



SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of
The National Beekeepers' Association
of New Zealand

Held in the Dominion Farmers' Institute, Featherston Street, Wellington,
on June 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1919.

FIRST DAY—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11th.

The Sixth Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand and the Annual Conference of the Beekeepers of the Dominion was opened by His Worship the Mayor of Wellington (J. P. Luke, Esq., C.M.G.), Mr. W. E. Barker (President) occupying the chair. There were present: Dr. C. J. Beakes (Director-General Department of Agriculture), Mr. T. W. Kirk (Director Horticultural and Apiaries Division), Messrs. Earp, Jacobsen and Westbrooke (Apiary Instructors), Mr. A. B. Trythall (officer in charge Ruakura State Apiary), Mr. S. C. Rhodes (officer in charge State Queen-rearing Apiary, Tauranga), Mr. J. Rentoul (managing director) and Mr. C. F. Ryland, manager of the N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association, Ltd.

The attendance of delegates and visitors numbered just over 100 persons.

The Mayor of Wellington welcomed the delegates to the Capital City, and on being introduced by the Chairman, said it gave him very much pleasure to extend to the delegates a hearty welcome amongst them. He said that since the war his attention had been peculiarly drawn to the primary industries of New Zealand. Those young men who hitherto had been in business seemed to think that their future lies in different spheres of action, and instead of the bank, the shop, or the factory, they looked towards the land for future support. He was sure that the progress of New Zealand must be identified with what we produce from the land. He was not at all concerned over the industrial side of our affairs. But the people of this country must see to the proper approximation of our responsibilities to those young men who have thrown up perhaps the labour of many years, and find themselves unable to settle down in their old

grooves. His sympathies were with those who had been bereaved through the war, and we honoured the memories of those who had fallen in the field, recognising our responsibility to provide an adequate recognition of their great services. As far as the bee industry was concerned, he understood it was in a particularly flourishing condition. Bees were first imported in 1839, and they had been multiplying ever since. He was not surprised to hear of the condition of the export trade, and hoped the authorities would do all possible to help advance the interests of all the primary industries of the Dominion.

On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor for his kindness in coming and welcoming the delegates.

Later the Mayor invited the lady members to accompany Mrs. Luke on a motor-car trip, and on behalf of the City Council he offered to place two tram-cars at the disposal of the visitors to convey them round the city if the business of the Conference would permit.

The President warmly thanked the Mayor, stating they would take advantage of his kind offer if at all possible.

The Chairman regretted to announce that the Hon. the Minister would not be present, but that Dr. Reakes, Director-General of the Agricultural Department, was present in his stead, and would address the Conference on matters appertaining to the Department.

Dr. C. J. Reakes apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald, who had been called away from Wellington on shorter notice than he had expected.

Personally, said Dr. Reakes, he took a considerable interest in beekeeping, so far as his work with the Department was concerned. It was very gratifying to note that the industry was gaining a good footing in New Zealand, and was creating a greater interest throughout the country, and that many more people were taking up the work. The Department was now seeking information regarding the establishment of new apiaries and the best methods of running them, having in mind the fact that beekeeping offers an acceptable and pleasant occupation for a number of returned men who, through sickness or wounds, were unable to undertake more laborious occupations. At the Ruakura Experimental Farm a number of returned soldiers were learning beekeeping, and the Department intended to enlarge its organisation to impart instruction in regard to

the industry. In that connection he wished to state that several gentlemen had given their services in honorary capacities, and he wished to express the sincere thanks of the Department to those gentlemen for their valuable assistance. A considerable amount of experimental work had been carried out at the Ruakura Farm, and a queen-rearing apiary had been established at Tauranga, and had made good progress. He hoped that during the Conference suggestions would be made as to the manner in which the Department could be of greatest assistance to those engaged in the industry.

It was satisfactory to note that a useful little export trade had been built up, continued Dr. Reakes. During the war the industry had proved exceptionally profitable in view of the high prices ruling in Britain. It was only to be expected that on the cessation of hostilities and the return of normal conditions values should fall back to normal; but there was, even so, every reason to expect that the export of honey would in future be a paying proposition, especially if care was exercised in packing and preparing the honey for export in order that a good reputation would be built up.

EXPORT FIGURES.

The Customs Department's figures, said Dr. Reakes, showed that for the year ending 31st March last 6619 cwt. of honey, valued at £32,018, was exported. This represented a big increase, both in quantity and value, as compared with the previous year. This was no doubt due to the large accumulations of honey held up in the grading stores for want of shipping space, being got away during the year, and to the very high prices ruling at Home. The figures for weight and value of honey exports for the years 1915-1919 were:—

	Cwt.	Value.
1915	2456	£4,763
1916	2390	£6,067
1917	1572	£3,554
1918	2818	£7,991
1919	6619	£32,018

He trusted that the export trade from New Zealand was only showing a beginning to date, but advised that while every effort should be made to foster the export trade, the interests of the home consumer should be looked after, and that good quality honey should be supplied to the New Zealand buyer at a fair and honest price.

In conclusion, Dr. Reakes assured the delegates that the Department had the well-being of the industry at heart, and would do everything possible to make the

industry a valuable asset to the Dominion. Dr. Reakes referred to the valuable services of Mr. T. W. Kirk (in charge of the Apicary Division) and the staff under his direction, to the Department, and to those engaged in beekeeping.

The Chairman asked Dr. Reakes if the Department would undertake some few experiments for the Association with a view to advising the members of the Association on many points now very much the subject of controversy.

Dr. Reakes replied that the Department would be pleased to undertake any such experiments as may be presented to it by the Association.

Dr. Reakes was asked to state his opinions on the question of apicary boundaries, but he preferred to hear the discussion of the Conference before giving an opinion on the subject.

On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Reakes.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Gosling, of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd., who had just arrived in Wellington, and requested him to address the Conference. This Mr. Gosling did at length. He explained the operations of his Company and the manner of handling our honey. He complained that his Company had received many offers of New Zealand honey at less price than that made by the H.P.A., and said this was very unfortunate, as his Company would prefer to deal with the Association, and maintain regular prices for New Zealand honey, which was as good as any in the world. The Californian article only could compete with it. He hoped to do an enormous business in future in New Zealand honey, and asked the packers to do their share in creating a wholesome demand for New Zealand honey. If the H.P.A. had not done the good work it has done, they would not be getting the good prices which they have been getting. It was most advisable that all producers should join up and knit closer together, for there would be keen competition presently. He read a letter published in "The Grocer" of April 12th, 1919.

In reply to a question by the Chairman as to whether grading has been a success, Mr. Gosling said that it certainly was a great success, and they advocated Government grading every time.

Mr. Kirk asked was it not true that all the B. and D. pots were marked as containing New Zealand honey, and Mr. Gosling replied that it was so.

The Chairman expressed his strong opinion that all members who were not linked up with the H.P.A. should do so without delay.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Gosling.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am pleased indeed to meet your smiling faces once more, and in this fine hall. Beekeepers are a very loving race of men, especially the women. A beekeeper never has any difficulty in finding a mate—that is, when honey is at £170 per ton. If you watch the process, you will find it is always this: First a motor-car, then a wife; sometimes it is the other way round, but the result is always the same: the race is to the swift.

Gentlemen, when I look at this fine gathering of the honey producers of New Zealand, I feel proud to be your President, and I feel sure the originators of the National—our old friends Messrs. Hopkins, Jacobsen, Ireland and Ward—who so diligently and patiently laid the foundations of it must feel proud that their vision of Unity has come to so rich a fruition.

