

FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of

The National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand

Held in the Esperanto Hall, Wellington,
June 13th and 14th, 1918.

The Fifth Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand and the Annual Conference of the Beekeepers of the Dominion was opened by the Hon. W. D. S. Macdonald, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. W. E. Barker, President, occupying the chair. There were present: J. P. Luke, Esq., Mayor of Wellington; J. A. Young, Esq., M.P.; F. S. Pope, Esq., Secretary to the Department of Agriculture; Mr. T. W. Kirk, Director Horticultural Division; Mr. J. A. Campbell, Assistant Director; Messrs. Earp, Westbrooke, Jacobsen, Apiary Instructors; Messrs. G. A. Hobbs, T. J. Burnet, J. M. Russell, A. E. Higgs, A. Ireland, F. Wolstenholme, R. Palmer, W. Hooper Teed, C. J. Clayton, Y. H. Benton, J. Murdoch, H. A. Brickell, J. Schmidt, D. McCulloch, H. Wareup, A. H. Davies, R. H. Nelson, R. W. Brickell, J. Allan, C. A. Jacobsen, H. W. Gilling, E. W. Sage, J. W. Henderson, H. C. Wedde, W. Heselstine, N. J. Bowman, E. J. Pink, J. C. Hobbs, M. Gribble, J. Forster, H. N. Goodman, G. W. Flanagan, A. Thomson, J. Irving, W. H. P. Barber, J. Cooper, C. H. Young, R. Stewart, J. Finlay, W. Watson, C. A. Pope, F. Ohave, E. Simpson, R. McKnight, E. G. Ward, L. Manktelow, A. M. Cave, J. C. Gibb, L. W. Blakemore, W. Smith, R. Crow, A. R. Jones, A. Davis, H. Bartlett-Miller, J. Walworth, J. Maitland, S. Rhodes, C. Benton, P. Benton, W. B. Bray, F. C. Baines, Mesdames Bray, Pierce, Shepherd, Smitheram, Simpson, Ward, Manktelow, Sage, Trownson, Meek.

The Minister said he had very great pleasure in seeing such a large gathering of men and women interested in such an important industry. It showed conclusively that this industry is going ahead by leaps and bounds, and there can be no question that the Association is moving in the right direction in securing effective co-operation and organisation. Like many other indus-

tries, it is of the very greatest importance to the Dominion and Empire that all those engaged in primary and secondary industries should aim at securing perfection and the maximum of production, for there can be no question at all that in this trying time of stress that next to soldiers is the producing community. It is the only way some of us can fight. These are days when we have a great duty to the Empire to produce the very maximum, and it is pleasing to see so many ladies and gentlemen engaged in this particular industry, especially that the ladies are taking such a deep interest in it. Many people think that our women are not doing much in the agricultural branches of industry, but he thought that it is being largely carried on by women at the present time.

The honey-producing industry is very suitable and an attractive one for the women of this country, and we know that, unfortunately, many women will have hard times in the future through losing their relatives, and that this is an industry which will help them to maintain themselves and their dependents in this country.

This industry has advanced tremendously within the last year or two. Unfortunately, as far as the Department is concerned, its help has been very limited, because so many of our staff who were eligible for military service have been called up. There is no question that, however willing honorary man may be, there is nothing like the man who can devote his full time to this business. We are told that farmers in the various classes do not need any instruction, and they cannot see any use in the Department at all. Those who aim at perfection and winning best prices should endeavour to secure all the scientific advice they can possibly get.

I know the Department gets very great help from the industry. Prospects have never looked brighter in this country, and beekeepers are able to sell the whole of their output, and have an offer from a certain firm for the duration of the war and after. Everyone engaged in the industry knows well where they stand, and that the prices are right, and the only thing necessary is to see that the quality is right. He could speak with every encouragement in the matter. With reference to expert instruction, the Department has had a considerable number of enquiries from returned soldiers and men partially incapacitated, and there is no question that the beekeepers of the Dominion will be able and prepared to help and instruct those who are broken from the war, and help them to make a start; and for the women who have been made widows there can be nothing better than the apiary industry to augment their income.

His Department is very kindly disposed towards the industry, and if the industry continues to be successful there will always be plenty of enquiries about it. It has been recommended by the Department that the time has arrived when we should have a Horticultural Station in the district, in addition to apiary and poultry divisions. It is no use unless we have stations where instruction can be given to those who desire to engage in the industry. He knew that at Ruakura there had been 10,000 visitors in one year, and this should show the amount of interest taken in the subject. He had confidence in the men now in the business, and felt sure that the Government would see its way during the coming session of Parliament to place a sum on the Estimates to provide a Horticultural Station in the district in conjunction with the other branches. The Department will give all the help it can, and he felt sure the present gathering would mark a distinct advance in this very important industry. He expected that the Conference would put before the Department its recommendations, and the Department would endeavour to give effect to those recommendations. He was pleased to see such a large and representative gathering of those engaged in the industry, and there could be no question that it was one that must go ahead, and anything the Conference may ask would receive every possible consideration. He trusted that before the next annual Conference they would have the flag of peace unfurled in this country, and all the present trouble and distress ended.

Since the war there has gone from this country produce to the value of £65,000,000.

The dairy produce was worth £10,000,000 and we had only to go through the country to see the possibilities thereof, and he believed that the present output would during the next few years be doubled and trebled, and be a credit and success to the Dominion of New Zealand.—(A plause.)

On the vote of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Minister.

Mr. J. P. Luke, C.M.G., Mayor of Wellington, said he had been deeply impressed with the large gathering present in the Hall, and specially to see so many ladies. He extended to each and all a very hearty welcome, and regretted that Mrs. Luke was unable, through indisposition, to share in the welcome. If the ladies would like to have a jaunt round the city, he would be pleased to arrange this for them. The invitation extended to the gentlemen also. He said their first duty was work and not pleasure, and he congratulated them on the splendid success of the Conference meeting, as it did, under such grave disabilities. There are some Conferences which we are all the better for, and the Beekeepers' Conference was one of them. He had heard the Minister say that he was going to do a lot of things for the industry, and he congratulated the Conference on having gained the interest of the Minister in such a practical way. With the Minister and the leader of one of the parties in the House on the side of the primary industries, they could look forward to much success for the beekeeping industry. It would be his duty to enquire into the matter, and give it what help he could. We shall have great problems to deal with in this country, but they will have much greater ones in the Old Country, and the biggest will be that of employment. The farmer ranks among the thoughtful people of the community, and they have no time for the foolish pleasures of life, and they bring a very honest criticism and good general knowledge to bear upon what subjects they deal with. In connection with the Old Country, millions of acres have been put under agriculture which were formerly under grass. They will have millions of men going back, and conditions will be very much changed, and great estates will be utilised by men in small holdings. In New Zealand the tendency, of course, is to open up more parts of the country, especially that which may be made available for the returned soldier. The country has borrowed during the war as much as it borrowed previous to the commencement of the war, and he thought it was not too much to ask that money still be raised for the benefit of returned

soldiers. It is our duty now to consider the question of our returned soldiers.

