCTION IN FREIGHT.

The Secretary read a number of letters in reference to the freight rates on extracted and section honey.

The General Manager of Railways wrote stating that the Minister had been pleased to approve of a reduction on section honey from Class A to Class C, but no reduction was possible yet on extracted honey.

Mr. Brickell stated that the reduction was in the ratio of 60/- to 40/-, or 33 1-3 per cent.

On the motion of Mr. Baines, Mr. Hutchinson seconding, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the General Manager of Railways thanking him for the reduction.

The Manawatu A. and P. Association wrote inviting the Association to hold its next annual Conference (1915) at Palmerston North during Show Week.—Referred to the incoming Executive.

NATIONAL JOURNAL PROPOSED.

Mr. Allan said that the next question to be considered was as to whether the Association should establish a National Association Journal.

Mr. Brickell said that during the year it had been borne in upon him on more than one occasion that there was need of a medium through which beekeepers could communicate ideas. There were a number of excellent columns in the daily papers devoted to the industry, but these were of purely local circulation. A journal devoted to the interests of the industry could be turned out at a cost of about £100 a year, and if they could get about 500 subscribers it would not run into very much money. They could issue the first three numbers at a cost of about £20, and last year the report of the Conference cost £14. It was necessary to publish a report of the Conference of some sort, and the journal might serve this purpose. In his opinion the projected publication could not fail to become both useful and popular.

Several delegates spoke in support of the proposal, but others expressed doubts as to its feasibility.

In answer to Mr. Baines, Mr. Brickell said that he proposed a subscription of 3/6 a year.

Mr. Mannex said that in California a successful bee journal was conducted at a subscription of 4/2 a year.

Mr. Bray suggested that authority should be given to issue three trial numbers, further publication to be at the discretion of the Executive.

Mr. Brickell said that two firms in Dunedin had furnished him with estimates, and offered to print the magazine and make themselves responsible for the collection of subscriptions as long as somebody guaranteed the amount of their printing bill month by month. The cost of printing for twelve months would be £84, plus the cost of illustrations, which would cost about £1 per page. The editor's salary would be £25. Receipts from 500 subscribers would be £75, and advertisements should bring in at least £50.

Mr. Edwards said he would guarantee to enrol ten subscribers, and suggested that other delegates should do the same.

Mr. E. G. Ward, who had moved to refer the matter to the incoming Executive for favourable consideration, agreed, at Mr. Brickell's suggestion, to move instead that the matter should be referred to a committee, to report on the following

day. This was seconded by Mr. Nelson and agreed to. The committee appointed consisted of Messrs. Edwards, Baines, Brickell and E. G. Ward.

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.

On the motion of Mr. Brickell, clause 11 of the constitution, requiring that sixty days' notice should be given of proposed amendments to the constitution, was suspended.

The Conference now proceeded to consider amendments of the constitution.

WAIKATO PROPOSALS MOVED.

Mr. Hooper Teed then read and moved the following amendments proposed by the Waikato Association:--

"The Association shall be comprised of Branches, and every member of the Association shall be attached to a Branch. Any existing Beekeepers' Association may become a Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand by passing a formal resolution adopting the constitution of the same, subject to the provisions (fees) of clause 3."

"If found desirable, new Branches may be formed from time to time, existing members comprising the same as a nucleus. Also, if found desirable as a means for better organisation, two or more Branches may be merged into one, or members residing within a certain area shall be advised to constitute themselves as a separate Branch."

"The Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and four other members (two from each island), who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Should any vacancy occur during the year, the Council shall fill the same."

"The duties of the Council shall be deliberative, consultative and advisory towards the Branches. They shall not adopt or advise being put into force any important scheme involving finance without the consent of the Branches interested therein."

MR. R. W. BRICKELL'S PROPOSALS.

Several amendments of a purely machinery character were proposed by Mr. Brickell.

THE PROPOSALS CONTRASTED.

Mr. Brickell said that in the amendments proposed by the Waikato Association, clause 4 meant that the National Association should consist of Branches, and that every member of the National Association should be attached to a Branch. That was the crux of the whole position from the Waikato point of view. "My proposal," he continued, "is just exactly opposite. I propose that membership shall extend to any beekeeper, in accord with the aims and objects of this body, who forwards the annual subscription. Individual beekeepers are scattered

up and down the country, and in some cases there is no organisation to which they can be attached. In some of these localities there are not enough beekeepers to form an Association. I maintain that if we want to co-operate we must have an organisation to which every beekeeper may be attached if he so desires, and without his being compelled to join a local Association which may be a hundred miles away from him, whose meetings he cannot attend and whose decisions he may not agree with. The rest of the amendments are practically machinery clauses."

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS.

On the motion of Mr. Cotterell, Mr. G. Ward seconding, the Conference went into committee at 11.45 a.m. to consider the proposed amendments.

When the Conference resumed in open session at 2.55 p.m., the following resolutions were reported:—

"That the right of membership remain as at present, with a recommendation to the incoming Executive of the advisability of fostering the formation of District Associations."

"That clause 4 be amended by the addition of the words—
‘The secretaries of District Associations collect fees due by their members and remit to the General Secretary a proportion due to the National on the following scale: From Associations with a membership up to 25, 75 per cent. of the amount collected; from Associations with a membership up to 75, 50 per cent. of the amount collected; from Associations with a larger membership than 76, 25 per cent. of the amount collected.’"