When I was a boy, I remember puzzling over the aphorism, "Where the rainbow rests there lies a crop of gold," and seeing one rest on our land one day, I spent some time in vainly digging for it—'twas a faithless boy that went away that day. Did you ever think why the instincts of man are kinder than the visible attributes of God? Professor Bergeson approaches the truth where he says: "Instinct is nearer to God than reason." For man's reason is often based on false premises. When we had our heavy fall of snow last winter, and I saw my cows watching me with anxious eyes as I approached the stable, I wondered why God did not put a little more foodstuff into snow. To me it seemed such an easy thing for Him to do; but though He seems to us often a bit slow in the uptake, He is always sure, and instinct told me we would have a good honey year. So it has proved to be to most of us; and the cow that thinks it can find food without some search for it is about as wise as the man who thinks he can gather honey without hard work.

The Chief Apiarist.

I think most of us went home last year under the impression that our request was granted, but the Good Book says: "Put not your trust in politicians," and your Executive later on was advised that he

would not be appointed till after the war was over. It looks as if we may have to adopt the principles of the I.W.W. and go along with bludgeons, or appoint some ladies on our deputation.

Our Branches.

During the year we have made considerable progress, and several new Branches have been instituted. It is perhaps not my business to find fault with the work of the Branches, but the individual active members of the same seem few and languishing, and it behoves us to do more to induce amateurs to our meetings. That this can be done is evidenced in rather a remarkable way. In two of our largest centres a Government expert and an ex-Government expert have succeeded in drawing to their side and teaching over 200 amateurs. I believe they charge 5/- to each member. This is the work that the Branches should be doing. Perhaps it could be overcome on the same plan as our Cricket Clubs, who keep an expert bowler to teach the amateurs how to play the game. Both of these gentlemen, I may say, are doing a much-needed work well, which could be extended to other centres with success. But it is a pity they could not exercise their talents within our organisation. Several years ago I suggested to Mr. Kirk that it be an instruction to his experts as part of their duty to advance the interests of our Association, and to urge all amateur beekeepers to affiliate with it. Has he done so in this instance? For the life of the tree is in its branches.

Our Secretary.

At the close of last session our Conference seems to have got itself into the unfortunate position of the gentleman who got himself into a knot whilst trying to pronounce the name "Pyzemsly"—and died. Most of us went away under the impression that we had given our worthy and hard-working secretary a very substantial monetary pat on the back, when we had virtually merely transferred his bonus from one pocket into the other. This being brought before your Executive, they unanimously agreed to increase his salary in accordance with your evident wishes.

Beekeepers' Handbook.

Mr. Baines submitted to the Executive a very excellent booklet on beekeeping. That such is much needed I had evidence the other day, when a lady over the teacups said to me, "Is it true, Mr. Barker,

that drones can't bite?" I assured her it was so, and, that like all male animals they were quite harmless when treated properly. This little book which we lay before you will solve many such difficulties and be of general use to the community.

Gentlemen, a word to the Press. In bygone days I used to look with pity at our friends the reporters bending over their blocks and scribbling as for dear life, thinking how tedious it must be to them to record what must seem such awful rot, and visions used to float through my mind of columns and columns in the morning papers of our proceedings. But lately I have been reading Mark Twain's Biography, and I find that journalists are not always the good boys they appear to be. Any way, practically nothing filters through to the South Island of our proceedings, and very little in the Wellington dailies, save a few serio-comic remarks in "Truth" that we would fain do without. I am, however, inclined to think that the Press must have a central boiling-down establishment, where they boil down the fat and return the bones to the public. Gentlemen, this ought not so to be: our Conference has now reached the dimensions that deserve a better service from the Press.

The Minutes.

Owing to an error on the part of our Secretary, the reading of our minutes was not included in our last year's Agenda. It is nice to find so perfect an individual tripping. I can't think what Mr. Bray and Mr. Russell were thinking of not to observe this omission; surely some gentle hand must have held the former's coat-tails. These minutes, therefore, must be read and confirmed.

Election of Officers.

"The men who do things, and not the men who merely talk of them, are the men who bless the world." At last Conference some remits from Waikato were submitted to you and somewhat hurriedly passed. As they deal with the Constitution, and deal somewhat hardly with members unaffiliated with any Branch, your Executive have thought it advisable to have them re-submitted to you. I would ask you to be very careful in considering any remits concerning alterations to Constitution or requests to the Department of Agriculture. The latter is a regular "old man of the sea," and if once you get them on your back it is very hard to shake them off, so I warn you to be very careful what

owers you put into their hands. These remarks refer especially to the grading, of our honey. I should be very sorry to see the honey industry in the same predicament that the fruit industry is in New Zealand. The Department has the unfortunate knack of removing all the gilt from our smaller industries by their elastic and inelastic regulations. Owing to their machinations the people cannot get good cheap fruit; it is put out of their reach owing to the Department's endeavour to foist upon them an academic apple, without spot or blemish, or any such thing. The general public does not want an academic apple, but good, wholesome cheap fruit. And so it is with our honey. I do not want to be over-graded or over-harrassed in the conduct of our industry. A fool with power in his hands is a public menace.

You will at the close of the Conference be asked to select your Executive, and I ask you to be very careful in that selection. I like to see plenty of competition for each office. I once asked a lady who she voted for (she was not a beekeeper). She said she, rather shamefacedly: "I voted for Mr. —; I really could not help it, he was so good-looking." I do not for a moment wish to insinuate that this motive moved you in your selection last year; but I ask you to watch carefully those who speak and those who do not, and vote for those who seem to you to take the shrewdest and most common-sense interest in our industry.

Holding this Conference elsewhere than in Wellington. Your Executive again considered the advisability of this, and decided not to risk the experiment for the present. Personally, seeing how our Conference in Wellington continues so markedly successful, I feel inclined to bend towards this opinion too. But if so, I would urge the holding of semi-conferences or rallies at each main centre shortly before our Annual Conference. I had hoped to hold such a one in Christchurch, but our Canterbury Branch, after considering the proposition, decided it was not advisable. This, I think, was a mistake. If we cannot agree to sink our little differences one evening in the year for the good of our community, we have still much to learn from the bees.

In conclusion, I will not anticipate our Editor's report on the Journal, except to say that his general conclusion on the year's proceedings is that a very successful year's work has been put through.—(Applause.)

It was resolved that the minutes of the last Conference be taken as read.

The Secretary then read the Report and Balance Sheet, which was received with applause on account of the very satisfactory position shown.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, which, as you will see by the copies of the latter placed before you, show the financial affairs of the National to be in a very satisfactory condition.

Although both the members' and Branch Association subscriptions are slightly lower than the figures shown on last year's Balance Sheet, these have both been exceeded by the amounts received since the figures were made out; and even without these extra sums, you will notice that we have exceeded £100, so we shall be able to collect the Government subsidy for the maximum allowed.

During the past year three new Branches have been formed—in Mosgiel, Balclutha, and Greymouth—and the old-established Poverty Bay Beekeepers' Association has decided to affiliate to us, which will mean four new Branches. This, I think, must be to you all a matter for congratulation, because the parent body can only increase in size and strength by the addition of such Branches, and I earnestly appeal to all those who are in districts where even only a small amount of beekeeping is carried on to try and form a Branch amongst those who are interested. Judging from the subscribers to the Journal, I am sure there is plenty of scope for the formation of more Branches, and it only needs one or two men who are enthusiastic to take the initiative; and, judging from the experience of those who have started Branches this year, they would be surprised at the number of people interested in the industry.

I want to particularly emphasise the fact that unless the parent body is strengthened by the addition of new Branches, it cannot be said that it is doing the work it was constituted for, which was the complete organisation of the whole industry throughout the length and breadth of the country. Therefore, I do earnestly ask all those who see even a bare possibility to further the interests of the National to try and form a Branch in their particular districts. The parent body will pay all initial expenses, supply stationery, and give all assistance possible, so I hope to be able to record additional Branches during the coming year.

