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*E.A. Bay*

# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

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NOVEMBER 24th, 1914.

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ISSUED MONTHLY  
FOR  
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPER'S  
ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.



PER ANNUM : **3/6** IN ADVANCE.



STONE, SON & CO., LTD., PRINTERS, DUNEDIN.

# National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

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The object of the Association is the Improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and the prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of a small fee.

Read the Report of Conference, and see what the first year's work has done for the Beekeeper. We shall be glad to have you as a member.

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## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

- Waikato Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., W. Hooper Teed, Waihou, Thames Valley.
- Taranaki Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., H. W. Warcup, Hawera.
- Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., Miss Mackay, Sockburn.
- Pahiatua Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., G. Bentley, Pahiatua.
- Southland Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., L. Gardiner, 119 Elles Road, Invercargill.
- South Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., B. Gordon Edwards, Orari Bridge, Geraldine.
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## OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

President: Mr. Jas. Allan, "Oakleigh," Wyndham.

Vice-President: Mr. J. S. Cotterell, Manawaru, Te Aroha.

Executive: Messrs. H. W. Gilling, Matapu, Taranaki; S. Hutchinson, Hamilton East; C. A. Jacobsen, Little River; A. Ireland, 24 Andover Street, Merivale, Christchurch.

General Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. R. W. Brickell, P.O. Box 572, Dunedin.

A large membership will give the Executive increased funds with which to develop the local and foreign markets and push the export trade. Increased demand will raise the value of your honey crop.

[November 24th 1914]

# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the  
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

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No. 5

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

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## CO-OPERATIVE SELLING.

We publish this month a number of articles and notes on the development of the local market, all of which will be read with considerable interest by the beekeepers of the Dominion. It is, however, safe to say that the honey industry will develop on somewhat different lines than those anticipated by most of the writers. Since the publication of the last issue, the Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association has been in communication with a number of the larger beekeepers throughout the Dominion with reference to an offer by a large British Company to accept considerable quantities of honey on consignment for bottling in England under a New Zealand label. The National Secretary, following suggestions received from beekeepers, and at the invitation of some of the leading beekeepers of Taranaki, visited in turn Taranaki, Waikato, and Canterbury. The result of the meetings at these places is that the Committees of the District Branches of the National have agreed on a comprehensive scheme of co-operation as a solution to the difficulties in the way of accepting the offer referred to. As readers are aware, a purely Co-operative Honey Company was formed in Taranaki some months ago. It is proposed that this Company shall extend its operations throughout the Dominion, and in order to do this it has been decided to divide the Dominion into seven honey districts. The shareholders of the Company in each District will elect a director of the Company to represent them. The Company will open packing depots in suitable towns and districts, the depots to be under the control of a local Executive elected by the shareholders of that district, subject to the supervision by the Board of Directors. As the National Beekeepers' Association has not the power to trade, the Executive has decided to hand over the offer which it received from the Bristol and Dominions' Association to the Co-operative Company, who will supply the honey required to carry out the scheme. Every supplier to the Company will be required to take up shares in the Company according to the quantity of honey supplied, and payment for the shares will be made by a deduction of a fraction of one penny per pound of the honey supplied. The result of the first season's operations in Taranaki shows that there is a very great demand for honey if the packages are suitable, and there is a continuity of supply. In order to meet the local demand it is proposed to pack a considerable quantity in small retail packages. Just as the day of the home butter maker has given

place to the central dairy factory, so surely will the day of the home packer of honey give place to the central bottling depots. The prosperity of the stock grower came with the opening up of the British markets, and the prosperity of the New Zealand beekeepers will in like manner follow the systematic supply of the needs of the Old World.

### A VAGRANT.

The humble bee,  
 No skep has he,  
 No twisted, straw-thatched dome,  
 A ferny crest  
 Provides his nest,  
 The mowing-grass his home.

The crook-beaked shrike  
 His back may spike  
 And pierce him with a thorn;  
 The humble bee  
 A tramp is he,  
 And there is none to mourn.

O'er bank and brook,  
 In wooded nook,  
 He wanders at his whim;  
 Lives as he can,  
 Owes naught to man,  
 And man owes naught to him.

No hive receives  
 The sweets he gives,  
 No flowers for him are sown;  
 Yet wild and gay,  
 He hums his way,  
 A nomad on his own.

—Punch, June, 1914.

Do you want to obtain good prices for your next season's crop? If so, join the National Association without delay. For list of Branches see front page.