"At the Annual General or Special General Meeting questions affecting the interests of this Association, of which notice of motion has been given, all members shall have one vote, and Branch Associations one vote for each financial member, which votes may be exercised by one or more delegates from the Branch, as the Branch may direct."

On the motion of the President, the foregoing resolutions were put as a motion and carried unanimously.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Baines, Cotterell, Jacobsen, Gilling and the Secretary, were instructed to incorporate the amendments in the constitution, and report next day.

The President congratulated delegates upon the kindly spirit which had characterised the discussion in committee, and especially the Canterbury and Waikato delegates.

THE NEW REGULATIONS.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. T. W. Kirk (Director of Orchards and Apiaries) addressed the Conference on the subject of the new regulations and other matters. He briefly reviewed the work done since the National Conference last year, the most important being the passing of the Apiaries Act. There seemed a chance of the

Bill not becoming law, but urgent representations were made by the National, with the result that the Act was passed. That showed one of the great advantages of union. The thanks of the beekeepers were certainly due to Mr. Massey for the interest he took in the Bill from the time it was introduced. The shortest way of meeting the clause providing for the exclusion of diseased bees, appliances, etc., was to demand that the bees or goods should be accompanied by a sworn declaration from the shipper that they came from an apiary where certain diseases were unknown. This would ensure that no queens should be imported from apiaries where foul brood existed. Local regulations would be issued providing that an apiarist could only send bees from one district to another on production of a certificate from the inspector that the apiary in question was free from foul brood. The regulations of which he was speaking had not yet been completed, but they would be out before the next Conference. Registration of apiaries would be provided for. Altogether the regulations would give effect to allowed 26 per cent. of water, but it might be in the interests of the industry.

Mr. Kirk mentioned that the Cook Islands were not within the scope of the Department.

COMPULSORY GRADING.

Provision was made, he said, for compulsory grading of all export honey, but the regulations would not be strictly enforced for a year or two yet. The net weight of packages of export honey must not exceed 112 lbs. Mr. Kirk also explained the details of the proposed grading system.

Speaking of the work of his Department during the year, Mr. Kirk said that samples of honey from all over New Zealand had been obtained and sent to the Dominion Analyst in order to ascertain the water-content. The Pure Food regulations allowed 26 per cent of water, but it might be in the interests of the industry that this percentage should be reduced.

Experiments conducted by the Department during the year, Mr. Kirk continued, showed that when foundation was made from comb badly infected with foul brood the results were negative, and the disease was not perpetuated. Investigations had shown that a certain amount of poison honey was produced (the poison being obtained by the bees from certain flowers), but that the poison was exceedingly volatile, and became quite innocuous when the honey was matured. It would not be safe to use poisoned honey before it was matured.

The latter part of Mr. Kirk's address dealt with the relations between beekeepers and the Department. He declared that it should be easy to double the export of honey in the next year or two if a proper spirit of co-operation prevailed.—(Applause.)

LIQUID HONEY.

Mr. Brückell asked Mr. Kirk whether the Department would undertake to grade honey in liquid form. If this were allowed beekeepers would get early returns, and honey would arrive

in Great Britain at the best time of the year for selling, and so bring good returns.

Mr. Kirk: At present the Department does not propose to undertake the grading of liquid honey. In this, he added, it was acting on the best advice from Home, which was to the effect that liquid honey constantly arrived in such a dirty condition that it was depreciated very much indeed.

GRADING MARKS.

Some discussion took place in regard to grading marks. Mr. Kirk said that only honey passed for export bore a grade mark. When honey was not passed, no marks of any kind were made upon the tins or cases.

Mr. Hopkins moved—"That the Conference approve of the proposed regulations under the Apiaries Act, and thank Mr. Kirk for his address."

This was unanimously agreed to.

FREIGHT REDUCTIONS ASKED FOR.

Mr. F. C. Baines moved: "That the Conference send a deputation to the General Manager of Railways to ask him to reduce freights on honey to the same level as dairy produce."

Mr. Baines said that eight tons of honey could be stowed in the same truck as was required for five tons of butter.

The President said that the present freights on honey were reasonable at the time they were arranged, because honey was then sent out in small lots. Now it was railed in large lots, and they were entitled to reductions in freights.

The motion was agreed to.

The Conference rose at 5 p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. H. C. Baines, who exhibited some ingenious appliances, including two special feeders and a capping melter, read the following paper:—

Mr. Chairman—

The two appliances I have to bring before your notice will, I think, be of service to my fellow-beekeepers, and as both have caused favourable comment from professional men, including two Government inspectors, I thought that fact was sufficient guarantee to bring them before the notice of the Conference.