He offered all a very hearty welcome to the city.

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor.

Mr. T. W. Kirk, Director of Horticulture Division, said he had to express the thanks of the Department to those enthusiastic beekeepers who had come to his help as honorary inspectors. The Department appreciated the services of the gentlemen, and it would have been quite impossible to carry on without them. There are now 44 honorary inspectors, and all they get is their out-of-pocket expenses. The Department owes a very hearty vote of thanks to these honorary inspectors. The Departmental instructors have always been too few in number, and they are getting still fewer. The beekeepers have been coming money to such an extent that none of them were willing to take permanent positions on the staff at the wages the Department could afford to pay. Including officers of the Department, we have lost somewhere about 48 men. Of course, the permanent officers are the greatest loss, and our heartfelt thanks are due to those who have gone to the war. There are something like 7,000 cases of honey in the grading stores, and every tin has to be sampled, not like butter, which can be graded in bulk. He heartily thanked the apiary staff for the very enthusiastic way they have worked under the circumstances. If there is any information he could give, his services were always at their disposal.—(Applause.)

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was accorded the Director.

Mr. Pope, Secretary for Agriculture, congratulated the Executive on the general get-up of the Conference. It is a long way the best that has been held. This was probably the last occasion he should have the opportunity of addressing the Conference as head of the Department. Certain changes are about to take place which will bring about that result. He gave a resume of the principal events which had occurred since he had been head of the Department. With reference to the registration of all apiaries, he said this work is by no means complete, because many keepers have not yet complied with the law requiring them to register, and requested those present to bring the matter under the notice of all apiary keepers, because they are liable to a fine for fail-

ing to register. It costs nothing and is little trouble, and a number of prosecutions will have to be undertaken if registration is not regularly made. He had recommended the Minister to grant full subsidy to the Association, which practically doubled its resources. The great progress in the industry is due to the beekeepers themselves. They have gone into the matter whole-heartedly, and have studied the subject in every branch, and are thus of greater influence than ever before. The condition of the industry today is very different to what it was nine years ago. In those days honey reached the market in a disgusting condition; but now all is changed, and we have no fear that progress will be maintained. Export at present is much improved, and we may look forward to a better position. All thanks are due to the Minister for his interest in the industry.—(Applause.)

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Pope.

Mr. Young, M.P. for Waikato, said he thanked the Association for its invitation to him to be present. He was interested in the welfare of everything relating to the producing interests in the Dominion, and the beekeeping industry was one of the most prominent, and had a right to be classified as one of the essential industries of New Zealand. He considered it was the duty of the Government to see that inspectors appointed to the industry were proficient, and they should be properly paid for the important national service they render. It was the duty of all in New Zealand to increase production to the utmost, and those of the apiary industry were doing just as important a work as any in the community, and the Government has a duty to it, and should afford it every facility to get the produce away to the best market. He considered that it was by organisation and co-operation that they would accomplish the most for themselves and the industry, and in the economic distribution of their products. It was only by organised co-operation that pressure could be brought upon the authorities so that they could get their goods out of the country. Their success depended entirely upon themselves, and they were entitled to every consideration, not only from the Department, but from the State and all interested in the welfare of the community.—(Applause.)

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Young.—Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I stand to thank you for electing me President of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, and to give an account of my stewardship. Owing, however, to the very good Secretary and Editor you provided me with, Mr. F. C. Baines, my duties have been really very light. As Editor of our Journal he might be called "Nonsuch," and my only duty has been to at times somewhat curb the impetuosity of his nature. He is, as you know, somewhat volcanic, and at times when contributors are just a little "non-sucher"—'tis like sitting on the lip of Ruapehu. Of course, he entered into a very good inheritance, and the Conference, I think, has never fully appreciated the good offices of Mr. Brickell, with whom the idea of our bright little Journal originated. But he has carried it on with a certain amount of "snap" which I at any rate appreciate, and our subscribers have more than doubled themselves.

During the year several correspondents have written to me regretting that the Conference could not be held in their locality, and I don't know but that the Conference might reconsider the advisability of holding it biennially in other centres. There is one other way out of this difficulty, which is worthy of your consideration—you do not make sufficient use of your Executive officers. We meet to draw up the programme and to transact other business every January or February, and I would suggest that this opportunity be made more use of—i.e., that this Conference appoint each year the town in which this meeting be held, and that our Secretary, in conjunction with the Branch Secretary, arrange the date and draw out a programme of the day's proceedings, and will advertise it in the local papers, an evening session, to be followed by a field day, to be held the day after the meeting of the Executive, all expenses incurred to be borne by the National.

The year has been a very rosy one to those of us who have had a good crop of honey, and those who have been loyal to the Bristol and Dominions have reaped a rich reward; those who have not deservedly did not get that which they might have got. Gentlemen, a question we may very well take into consideration at this Conference is how best we can protect the interests of the small producer. Some months ago I got a telegram: "What do you want for honey in 60 lb. tins?" Thinking it might be a broker, I replied,

Sd., and I could let him have only one tin. I then got a letter thanking me, and saying they would keep the offer steadily in view, but they had since bought two tons in Dunedin at 6d. At the same time a storekeeper in my locality told me he too could buy as much honey as he wanted at 6d.—had, in fact, just bought a quarter of a ton at 5½d. Now, as I had my doubts about this, and remembering the axiom of the pious elder in David Harum, "Do to others as they would do unto you—only do it first," and thinking that if there was anything doing at that price I might as well put the silver lining into my own pocket. I put an advertisement in the local paper that I was prepared to buy honey in 60 lb. tins at 6d. per lb. I got three answers. From one I got 1 cwt. of first-class honey; from another—a fairly large producer, who should have known better—I got an offer of several hundred-weight, but before I could close with it he had got our free number of the Journal, and wrote again saying he had decided to take a share in the H.P.A., and ship through them. The third wrote offering me half his honey if I would winter his bees for him, so one day I motored round to his place and found three colonies—one badly affected with foul-brood, which we destroyed. Result, two frames of honey. I afterwards heard he had taken off 50 lbs. of honey before I got there, which made me think again of the text, "Do to others as they would do unto you—only, do it first." I approached another, a 20-hive man. "What have you done with your honey?"—"Oh, I have just sold it to the grocer."—"What did you get?"—"Well, I didn't ask, but I suppose he will give me the ordinary market price."—This man has since had sense enough to join the H.P.A.