The National offers an avenue for collective advertising which no beekeeper can afford to do for himself. You may be able to sell all you produce now, but with the rapidly increasing production throughout the Dominion, you may find your market jumped by some other fellow. The National will find another market for you should you lose your present one.

The National cannot live without your support, and it is equally certain that you cannot afford to remain outside the National. Why not join to-day!

## Work of the Month.

(By Jas. Allan.)

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### Weather.

Rain, hail, snow and wind are the four samples of weather we are getting in Southland. The only variation we get is when they all come together. It is an excellent opportunity for the exercise of those virtues, patience and faith. Up the East Coast report says that the weather is very dry, and in the North the latest reports say it is blowing down the telegraph poles. Perhaps by the time this journal reaches its readers we will be basking in sunshine again.

### Queen-breeding.

I am afraid our queen-breeders cannot be having a very good time. In the south there is as yet no opportunity for fertilizing. Those who read bee journals will note that some dissatisfaction is being expressed as to results from the smokeless method of introduction invention. I mention this just that beekeepers may be on guard. Don't be impatient if your order for queens does not come to hand as quickly as you would like.

### Swarm Control.

At one time it used to be heralded in the local newspapers that the first swarm had arrived; now we do not want them early or late; consequently we are much interested in how to prevent them. In last issue under this heading I mentioned Mr. Irving's plan of giving a super of brood combs without an excluder just at the time that additional room was required; also Mr. Jacobsen's variation of that plan by raising a couple of frames of brood at the time of giving the super, thus insuring a more rapid use of the super by the queen. I wish now to give another method which for some purposes is more suitable than the above. Give a super of choice brood combs, but instead of putting it above put it below. Take out two choice combs of brood (by choice brood combs I mean such as are well built and free from drone comb) with the queen on them, and place them below, putting on an excluder, and putting the old brood nest above it, the two combs removed to give place to the brood being put into the space on top. Remove all queen cells, if any, and leave for ten days. So far this is just Alexander's plan for artificial increase. At the end of ten days a variety of methods can be adopted. First, you can remove the top storey of brood to a new stand, and along with two other storeys of brood from colonies similarly treated make a new colony of three storeys of brood. In this case you need not trouble about queen cells; so many of the bees will go back to their old stands that there is no danger from swarming. In another ten days all this brood will have hatched out and the young queen started to lay. Don't touch them until the queen is laying. Then if any of the combs are faulty remove them, and in any case select ten good ones to form a brood nest. Shut the queen down on them with an excluder, and give what super accommodation is required. At this stage the colony is just a monster swarm with a young queen, and if sections are wanted

it is the ideal colony to produce them. In the old colony at the time of removal of the brood the queen should be occupying from three to five frames for brood so that she has plenty room. After the removal most of the field bees taken with the brood would return to the old stand. Super accommodation must therefore be given.

Secondly, go through the brood above the excluder and remove all queen cells. Instead of removing it, simply raise it, and put in a super of extracting combs. You will then have a three-storey colony, with the queen at the bottom, on about five combs of brood, having thus plenty of room, and above an excluder a super of extracting combs empty and one of hatching brood.

In the second variation there is room for any amount of change. When the brood has hatched out of the combs on top a chance is given to see those combs empty, as they are the combs on which the bees wintered. I prefer to keep them out of the brood nest for a time. Should the queen catch up to her room in the brood nest four or five combs of sealed brood can be raised to the top and empty ones given in their place. Any combs so dealt with would require to be looked over in seven or eight days for queen cells.

By the first method you have an increase of one colony from each three colonies—that is, a 33 per cent. increase; by the second you keep all the bees together. I prefer the first method, and have practised it successfully for a good many years.

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## HONEY.

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### HOW CAN WE INCREASE CONSUMPTION AND PRICES?

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By C. A. OLDMAN.