The first appliance is a feeder. We all know what feeding means usually—a sticky, messy job, great danger of starting robbing, bees demoralised, and the apiary generally upset. I have tried most methods, division-board Alexander, empty combs filled with syrup, etc., etc., all of which are more or less unsatisfactory. Personally I like the principle of the Alexander, but my chief difficulty has been propping the feeder up to the **hive.**

I had been working at an idea of a bottom board feeder, when I saw an illustrated article in "Gleanings" on what was called the Perfect Feeder. This was a feeder used in the bottom board, and fitted from the back, and as it was the idea I was after I made three shallow tin trays, with a sufficiently long lip to protrude beyond the hive at the back. By cutting out a 3-inch space on the deep side of my bottom boards, and fixing the small wooden cover with a hinged lid, I found the appliance acted admirably; all that was necessary was to have a float made of slats to prevent the bees drowning.

The advantages of the appliance are evident in the fact that you don't disturb a bee; the feed is right under the cluster, and the syrup is poured in from a watering-can at the back of the hives, without smoke or disturbance of any sort. The chances of robbing are small, as the syrup is right away from the entrance, and that is closed to a three-eighth space. I might state that I make two feeders from a kerosene tin. The kerosene case I use as flooring for the bottom boards. This appliance is worthy of your notice, is very cheaply made, and highly satisfactory in operation.

The next appliance is a Capping Melter. I think, Mr. Chairman, we've all experienced, particularly in our early days of beekeeping, the difficulty of what to do with our cappings. My first season I uncapped into a large box with perforated bottom, and allowed the cappings to drain. The cappings accumulated out of all proportion to my facilities for handling them, and there they were in all stages of draining, taking up valuable room. Some I put in the solar extractor, the slumgum clogging the screen, retarding melting, and spoiling the honey. At the end of the season, when all were rendered into wax, I had six 60-lb. tins of spoiled honey, which, had the honey not been spoiled, would have been worth between £5 and £6. I felt it was necessary to avoid this loss by the use of heat. It occurred to me that if I could get a double-jacketed tank made, having pipes running across so as to keep the cappings in suspension whilst the honey could get away, it would help to solve the difficulty. The very thing I was after came out in an illustrated article in "Gleanings" just about this time, therefore I cannot and do not claim this appliance as my own idea; I simply was working on the same lines. This was invented by a man named Severin, and all credit is due to him. The appliance is made of galvanised iron, and consists of a double-jacketed tank having 12 triangular tubes running across. The tubes are two inches high, and same at the bottom, spaced an eighth of an inch apart, set a quarter-inch above the bottom of the inner tank, the outlet being the whole width. The honey and wax receptacle is simply a tank with flaring sides, having a covered outlet about an inch from the top.

I will give you my method of extracting. My first job is to light my lamps under my melter and steam heated knife, and commence taking off the honey, which, if the combs are full and fat, means about 15 12-frame supers; if only moderate combs I take off 20. By this time the water is boiling in the melter, and I set the Gilson going on to my 4-frame extractor

and uncap four combs, fill the extractor, and partly throw out the first side. While this is being done, I uncap one comb, then reverse the extractor, and completely empty the reverse side of the combs, during which time I uncap two combs, then reverse the extractor again to finish the first side and uncap another comb, thereby having my four frames ready for loading the extractor. By the time I've emptied and refilled the extractor my melter has disposed of most of the cappings, and I start uncapping into a practically empty tank. This goes on the whole day, and one can handle without any great effort 12 to 15 cwt. Now, the question is, How does the honey fare? On purpose to find what temperature the honey ran from the melter, I placed a dairy thermometer in the honey and wax receptacle, and found the temperature of the honey from the first four combs while the melter was boiling came at 142 deg., but after that it did not go above 140 deg., which is a perfectly safe heat. The honey is discoloured but very little, and is all put into the storage tanks, not an ounce being spoiled, and the appliance thus pays for itself with interest the first year. If any further evidence is required that the honey is not in any way deteriorated, I may state that one man who uses an extra large melter, graded the highest points out of a shipment of 15 tons sent to England recently. The appliance was in operation at a field day held in my apiary last season, and one man wrote out a cheque for me to have one made; another had one made double size for two men to work at, and these have been lent to other beekeepers to melt up their cappings, and the general opinion is that it is one of the finest appliances ever given to beekeepers.

Now for the disadvantages of the appliance. The first is the heat, and it must be admitted there is a certain amount radiated which is perhaps a bit inconvenient, but by having wire screens in place of windows and the extractor going the whole time, I find very little trouble, and for my part I gladly put up with a little extra heat for the convenience of getting rid of the cappings.

The other disadvantage has occurred to me only, the other gentlemen using the same appliance not meeting the same difficulty. With me I found my honey very slow in granulating, which has occurred now for three seasons, during which time I've always used melters of different patterns. But this can easily be overcome, and will be dealt with in another paper.

MORNING SESSION—JUNE 19.

SAN FRANCISCO-PANAMA EXPOSITION.

Mr. M. O'Brien, secretary of the N.Z. Executive Committee for the San Francisco-Panama International Exposition, explained the conditions under which exhibits of honey could be sent to the Exposition.

The President thanked Mr. O'Brien, and said that the Association would probably send an exhibit, whatever individuals might do.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

ADDRESS BY MR. BUCKERIDGE.

Mr. G. H. Buckeridge, Chairman of Directors of the N.Z. Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society, addressed the Conference on the subject of foreign markets.