Regarding the older Branches, I am sorry to say some are not at all what could be desired. The secretary of the Taranaki Branch wrote stating that he was unable to give the necessary time, and in consequence it was in such a low state that all the subscriptions he could send were 10/-.

The Canterbury Branch, too, according to the secretary's letters, is in a more or less moribund condition; and owing, I think, chiefly to the death of the late secretary of the Southland Branch, I have not received any subscriptions from them.

At the last Conference a remit was received from the Wairarapa Branch that the articles on beekeeping that had appeared in the Journal of Agriculture for twelve months be re-printed in book form by the National for free distribution amongst the members, particularly those who were just starting in the industry. After discussion, it was decided that no action be taken, and the matter left over till this Conference.

Before leaving Wellington last year, I was approached by a firm of publishers for a similar book, but I did not promise I would attempt it, not knowing what the job really meant. However, during the winter I tried (by remembering my own experience when starting in the industry) to compile a book that would have been of assistance to me at that time. When completed, I submitted a copy to each member of the Executive, with the suggestion that it might meet the requirements of those who wished for a book of this description. The unanimous opinion was that it was a very suitable book, and after going into the question of cost, it was decided to have it printed. The book is here, and every member of the National and its Branches is entitled to a copy free of cost. Those who belong to the Branches can obtain them from their secretaries, and those who belong to the parent body from me.

Regarding the National's exhibit of honey and wax, this has had to be left over owing to the impossibility of getting suitable jars for exhibition purposes, the only jar procurable being the ordinary 14 oz. screw-top. Whether it would be advisable to have these rather than no exhibit at all is a matter that can be discussed.

On the question of a badge of membership of the National, I have obtained quotations from a firm here which does rather a lot of this kind of work, but the price is prohibitive. But I am in touch with Australia on the matter, as I notice the Queensland beekeepers have a badge simi-

lar to what we are after, which is in silver and sells for 3/6. I had hopes to have a sample here, but owing, no doubt, to the shipping trouble over there, it has not arrived.

Referring again to the Balance Sheet, I should like you to notice the total receipts are £52 8s. 8d. more than last year, and the expenditure £22 10s. 8d. less.

The Journal Account shows a very satisfactory position, the receipts being £27 15s. 11d. more and the expenditure £9 16s. 1d.; but the profit made is £73 0s. 9d., against £55 1s. 8d., showing an increased profit of £17 19s. 1d. over the previous year's working.

The subscribers' list is slightly lower than last year, and I would ask you all to do what you can to maintain and increase the number of subscribers. Here I would like to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered me by those gentlemen who consistently send in contributions of reading matter, of whom Mr. E. C. Ward is the chief. I do not think I can do alone in recording my appreciation of Mr. Ward's contributions. He writes interesting and topical matter, and I am sure it is read with pleasure by everybody.

If we look at the older publications, such as "Gleanings," we find items written from north, south, east, and west regularly appearing, and I think to make our Journal thoroughly representative of the industry we should strive to do the same. Last year when the profit on the Journal was being discussed, it was suggested that the size be increased. This would be very desirable, but you must give me the matter, as I personally cannot possibly do it. The Journal to-day calls for a very great deal of writing on my part, and I do not see my way clear to increase it; but if a number of gentlemen would volunteer to assist me by becoming regular correspondents, it might be managed. I will supply stationery, envelopes, and stamps to anyone who are willing, and no limit made on the number, providing there are not two from the same district. To give you an instance. When an advertiser took up a two-page advertisement, I felt it would be unfair to the readers to crowd on ordinary reading matter, so I instructed the printers to increase the size; but the matter I had sent would not permit it, and the Journal came out short.

In closing, I would like to express my thanks to all those who have by kindly suggestion, criticism, and appreciative comment enabled me to bring the Journal to its present form.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 31st, 1919.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at Bank 31/5/18	142	2 0	By Printing & Stationery ..	152	4 6
Cash in hand 31/5/18 ..	47	12 11	„ Conference Expenses ..	10	9 9
Govt. Subsidy	91	12 9	„ Travelling Expenses ..	65	14 4
Govt. Grant for Conference Report	20	0 0	„ Postages	33	10 0
H.P.A. Share of Conference Expenses	3	10 0	„ Salaries	75	0 0
Journal Advertisements ..	65	5 9	„ Refunds to Branches ..	67	10 4
Journal Subscriptions ..	186	5 2	„ Honorarium to Secretary..	35	0 0
Members' Subscriptions ..	38	19 3	„ Legal Expenses	3	14 6
Association Subscriptions ..	82	1 6	„ Sundries	1	14 6
			„ Bank Charges & Cheque Book	0	14 6
				£445	12 5
			Cash in Hand	67	13 1
			Balance at Bank	£241	1 11
			Less Unpres. Chq.	76	18 4
				164	3 7
	£677	9 1		£677	9 1

JOURNAL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscriptions	186	5 2	By Printing	123	4 8
Advertising	65	5 9	„ Postage	28	5 6
Government Grant	20	0 0	„ Salary	50	0 0
Outstanding Debts for Foreign Advtg. & Subs...	3	0 0		£201	10 2
			Balance (Profit)	73	0 9
	£274	10 11		£274	10 11

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.	NIL.		
Typewriter, say	6	0 0			
Duplicator	1	0 0			
Govt. Subsidy	100	0 0			
Balance at Bank	164	3 7			
Cash in Hand	67	13 1			
	£338	16 8			

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) W. B. BRAY.

June 9th, 1919.

Mr. T. W. Kirk quite agreed that the Report and Balance Sheet showed a very satisfactory state of things, and congratulated the Association thereon. Mr. Baines had certainly made a great success of the Journal since he had taken it over, and he thought the members were not giving Mr. Baines the credit he deserved. There were, however, one or two faults with the Journal, and he could not allow the Conference to pass without calling attention to them. Some of the articles were so extraordinary that it was wonderful where the Editor got them from. Did he not understand the tremendous agility of Mr. Baines' brain he would stand aghast at some of the statements appearing in the columns of the Journal. Some of the statements appearing in an article in the April number were absolutely without foundation, and he felt he was justified in asking that a committee of three be appointed and go fully into the matters mentioned in the article in question.

On the motion of Mr. Brickell, it was agreed that Mr. Kirk's request for a Committee to enquire into the subject be referred to the National Executive.

The Report and Balance Sheet was approved and adopted on the motion of Messrs. Cotterell and Watson.

Mr. A. Ireland then read an interesting paper on "Apiary Boundaries," which was received with applause.

APIARY BOUNDARIES.

I think it may be taken for granted that it would be a good thing if boundaries could be given to apiaries—that is, if one could be prevented from encroaching upon his neighbour's ground. While all admit that it would be a good thing, yet some maintain that it would be a very difficult thing to bring about, and some that it would be unjust to someone. Various reasons are given by objectors to the scheme. I propose to take all that I have seen or heard of, and show the fallacy of them all.

It has been said that one who owned land might be prevented from keeping bees upon his own land, and that would be unjust, in that it would prevent him from using his land in a way that he wanted. This is a plausible objection, but when examined has no foundation to stand upon. In the first place, would such a one guarantee to keep his bees upon his own land? or would they feed upon his neighbour's land as much as upon his own? The restriction would not prevent him

from using his land in all the ways he had been used to, and therefore would not put any injustice upon him. He has no right to the air that passes over his land, although it nourishes his crops, nor has he any right to the minerals that may be under his land. He is only placed upon the same footing as anyone else who wishes to encroach upon his neighbour's means of livelihood—and why not? There is no reason why he should not be prevented.