Most beekeepers sell their honey by bulk, leaving the grocers and other retailers to put it up into suitable small retail packages. This method is, in my opinion, the reason that honey is not used to the extent it deserves. When visiting Christchurch, I naturally take notice of the honey displayed for sale in shop windows, and have seen some queer-looking stuff in bottles labelled "Pure Honey." No doubt the honey is pure, but very often it has been ruined by careless or inexperienced bottlers, and its colour and dainty eating qualities spoiled by over-heating when reliquifying it. A customer may buy one lot of such honey, but can you expect him to return for more? I have also seen a 40lb. lump of splendid candied honey displayed for sale in Christchurch without any protection from flies or dust. This sort of thing will not increase the consumption of honey; in fact, it turns the people against it. The beekeepers are the men who should put the honey into the packages for retail trade; but what encouragement do they get? For instance, I intended putting two tons of honey into 11b. and 21b. "Mono" pots, and wrote my commission agent asking for price for same. He offered me 1/2d. per lb. above the price for 60lb. tins. Naturally I still have my "Mono" pots empty, and have sold the honey in 60lb. tins. If beekeepers could get

enough extra for their honey to clear cost of packages and repay them for their extra labour in filling and preparing suitable receptacles for retail trade, I am sure they would be only too willing to do so. Just suppose a line of honey prepared ready for the consumer is placed on the retail market by the beekeeper, each package being labelled, and giving the name and address of the producer—well, providing this line is good table honey, would not a customer return again and again for some more of the same brand, and also let his friends know that this particular brand was lovely honey? I know from experience that he would, for I often supply customers in and around Christchurch with 10lb. and 16lb. tins, etc., and they willingly pay the extra cost (railage and cartage) over and above Christchurch prices, simply because they know the honey comes direct from the beekeeper. If beekeepers sold their honey in, say, 1lb. and 2lb. glass jars, "Mono" pots or such like, and 5lb. and 10lb. or heavier in friction top tins, each package neatly labelled, stating name and address of the producer, then consumers would increase by leaps and bounds, because they would feel safe in returning for more, and recommending their favourite brands to friends, whereas at present they cannot be expected to buy the honey offered for sale without labels or guarantee of any sort, especially when such a large proportion of it has been ruined going through the bottling process. Burnt honey is no luxury, and people will not buy it when they know where to obtain a reliable brand of properly bottled honey.

In short, I believe that we can increase consumption and prices of honey by selling our crops to the grocers and retailers all ready for sale in small packages, neatly labelled, with producer's name and address.

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### INCREASING THE LOCAL MARKET.

While there is no doubt that it is possible to increase the amount of honey consumed and that the amount consumed is increasing annually, owing, no doubt, to the increasing prominence given to beekeeping and the efforts of many individual beekeepers, any increase at the best will be gradual, and is hardly likely to be in proportion to the increase in production. Many people do not use honey as an article of food because they do not like it, or think they do not like it. It would be difficult to advertise these into buying honey. Others, and probably these are the great majority, have not been accustomed to use it, and these could be made consumers. How many hotels and restaurants have honey on the tables? Beekeepers when abroad should always ask for honey.

In advertising honey by any means whatever, it would either be necessary to advertise honey in a general way as an article of food or else advertise special brands of honey. The first would be very indefinite, and could not be made so directly effective as the second. The second could only be carried out under some co-operative scheme that would pack honey under special brands. It would then be possible to point out the excellence of the article, and demonstrate the same by displays. Personally, I think the best way to advertise honey is to get people interested in it by displays and by actual



sales. Newspaper advertising is out of the question. It is far too expensive for any organisation of beekeepers to finance, and would only be effective in promoting the sale of special brands of honey. To attempt to increase the sale of honey by advertising that it is good food would be as difficult as increasing vegetarianism. Much newspaper advertisement is a failure anyway. To advertise successfully needs big money. It cost a patent medicine firm with a good (i.e., saleable) article £2,000 in New South Wales in one year, and they were catering for a demand, not trying to create one.

A practical and effective way of advertising is by displays, sales and distribution of circulars. Shop window displays in large towns are worth much, and could be arranged for. Displays at the various shows, in conjunction with stalls for the sale of honey where permitted, are the best opportunities. A beekeepers' exhibit could always be made so interesting that buyers would be as numerous as spectators; and once a buyer in many cases probably always a buyer.

At the smaller country shows local branches could arrange exhibits. In connection with these exhibits the liberal use of circulars—good live circulars that talk—would produce an impression. Where special brands of honey were supplied through the trade, circulars could be enclosed with the goods, when they would be used as wrappers, and so distributed. In advertising it is necessary to cast your bread upon the waters.

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### ADVERTISING.

(By Jupiter.)

There is no disputing the fact that the local consumption of honey could be, and should be, increased many times over by a judicious system of advertising. We cannot expect our Executive to do much with the small funds at their disposal. The sooner we provide them with more, the sooner they can start a campaign of advertising. If every member of the National would consent to a levy of so much per cwt. of his output there would soon be sufficient to make a start.