Now, what does this mean? It means that we allow the storekeepers to fix the price of honey by buying from the small producers they have in their power their honey at the minimum price, and quoting it as the normal. This same storekeeper later on was glad to buy a ton at 8¼d., and naively remarked to me, "People are beginning to wake up to the value of their honey." It is our duty to wake them up earlier. The National, in conjunction with the H.P.A., should fix the price of honey, and it is only by organisation we can attain to this, for it should be to the producer to fix the price of his produce. I should like to see an annual registration tax of 2/6 put upon every beekeeper, and collected by the Government, thus making every such beekeeper automatically a member of the

National, for it is not right that we by co-operation get for the small producer a better price for his produce and he contribute nothing towards the organisation that has helped towards that end. For instance, a very well-to-do farmer, whose wife runs a fair-sized apiary, was quite willing and thankful to receive for nothing a few numbers of our Journal and Beekeeping, but when approached to subscribe or even become a member of the National, he could not afford it. Now, he was a very good fellow, but a Scotsman, and it was a painful thing for him to part with a "bawbee." These men should be compelled to contribute.

We have now a unique opportunity. It seemed at one time impossible to raise the price of honey from its low degree; yet now the war has raised its price till the "food of the gods" has caught up to butter-fat. Gentlemen, to use the phraseology of the football field, we have the ball under our arm and a clear run before us, and I see no reason why if we all play together honey should every go back to its old low price, unless we pass it on to the middleman.

Gentlemen, what is the National? I would liken it to an elastic band that holds together a packet of deeds—the Branches, composed of the individual members of the beekeepers in their respective localities and of every isolated beekeeper in New Zealand to conserve their mutual interests. There have been apiarists—and some of them members of the H.P.A.—who have become shortsighted enough to say the day of the National is gone, and that it should be merged into the H.P.A. I say, No; certainly not! At all costs keep them separate. It is far better to run in double harness where our mutual interests agree. The National holds no brief for the H.P.A., much as we may sympathise with their object. It may be said to be composed rather of those who are lovers of the bees, whilst members of the H.P.A. those who are lovers of the baw-bees. Some of us belong to both, anent which, as President, I would sound a note of warning. We are here to discuss and further the interests of the honey-producers of New Zealand, and we cannot afford to squabble. The National and the H.P.A. are two branches of our industry united by common interests. The Magnus opus of the National must always be to keep the beekeepers of New Zealand together in a corporate body.

In the discussions that will follow, I ask you to keep this in mind. As your President, I will endeavour to maintain an even balance, and I hope that this Conference

will end, as others have done, in mutual advantage to us as individuals and permanent advantage to us as an industry.

One more word ere I close. I have noticed for several Conferences a diminution of really good brainy papers on apiculture. This ought not to be. Surely in our midst there are some members with a soul above just squeezing honey out of the bee and selling it at 1/- per lb. Ere next Conference I ask you to stir up the embers of your past enthusiasm, and write a paper on your experiences. Do not send it to the Editor, or he may either collar it for the Journal or put it in the w.p.b. But send it to the President. You beekeepers seem to expect your Executive to render an Agenda out of slum-gum, for we put a notice in the Journal soliciting articles, and how many of you have responded! To those gentlemen who have, and whose papers you will shortly have the pleasure of listening to, I, on behalf of the Executive, tender our hearty thanks.

Talking of eruptions reminds me that our Vice-President (Mr. H. W. Gilling) resigned his position, which was accepted with regret by your Executive. This was on the matter of the general policy of the National, and may come up for discussion later on in the Conference.

Dealing with the Chairman's address, Mr. Allan stated that the National Beekeepers' Association was bound to grow, and through all the years to come its particular work would go on outside that of the H.P.A. The H.P.A. was a co-operative concern, and it does not undertake work outside that condition. Another matter was that while the H.P.A. was out for the money, the National is out for fellowship. That is one of the great things that the National has accomplished for them.

Report and Balance Sheet.

The Secretary then read the report and balance sheet.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have very great pleasure in presenting this (my first) Annual Report and Balance Sheet, and to record progress in all ways.

The members' subscriptions show £40 10s. 6d., against £34 12s. 6d.; Branch subscriptions £89 6s., against £38 12s. 3d.; and the balance in hand £189 14s. 11d., against £144 9s. 9d. last year.

The Journal revenue is also very satisfactory, the subscriptions being £199 12s.

3d., against £92 17s.; advertisements £27 3s. 6d., against £12 4s.; and on the separate balance sheet of the Journal you will see that instead of a loss of £24, as shown last year, we have made a profit of £55 1s. 8d.

Our assets over liabilities show £290 7s. 8d., against £186 3s. 4d. last year.

These figures must give you very great satisfaction; yet I hope they will not prompt any of you to cease your efforts in helping on both the Association and the Journal.

You will be interested to learn the result of the canvass for new subscribers to the Journal, which brought in about 150.

When I took over the Journal, there were 415 names on the list. Of these I lost close on 200 through non-payment of subscriptions. To-day's list shows 734, and every one financial. The cost of printing the Journal one year ago was £5 10s. for 550. Owing to the increased cost of paper this rose to £6. Then, as you remember, I altered the size of the type to enable me to give you an extra two pages of reading, and the cost for 600 was £7 10s. The illustrations cost 10/- for the minimum size block, and to-day the cost of printing 800 Journals without illustrating, £9. In spite of these increased charges, you will notice that, instead of a loss of £24, which occurred last year, we show a profit of £55 1s. 8d.

I think, Mr. President, this is a very satisfactory state of affairs.

Now, Mr. President, I should like to say a few words on the National Association, which, as regards matters financial, is in a very good condition; but if we look for actual life, it is not at all what it should be. Some of the Branches are in a very moribund state, and all I think could do with the introduction of new and young blood.

There are one or two suggestions that have occurred to me whilst making out the balance sheet, and they affect the Branches and their Secretaries. The National is not given any idea as to the state of any Branch—we do not know whether progress has been made, the state of the finances, number of members, &c., &c., so that if I were asked as Secretary how many members the National had, I could only say I haven't the remotest idea whether there are 100, 150, 200 or more. This I think is wrong, and should be remedied. Beyond getting the monies collected by the Branches and refunding their portion, we know very little about

them. No balance sheet is presented, or reports made to the National at its annual Conference. My opinion is that every Branch should be represented by the President, Secretary, or delegate, the National subsidising the expenses incurred. They should present a report and balance sheet of their Branch, together with a brief outline of the work carried out during the past year, and bring forward the remedies decided upon at their annual meeting, and all this should be embodied in the report of the Conference. This I think would be a good thing for the following reason:—The President or Secretary is not coming to Conference with half a tale if he can possibly help it; he has got this fact in front of him all the while he is holding office, that he is going to show the beekeepers assembled at Conference that his Branch at least is a really live one. Under present conditions, it is not even mentioned that any officer of a Branch should attend the Conference, which, seeing that we are all one body working with a common aim, cannot be a good thing.