Mr. Bartlett-Miller says that an industry cannot be prohibited. Now this is wrong for many industries are prohibited where they encroach upon the rights or well-being of others, or where they become a nuisance. Some have said that it would interfere with the liberty of the subject. Well, civilisation means the curtailment of our liberties in a thousand ways. It is only in a state of savagery that full liberty of the subject exists. In fact, the more highly a State is civilised the more is the liberty of the subject encroached upon. Some objectors say that it would be difficult to determine boundaries, because of the varying quality of the land, &c. This I consider the most serious of all the objections brought forward, but I do not consider it insurmountable. An average area could be agreed upon—say, three miles—and the officer who grants permits could have power to use his discretion to vary the area to suit the circumstances, or, if unable to do so himself, could refer the matter to the inspector and get him to report. The inspector naturally would know all the circumstances of his district in so far as its capacity to support a certain number of hives, and could report as to the area required by the nearest apiary.

I return to Mr. Bartlett-Miller's contention that it would be against the constitution, and from a legal consideration could not be brought about. In the first place, the constitution has nothing to do with the matter, and need not be considered. As far as the legal aspect is concerned, there is no Act on the Statute Book relating to the matter at present. But our purpose is to get an Act passed, and as the first step to its accomplishment I mean to move a motion when I finish this paper. I have asked a lawyer who holds a very high degree in Law, after telling him what apiary boundaries mean and what we require, if there was any thing in law or the Constitution to prevent our getting such an Act passed. He told me that the Constitution would not enter into the question at all, and that the only question for us was to get the

Government to take a favourable view of it, after our showing the need and utility of it.

Now that so many are entering into the industry, and so many of the returned soldiers are advised to take it up, the need of some means of regulating boundaries will be ever increasing.

To give an illustration of an actual case that happened last year, although most of you will have heard about it, and as it shows the need of some way of regulating the matter, I give it here. A young lady who had qualified herself as a beekeeper bought an apiary with the land and house, there being some forty or fifty hives. Just after getting a start, a man came with 300 hives and started just on the other side of the road. I think there can be no question that there is a need to have some means of regulating or preventing cases like the above. It seems to me that the only way this can be done would be to have all apiaries registered, and anyone wishing to start an apiary would have to apply for a permit, stating where he intended to start. The Registrar would then refer the application to the inspector to report, and if it was found not to encroach on anyone's area it would be granted, and if found to be encroaching upon someone it would be refused for that site. There can be no doubt that if something be not done to regulate apiary boundaries in the near future, there will be a lot of trouble and loss from over-crowding in certain districts, and it behoves us who are supposed to be looking after the interest of the beekeepers to do something, and not simply cry that it cannot be done, as some are doing who should know better.

This question not only affects us, but it has been discussed in American and other Journals, although nothing has yet been done to solve the question, and New Zealand has been the first to solve other questions—woman's franchise and others. It would be to our credit if we were the first to pass an Act to regulate apiary boundaries. With regard to the legal aspect of the question, I have looked up Salmond on Jurisprudence, and find the following:—"Corporeal possession is the possession of a material object—a house, a farm, a piece of money; incorporeal possession is the possession of anything other than a material object—for example, a way over another man's land, the access of light to the window of a house, a title of rank, an office of profit, and such like. All these things may be possessed as well as owned. The possessor may or may not

be the owner of them, and the owner of them may or may not be in possession of them. They may have no owner at all, having no existence de jure, and yet may be possessed and enjoyed de facto." According to this a man may possess a right to an incorporeal possession—that is, a right to allow his bees to gather nectar over a certain area defined by regulation in an Act that I hope we will be able to get passed in the near future.

I move—"That a Committee be appointed, consisting of Messrs. Nelson, Allan and the mover, to wait upon the proper Government Officer for the purpose of discussing regulations on which to base a Bill to be brought before Parliament for its consideration."

Mr. R. Gibbs (Southland) was against the idea of regulations to decide boundaries. The industry was open to anyone who possessed the essential qualifications to take it up, and he was of the opinion that it would be simply a case of the survival of the fittest. Reference had been made to returned soldiers taking up the industry, and he considered that they had a perfect right to enter the field of competition.

Mr. C. F. Horn said that already there was a good deal of overlapping, and if that were allowed to continue a number of the beekeepers would withdraw their money from the industry. He also referred to the existence of a trust, which threatened to kill the small beekeeper. Instances of their attitude towards the small beekeeper had come under his notice, and the Association should see that the operation of the trust should be checked. The argument that bees would rob neighbours of their harvest was contrary to scientific investigations, whereby it had been proved that bees in taking the honey from the plants really stimulated their growth. He hoped that special legislation would be introduced to provide for apiary boundaries.

Mr. James Allan, Vice-President of the Association, said that beekeepers were up against great difficulties, and it was simply a case of the survival of the fittest. To his mind it would be absurd for anyone to think that because he started beekeeping in a district first he should have the sole rights for the industry in the particular district. It would be useless for the Conference to go on discussing the question.

Mr. Ireland then moved: "That a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Horn, Cotterell and himself, be appointed to wait upon the proper Government authority for the

purpose of discussing regulations on which to base a Bill to be introduced to Parliament." Mr. G. A. Stewart seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Mr. C. F. Horn submitted a remit from the Auckland Provincial Branch to the effect that it was advisable to give inspectors power to prevent owners of bees moving them from place to place if the inspecting was satisfied that this was detrimental to the best interests of the industry.

Mr. Cotterell seconded the motion.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Housler regretting his inability to be present, and drew attention to the operations of a newly formed Honey Company which was operating in his district, which was placing apiaries far too near existing apiaries. Mr. Housler strongly supported the proposal that legislation be resorted to.

Mr. Horn subsequently withdrew his motion, and the Conference, on the motion of Mr. Ireland, decided to appoint a Committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Horn, Cotterell, and the mover to wait upon the proper officer of the Government to see if regulations could be framed to give effect to the wishes of the Conference in the matter of apiary boundaries, this Committee to report to the Conference before its close.

The following remit from the Wairarapa Branch was read by the Chairman:—

"That we strongly recommend the Executive of the National undertake the full control of the Journal, the policy thereof being defined by the Executive of the National in co-operation with the Editor, as is usual in the management of other successful journals and papers."

With reference thereto Mr. Ireland considered it would be a very difficult matter to regulate the actions of the Editor of the Journal. If they had not confidence in Mr. Baines they should look out for someone else. The full control should be left in the Editor's hands.

Mr. Bray expressed the hope that the matter would be now dropped, and this appeared to be the general opinion of the Conference.

Mr. Brickell then addressed the Conference on the subject of "The Granulation of Honey for Export: Can it be Improved?" and on his motion the Conference passed the following resolutions:—

1. That this Conference urge upon the Department of Agriculture the necessity of conducting a series of experiments in the treatment of honey,

2. The experiments to include treatment under vacuum to prove whether the water content of honey can be reduced by such treatment, and what effect such treatment has upon aroma.
3. Can fermentation be permanently arrested once it has set up?
4. Many honeys granulate slowly, and after a considerable lapse of time are still too soft for export. What steps does the Department recommend a beekeeper should take to improve density?

Mr. Rentoul explained that he had not prepared a paper for the Conference, as what he was going to say would be included in a suggestion that would be brought up at a later stage of the Conference.

With reference to the matter of exporting liquid honey, several speakers thought it would be inadvisable, and Mr. Kirk advised that the two trial shipments which the Department would arrange be made before any action be taken in the matter. This was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Penny, the Conference resolved—"That this meeting compliments the Department on the present system of grading."

Mr. Barker (the Chairman) read a paper on "The Crystallisation of Honey."

On the question of apiary sites now set apart by the Lands Department, it was resolved that the matter be laid before the Minister of Lands, to urge that regulations governing the securing of these sites be framed without delay.

Mr. Bray moved—"That the Government be asked to bring down regulations to enable Lands Commissioners to acquire apiary sites where required by bona fide beekeepers."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy, but was lost on the voices.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Bartlett-Miller stating that on account of sickness he would not be able to be present.