There may be some beekeepers—perhaps those who already have a good connection—who would not see the use of advertising honey, but it is as well to look the facts in the face at once. During the last few years the ranks of the beekeepers have grown considerably, and others are still coming in. Many of us are increasing our apiaries and plant, while some are afraid to do so just now, for they wonder what is going to happen if we get a bumper crop this season, and it is as likely as not that we shall do so. The annual honey crop has been growing every year. In many districts the honey is now produced by tens of tons where, five or six years ago, there were not even tons produced. This is no exaggeration, and we see the result in the way honey is sacrificed every year at any old price. Many of us are looking to the English market to relieve the congestion, but even there we are not getting value for our produce. Honey is much more of a luxury at Home than it is here, and the problem of increasing the number of consumers there is even more acute than it is here. Therefore, if we as an organisation intend to do anything at all to improve the present state of affairs, we should tackle the problem nearest home, and at once. We have a population of a million, and



the average consumption of sugar per head is about 1 cwt. If we could reduce that by 10 lb. and have our honey take its place what a royal time we should have. We could then sell about 4,500 tons annually within our own shores. Most people look on honey as a luxury, but once they realise that it is a necessary and a valuable food they become constant users of honey. The market is here, but latent, and it requires the spur of advertising to bring it into activity. Let us aim at the 10 lb. per head mark, and then we can have a right merry time in hustling after the goods, as a Yankee would say. Those who are already on the beekeeping ladder and those with only one foot on it can go ahead then.

If our National starts a campaign of advertising honey as a food, then every producer is going to benefit by it; therefore he should contribute to it. A levy of 6d. per cwt. of output would produce £50 per 100 tons, and on that basis the National should be able to make a decent start. This surely is one of urgent matters on which the Executive should take a vote of members through the post.

Of course advertising is one part of the campaign in booming honey. Every beekeeper has his part to do. He must supply good honey in clean packages. He should also keep his apiary clean and tidy, especially in and around the honey house, because neighbours especially are very critical of the methods by which food is handled, and a local reputation for clean handling goes a long way towards a large local sale, and vice versa.

I will conclude by suggesting just one simple and effective method of advertising. Blotting-paper is always useful, and anything printed on the wrong side (it has a right and a wrong side) is sure to be read. Blotting folders can be printed very cheaply. They could be distributed by the grocer who is selling your honey, and they can be given to the children as they come from school. Children do not throw blotting-paper away. They carry it home, and the advertisement does its work. Perhaps the National could get folders printed and sell them to members at cost price.

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### SUCCESS AT A SINGLE BOUND.

#### THE IDEAL HONEY MARKET.

(By H. Bartlett Miller.)

If beekeepers throughout New Zealand were asked collectively what would be the most perfect method regardless of preliminary cost to obtain the utmost for our honey crops, each and all of the most thoughtful would at once reply: Why, the realisation of our dearest dream—the selling of our honey under a New Zealand label in retail packages to the English grocery trade. Then they would assuredly follow on with expressions of the insurmountable difficulties in the way of carrying out an end so greatly to be desired. They would mention, as we so often have already mentioned, the cost of establishing the depot in England; the danger of employing an incapable manager; the expense of advertising our products sufficiently, and the long waiting for the scheme to ultimately pay well enough to induce enough honey producers to come into it to make it a success.

Up till September 24th all those objections stood out as large, stern and forbidding facts. By night on that day they had vanished into the limbo of the past. In a word, the honey producers of New Zealand, without raising a finger in their own defence, had been emancipated from the exploitation of the wholesale New Zealand merchant and his travellers, and the road to the attainment of our beau ideal had been suddenly opened.

Before the members of the Waikato Beekeepers' Association Major Norton, of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Co-operative Association laid down the scheme to all who are wise enough to take advantage of it.

The officers of the National Association will doubtless meet the Major and Mr. Hill (the New Zealand representative of the Association) and make arrangements for that guarantee of 100 tons.

[We have been compelled to cut out a considerable portion of Mr. Miller's paper, as the subject matter was dealt with in our October issue.]

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### ADVERTISING HONEY IN THE LOCAL MARKET.

(By W. H. Teed.)