Now, as regards increasing the scope and usefulness of the National Association. Just for curiosity sake I counted the number of registered beekeepers in the immediate vicinity of Nelson, and found over 200, and in Blenheim over 70, and in neither place is there a Branch of the National, and this fact alone is an indictment against our methods of organisation, as these two places are only examples of the same conditions all over the Dominion. Most of these are small men, up to, say, 10 hives, and are just the class we want to help, and just the class the National wants as members, and I feel sure we could get them if we went the right way about it. It is useless asking these people to form themselves into a Branch without some definite object in view; you must show them they are going to get something for their money. Therefore, I put forward the following suggestions:—

First, the National should appoint a representative in every Province, preferably an experienced beekeeper, whose duty would be to look after the interests of the National. He should obtain the help and co-operation of all the prominent beekeepers, and on a date arranged between them an advertisement should appear in the local paper, which I would word something after this:—“N.B.K.A.—To Beekeepers and others. The above Association is anxious to increase the production of honey, which this district is particularly adapted to, and to this end invite all those interested to attend a meeting, and if desirable a class for beginners will be

formed," &c., &c. These instructions to be given by a practical man, who should be paid for his services and out-of-pocket expenses. Arrangements should be made with a beekeeper in a central position for the use of his apiary for demonstrations at the hives, and field days at different parts of the Province be arranged. I am sure that if this programme were carried out by really live men, the National Association and its Branches would be something to be proud of. To carry out these suggestions would cost money, and we have the money just now, and I think some of it should be spent in trying to increase the usefulness and membership of our Association. We might even approach the Department for a further extension of the period of granting the subsidy; at any rate there would be no harm in trying.

During the past year we have had the Wairarapa Branch added to our strength, and to all appearances it promises to be a very lively member of the family.

I learned this week that an Association had been started in New Plymouth, and I am going to get in touch with the Secretary on my return home.

There has also been another body of beekeepers who have formed themselves into a club—viz., the Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Club. I am very sorry to say those who are responsible for running this organisation have thought it desirable to remain absolutely separate from the old-established Canterbury Branch. I wrote the Secretary that if they so wished they could retain all their present officers and organisation, and yet become affiliated to the National by agreeing to the Constitution, but failed to get an answer.

You will remember I published in the Journal a letter from the Secretary. I also saw him personally at the Field Day of the Canterbury Branch, and urged them all to become one strong body. But they have chosen to remain outside, and whether they are acting wisely or not time alone will show. If anyone can suggest ways and means to get them to join us, I shall be only too pleased to act upon them.

These, Mr. President, are a few suggestions that I put forward for what they are worth.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 31st, 1918.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Bank Balance, 31/5/17 ..			78	6	9		
" Cash in hand ..	66	0	0				
" Members' Subs. ..	40	10	6				
" Assn. Subs. ..	89	6	0				
" Journal Subs. ..	199	12	3				
" Journal Advertising ..	47	8	6				
" H.P.A. Refund ..	16	15	0				
" Govt. Subsidy ..	100	0	0				
" Govt. Grant ..	20	0	0				
			579	12	3		
	£657	18	0				
By Salaries ..	74	0	0				
" Printing ..	149	5	8				
" Postage ..	44	19	4				
" Refund to Branches ..	76	12	9				
" Conference Expenses ..	3	12	0				
" Travelling ..	51	3	2				
" H.P.A. ..	28	8	4				
" Typewriter ..	9	0	0				
" Stationery ..	12	4	5				
" Gifts ..	7	18	5				
" Extra Labour ..	6	0	0				
" Tel. charges ..	2	2	6				
" Petty expenses ..	1	18	6				
" Bank Charges & Cheques ..	0	18	0				
			468	3	1		
Cash in Hand ..			47	12	11		
Balance at Bank ..	203	19	6				
Less Unpresented Cheques ..	61	17	6				
			142	2	0		
	£657	18	0				
			£657	18	0		

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	£ s. d.		
Typewriter, say	8 0 0		NIL.
Duplicator, say	1 0 0		
Govt. Subsidy	91 12 9		
Balance at Bank	142 2 0		
Cash in Hand	47 12 11		
	<u>£290 7 8</u>		

JOURNAL ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Subscriptions	199 12 3	By Printing	114 16 8
„ Advertising	27 3 6	„ Postage	38 19 0
„ Govt. Grant for Printing Report of Conference ..	20 0 0	„ Gifts	7 18 5
		„ Salary	24 0 0
		„ Extra Labour	6 0 0
		Balance (profit)	191 14 1
			55 1 8
	<u>£246 15 9</u>		<u>£246 15 9</u>

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) A. C. ASKEW.

June 11th, 1918.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet, and Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion.

Mr. W. B. Bray suggested an increase in the size of the Journal, and complimented the Editor on the success thereof as shown in his report.

Mr. Bartlett-Miller congratulated Mr. Baines on the success and style of the Journal. There are few men who have had such a wide experience as their Editor. There had been dissatisfaction with some who had submitted articles which had not appeared. The fact that the paper had succeeded is entirely due to the judgment of Mr. Baines as Editor. The Journal is largely instrumental in getting a large number of members, and all credit is due to the Editor for the way in which he has edited the paper.

Mr. Nelson also congratulated the Secretary on the report and balance sheet, which was certainly satisfactory. As

delegate from the Wairarapa, he trusted that the policy of the Journal would be continued.

Mr. Brickell supported Mr. Baines on his attitude in publishing the advertisement of A. S. Paterson and Co. He submitted they could not dictate to the Editor as to what shall or shall not appear, and again congratulated Mr. Baines on his work, and the Journal also.

Mr. Gilling considered that he had taken the right step on behalf of the H.P.A. in resigning on that account. He considered it was not legitimate business for the Journal to publish such advertisements as that referred to, and that it was right that the proprietors should determine the policy of the paper.

Mr. Allan said he felt that the success of the Journal depends for its life on advertisements as well as subscriptions, and as long as the advertisement was straight forward, he did not think they could in

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interfere in any way. Mr. Baines had written to him on the subject, and he had agreed that the Editor could do nothing else but accept the advertisement. He would be very sorry if they could not let anyone advertise in the Journal. The Association was in a good position, and they owed this largely to the fact that the Editor had felt himself free from censure, and had shown considerable grit in dealing with the matter. He was astonished that the H.P.A. had not taken more space in the Journal.

Mr. C. Benton, from the Wairarapa Branch, said he thought the advertisement was wrong, inasmuch as it was not in the interest of beekeepers as a whole. He did not think it did the industry any good to accept such advertisements.

Mr. Trythall said they had everything to gain and nothing to lose in accepting the advertisement.

Mr. Russell asked who was responsible in case of an action for libel for anything which appeared in the Journal, and Mr. Brickell explained that the Journal was run on the personal guarantee of the Editor.

Mr. Baines replied that he was very glad the matter had been brought forward. When he took the Editorship of the Journal, it was running at a loss, and the chief concern of an Editor and Manager is to make the thing pay. He did not know much about journalism, but thought that without advertisements no Journal could pay. It was his business to try and get advertisements, and when A. S. Paterson came to him and asked for a whole page of the Journal he gave it readily. He realised at the time that it would be up against the H.P.A., and the question in his mind was what effect was it going to have on the H.P.A.? The bare fact of his having accepted Paterson's advertisement meant the equivalent of 60 new subscribers. They could not point to one instance in which he had not endeavoured to boost the H.P.A. He assured the Conference the Journal was being run in the best interest of the New Zealand beekeepers.