A letter was also read from Mr. Murdoch stating that if any returned soldier would go to Westland to take an interest in the honey business, he (Mr. Murdoch) would render every possible assistance to such soldier.

Mr. Nelson wrote intimating that on account of sickness in his family he would be unable to attend the Conference.

On the motion of Mr. Bray, a vote of sympathy towards Messrs. Miller and Nelson was passed.

In the evening a demonstration of the Smedley Capping Melter was given by the inventor, which attracted a lot of attention. This appliance is on the principle of triangular tubes, the space between them at the bottom being regulated by springs and screws. The steam is generated in a tank below, and the heat of the tubes is applied by steam only, an outlet being made for accommodating the tube of the steam knife. The honey and wax drop on a screen contained in a V-shaped trough, this being heated by steam, keeping the wax liquid until it runs out of the outlet. Although the combs put through were cold and the honey granulated, the machine handled them very well indeed, and, given the normal conditions of extracting time, the appliance would be capable of very rapid work.

Mr. Smedley answered all questions to the satisfaction of the enquirers, and on the motion of Mr. F. C. Baines was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

Messrs. Bartlett-Miller and F. A. Johnson both being unavoidably absent, their machines were not demonstrated.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to informal discussion on the most diverse subjects connected with the industry, and a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive time was spent.

At 10 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

SECOND DAY—THURSDAY, JUNE 12th.

The Conference resumed on the 12th June, at 10 o'clock.

The Chairman read a telegram from Mr. McKnight regretting non-attendance, but wishing Conference every success.

Mr. A. B. Trythall's paper on

A PRACTICAL TALK TO BEGINNERS

was then taken, and he delivered a most interesting and instructive address to those who needed help in their new work. He said that the very excellent book which had been compiled by Mr. Baines contained a lot of the ideas he had intended touching upon. He had read through the book, and thought it was a very useful one on all topics. He strongly advised young apiarists to see there was no muddling in their work, but preserve a systematic course of action, and they would

have a much better chance of success. Muddling and inexperience had landed us with more foul-brood than all our inspec-tors could possibly eradicate. Beekeeping sight. The world, it has been said, is divided into three classes—workers, shirkers, and jerkers. Having a love for the insect is a good way on the road of making a success in beekeeping. He advised good practical instruction from the start, for learning by experience was the longest way round. Avoid foul-brood above all things. Do not establish an apiary within four miles of another. Grazing land is good, but it does not come up to the dairying land, but avoid, if possible, purely agricultural district. New country just coming into dairying is the best of all, as the white clover is best from this land. He recommended the planting of fruit-trees for the accommodation of swarms. He suggested a plate of asbestos or a layer of concrete or tar and sand to keep down grass and weeds. He advised leaving the yards unfenced, as only lambs were likely to be any trouble amongst the usual cattle about a farm. He advised the simplest form of hive, one with a flat top, for many reasons. He advised his hearers to stick to the New Zealand frame, whether it be to 10 or 12-frame hive. He preferred the half-super from practical experience. He strongly advocated the use of excluders for good reasons, but they should not be put on too soon. A honey-house was essential, and the bigger the better. He advised his hearers to pin their faith on the Italian strain of bee, as it suits the New Zealand climate better than any other. A smoker that will smoke when required was an essential to the best apiary, and many failures were to be traced to this defect. If any hive were found bad in temper he suggested the re-queening of it. This invariably mended matters. He strongly recommended working on a system, and avoid all fads, as they are in most cases mistakes. He advised feeding in the evening only. Thick honey was not to be despised, as it is a very useful stand-by. He advised the mastering of the two questions of swarming and queen-raising. Prevent swarming if at all possible. He advised subscribing to the Journal of Agriculture, as it contained many useful suggestions and advice. Provided they were willing to work, the industry of honey-raising was quite suitable for women to engage in, but work was an absolute essential. He recommended beginners who did not desire to go in for commercial beekeeping to start with about six hives, and increase as they accustomed to them.

Mr. Baines moved a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Kirk for permitting Mr. Trythall to come and give the Conference such an instructive and interesting address.

Mr. Kirk spoke in the most complimentary way of the special qualifications of Mr. Trythall, and said there was not another man in New Zealand who could give such splendid results to the Department and industry as Mr. Trythall.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed with acclamation.

The Chairman announced the return of the deputation from seeing the officers of the Law Department re establishing apiary boundaries.

Mr. Ireland said they had interviewed Mr. Salmond, the Solicitor-General, who stated the only thing to do was to get the Government interested in the matter, and have a law put on the Statute Book. Then it could be enforced, but at present there was a difficulty of interfering with the rights of the owner of land. The deputation then went to Dr. Reakes, who suggested that a Committee of three experts be appointed to confer with the Department with a view to framing some clause which the Government might accept for enactment.

Mr. Horn also corroborated Mr. Ireland's report.

Messrs. Ireland, Cotterell, and Horn were appointed a Committee to assist the Department accordingly.

The remit—"That no bees for commercial purposes be allowed to be removed or established without the permission of the Apiary Department"—was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. C. A. Jacobsen delivered a practical demonstration of turning petrol tins and cases into honey service, and advocated the practice on the grounds of economy, efficiency, and appearance. Mr. Jacobsen demonstrated the way in which he transformed both tins and cases, and the package he showed was a very serviceable vehicle.

Mr. F. C. Baines pointed out that when the beekeepers were getting only about 4d. per lb. they did not complain to spend up to 1/1½d. each for their tins, and it was hardly right under the conditions ruling today, when we were getting an advance of 5d. per lb. f.o.b., with more to follow later on, to complain about having to spend ¼d. per lb. more to provide a new tin. Apart from the risk of the honey being tainted through carelessness or oversight, he considered the second-hand container would

give the produce a poor reputation if supplied outside the H.P.A. and their agents. Regarding petrol cases being used, provided they were cleaned of all brands indicating their previous use, there could be no complaint; they were strong, well nailed, and quite suitable in every way. Mr. Baines stated he had used these for years, and had never had one turned down.

After further discussion, Messrs. Watson, Ward, and Jacobsen were appointed a deputation to wait on Mr. Kirk, as to permitting the use of petrol tins and cases for another season.

Mr. Allen read his paper on the work of the National Beekeepers' Association and the H.P.A., which was received with applause.

THE RELATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE H.P.A. AND THE "NATIONAL."

The National Association of Beekeepers of New Zealand is older than the Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, and when the latter was born it was a not uncommon remark that there was now no need for the "National"—that the H.P.A. could attend to all the work that was necessary to the beekeepers of the Dominion. This idea is still held by some of our beekeepers, by men who have been prominent in association work from the start. It is to combat this idea that I wish to say a word or two as to the relative functions of the two associations. Dealing first with the Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, this Association is a duly registered limited liability company, and its purpose from the first is to sell beekeepers' produce on co-operative lines, dealing both with the export trade and also with the local trade, and also procuring beekeepers' supplies for the beekeepers. The H.P.A. began first as a small co-operative association in Taranaki. It was at a small concern fairly successful, and gave beekeeping a lift in Taranaki by buying out a large apiary concern in the Wairarapa and distributing the 1,200 colonies which it represented amongst its shareholders in Taranaki. This it did successfully. But it is very doubtful if it could have expanded and made a success of export but for the offer of Major Norton of the Bristol and Dominions Company, to guarantee a minimum price f.o.b. of 4d. per lb. for all the honey it could procure for shipment, with this condition that at least 100 tons per annum must be guaranteed. Fortunately the work of the "National" had borne fruit, and brought the more prominent beekeepers of the Dominion in touch. It was at once resolved