As a result of his personal observations, he stated, he was of opinion that neither Fiji nor the Hawaiian Islands afforded a market for New Zealand honey. They scarcely expected to find a market in California, but he was agreeably surprised to find that experts in America said that the New Zealand honey, of which he exhibited samples, was the best they had ever seen. The duty on honey entering California was two cents a pound, and the prices obtainable were not remunerative. About 2¾d. per lb. was offered, but out of this freight and other charges would have to be paid. During a period of three weeks in the Old Country, he travelled through England, Ireland and Scotland. A letter he had received from a London firm indicated that the bulk of New Zealand honey should be sent to London, though small shipments might be sent to Liverpool. Outside London the demand for honey was limited. A letter from Liverpool stated that the demand there at present was for cases containing two tins of 60 lbs. each, but that it might be possible to develop the trade by advertising, and to pack the honey before it left New Zealand in smaller packages. He had also interviewed suppliers at Home, and pointed out to them that New Zealand supplies came to hand when the English market was depleted, so that it would be possible by utilising the import honey to maintain the trade all the year round. He was in a position to state that the Irish Agricultural Co-operative Association would undertake the marketing of New Zealand honey.—(Applause.) By selling through this Society New Zealand would get as close to the consumer as it was possible to get. The enquiries he had made as to the markets in the Old Country had been very disappointing to him. Honey was not in large demand as an article of diet, and it was a matter for serious consideration whether it would not be advisable to undertake an advertising programme in order to develop the trade. Most of the New Zealand honey sent Home at the present time was used for confectionery purposes. In order to develop the trade and get the best price honey must be popularised as an article of diet. In America a certain amount of honey was sold in "individual pots," containing one and a-half or two ounces, at a price of 15 cents. He was obtaining samples of these pots and the cost, and thought it possible that it might pay to pack honey in this way in New Zealand.

Answering questions, Mr. Buckeridge said that there was an assured market in Great Britain for all the honey that could be produced, but not at the price that was required.

Mr. Clayton said that it would be an absolute impossibility under the compulsory grading system to export one-pound packages or two-ounce jars.

On the motion of Mr. Gilling, Mr. Buckeridge was thanked for his interesting address.

THE EXPORT REGULATIONS.

Mr. J. S. Cotterell moved: "That this Conference recommends for the favourable consideration of the Agricultural Department that the export regulations re honey tins be amended to permit the use of raw linseed oil as optional to lacquering the tins."

Mr. Cotterell said that in his experience lacquering was a slow and costly process, and that the results were unsatisfactory unless the lacquering was done by an expert. Raw linseed oil, which could be rubbed on with a rag, was cheap, convenient and effective.

The motion was carried.

The following motions were also carried:—

"That this Conference recommends to the favourable consideration of the Agricultural Department that the export regulations on honey be amended to permit of liquid honey being exported in packages not exceeding 10 lbs. in weight."—(Mr. Cotterell.)

Mr. Edwards moved: "That the National Association urge the Department of Agriculture to consider the advisability of including Timaru as a grading port for honey."

Mr. Edwards said that there were some of the largest beekeepers in New Zealand down in this district (South Canterbury), and they felt that it would be a very great injustice if Timaru was not declared a grading port. Something like one hundred tons of honey had been produced in the district this season, and although only eleven tons had been exported, yet much more would be exported.

The motion was carried.

COMPULSORY GRADING ATTACKED.

A MOTION DEFEATED.

Mr. W. B. Bray moved: "That in the opinion of this Conference the inspectors could be employed more usefully in eradicating disease than in grading honey for export."

Mr. Bray said that by his motion he meant that the time for compulsory grading had not come yet. They had talked a lot about grading, and had approved of it in conjunction with a motion of thanks to Mr. Kirk on the previous day. He considered that that was rather an unfair advantage to take, because he could not oppose a vote of thanks. He had come up to bring this matter before the Conference, because he thought that beekeepers during the last two Conferences had been rather led away by all the talk about the benefits of compulsory grading. In his opinion compulsory grading was a sort of mirage. It had come to his knowledge that of a parcel of honey sent Home, the portion which was graded lowest fetched the highest price. He thought that a system of compulsory registration of brands would be much more effective than grading.

Mr. Clayton seconded. He maintained that grading had no commercial value whatever, and endorsed what Mr. Bray had said about low-grade honey fetching a higher price. He certainly thought that inspectors could be better employed than in grading.

Mr. Buckeridge said that the experience of the dairying people had been that grading built up the reputation of butter and cheese on the Home markets. Experience throughout the whole world showed that the more uniform the produce exported, the more chance there was of getting the best price for it.

Mr. W. E. Barker said that he was not in favour of doing away with grading, but the present staff could not do the grading properly and the inspection as well. More inspectors should be appointed.

Mr. Kirk said that it would be most astonishing if there were not a certain amount of opposition to the introduction of any new feature like grading. New Zealand had the best system of dairy produce grading in the world, and other countries suffered to an extent because their grading systems were not so good. It was true that the inspectors had too much to do, but the industry was not yet in a condition to justify the appointment of special graders.

Mr. Bray said that he hoped his motion would have the effect of making the Department "buck up" a bit. Producers had voluntarily submitted their honey for grading so far because they wished to learn the value of grading.

The motion was defeated, only three votes being cast for it.

MR. COTTERELL'S MISSION.