The Chairman submitted the motion that the report and balance sheet be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. Gilling moved—"That this meeting approve the principle of co-operative marketing, and that it be an instruction to the Executive that, in framing its policy, the furtherance of the co-operative movement be the first plank in its platform." This was seconded by Mr. Nelson, and carried.

Mr. Trythall then delivered his lecture on the work at the Experimental Apiary, Ruakura, of which he is officer in charge. He outlined the work carried on at Ruakura during the last two seasons, and touched upon the training of cadets, the testing of new appliances, and methods of hive management, including the Hand system, the Deadman super-cleaner, foul brood, comb melter, foundation-making, queen rearing, and outlines of future experiments with bees and appliances to be undertaken.

The Chairman moved a hearty vote of thanks, and stated that the discussion would be continued later.

Mr. James Allan delivered a very interesting address on "Honey Package for Export and Grading," including a practical exhibition of his system. He divided the subject into three parts—the question of export, packing and grading, and the package for local market. In speaking on the question of export, he showed the package he proposed to use, which consisted of a box made from white pine, and capable of holding 64 lbs. He said he would not say much: he considered it sufficient to show the package he advocated, and to leave it to the H.P.A. to use it if they thought fit. In regard to grading, he wished the grading schedule simplified. He questioned the utility of putting in colour, seeing that the honey had already been classified according to its colour. He thought that the colour might be left out altogether. Then he thought that flavour and aroma might be considered as one, and dealt with under one heading. Then "condition and grain," which on the present schedule are separate, should be dealt with under one heading also. In dealing with points, he pointed out that where 40 points were allotted for flavour and 5 for package and finish, the grader often took off for a fault, say, a couple of points off the allotted 40 for flavour, and he also for a fault took 2 points off those allotted for packing and finish, and in this way, seeing only 5 points are allowed, he reduced the points by 40 per cent. The thing he wished to point out was the failure to recognise that greater importance had been attached to flavour by allotting 40 points for each, and that lesser importance had been allotted to package and finish, 5 points being allotted to each, that if for the same degree of fault 5 per cent. were taken off each, then it would mean 2 points off flavour and only $\frac{1}{2}$ point off finish. He expressed the hope that the schedule might be simplified so as not to unnecessarily penalise honey. With regard to package for local market, the one

he was accustomed to use was parchment paper. The honey was taken from the boxes, cut with wire, and wrapped in this parchment paper, the internal wrapping being pure parchment of good strength; the outer one of pure parchment also, but of a lighter strength, and bearing the necessary printing. He gave a demonstration showing the method of cutting, and stated that in dealing with his honey this year the H.P.A. had saved 2d. per pound in package as compared with the honey they had put into the 2 lb. tins.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Allan, who briefly replied, and stated that he did not advocate his particular form of package except under cool storage conditions, when he believed it would go safely.

Mr. Bartlett-Miller contributed a very interesting and highly technical lecture on the subject of "Genetics," and a vote of thanks was passed to him accordingly.

This paper was listened to very attentively. Drawings were made on a blackboard to illustrate the workings of Nature. Whilst a lot of the subject was of highly technical and scientific terms, Mr. Miller caught the ears of the members when he stated he was able to mate a virgin queen with a particular drone, and that without any attempt at a surgical operation. He is going to experiment further, and we shall look forward to the results with very great interest.

Mr. Baines reported the possibility of a deputation to the Minister. He knew that the Minister was open to receive a deputation, and he thought they should take advantage while they had an opportunity.

The matter of remits was then considered from the Wairarapa with reference to a Chief Apiarist, and from Southland that the Government be urged to increase the salary of inspectors. Mr. Nelson said he had noticed that the Efficiency Board had classed as partly essential the small beekeeper with 200 colonies or over, and thought that the time had arrived when the matter of supplying petrol to beekeepers should have special consideration.

Mr. Allan reported re the question of appointment of a Chief Apiarist that a deputation had waited upon the Minister some time ago, and they were informed that it was impossible to entertain the matter at that time, but he believed that the time had arrived when the Government should be approached again to provide a Chief Apiarist—a man who was capable of organising the industry, and of their getting the best results possible.

The Secretary explained that at present there was no qualified competent beekeeper at headquarters, and stated that at present if anyone went into the Government offices for the purpose of obtaining information, that person would be handed over to some clerk, and would thus be sidetracked, and obtain very little information. When Mr. Jacobsen was in Wellington they could get good information, but there is nobody in the Department who can give satisfactory information on the many questions touching upon the bee industry suitable for newcomers. As to fowls and cows, there was plenty of information to be got, but nothing on the subject of honey. They could be absolutely sure that they would get 50 per cent. more for their produce than before the war, and this will extend for three years after the war. With regard to the rates which are now being offered for competent men, he felt sure that no man worth his salt would accept the appointments at the price.

Mr. Bray considered this was a most important matter. There are changes taking place in the Department, and there will be more. There has been trouble in the past in the Apiary Division, and that has been brought about chiefly through lack of sufficient control. Things will go on drifting until we get a thoroughly efficient man. The Department has got good officers, and there were qualified men in New Zealand to choose from. The Association will show where the suitable man is.

The Secretary then reported that Mr. Young was in the Hall ready to take deputation to the Minister.

Mr. Miller proposed that Mr. Nelson and himself be appointed a deputation to lay the case before the Minister.

Mr. Campbell, of the Department, said he regretted that the discussion on the salaries of inspectors had cropped up in the absence of Mr. Kirk. He was interested in Mr. Baines' remarks, who implied that as there was no Chief Apiarist there could be no information except that given by a clerk. That was wrong, as no information was ever sent out unless the Department is satisfied that it is sound and good information. The Department thoroughly approved of the appointment of a Chief Inspector, and it fully recognised the importance of the bee industry. The Department would be glad to assist in every possible way, and the Department will be grateful for any help that can be given to it. If they could secure better salaries for the inspectors, they would

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of a good service. The Department has control over the matter of salaries, but there can be no doubt that the present satisfactory condition of the bee industry is largely due to the work of the Department.

Mr. Ireland also supported the appointment of a Chief Apiarist.

Mr. Kirk having come into the Conference, stated that Mr. Campbell had already told them the attitude of the Department, whose sympathies were entirely in favour of the motion. He had long ago recommended such an appointment, and the recommendation is still standing, and he takes care to jog the memory of the Minister on the subject. It is not likely that a position will be made, as the Commissioner of the Public Service says there may be numbers of men who are fighting for us whose right may be infringed by such appointment, and he thinks their interests should not in any way suffer owing to the fact that they are away fighting for us. The Commissioner does not like to fill vacancies during the war, and he may still maintain that attitude until the war is over. That is the only reason inducing the Commissioner to hold back at the present time.