One of the best ways to my mind to advertise our product in the local market is to have a good display at the various agricultural and horticultural and winter shows. I do not mean these displays should be of a competitive character, as this would only appeal to the honey producer; the honey consumer is the one we want to get at. Make the secretaries of these various shows, all and sundry, interested, and ask them to get the various beekeepers round about to send in so many glass jars, he supplying the jars. At the end of the show these could be sold to the local storekeepers. Provide a dainty little lady with some small biscuits, and as the visitors come round she could give them a taste of honey on the biscuits, and ask them to buy a jar. If they conform to this request, she could also provide them with Dr. Miller's pamphlet on "The Food Value of Honey." This proposal is going to be tried at our local show at the end of January, and I venture to predict it will be a success. A good many people refrain from eating honey because that which they have tasted has been of inferior quality; but give them a taste of the real Mackay and, like Oliver Twist, they will ask for more.

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### MARKETING OF HONEY.

(By Jas. Allan.)

At our Conference of 1913 a good deal was said on this question. It was urged by some leading beekeepers and by Mr. Kirk (the head of our Apiaries Department) that we must make our first effort that of securing a place on the English market. The result of doing this in the case of dairy products was urged as an example for us, and it was said in effect that if we took care of the English market our home market would take care of itself. At that time I confess that these arguments did not appeal to me, principally because the prices being realised for exported honey were, to say the least, unsatisfactory, and, in fact, were not so good as those being realised on the local market. This year I understand that the honey ex-

ported is not meeting any better demand, nor is it realising a better price. Under these circumstances I have consistently advocated the popularising of honey on the local market. An offer made by the Bristol and Dominions' Association has, however, entirely altered the complexion of things.

Now this is purely a business proposition from the Bristol and Dominions' Produce Company's point of view. It is also the same from our point of view. The question is: Can we do it? The manager of the Bristol and Dominions' Produce Company knows what he is doing, because as Produce Commissioner for South Australia he has done it before. The fact that South Australia failed to keep up supplies and therefore lost her English market does not prove any failure, and is the clearest possible warning to us not to do likewise. The crux of the position is in giving a guarantee of at least 100 tons per annum. The Executive of the National, together with the leading beekeepers of Canterbury, Waikato and Taranaki, are working at this proposition, and let us hope that when satisfactory plans are made that the beekeepers of the Dominion will not fail to back up their efforts by giving the necessary support. So far as the writer can see, the only way to accomplish our purpose will be for each individual beekeeper to give a guarantee that he will send a certain proportion of his crop for export. Some will probably give it all, others, say, three-quarters of it, and still others one-half of it, and that they will continue to do this annually for the time required to establish and make sure of supplies being regular to England.

My excuse for writing so much on this offer is just that at the present time it overshadows the whole position so far as export is concerned. While nothing less could get the general support, still it is enough to do that, and holds out for us prospects that are very promising.

Should this arrangement materialise, its effect on the local market will be marked. Probably the ruling price locally will be just slightly higher than that for export. This has been the rule with other kinds of produce, and it will probably obtain with honey also.

Without this scheme, I may say that I believe we are making progress on our local market. Honey is coming more into use. It is getting a place in all our shops. It is being more used, but not enough so to prevent a heavy crop causing a glut. Should we have a good honey season, too much honey will appear on the local market, and we may look forward to a slump in prices that will compel shipment in whatever channels are open.

To the beekeepers of the Dominion I would like to say that I believe that all that is required in order to make the most of the position is just that we should be united in our work. At present we are dragging; only a small proportion of the beekeepers are joining in the efforts for union and co-operation. A few shillings from you and membership in the Association would help. You have no idea how want of interest on your part is dragging on the few ardent spirits who are working in your interest. At present we are in doubt whether to go on with this journal, and all for the sake of a few paltry 3/6 subs. Surely if you are a beekeeper and have honey for sale, no investment that you could possibly make would pay better than keeping the men who are organising for you at work and enable them to pay their way.

## Correspondence.

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The Queensland Beekeepers' Association decided in the early stages of the war to render practical aid to the distressed poor of England by sending them consignments of honey, and as the result of an appeal by the Association some 13,000 pounds of honey has been shipped Home.

The lead of Queensland is one which the beekeepers of New Zealand could well follow, and I should like to see the Executive of the National and the various Associations take the matter up. Should a New Zealand Honey Fund be started I shall be pleased to send a few tins.—I am, &c.,

SYMPATHY.

[The idea behind this letter is an excellent one, and we are glad to give it publicity in the hope that it will be taken up enthusiastically.—Editor.]