Mr. Jacobsen said that he had just found out that Mr. Cotterell was going to visit the San Francisco Exposition, and moved that he be appointed to represent the Association there.

Mr. E. G. Ward seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Cotterell said that he was going to San Francisco on private business, and would pay his own expenses. The National would be put to no expense in the matter. He hoped to get into touch with other Associations in California, and on his return would be happy to report to the Conference.— (Applause.)

The Secretary read a letter from the Minister for Railways refusing to grant reductions in the freights on honey, requested by a deputation from previous Conference.

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

Mr. Brickell raised the question of altering the boundaries of the districts allotted to the four departmental inspectors. At present, he said, the work was not evenly divided, and the boundaries should be adjusted so that each inspector would have something like an equal amount of work to do. He moved: "That the Department be asked to alter the district boundaries."

Mr. Buckeridge suggested that they should ask for another inspector.

Mr. Moreland seconded the motion.

Mr. Kirk said that it was necessary in fixing boundaries of districts to take into consideration the distances the men had to travel as well as the amount of work to be done. There was no doubt that more men were wanted.

Mr. Jacobsen moved as an amendment: "That the Government be asked to appoint one or two additional inspectors."

Mr. Ward seconded.

Mr. Baines suggested that skilled beekeepers might be appointed as district inspectors.

Mr. Clayton said that the present inspectors should be relieved of a lot of their outside work, such as judging at shows and helping to prepare show exhibits.

Mr. Jacobsen said that local inspectors could do the work until more departmental inspectors were put on.

The amendment was carried by 20 votes to 5, and was then put and carried as the substantive motion.

PURE FOOD REGULATIONS.

It was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Brickell: "That the regulations under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act be referred to the incoming Executive to take any necessary action."

The Conference adjourned at 12.15 p.m.

When the Conference resumed at 1.45 p.m., Mr. A. Ireland read a paper.

SPECIALISATION.

To illustrate what I mean by specialisation, I will take the dairy industry. At one time every farmer made his own butter, when all grades of butter were manufactured, from "cart grease" to finest dairy. The price was about 6d. per lb. in the summer, the same price for all grades. When the making of butter was specialised by being made in factories there was only one grade of butter made—the very best—and the price was more than doubled. No dairyman, or even anyone keeping one cow, is allowed to sell milk unless they observe certain strict regulations.

I think that the beekeeping industry should be brought under somewhat similar restrictions. There should be compulsory registration of apiaries, and no beekeeper should be allowed to sell honey unless he be registered, and comply with such other conditions as are necessary. So long as anyone can keep bees, harvest the honey, and put it upon the market under conditions that are unsanitary, not to say filthy, so long will there be a brake upon the expansion of the consumption and upon the price of honey. I have seen honey in auctioneers' sale-rooms; the outsides of the tins were dirty, and the contents in no better condition. The producers of this class of honey sell at any price they can get. This tends to reduce the prices, and the poor quality gives consumers a distaste for honey. If anyone wishes to keep bees to provide honey for his own use, he should be allowed to keep them without registration. I have no doubt that registration will put out of the business a number of small apiarists, and tend to confine the industry to more expert beekeepers. The small beekeeper is the great drawback to the development of our industry. As a rule he will not join a Beekeepers' Association, subscribe to a bee journal, or purchase any bee literature, and as a consequence is behind the times. The money he receives for his honey is a matter of small moment to him, so he often sells below market value. Quite a number of these small men still resort to the old method of straining their honey in conical bags, comb and brood both being cut up, and the mixture put upon the market as honey. It happens sometimes that the combs are diseased, and, after being strained, are put out for the bees to regather the honey, so disease is spread over the neighbourhood. A man who produces butter or milk is not allowed to do anything of an insanitary or objectionable nature. But a beekeeper may do any or all of the things I have mentioned. I think that the bee inspectors ought to have authority to inspect honey houses and places where honey is extracted, the plant and utensils that are used, and have power to condemn such as he considers unfit.

We are out now for the purpose of developing the export and local trade in honey, and it behoves us to put our houses in order so that we may produce the best possible article. This can only be done by regulations, for there are always some men in every industry who are careless and unmethodical in their work. These men have either to be compelled to do things under approved methods and conditions, or else go out of the industry. If we really intend to increase and develop our export and local trades, we cannot afford to let all and sundry make ducks and drakes of it. We must get our regulations in operation without delay.

There may be some who may think that the recommendations in this paper would interfere with the liberty of the subject. The more highly a people are civilised, in the same proportion is the liberty of the subject curtailed. Barbarism means that each subject has liberty to do anything he likes, and do it his own way. One of the principal factors in the development of any industry is to get the product as uniform in quality as possible. It may be said that the regulations will inflict hardship on certain individuals. It is safe to say that there

never has been an Act passed but imposed some hardship. The object is to produce the greatest good to the greatest number.

Before bringing this paper to a close there are two matters on which I should like to make a few remarks. First, in the cards of instruction sent out by the National Association and also by the Canterbury Association, the time recommended for the honey to remain in the tank for the scum to rise is too short. Five days to a week is needed. Second, tanks. In most cases these are too shallow. A deep tank is better. A large surface of the honey exposed to the action of the atmosphere allows the aroma to evaporate, also the best part of the flavour of honey. A deep tank causes the scum and particles of comb, etc., to rise to the surface sooner. I notice that Mr. Holterman, of Canada, uses tanks 6 ft. deep. The pressure in a deep tank by gravitation forces anything that is lighter than honey to rise to the surface sooner than in a shallow tank, in which there is not much pressure.