to join with the Taranaki concern and widen it out so as to embrace the beekeepers of the Dominion, and accept the Major's offer. Owing to the war the Com-pany's operations have been of a rather haphazard nature. It was not possible to follow any one line for very long, and the management was of the plodding kind, where probably a man of vision was wanted. It is enough for my purpose to point out that the H.P.A.'s work embraces only the business end of the beekeeping industry. They have a unique opportunity of dealing with practically the whole crop of the Dominion; but it will take concentration to carry this out. It will take loyalty on the part of the beekeepers and it will take both business ability and a wide view on the part of its manager. Under these circumstances, the field of operation of the H.P.A. is clear. It has no time for the technical or the political side of our industry; it cannot undertake to help the department to cope with foul-brood, to help Bartlett-Miller to invent a wax melter, or to help Mr. Baines to run the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal or get up a social. Mr. Ryland, the present manager of the H.P.A. is a very good man, but he is not a beekeeper, and it is questionable if he knows a queen from a drone, and the workers' attention he probably does not want at all. Still he is finding his work congenial, and is expanding to the opportunity that lies before him. He is at the Conference, and when beekeepers meet him they will realise that he knows the selling end of the business, and that he is out to make the H.P.A. a success; but don't talk wax-melters or the best method of preventing swarming, because he is simply not there.

The National Association, on the other hand, is very amateur in its business methods. It has just now as its manager, or, rather, president, Mr. William Barker, of Peel Forest. Rumour has it that he has crossed swords with Mr. Bartlett-Miller in the land of vision, and personally he has talked to me of things that happened millions of years ago. Take him to the rose garden in the Christchurch Domain and he is in his element; but ask him to go with Mr. Rylands to the company's office in Auckland, and I think he would not enjoy it. Yet Mr. Barker is a good President of the "National," and has done yeoman service for that institution. One feature of the "National's" work is that it is educational. It aims at helping the industry on the technical side in every way that it can. Perhaps its greatest effort in this direction is through the Journal. In F. C.B. it has a man built on journalistic

lines; perhaps rather strong on "apologetics," but still he has made the Journal necessary to the beekeeper, and it is only fair to say that a man who cannot ruffle the feathers occasionally will not go far. In nearly all of the main bee districts there are now branches of the "National." These branches have what are known as field days, and in these beekeepers of outstanding experience give demonstrations right in the apiary, and point out methods that with them have been successful; and this meeting is perhaps the best from an educational standpoint that can be held. Then there is our Conference and all it stands for—the papers on interesting subjects, the demonstrations of a technical nature, and the meeting together of the beemen themselves for, fortunately for the "National," it has always stood for the cultivation of a brotherly spirit, and the friends made at the Conference are mostly friends for aye.

Just one more point: the "National," through the Conference, is able to bring influence to bear on the political side. The Department officers are in touch with the main movements brought forward in the Conference; they can through the Conference feel the pulse of the whole industry, and it is only fair to the Department to say that it has responded to the beekeepers' wishes in the past in a remarkably ready manner.

I have probably said enough to show the different trend of the work of the H.P.A. and the work of the "National." Both are absolutely necessary to us; for, while they are the complement of each other, they are each engaged in entirely different work. Neither could do the work of the other, nor can we do without the work of either. We are, indeed, very fortunate in having our industry organised on present lines, and I hope that beekeepers will fully realise this, and that no one will waste time with destructive criticism. Criticism we want, but let it be of a constructive nature; and let us, while keeping the H.P.A. and the "National" each following out its own particular work, try to build both up for yet greater usefulness.

Mr. Horn presented the remit from the Auckland Association as to the appointment of local inspectors, and after considerable discussion he withdrew it on the motion being passed to the effect that the Department of Agriculture be asked to appoint four permanent inspectors for the Dominion.

A resolution was carried pressing on the Government the necessity of establishing a State Apiary in the South Island, seeing

the very great interests represented in that Island.

On the motion of Mr. Bray, it was decided to make a recommendation to the incoming Executive as to the necessity of holding the next annual Conference in Christchurch. This was carried by 33 votes against 24.

In the evening a supper and social was held in the Marble Bar Rooms, to which all visiting delegates were invited. This was a most enjoyable part of the Conference, 75 persons being present. The supper was excellent in quality and quantity, and the evening was spent in a most pleasant manner. The guests vied with each other in telling yarns, and musical items were rendered by Misses Gasson and Parrant, Mrs. Baker, Messrs. Baines and Rhodes; recitations by Messrs. Stewart, Banks, and Clayton. After a very hearty vote of thanks being accorded to the performers, the evening closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

THIRD DAY—FRIDAY, JUNE 13th.

The sittings of the Conference were resumed on Friday morning at 9.30.

On the motion of Mr. W. H. Teed, it was resolved that the Government be asked to put an embargo upon the importation of queen bees from countries where the Isle of Wight disease exists.

Mr. Baines submitted a resolution that a deputation wait on the Minister of Railways to draw his attention to the unfair handicap placed on the industry by the present freight charges on honey, and request that honey be placed in a schedule not higher than butter. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. C. Hobbs then read his paper on "Economy in Honey Production," and a vote of thanks was passed to him.

ECONOMY IN HONEY PRODUCTION.

In these days, when the cost of many of the materials we require in making hives or buildings has risen from three to five times what they were a few years ago, it behoves the beekeeper to practise rigid economy, even though he is getting an advanced price for his honey.

We will first take up the subject of hive construction as practised by myself. One of the best lots of supers I have were made from the old-fashioned stout benzine cases; the cases now in vogue are, I think, too slight for supers. The last 300 I made

I got a sawmiller, who makes butter-boxes, to cut them out for me without any rabbeting, except at the top ends of the supers to receive the frames. These supers three years ago in the flat cost me 1/- each. The top and bottom rabbeting of the edges of supers I consider not only unnecessary, but a decided disadvantage. They are most difficult to fit, and the edges are very easily broken off, thus causing undesirable entrances all about the hives for the bees to attack the operator, oftentimes unawares. They require gentler handling at the hands of the beekeeper. I have often had these rabbets break off simply by the propolis the bees use sticking things together before I have opened the hives in the autumn for extracting. I think tin rabbets also can be done without to advantage. What are tin rabbets for? I have never been able to find out. These tin rabbets I have found would often work loose through the tacks rusting and then coming out of the wood. They form most convenient places for the bees to stick propolis in, also convenient places for the wax-moths. Well, what are they for, anyway? Are they to allow of the free sliding of the combs from one side of the hive to the other? They permit them to slide too much or too freely—at least that is my experience.

If the use of tin rabbets were dropped, it would save the beekeepers of New Zealand collectively hundreds of pounds in time and material, and their absence would be a factor in making the hives more durable. If by a little outlay of time and paint and oil hives can be made to last at least three times as long, this would be a great economy. Well, we have proved beyond a doubt that this can be done.

Before putting supers together, we always arrange the parts in piles, and tar or paint the parts that go together. When these are dry we give them another coat as we are nailing them together. When painting supers on the outside, we always paint the upper and lower edges, also a strip down the sides inside of about an inch or two, and in all corners for about an inch. We find that hives treated this way last a lifetime. For some years we have used tar in place of paint. Certainly tar is not so pleasant as paint to apply, neither is it so nice to look at. One coat of tar if applied hot will last in the sun four years; on the ground and in the shade it will last longer.

Some beekeepers whitewash the tar over, but as far as I have seen it is not a success.

Another economy I have practised is to use flat-headed nails, and not to punch and putty them. The nails should be 2½ inches long, and five driven into each corner of the super—25 in all, which will make it strong and rigid. Of course, in handling supers it is always advisable to avoid as much as possible rickling them by careless handling.