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Your correspondent "Anxious" in your last (October) issue, in commenting on the suggestion made at the last Conference of beekeepers that a queen-rearing apiary should be established by the Department of Agriculture in the Cook Islands, made the following remark:—"If what I have heard is correct, then to my mind the beekeepers have made a serious mistake in recommending the establishment of a queen-breeding yard there, and we would only be repeating the failures of Ruakura and Waerenga."

As the one responsible for the conduct of both the Ruakura and Waerenga Apiaries, I would ask "Anxious" to explain what he means by the failures of these. I thought the misunderstanding with regard to this matter in the past had all been cleared up, and I can only conclude that "Anxious" is not conversant with what has taken place.—I am, &c.,

Epsom, Auckland.

I. HOPKINS.

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice in the October number of the Journal of Agriculture the Government Analyst has supplied the water content of honey of sundry samples from various beekeepers. Had the equivalent hydrometer reading been given it would have been of some value to the practical beekeeper, as he could then have seen at a glance the quality of his honey. I don't think, however, he will set up a laboratory to find out.

I would like to ask the Government Analyst through you, Sir, whether the water test and the relative hydrometer test are constant, or do they vary in different classes of honey?—I am, &c.,

VINDEK.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—When you have space available I should like to see a copy of the State Apiaries Act of 1907 and also the amendments to the same. It will be a big help to beekeepers, I am quite sure, and I should like to see a copy of this Act in every dairy factory as well as the Post Offices, as I am quite sure more notice would be taken of it. Many farmers just keep a hive or two, as they say, for their own use, and when the farm is sold the bees are either neglected altogether or sold by auction and scattered far and wide. With our present staff of instructors we cannot expect too much, but I hope to soon see that clause enforced that even the auctioneer will be looking for the instructor's certificate before he will sell, barter or give away any bees, &c. We have an excellent Act, and let us see it is carried out as far as we are concerned.

At the last and previous Conferences a good deal was said in regard to the member of the National who did not belong to an Association. Perhaps I ask at a very busy time, but I would really like to know why some Branch Associations seem to think he should become a member of an Association. Who will explain? One is never too old to learn.—I am, &c.,

E. J. PINK.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The Health Department seem to be circularising all beekeepers with regard to the sale of honey. If their regulations are to be enforced to the very letter, it is going to make it unsafe for the country beekeeper to dispose of various small quantities to his neighbours, unless he keeps a miscellaneous lot of labels on hand. It looks as if the beekeeper is being singled out for special attention. Are similar regulations to be enforced in regard to farmers' butter? I should like to know. Is it possible for the Department to enforce these regulations where a beekeeper's local sales are concerned, seeing that he is not a shopkeeper? If they can be enforced, then we must have a stock label. How would the following do? Manufacturer—*Apis mellifica*. Address, The Beehive (Langstroth). Name of article, milk, honey, "Bee Juice." Weight, 1 lb., more or less. Joking apart, could you advise the beekeepers what labels would cost? Would they not be cheaper if a stock type was used in which the seller's name and address could be altered as required, or in which blank space was left for a rubber stamp?

If the beekeepers form a co-operative company to deal with the local and export trades, would it be possible for the shareholders to use the company's labels for local sales? My last question is in regard to sales to merchants and retailers. Does bulk honey have to be labelled? No doubt by paying the Government sixpence for a copy of the regulations (which I consider they should have sent us in the first place) I would get an answer to some of my questions, but I am sure that there are many others equally interested who feel the same way as I do.—I am, &c.,

SUBSCRIBER.

### COOK ISLAND QUEENS.

Sir,—I should like, in reply to "Anxious," to draw his attention to the fact that foul-brood is present in New Zealand, and yet queens are raised and sold without danger. If this can be done from New Zealand, why not from Rarotonga, especially as all the management will be under Government control. I infer that "Anxious" is aware that the principal source of infection from foul-brood is honey, and if this be well boiled previous to making into prepared feed for the mailing cages no infection will be transmitted to a healthy colony. With respect to the vigour of queens raised in the tropics, I may say I have had Rarotongian-bred queens in use here, and they were quite equal to those raised locally. I may further add that Rarotonga is an ideal place for queen-raising, there being a gentle honey flow the year round and drones flying at mid-winter, besides which queens reared in the tropics are specially favoured, as the tropics were originally the home of the honey bees.

Manawaru, Te Aroha.