I copy the following from the May number of "Gleanings in Bee Culture" (page 332):—"If all beekeepers were taught how to obtain honey as good as the bees can make, the average quality would be better, more dependable, and more desirable than that which is produced in ignorance of best methods. Beekeepers well schooled in their occupation know more of markets and are better advertisers and salesmen than those of lesser knowledge. Unschooled, untutored, and ignorant owners of bees are the real menace, and it is this class of beekeepers who harbour infectious bee diseases and are instrumental in spreading them, and who demoralise markets.

DEPUTATION TO THE HON. R. H. RHODES.

During the adjournment a deputation representing the Conference, and consisting of Messrs. J. Allan, J. S. Cotterell, and C. A. Jacobsen, waited upon the Hon. R. H. Rhodes (in the absence from town of the Right Hon. W. F. Massey, Minister of Agriculture).

Mr. Cotterell brought under the notice of the Minister a resolution carried by the Conference to the effect that the Government be asked to establish an apiary for the rearing of queen bees in the Cook Islands, from which apiarists in New Zealand could be supplied with "queens" at cost price. He explained that the vitality, industry, and productiveness of colonies of bees were much enhanced by re-queening regularly every spring. This, however, apiarists were now prevented from doing because they could not get queen bees at this season except from America, and at very high prices. It cost about 10s. 6d. to import a queen bee from America, and the cost of incubating them locally or at Rarotonga should not be more than 1s. each. Owing to the tropical climate of the Cook Group it would be possible to produce queen bees there all the year through, and, if they were available to apiarists at cost price, the output of honey would be more than doubled in two seasons. At present the output per year was estimated to be worth about £50,000.

Mr. J. Allan and Mr. C. A. Jacobsen supported Mr. Cotterell's request, and urged also that the apiary at Ruakura should be put under the control of a qualified officer of the Orchards and Apiaries' Section of the Department of Agriculture.

The Minister stated in reply that the deputation must understand that he could make no promises, but he would have much pleasure in passing what they had said on to Mr. Massey. The deputation had shown him that the output of honey in the Dominion could be doubled, and the increase would go to swell our exports. This made the matter an important one, and he believed that it would receive full consideration.

Mr. Allan also asked that at least one other inspector should be added to the staff of the Apiaries Division of the Department to cope with the increasing work.

Mr. Rhodes replied that he would refer this question also to Mr. Massey.

Mr. Cotterell reported, on behalf of the deputation, that the Minister had received them favourably, and promised to convey their representations to Mr. Massey. Mr. Allan also reported that the Minister had promised to refer the request for the appointment of an additional inspector to Mr. Massey.

THE CONFERENCE OF 1915.

The President mentioned that an invitation had been received from the Manawatu A. and P. Association to hold the next Annual Conference at Palmerston North. Mr. Kirk had suggested that the Conference should meet alternately in the North and South Islands, and that the meetings should alternate with those of the Fruit-growers' Conference.

After discussion, it was agreed that the next Conference should be held at Wellington at about the time of the King's Birthday, so that delegates might have the advantage of cheap railway fares.

MR. HOPKINS' DEPARTURE.

Mr. Cotterell said he was given to understand that Mr. Hopkins was about to leave New Zealand to live in the Old Country. The Association should tender Mr. Hopkins some recognition. He moved:

“That this Association, in the name of all the beekeepers in the Dominion, put on record their appreciation of the most valuable services rendered by Mr. Hopkins to the beekeeping industry in New Zealand, and trust that he be spared for many years in the Old Country. And we recommend all the Beekeepers' Associations in New Zealand to invite shilling subscriptions from all beekeepers in their districts towards some recognition of his services.”

Mr. Hutchinson (who seconded) and Mr. Ward heartily supported the motion, and it was carried by acclamation.

THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Brickell reported, on behalf of the Committee set up to amend the incorporated amendments to the constitution, the following amended constitution, which was unanimously adopted:—

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

1. The organisation shall be known as the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

2. The object of the Association shall be the improvement of the beekeeping industry, furthering the interests and the prosperity of the beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

3. Membership shall be extended to any beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, and who pays an annual subscription on the following scale:—

Up to 15 col. 5/-

Up to 50 „ 10/-

Up to 100 „ 15/-

Up to 200 „ 20/-

and 5/- for every additional 100 or portion thereof. Hon. members' subscription shall be £1 ls. per annum.

4. District Branches of the Association may be formed where there are seven beekeepers desirous of forming such a branch. The General Secretary shall provide such branches with reports of the meetings of the Executive, pamphlets, and other printed matter which may be published from time to time.

(a) It is specially provided that any existing Association may automatically become a District Branch of the National by the passing of a formal resolution adopting the National constitution subject to the provision of clause 3.

(b) The District Secretary shall collect all fees due by members of his Branch, and remit to the General Secretary a portion of the fees on the following scale:—

Up to 25 members: three-quarters of the fees collected.

Up to 75 members: One-half of the fees collected.