Mr. Allan had stated that the question of remuneration was also before the Conference, and he (Mr. Kirk) had already recommended substantial increase in salaries. No reclassifications were being made until after the war. At the same time, the opinion of this Conference that these gentlemen should receive more remuneration ought to be represented in the proper quarter. The voice of the industry should carry considerable weight, and the Commissioner may be induced to make temporary appointments pending the ending of the war. The Commissioner deals with all appointments, and the Minister can make them. It would be a very good idea to put your views before the Minister, but the Commissioner is the man who makes the appointments. Any superior officers that may be appointed will be placed under the apiary instructors. Mr. Westbrooke will look after the North and Mr. Earp the South Island in the meantime.

Mr. Nelson moved—"That a motion be passed and laid before the Minister with a request that he exert all the influence he can for the shipping away of the season's crop as soon as possible and landed in the Old Country." With reference to control, he considered that a supply was highly essential to the industry.

Mr. Allan seconded the motion for two reasons—first, that shipping is essential to the industry for the purpose of getting it on to the English market; and secondly the people in England want the honey badly. This should be urged as a reason to get it away as soon as possible.

Mr. Ward also supported the motion, which was put and carried.

Mr. Baines, in reply to a question from Mr. Hobbs, stated there was no chance of getting a rebate on railway freights at present.

The following delegates were appointed a deputation to wait on the Minister:—Messrs. Allan, Gilling, Baines, Brickell and Nelson.

The deputation waited on the Minister of Agriculture, being introduced by Mr. J. A. Young, M.P. for Waikato.

Mr. H. W. Gilling, manager of the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., said that while the deputation quite recognised that in dealing with the question of the shipment of produce they were bringing up a very difficult subject, yet it appeared to them that the importance of the honey industry had been to some extent lost sight of. The beekeepers of the Dominion were quite alive to the importance and value of the co-operative principle, and they had adopted it. There was now a large accumulation of honey at all the grading stores. The difficulty was to obtain shipping space for it. Until the exporters put the honey on the boats they were unable to get the necessary advances to pay the suppliers. Only low advances could be obtained, and therefore only low advances could be paid out. Apart from hampering the finance of the suppliers, the result was to paralyse to a great extent the operations of the co-operative company. Being a co-operative concern, it was under-capitalised, and they were competing with a firm which had large accumulations of capital. The co-operative concern had had some competitors in the market offering up to 1/2 per pound. The only hope of holding the beekeepers together was to obtain shipment of their produce, and thus enable the necessary advances to be obtained and made. It had occurred to those engaged in the industry that the authorities had possibly overlooked the value of honey as a food. In view of the inadequate supply of fruit at Home, and the difficulty of obtaining sugar, there had been a shortage in the quantity of jam available, and honey could to a great extent take

the place of jam. The Imperial authorities might have overlooked the quantity of honey available in New Zealand.

Mr. J. A. Young, M.P.: What quantity of honey have you now accumulated in New Zealand?

Mr. H. W. Gilling: About 300 tons.

OUTLOOK FOR NEXT YEAR.

Mr. James Allan said the honey industry was dependent on the shipment of the produce. If the honey was held over, the local market would not take it. The quantity of honey produced next year would probably be double that of this year. Therefore, if the article could not be shipped, there would be a deadlock. Honey could be shipped as broken storage—that was, it could be used to fill up vacant spaces in the hold, and in that way it was, he believed, in demand for that special purpose. England wanted our honey. That was shown by the fact that they were offering us from £170 to £180 a ton to get it. It was a golden opportunity for the advancement of the honey industry, and he hoped the Government would help the producers as far as they could.

The necessity of increasing the salaries of honey graders in order to retain the services of the most efficient officers was urged by Mr. R. W. Brickell.

Mr. F. C. Baines urged the appointment of a Chief Apiarist, pointing out the growing importance of the industry, and the lack of a practical competent man being in charge. All other industries had a Chief Expert at the head of the particular branch, and the beekeepers felt it was an absolute necessity if our industry was to go ahead as it was capable of doing that the appointment we ask for should be made without delay.

THE MINISTER'S REPLY.

The Hon. W. D. S. Macdonald remarked that the deputation did not ask for anything unreasonable. The questions they had brought up were very important. As to the shipment of the honey now in store, they all knew that at present it was difficult to secure shipping space. It was not a question of securing cold storage. He understood that honey could be shipped as ordinary cargo if a reasonable amount of care were exercised. He would place the matter before the proper authorities. He understood that there were 300 tons in store now. The Government had a representative on the Tonnage Committee,

and it was probable that some tonnage for honey would be secured. He recognised that after the local market had been supplied, they could only look to export in order to maintain the industry. Honey was one of the commodities which the Imperial Government had not purchased. The Imperial authorities had purchased our butter and meat, and he thought there was something like four million pounds' worth in store in New Zealand at the present moment awaiting shipment. All this produce was urgently needed in England. If they could possibly have got ships out, they would no doubt have been provided; but we had not got the ships.

SHIPPING SHORTAGE.

We had been very short of shipping right up to the present time, and the Government did not expect to get much relief until the end of next month, but by that time he thought they might get more ships. He would cable to the Prime Minister and Sir Joseph Ward, who were now in London, pointing out the tremendous impetus the honey industry had received, the enthusiasm with which our people were going into the industry, and the great future there was before it if the producers could get reasonable facilities for shipping their produce. The Prime Minister could point out to the Imperial authorities the large quantity of honey now in store ready for shipment, and that probably the amount could be doubled or trebled if we could get the necessary shipping facilities. He would send that cable message within the next day or two.

HONEY GRADERS.

Dealing with the question of increasing the salaries of honey graders, the Minister said the honey industry had jumped ahead. The industry had not attained to its present degree of importance when the classification of the public service was arranged. He would bring the question before Cabinet. It was unfortunate that the session of Parliament had been postponed owing to the absence of the two leaders on Imperial business. The points submitted by the deputation would be noted, and would be considered by Cabinet when the Estimates were being prepared. It was known to all how the cost of living had gone up. All men up to 45 years of age were eligible for military service, and it was very hard to retain the services of competent men—experts possessing scientific knowledge—unless adequate remuneration were provided. He was inclined to agree that dairy inspectors, instructors,

and graders were all getting lower salaries than they were entitled to. The Valuation Department and many other Departments needed reconsideration and reclassification. There could be no question about that. The present was a very difficult time. From one end of the country to the other labour was scarce and dear. If it could be avoided, however, they did not want to start making increases just now. There were thousands of men at the front, and it would not be fair to many of them to make permanent appointments to the higher positions just now.

BUYERS' FAITH IN OUR GRADING.

He did not suppose there was anything so important as the grading of our produce. Buyers at Home purchased on the Government grade. Butter, meat, lamb, and hemp—all these commodities were purchased now in England by people engaged in the trade on the New Zealand Government grade. If we had not expert graders, our produce would suffer. They must have competent graders for honey as well as for butter and cheese. Practically the whole of our butter was purchased without the purchasers looking at a box of it. They accepted the Government grade; and it had been a magnificent thing for this country.—(Hear, hear.) He had been much impressed with the large gathering of persons engaged in the honey industry who were attending the Conference. It was an industry in which they could not over-produce in our day. New Zealand produce had got a good name. He would do his best to help the honey industry; and he would try and get the honey graders put in a better classification, so as to offer inducements for competent men to come into and remain in the service. He would do his best to bring the produce to a high standard, and also to increase the output. As he had said, he would cable Home without delay, and see if shipping facilities could not be provided. He was absolutely sincere in saying that he would meet their requests as far as he possibly could.