J. S. COTTERELL.

### MELTING UP COMBS.

Sir,—Now that there is more space available, I will ask you to insert an important part of my note on wax-melting in the first issue (page 47), which you cut out. I run all the wax and water from the hatch press into a kerosene tin, which has a tap soldered in the bottom. Through this tap the water is continually drawn off and returned to the boiler. It saves firing, and the wax in the tin is kept so hot that by the time the tin is three parts full of wax it can be strained through wire cloth into another tin and allowed to cool slowly under cover of a good wrapping of sacks. When cold the cakes are ready for market—all the dirt is on the bottom, and can be scraped off.

JUPITER.

A Lesson.—A hurricane; how it does blow; a bump; a hive four storey high goes over; hits another, which follows suit; one or two more do likewise; bees angry; just cause; get hives in order again; plenty of stings; decide to drive pegs down to tie wire over; whizz; oh—oh—oh—good-bye! Resolved not to drive pegs down among bee hives again.

The South Canterbury Beekeepers' Association, at their meeting held in Geraldine on Thursday, 5th November, unanimously decided to become a district branch of the National. The members were much interested in Major Norton's export scheme, and decided to contribute a fair portion of the required guarantee of 100 tons.

A meeting of members of the Poverty Bay Beekeepers' Association was held in Townley's Hall on a recent Saturday afternoon. There was a good attendance, Mr. E. Matthews being chairman. A large amount of routine business was done. Having in view the shortness of honey in the Dominion and the rise in the price of material, it was resolved: "That the members of this Association pledge themselves not to sell under a price to be fixed by the Association at a meeting later."

## Good Things from Everywhere.

*"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."*

A correspondent writes:—"Going up a narrow track with a load of bees the mare got stung. She played up, and in turning round upset one hive in the load. Things got lively then, and she got right out of control, bolting down the valley road, with bees escaping all the way. These met me, and stung me badly enough in the head. She got round all the corners safely and over three bridges. At the Post Office on the Main road she turned and came up the valley again, and we met her, and were able to let her out of the harness. If she hadn't turned back I don't know what would have happened. I don't want any more experiences like that."

**Honey Cake.**—1 lb. honey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. butter, 2 oz. sugar, 2 eggs, 2 tablespoonfuls milk; put large teaspoonful baking powder into 1 quart flour, and mix in till it is stiff as a pound cake. Bake in thin layers in tins.

**Honey Cake.**—Mix 1 quart extracted honey with  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. powdered sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. butter and 2 lemons; warm all together, and beat well. Mix in 2 lb. sifted flour. Make into dough stiff enough to roll out. Roll to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thickness, cut in circles, and bake.

A little honey mixed into fruit cakes will make them keep moist for a much longer time.

**Honey Lemonade.**—Make in usual way with juice of lemons, using honey instead of sugar. This is very refreshing as a summer drink.

**Honey Lemon Cake.**—Take 4 oz. of butter,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of honey, 3 eggs well beaten, half teaspoonful of essence of lemon, half teacupful of milk, half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful cream of tartar, a little salt, and enough flour to make a stiff batter. Bake at once in a quick oven.

**Keeping the Hives free from Grass.**—Long grass and weeds immediately around the hives not only look unsightly, but also form shelter for insects which find their way into them in cold weather. Wood-lice are disgusting insects which may often be found in neglected hives by thousands in winter; but by keeping the hives clear of all growth neither these nor other insects will be troublesome. One of the readiest and cheapest methods for accomplishing this is to cut a small shallow trench around each hive, 9 in. distant from it, and strew salt over the ground within the trench. This kills the grass and weeds. A good plan is to use a piece of 9 in. board for a guide for cutting the trench. At the State apiaries it was found that 6 lb. of salt was sufficient for each hive, and this was effective for over six months, and by occasionally keeping the ground stirred it lasted much longer. The cost was less than 2d. per hive—using the cheap agricultural salt.

P. M. M. writes:—"I am pleased to see a N.Z. Bee Journal published, as it is a big help to us country members, who do not get a chance to mix with the more up-to-date beekeepers. I would be pleased to receive some sample copies. I may be able to procure some new subscribers."



## QUEENS AND QUEEN-REARING.

A question that is often asked is, What is the best time of year to introduce young queens? In a paper read at the recent Conference, Mr. Cotterell advocated introducing them in early spring. He claimed that this had a direct influence in increasing the honey crop, and he so far persuaded us in this direction that we asked the Government to establish a State queen-rearing apiary at the Cook Islands, where young queens could be reared very early in the spring.