76 members & upwards: One-quarter of the fees collected.

5. The Executive shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and four members (two being from each island), who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Should any vacancy occur during the year the Executive shall fill the vacancy. The duties of the Executive shall be:—The general control of the Association's business in furthering the interests of the Association; the publication of reports; advertising and marketing of honey, and any other business which may be deemed advisable in the general interest of members.

6. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive, and also sign all cheques. He shall have a deliberative as well as casting vote.

7. The Vice-President shall occupy the chair in the absence of the President, and in the event of the office of President becoming vacant he shall act until a new President is appointed.

8. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall collect all money due to the Association (except as is provided in section (b)),

clause 4); keep such books and accounts as the Executive may require; countersign cheques; conduct the correspondence; keep the minutes of the meetings, and do any other such work as is necessary or the Executive may direct; he shall also write the Annual Report and prepare the Balance Sheet, which must be signed by the Auditor.

9. The Annual General Meeting of members shall be held in June or as near thereto as may be deemed advisable for the purpose of receiving the Report and Balance Sheet, the election of Office-bearers, and the appointment of Auditors for the ensuing year, the discussion of any subjects of interest to the beekeepers which may be brought forward, and general.

10. It is specially provided that should any question arise which in the opinion of the Executive should be decided by the members, they shall issue to each member of the Association and to the Secretary of all local Branches a clear statement of the position, and provide a voting paper so that members may vote on the question by mail. The voting shall close not less than thirty days from the date notices are posted. The voting paper shall state the date on which the poll shall close.

(b) At the Annual or Special General Meeting delegates may represent the District Association, and vote on the following terms:—On all questions of which notice of motion have been given, the delegate or delegates may exercise one vote for every financial member of their Branch.

11. This constitution may be amended or dissolved at any Annual or Special General Meeting called for that purpose, provided that sixty clear days' notice of the proposed amendment or dissolution be given by circular calling the meeting to each member of the Association and to the local Branches.

THE BEE JOURNAL.

SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL ADOPTED.

Mr. E. G. Ward reported for the Committee set up to consider the establishment of a Bee Journal that, having met and considered the figures submitted by Mr. Brickell, the Committee had no hesitation in recommending that the publication of the journal be undertaken provided 500 subscribers could be obtained. The figures placed before them by Mr. Brickell were quite satisfactory, and it appeared that they would make a financial success of it if each one did his level best to get subscribers.

On the motion of Mr. Cotterell the Committee's report was unanimously adopted.

THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Kirk said that the Secretary for Agriculture had authorised him to say that a grant of £20 would be made towards the cost of printing the report of the Conference.

On the motion of Mr. Baines, a vote of thanks to Mr. Kirk for his assistance in getting the grant was carried by acclamation.

RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

On the motion of Mr. Clayton the question of railway freights generally was referred to the incoming Executive.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The office-bearers for the past year were all re-elected:— President, Mr. Jas. Allan; Vice-President, Mr. J. S. Cotterell; Secretary-treasurer, Mr. R. W. Brickell; members of the Executive representing the North Island, Messrs. S. Hutchinson and H. W. Gilling; members of the Executive representing the South Island, Messrs. C. A. Jacobsen and A. Ireland; Auditor, Mr. F. C. Baines.

MR. ISAAC HOPKINS FAREWELLED.

The President informed Mr. Hopkins that, in his absence, the Conference had passed a resolution expressing appreciation of the services which he had rendered to those engaged in the beekeeping industry.

Mr. Hopkins: I can only thank you very sincerely. My time now in New Zealand will be very short. I hope to be at Home before this time next year. As regards the work, my effort has always been to advance the welfare of the individual beekeeper, and, consequently, of the industry. This is my fortieth year in beekeeping and my fiftieth year in New Zealand. I am now in my seventy-eighth year, and in the ordinary course of things I cannot expect to be much longer on this planet. I am glad that the work I have been able to do is appreciated. Of course, when anyone came prominently before the public and met many people, some misunderstandings would arise, but what he had struggled for he was glad to see now. The industry was placed on such a footing that it could never go back. He would always keep in touch with it as long as he was alive; he hoped to communicate with a few of them at all events, and would always be on the lookout for what was going on.

Mr. Kirk said that there was no more enthusiastic beekeeper in New Zealand than Mr. Hopkins, and the work that he had done had received appreciation throughout Australia and in America and England, as well as in this country. In fact, Mr. Hopkins was known wherever beekeeping was known.

GRADING.

After the ordinary business of the Conference was over, Mr. Bowman, one of the Departmental graders, gave a demonstration of honey grading. He said that "scum" was a term of very wide meaning, covering anything that might rise to the surface of the honey. It might be only fine air bubbles, and was classed as "scum." Mr. Bowman explained and demonstrated the use of the "tryer," by which it could be ascertained whether the honey was honestly packed and of uniform quality throughout. He also explained the testing for grain, aroma, colour, etc.

Mr. Baines asked the grader to explain the cause of a slight film of whitey stuff on the surface of a sample of honey.

Mr. Bowman said that it was due to a separation of the granules from one another. This gave rise to a cloudiness that would very often permeate right through a solid block of honey. This trouble very often arose from a tin being just a little damp when it was filled.