Economy in Lids and Stools.—When prices are reasonable it is always desirable to have hives covered with galvanised iron or sheet zinc, and the legs of stools made of totara timber. If totara cannot be procured, heart rimu is pretty good if well tarred. White pine quickly perishes with damp and wet, and is not fit for bottom boards or legs of stools. Where a lot of hives are handled, lighting boards should be done away with, and the front of the stool allowed to do service for lighting board.

Economy in space in laying out out-apiaries can often be practised. It has been said that one acre of ground is enough for an apiary, but a good-sized apiary can be placed in two or three square chains—rows 5 or 6 ft. apart, distance between the hives in the rows 3 or 4 ft. I get great satisfaction with rows 5½ ft. apart, distance between hives 3½ ft.; 5ft. by 3ft. is a little close, and 6ft. by 4ft. rather far. In taking off the honey a Daisy barrow should be used, or a barrow about its size. It is economy to have the hive entrances all facing the one direction, either north or east, or thereabouts. Having entrances facing all quarters of the compass with me has been very unsatisfactory, causing a great loss of time. Small entrances in the winter and spring conserve hive heat and also honey.

We have given up the practice of weeding round hives, and just cut away the grass or tramp it down, as suits us best under the circumstances.

Extracting.—I suppose many beekeepers think that they could not extract their honey without a building of some kind. Well, I have done most of my extracting in a tent for the last ten years, and the more I use the tent the better I like it. Even when I have a honey-house, I sometimes use the tent in preference to going into the building. My tent is 12 x 12. I think if it was two feet longer it would be an advantage. The walls are about 7ft. high, but they are usually set a little lower. The ridge-pole is a piece of 4 x 1, and the uprights are 3 x 1, bolted to the ends of the ridge-pole, so that they will fold up for taking down and packing. The corners and sides are supported with stakes

about 6ft. long, well sharpened, and let into the ground with a crowbar. They can be made firm with a few blows with the side of an axe.

I was greatly troubled for a long time about keeping robbers out of the entrance or doorway, until we sewed a large piece of hessian corner-ways into it. This completely baffled the robbers.

The extractor is set on a low stand with very short legs only one inch long. It is then nailed to stakes driven in at each corner. If the ground is very hard, the crowbar is used to prepare the way for the stakes. As everything is on the ground, it saves a lot of lifting. The honey, when extracted, is run into 60 lb. tins, and strained into tanks at home. It is necessary to dig a hole under the tap of the extractor, and also under the tap of the uncapping tray. For uncapping, I use a large tray that takes two supers side by side, with bird-cage netting nailed to the bottoms, and two empty supers on top of these: that allows four supers for a day's uncapping.

As I have made a practice of having my honey well ripened before extracting, I use the steam knife every time, with plenty of steam, the knife well sharpened, and also polished bright. What we want now is uncapping knives made of this new non-rusting steel that is being so much advertised for ordinary table knives.

When the wind blows too hard to pitch the tent, we work without it, as the bees will not or cannot rob when there is a high wind—well, not in our Palmerston North winds anyway. It is necessary to have guy ropes on the tent attached to the ridge-pole at the ends. If the wind lifts the tent, we usually put a 60 lb. tin of honey on each corner inside. One convenient thing about a tent is that you can bring a load close up to it, then lift the end of the tent over it, and your load is inside. We often find it convenient to cover the honey to be extracted with the tent, and not to pitch tent till ready to extract.

I have explained how I use a tent, as a tent can be readily shifted from place to place and saves a lot of buildings which would be very expensive nowadays. I think the tent is very suitable to those who contemplate having a number of out-apiaries.

Perhaps there are some beekeepers, like myself, who are far situated from a city water supply, and have to use a lot of water for boiling down, washing tins, &c.

These last few years I have saved the lifting of many tons of water by soldering rings with a thread on the outside to the low-pressure taps. Low-pressure taps cannot be bought, so that a hose can be satisfactorily attached to them. These rings can be attached to taps while on the tanks by tinning the edges of the taps with solder and also the rings, then solder them on to the taps. If all the taps are inch (and they should be), a good-sized hose can be attached to them, and water taken anywhere from any of the tanks by the hose. This arrangement has saved me lifting many tons of water these last few years.

Economy in Frames.—For shifting bees long distances, a self-spacing frame is an absolute necessity, but in my case, where bees are only shifted a few miles—that is, from one apiary to another—I can quite well dispense with them. Self-spaced frames are expensive, and by many could be done without. The one great fault of frames supplied by the trade is that the end bars are too slight, which prevents the frames being strongly nailed together. We have our end bars cut a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick and the top bar of same thickness; this allows them to be nailed at top with $1\frac{3}{4}$ -inch nails. The bottom bars should be of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch timber, so that when the bees stick them down they do not break when shifted by the beekeeper. We find that with foundation six sheets to the pound and strong frames, we do not require to wire combs, which is a great saving of time.

As the super-combs are spaced eight to the ten-frame hive, strong frames and combs are very necessary; and, mind you, you get more honey with less labour by putting eight combs in a hive than by using nine.

For those who desire a self-spaced frame, a staple spaced frame is a good compromise between the Hoffmann and the old-fashioned unspaced frame. In working bees, I find I can space from ten frames to eight to great advantage, so a self-spaced frame would be no good to me. Unspaced frames can be made much cheaper than spaced ones, and have many advantages in the hands of experienced beekeepers.

In the middle of the brood nest the combs should be spaced ten to the hive, and on the outside the spacing should be a little wider, and in the honey supers nine and eight is the most advantageous spacing.

For extensive beekeeping, the disposal with mats is a very desirable economy. It can be done by making the lids to the down to just a bee space from the top of the frames. Most of my covers require no mats, and I wish the others did either. Italians are very averse to do so and spend their spare time tearing them down, so the more Italians one gets the more intolerable mats become. I like, however, to use mats on queen-rearing. Old horse-covers make excellent mats and will last for years without the bees cutting them up.

Apiary books may be very good for a beginner, but when he has got beekeeping boiled down, I think he will find an apiary book a time-waster. I have used apiary books for 14 years, and for 16 years I have done without them, and would not like to go back to them on any account. If you have an apiary book you require to have the hive numbered, and that takes a long time and trouble. The work of the apiary book can be accomplished by pegs placed in different positions to indicate the things that require to be known about a hive.

After Mr. Hobbs' paper had been discussed and all questions answered, G. Simpson read his paper,

WHY I ADVOCATE AND USE HALF-DEPTH SUPERS.

As the worthy Editor of our Beekeeping Journal intimated in his last issue, the paper is expected to be of interest chief to those members of the beekeeping fraternity who as yet are not very far advanced in a commercial way. At the same time, the veterans of our craft may find something which is at least worthy of their criticism, for I am well aware that the use of the half-super to some beekeepers at least is looked upon as anything but desirable when running for extra honey. Nevertheless, it will be conceded by all that to attain success in beekeeping one must possess the equipment which will best suit our locality and our particular method of management, and that method must have an eye to the physical abilities of the apiarist, and that of those who assist him in his work, for there really is some work even in beekeeping.

It is often necessary for the beekeeper to put in long and strenuous days in order that he may not lose his opportunity of securing a crop of honey, and he is often too pleased to enlist the services of his wife and other members of the family who

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are willing to lend a hand; and it is right where the half-super equipment begins to show its advantages. What would be toward work with full supers, with half supers drudgery is elevated to a pleasing occupation. In assembling supplies, the most tedious work is that of wiring frames, and with the half-frame wiring is not necessary, though it may be desirable. In the manipulation of colonies at different times of the year, the half-super is a very valuable asset. First of all, in the early spring there comes a spell of warm weather, and the bees are humming, and the beekeeper feels a touch of the old fever upon him, and he must light that smoker and look at the bees, for they are gathering nectar. He finds colonies needing attention, crowded for room, so that supers are required in many cases.