It is not so much a question of when to introduce as when can you get the queens. The virtue does not lie in the time of introduction so much as in the quality of the new queen. If she is of the right stamp she will influence the honey crop the first season after she is introduced, whether that took place in the summer, fall, winter, or spring. If the writer is correct in the above views, then we have no need for a queen-rearing apiary at the Islands.

There is no questioning the statement that it pays to improve the strain of bees in a yard. It is a very moot question whether it can be done by wholesale importation of queens from the Islands. To attain the greatest success, every beekeeper should improve his strain by rearing his own queens from his best stock. To start with, he should use a pure breed of a proved strain, and fresh importations should be tested before breeding extensively from them. If it pays beekeepers to raise queens for sale, it must pay any beekeeper to rear queens for himself, provided, of course, he understands what he is doing. Home-bred queens are not knocked about in the mails, and they have the advantage of being acclimatised. The writer knows of a beekeeper who kept black bees, and re-queened from his best stocks. One year he averaged something like 150 lbs., and a few miles away another apiary, about the same size, averaged about 30 lbs. The owner of this yard was importing pure Italian queens from Australia by the dozen. Needless to say, he found out his mistake. The above example alone is sufficient to show us how we are to increase our yields of honey. It requires considerable patience and skill to master the various problems of queen-rearing, but he is a very poor beekeeper who would give up after a few failures. A supply of cheap queens from a State apiary is not going to help that sort of beekeeper. Perhaps by the time the next Conference comes round we will be content to let the question of a State queen-rearing apiary remain where it is—hung up.

Now is the time of year to take particular note of the performances of the queens. Failing ones can be marked for immediate re-queening, and likely breeders can be picked out. There are several points to consider in choosing breeders. First of all, they should be pure Italians and proved honey gatherers. Another point is the regularity and compactness of the brood nest. Longevity is far more preferable to prolificness. A big strong colony that has a medium lot of brood uses less honey and stores than one that has acres of brood. In the former colony the bees live longer and the queen lasts longer.

While there are plenty of books that deal with queen-rearing, it is sometimes difficult, especially for a beginner to pick out a system that will suit him. The writer uses the Swarthmore system of grafting cells, and mates the queens in the twin nucleus hives, but the system has been somewhat modified. In practice the average beekeeper will find the simplest method suit him best. For instance, the best place to have cells reared, after they are once started, is in a super that the queen has come up into. She is put down again, a queen excluder put between, and the frame containing the cells is hung between two frames of unsealed brood and eggs. Queen cells can be started on a prepared piece of comb (on the Alley plan) by putting it in a swarm box prepared on the Swarthmore plan. Such cells, however, are not so easily handled as are those built on wooden cups. In starting the twin nucleus hives it is easier to use one frame of brood and one of honey. The brood holds the bees after being shut up a day. A virgin cannot be given to these bees with brood, but a ripe queen cell can be given straight away, and the hatching queen is safe. The brood keeps up the strength of the nucleus. The young queen should be allowed to lay for a week, so that the combs are well filled with brood. Again, it is better to have ripe cells ready to put in when the laying queen is removed. It takes longer, but it is surer. At all times the nuclei must be kept well supplied with honey. A super 6 in. deep with a division across the centre will hold 20 baby frames, from which first supplies of honey can be drawn.

Probably there are some who have had failures in grafting cells in the Swarthmore swarm box. It is very important that no light reaches the bottom of the box when the grafting is being done, either before or after. It causes the bees to rush to the bottom of the box and desert the cells for some hours, hence the failure.

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### QUESTIONS AND QUERIES.

"Novice" writes:—"Will you tell me the best bee veil to adopt? I am only a beginner at the craft, but I find the ordinary net veil is not satisfactory, as it so easily tears, and is not altogether bee-proof."—The Alexander wire veil is far and away the best, and although the initial cost is more than a net veil, it will outlast a good many of the latter. The skirt is strong, and can be securely fastened without fear of tearing. It has also the advantage of allowing a good circulation of air, which is very essential in hot weather.

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Has buckwheat been grown to any extent successfully in New Zealand? If so, where?—We do not know. Perhaps some of our readers can supply the desired information.

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A donation to the Journal funds of 9/- has been received from E. J. Pink. It is worthy of note that we have received five subscriptions from Australia.

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