Mr. Baines: Would you block this for export?

Mr. Bowman said that if such honey came to him, he would send it back to be reliquified and submitted again.

Cheers were given for the Press, President, and Officers, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" concluded a most enjoyable and instructive Conference.

THE EVENING SESSION.

Mr. W. E. Barker, Peel Forest, read an amusing and instructive paper giving his early experience, of which the following is a condensed report:—

Commencing in the year 1900, I laid the foundation of my present apiary with fifteen colonies of bees in frame hives. My first year produced 1,116 lbs., with an expenditure of £27 10s., and my receipts amounted to £21 10s. From that time onwards my profits have steadily increased, until I now have 220 colonies, with plenty of appliances.

The selling of one's produce needs careful thought. I once dropped £35 in this fair city of Wellington by trusting a man, for, after realising on the honey, he decamped to Sydney. My only hope is that he drank the proceeds and died of a cirrhoped liver. After that experience I always liked to have a personal interview with my customers, and found the best way was each year to take a packet or two of honey in a hand-bag, take a few days' holiday to some fresh town, and do a personal canvass of the grocers. I thus made many agreeable friendships, booked plenty of orders, and met with few rebuffs. I was always careful, however, to admire their shop first before I introduced mine. Then next year all I had to do was to circularise the grocers on a half-penny post-card, soliciting orders for the new season. If you put good stuff on the market you should seldom lose an order when once obtained.

Till the year 1906 I had black bees, Italianising them in 1907 with 12 nuclei, and, I am sorry to say, thereby introducing foul-brood and the wax-moth. The latter, however, soon disappeared, as I think our climate is too severe for it. The former I found more difficult to get rid of. Undoubtedly the modified McEvoy treatment of the present day is the best way of treating it, but at that time I found the disease could be kept in check, and in many cases cured, by introducing at night-time into the top storey of a slightly infected colony very quietly a strong natural swarm of bees.

Notwithstanding the foul-brood, I have never really regretted introducing Italians. There is no doubt that, though inveterate robbers, they are far better hustlers, up earlier and at work later, and have, it seems to me, a more robust constitution, able to resist and combat foul-brood, though undoubtedly they can at the same time act as "carriers" of the disease.

What surprised me most in the bee industry was the small capital (given a good district) needed to work it up to a very decent income, and I thought what a help it should prove to any working man who was trying to get on his own, as long as he did not try to go too fast. I have never struck an off-season. This I attribute to the assistance of the native flora.

lancewood, fuchsia, golden mapun, oilwood or pittosporum, kowhai, &c., keeping the bees going when the clover is not. So marked is this that I have never seen up here a bee alight on a manuka blossom, which, I hear, is worked regularly in other districts.

But, notwithstanding a certain close intimacy with the bees, it has been both a profitable and pleasing industry, and nothing gives me more pleasure than handling good fat combs of honey, uncapping and putting them in the extractor, switching on the power—gee-whizz! How nice it is to see the honey fly out. But then, if one gets too busy as one works thinking out the ruling problems connected with the industry, or wondering if we will get six or seven tons of honey, we forget about that confounded honey tap, there is a horrid mess to clean up. Nevertheless, my advice to anyone who wants to enjoy life and materially increase their income is to keep bees—and to keep accounts.

Mr. W. Waters also exhibited his Patent Swarm Control Hive, and then read a paper as follows:—

With the shortest day now passed, next month (July) the queens, after their short spell, will be again getting busy, and in August and September brood-rearing will be in full swing, with the bees drawing heavily on their supplies. I have found that the month of October and first two weeks in November is the time that a shortage of food is most likely to occur. A few days rough weather means starvation.

The wisest plan when you see rough weather approaching is to feed beforehand. The next thing to consider is the best means of supplying food to your colonies. In all instructions I have read on feeding, there is always one solemn note of warning given, and that is: "Upon no account leave any saccharine matter lying about in your apiary, as it will induce robbing." I will say here at once that no more fallacious statement was ever written.

I have been practising feeding in the open for the past eight years, and during that time have not had any trouble with robbing. The best time to feed your colonies is during the warmest part of the day, in the morning between 10 and 11. Procure some shallow dishes (tin milk dishes answer the purpose very well), and place them out in your apiary. Next, get some dead titree brush that has lost its leaf, and place it in the dishes. Come along with your syrup and divide it among your dishes, and in a few moments your whole apiary will appear to be on the wing and tumbling over one another and struggling in their eagerness to get at the food, which will vanish. In a remarkably short space of time your apiary will settle down as peacefully as you could wish. It is just as well to take a look through your apiary a little later, and if you notice a colony, particularly a weak one, being annoyed at the entrance by other bees, pull some grass and throw it along the entrance, and they will be safe.

I suppose in some parts of the Dominion where it is extremely cold, it may be absolutely necessary to feed inside the hive and directly over the cluster, but I have had no experience of such climatic conditions.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE IN WELLINGTON, JUNE, 1914.



MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.
Mr. Jas. Allan (1), Mr. J. S. Cotterell (2), Mr. S. Hutchinson (3), Mr. A. Ireland (4), Mr. H. W. Gilhine (5), Mr. C. A. Jacobsen (6), Mr. E. W. Brickell (7).