The Minister added that the question of appointing a Chief Apiarist would be brought before the Cabinet for consideration, and if a suitable man could be found the appointment would be made.

The discussion on Mr. Trythall's paper was resumed.

Mr. Allan said he had listened with the greatest interest to the excellent paper. The lecturer had not only got badly smitten with the prevailing disease from which they all suffered, but he was also a bee-master as well as a beekeeper. They all owed him a debt of gratitude. They appreciated what he was doing with the

students at Ruakura, and it was satisfactory to know that the Apiary Division was under such a qualified bee-master.

Mr. Ireland delivered an address on "Frames," and proposed a recommendation to the manufacturers that the top bar be increased to at least one inch wide.

Mr. Baines stated it was a difficult thing to make manufacturers change their sizes.

After further discussion by several of the delegates, the motion was put and lost.

Mr. Benton then demonstrated his cappings and comb melter, and, having the appliance, was able to show how the honey was away from any heated surface directly the wax holding it was melted. The machine was pretty keenly examined, and those interested were convinced that the machine would do all that it was claimed to do.

Had Mr. Benton been able to demonstrate by actual working, it would have been exceedingly interesting, and we hope this can be arranged at some future date.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded.

Mr. H. Bartlett-Miller was quite ready to give an actual demonstration of the capabilities of his melter, having brought down a box of combs of unextractable honey, when he was taken ill, and although he did his best to get himself fit to work, he was compelled to leave the Conference and seek medical aid. As it was uncertain when he would be fit, it was not possible to fix any definite time for the demonstration, and so a good many visitors who were very keen on seeing the working of the appliance were disappointed. Mr. Miller was sufficiently recovered by Saturday morning to demonstrate to just a few, who were much impressed by the machine.

The discussion on Mr. Allan's paper was resumed by Mr. Kirk, who said that he understood Mr. Allan to say that his honey very nearly got into the C grade on account of colour in class.

Mr. Allan explained that that was not so.

Mr. Kirk then requested Mr. Earp to explain how the grading referred to took place.

Mr. Earp produced official data explaining the process of grading. He congratulated Mr. Allan on the quality of his pat honey. They had had some differences in the matter of grading. Honey had come forward in a leaking condition. With respect to the shipment of the 40 cases, Mr. Allan had stated that his honey had just missed getting into C grade by 2 points, but said that he blamed colour for just getting within C grade. He explained the

details of the various grades, and gave reasons for the decisions relating thereto.

Mr. Kirk suggested that each extraction should be indicated by some distinctive mark on the package, the same as was done in the case of butter, so that graders may know by such marks when the whole of the extraction is made.

Several other speakers dealt with the subject, and in reply Mr. Allan said his intentions were to try and get the Department to simplify the grading practice. The grading officers were particularly sensitive. He had tried to show that it was the grading schedule he was fighting, and not the graders. Major Norton said their system was too complicated, and much less would do them. Mr. Allan thought that aroma and taste is one and not two headings, and closed the argument by stating that as flavour and aroma is the same, so is condition and grain and foreign matter with packing and finish. In the case in question the cappings of the tins were defective, and fell out in transit.

Mr. Stewart then gave a demonstration on the subject of "Queen Rearing."

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I do not know if many of you are users of an appliance similar to the one I have here in your apiary work. So at Mr. Baines' invitation I have brought it to the Conference for you to have a look at, in case it would be of some benefit to others. It is a very useful article for hatching out young queens in the hive and have them safe from injury until you have time to attend to them.

The procedure in using it is very simple. You will notice it is made up of a number of small compartments, with a round hole in the top of each to insert the cells in that are due to be hatching out in a few days. After inserting the cells, the frame is kept in a strong colony between two frames of brood in the brood-nest. It takes the same space as an ordinary frame, and can be kept in a colony all the summer, or shifted as required. The only care necessary is to see that while cells are in it for hatching it is always kept between frames of brood, as, should one side have no brood on it, there is a chance of the cells getting chilled if a cold night comes along. And care should also be taken that while young queens are being got out that cells not yet hatched do not get chilled.

Now, you will say where is the advantage in using such a contraption? I will just give an illustration. Usually the practice is to give a cell to each colony or nucleus, and allow them to hatch out.

Now, Mr. Beekeeper New Chum has managed to raise, say, 25 cells, and has, say, 18 colonies and nuclei to re-queen. He puts the cells in this frame to hatch out, and each morning and evening runs the newly hatched queens into their new homes. There are one or two rather small ones, or too dark or yellow, as the case may be, and one or two perhaps with a crippled wing. Those are discarded at once, and only the most desirable of the young queens are put into the queenless colonies to be future mothers. Had he inserted the cells, several colonies might have had inferior queens, while several good ones would have been lost.

Another use is when you are not certain to a few days when cells are due to hatch out, just put them in this frame, and you have no worry over the possibility of a young queen coming out and polishing off all the others, as sometimes happens, even in the best regulated apiary at times when the busy season is on. With a little food in each compartment, a young queen can be a couple of days hatched out without any harm coming to her. My usual practice, I may state, is to run the newly hatched queens into the nucleus or colony at once. But where more are coming out than are needed at once, they are run into nursery cages with eight or ten young bees. They can then be kept in an upper storey of a colony for a few days until required.

Now, a few words on some points in queen-rearing. I noticed a discussion in the Journal on getting cells started by different methods some time ago. I will just mention that the colony readiest of all to start plenty of cells and feed them well is a strong colony that has been deprived of a young queen just ready to commence laying, and that has its brood nearly all hatched out. I will just give one instance of last season's experience. One particular colony fixed up for cell-building only built out one cell when it should have had about 20 at least. It was, therefore, given a newly hatched queen, and left to itself for about ten days. The young queen by that time was ready to start laying. She was removed, and an hour later a frame with a small amount of newly hatching eggs inserted. Result: 5 hours later 55 cells well started. Such a colony also feed the larvæ extra well, and the reason they are so keen is that they are beginning to feel. They need more young brood, and those cells, being their only hope, are well attended to. Of course, you can also use such a colony to merely start the cells, either in artificial cell-cups or on natural comb, and then remove them to another cell-building colony, giving them

back their own queen next day, when they will go ahead as if nothing had happened.