Up to the present time weather forecasting in New Zealand has not reached that degree of efficiency which is desirable, and which we as beekeepers hope and believe it will attain in future. The erratic changes to which we in Canterbury are subjected, especially in the spring-time (and I believe the same applies to most parts of New Zealand), calls for the experience and sound judgment of the apiarist; and here also is where the half-super is of great value. One can be added to a colony needing room, or one that will need room perhaps before the next visit, without any danger of the said colony receiving a severe set-back through a change in temperature and the consequent chilling of brood, increased consumption of stores, and loss of energy on the part of the bees in their attempt to maintain the necessary heat required in double the amount of space when a full super is added. Before I was fortunate enough to possess sufficient half-super equipment, I have at times had the experience of chasing round the apiary in a storm taking off full supers that were added the day before; but when one has out-yards a number of miles away, the bees have to take their chance in such a case, and the beekeeper takes the consequent worry and loss. If things go straightforward, with no check in the weather conditions, half-supers can be added with greater advantage one at a time, and the bees will store in them quicker, and is often the case if there is more than one grade of honey in the district there is a better opportunity of keeping the different grades separate, for honey may be coming in from a second grade or even third grade source, and full super combs are half filled with this honey when clover begins to yield. The beekeeper is then faced with either the

mixing of the two grades, or a lot of extra work in taking off combs half full of possibly unripe honey. Here let me say that if the apiarist makes a practice of getting thick or ill-flavoured honey stored to take the place of the first grade honey of which colonies are extracted bare at the end of the season, then I think there is nothing better than a half-super for such purpose, for it is the work of a minute to take off the cover of a hive and dump on a half-super of honey, when the colony will be supplied with about 30 lbs. of the best winter stores without any excitement, and this one and a half-super makes an ideal brood nest for a strong colony, as there is room for the bees to pass through the centre of the cluster from side to side. If a colony is found short in the spring, half-supers of this honey may be placed underneath the brood nest, which will act as the finest stimulant to brood-rearing without the consequent robbing and waste of time attendant on feeding syrup, and it will also be found that one and a half-super brood-nest will be sufficient for the average queen during the entire season.

In tiering up during the honey flow, the half-super is no less advantageous, for they can be handled very rapidly without disturbing the bees too much by smoke, which is often a means of retarding the bees from entering the supers quickly.

A good method of adding a half-super is by having the combs spaced ready, then take hold of the quilt at back end with the left hand, give a little smoke under the edge, and then peel off towards the front, at the same time pushing on the super with the right hand from the back, then replace the quilt by drawing it back lengthways of the frames. With a little practice this operation may be performed without disturbing the bees or misplacing the super combs. If honey is coming in fast, of course a strong colony may be given two or even three supers instead of one. When the time comes for extracting the crop of honey, I believe the beekeeper who is not a Hercules will find the delights of this part of this occupation increased in proportion to the number of half-supers he possesses, providing he owns an extractor with 12-inch baskets.

Extracting may be commenced earlier, because half-depth combs are sealed quicker by the bees, and because of this also less super room is needed, provided the extractor can be kept going fast enough. When taking honey off the hives, I believe more honey can be taken cleaner

and quicker and with less robbing, as the combs are fastened to the frame all round, leaving no holes for bees to cluster in, so that they are easily shaken off without brushing, and when such combs have to be hauled from an out-yard under ordinary conditions, breakages will be rare. In the extracting house two half-depth combs can be handled about as quickly as one full-size, one stroke of the knife being sufficient for uncapping, so that at the end of the day more honey will be extracted with the expenditure of less human energy.

When the season is ended and combs ready to store away, they may be crowded twelve into a super, making a mouse and moth-proof pile. It will then be found that there are a number of empties to be dealt with, and these can be used with advantage one on each colony, into which winter packing may be placed, and ample air space left under the cover.

Speaking from an experience of about ten years, I have no hesitation in recommending to the beginner the use of the half-supers, and they are absolutely the thing for lady beekeepers and the soldier who has sacrificed a sound body or robust constitution in the interests of his country. A crop of honey may be secured in a poor season with half-supers when otherwise the results would be nil. To the beekeeper with 12-frame hives who is a strong man, they are none the less useful, for he need not confine himself to lifting one at a time, and I believe that even Samson, if he had known about them, would have put one on that lion's carcass.

The above paper called forth a great deal of discussion, and the general opinion was that the half-depth super was a decided advantage in an apiary.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Adams submitted a remit from the Poverty Bay Association to the effect that the appointment of a Chief Apiarist be again brought before the Minister of Agriculture, and that the matter be pressed that he make the appointment, as promised by him, at an early date; the officer appointed to be responsible for the proper enforcement of the Apiaries Act. This was seconded by Mr. Cotterell, and carried.

Mr. Adams also submitted a remit from the same district—"That the penalty for breaches of the Apiaries Act be increased;

the maximum penalty be raised to £20." This was also carried.

Mr. Adams also submitted a resolution—"That all apiaries be registered annually, and that provision be made for the enforcing of a substantial penalty for failure to register."—This was also carried.

Mr. Allan introduced his motion—"That the Department be asked to frame a Honey Industries Act on similar lines to the Fruit Industries Act so as to aid the industry in the erection of depots, and otherwise financially." Also—"That it be a recommendation to the H.P.A. to enquire into the depot system, and, if possible, in connection with the establishment of a depot for local supplies in the South Island (as indicated by the address of the Manager of the H.P.A.) to approach the matter in an experimental way." These motions were seconded by Mr. Rentoul, and were unanimously affirmed by the Conference.

Messrs. Rentoul, Ryland, and Watson were appointed a deputation to the Minister of Railways in accordance with Mr. Baines' motion.

Mr. Jacobsen read a wire from the North Taranaki Beekeepers Association stating that there were 50 exhibits in the local show, and that it was a great success.

Mr. Bray moved—"That the Government be urged to reduce the import duty on hives." This was seconded by Mr. Jacobsen, but on being put to the vote was declared lost, the voting being 24 to 19.

On the motion of Messrs. Rentoul and Baines, it was decided that a show of honey take place at next Conference, the honey sent to be in charge of the H.P.A.; champion prizes to be given by the National Association; the Government graders to judge.

Mr. Bray moved—"That the Government be urged to reduce the import duty on timber for hive-making purposes." This was duly carried.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Horsman for his exhibit of a two-frame extractor made from a carbide drum. This appliance showed great ingenuity, and the Department has promised to have this photographed and blocks made, which will be loaned the Journal.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing year then took place. Mr. James Allan, being the sole nomination for the position of President, he was declared duly elected. Messrs. Ireland, Sage, and Watson were nominated for the position of Vice-Presidents, Mr. W. Watson being elected to the position. Messrs. A. H. Davies, J. D. Adams, R. McKnight, J. Cotterell and R. H. many were elected to the National Executive.

Mr. F. C. Baines was re-elected to the position of General Secretary and Editor of the Journal without opposition, but with much approval and good feeling. He briefly thanked the Conference, and appealed for more help to make the Journal still more valuable and appreciated.

On the motion of Mr. Cotterell, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the retiring President by acclamation.

On the motion of Mr. Ireland a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Baines for the splendid success he had made of the Journal.

Mr. C. A. Pope suggested that an increase in the remuneration of the Secretary be made, and moved that this matter be a recommendation to the incoming Executive. This was agreed to, and the Conference was brought to a conclusion.

In the afternoon the members of the Conference accepted the invitation of the Mayor and City Council to take a trip round the city. Two trams were provided, starting from the old Post Office, and the route taken was through the city up to Karori Park, where a magnificent view could be obtained; from there again through the city to the suburbs of Kilbirnie, Hataitai, and Lyall Bay, and back by a different route. The weather being good, the trip was thoroughly enjoyed, practically the whole of the visitors taking advantage of the Mayor's kind invitation.