Now, one more point on raising queens. You have all heard or read that large, well-built cells are usually the best. But in some cases, to judge what the young queens will be by the cell's appearance is very apt to lead to disappointment. The cells should be of fair size, but the main factor in getting first-class young queens is the quality of the food supplied, not quantity. If the food the two to three days old larvæ is floating in is plentiful and of a thick, creamy pearly white appearance, you may rely on the young queens being good, or as good as the best of the stock they are bred from. But if the food supplied by the nurse bees has a bluish watery appearance and rather thin-looking, then you may expect to have a fair proportion of small and short-lived queens, no matter how large and fine the cells may be in appearance. This is not theory, but what I have observed in actual practice during the last few seasons.

I trust these few remarks may be of some interest to the beekeepers present.

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Stewart, and in support thereof Mr. Ward expressed his great appreciation at the ability and liberality of thought exhibited by Mr. Stewart in giving them so much of his experience and knowledge.

Mr. Bray read suggested amendments to the Constitution presented by Mr. Sage, Secretary of the Waikato Branch, as per printed notice, and moved that the same be passed. This was seconded by Mr. Ward, and carried in the form of the following motion—"That the National Association at this its annual meeting accept and pass all the suggested amendments to the Constitution as proposed by the Waikato Branch."

Mr. Brickell read a paper on the subject of "Advertising Honey, and the Use of Honey as a Food." He produced a unique sample of honey from Bokhara clover.

Mr. Bray moved—"That the Conference urge on the Department of Agriculture the urgent necessity of at once bringing into force the necessary regulations to prevent diseased bees being moved from place to place."

Mr. Ward and Mr. Walker supported the motion.

Mr. Kirk, in replying, stated that regulations are now being drafted to meet the case, and they would probably be presented this month. He said the members of the Conference seemed to have absolute faith in official regulations and their force. Every beekeeper knows perfectly well that

bees should not be removed without permission, and regulations would be made, and made very shortly, but the Department was unfortunately short-handed, and it is getting more so, and though they may pass regulations, they would soon have no staff to carry them out. The regulations would be put on the Statute Book without delay.

The motion was put and carried.

The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Young, M.P., for his efforts to help the deliberations of the Conference. This was carried with applause, and the Secretary was instructed to send a letter conveying the appreciation of the Conference.

The Secretary read a remit from the Waikato Branch—"That the Conference fully discuss the advisability of forming judging tests for those who might apply in order that they may be granted a certificate of proficiency; the tests to include grading of honey, wax, honey-mead and honey-vinegar." "That the Conference discuss the question of apiary boundaries."

Mr. Sage moved the permit, and Mr. Ward seconded it.

Mr. Kirk said the forming of classes would be impracticable, but if it was only a matter of examination, they could be held; but during the war the Department could not arrange this at all the centres. A single examination of one lot of honey is not sufficient to issue a certificate on. There would have to be several examinations before a competency certificate could be issued. Under normal conditions things would be much easier. The Department was quite in sympathy with the idea, but shortage of staff makes the matter difficult. He supported Mr. Clayton's suggestion that judges be appointed by the National Association.

On the question of apiary boundaries a very great deal of discussion followed, but it was agreed that the National was absolutely powerless. The matter is brought up every year, and the position is that if a man decides to go to a district where beekeepers are already established, there is no power in the land to stop him. There was one case mentioned in which the circumstances were singular. A young lady, after being at the Ruakura Apiary for a year, decided on taking up the industry. Having selected a suitable district, she made enquiries all round—at the post office, residents, farmers, and all others likely to know, but was unable to find anyone who kept bees. On the strength of this information, she bought two acres of land, and arranged for a house to be built, and the bees she had bought (40 hives) were placed on the

section. No sooner was this done, when a farmer informed her that he had leased a site on his farm to a beekeeper some miles away who was going to put down 150 hives. Naturally the young lady was very much distressed, as she had already spent a great deal of money, taken every precaution to do no one an injury, only to find that no sooner was she established than she would be swamped by 150 hives practically next door. It was unanimously decided that the Secretary write the gentleman who was intending to put the bees down, stating that, considering the trouble and expense the lady had been put to in comparison to what he had done, the Conference would appreciate his action if he forfeited the site he had chosen, and secure another in the district that would give the lady a fair range for her bees.

Mr. H. Benton submitted a remit from the Wairarapa Branch to have printed the notes rewritten for Beginners in the Journal of Agriculture in book form for distribution among beginners in the craft joining the Association. It was requested that this remit be made the subject of a discussion, with a view of the adoption of the proposal by the National, which he strongly urged.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Ireland, seconded by Mr. Watson—"That no action be taken at present in that direction, and it be left over for consideration at the next Conference."

With reference to the remits from the Southland Branch, Nos. 1 and 3 were dealt with under other headings above recorded, and No. 2 was carried.

The Secretary moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Kirk for his help to the Association. This was passed with acclamation, and Mr. Kirk briefly responded, stating it was always a pleasure to do all he possibly could to advance the interests of the Association.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, and on the motion of Messrs. Ireland and Nelson, Mr. Barker was elected President.

Mr. Allan was elected Vice-President.

For the Executive, Messrs. Ireland and Watson were elected for the South Island, and Messrs. Nelson and Sage for the North.

On the motion of Messrs. Ward and Allan, Mr. Baines was re-elected Secretary and Editor.

Mr. Sage said he thought they should recognise Mr. Baines' services from a £ s. d. point of view. There was no doubt their Secretary was very much underpaid for his work, and he had therefore much

pleasure in proposing that the Secretary's salary be increased by £26 per annum as Editor of the Journal.

This was seconded by Mr. Wedde, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Baines briefly replied, and appreciated the goodwill and help that had been given to him during the past year. It was only by such help and goodwill that he had been able to carry on and make the success of the Journal, and he asked for their continued support.

Mr. Allan said he did not think they had yet done enough, but that they should recognise Mr. Baines' work in connection with the Association, and he moved that a £10 bonus for the past year be given to him now. This was seconded by Mr. Davies and carried.

On the question of the next annual Conference, it was finally decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Press, and Mr. Brickell moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Miller for his work during the Conference. This was carried by a hearty acclamation.

Mr. J. Rentoul wired regretting that he was marooned at Blenheim, and thus unable to be present.

Mr. J. S. Cotterell wired greetings and good wishes.

The Hall in which the Government films were shown was pretty closely packed, and the pictures were thoroughly enjoyed. The industries screened were Beekeeping, Fruit-growing, Hemp Industry, and Coal-mining, and the scenic pictures Wanganui River and the Southern Alps.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Department, particularly to the operator, who gave up his evening for the benefit of the visitors to the Conference.

The appliances sent for exhibition attracted much attention. These were—A Hand Bottom Board, made by the Alliance Box Co.; the Waite Patent Bottom Board, which enabled the entrance to be opened or closed by sliding the floor board in a groove made in the sides of the hive stand. The Davis Hive is designed to allow ventilation to a very great degree, but the same result can be obtained by inserting blocks at the entrance. Mr. Clayton brought down a bottom board that was easily made, and an appliance that would last for years. The appliances used at the Ruakura Apiary were all shown either in model or actual size.

The Secretary tenders his best thanks to all who thus helped to make the Conference helpful and instructive.