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E. A. Gray

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JANUARY 21st, 1915.

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



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



National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

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.

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., R. Lang, 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.

E. A. East

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 7

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

A few days ago a telegram reached us in these words: "The contract has been completed." This message announces the consummation of one of the most important movements that has ever affected the beekeepers of the Dominion. The contract referred to indicates the successful completion of arrangements under which the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association will be directly represented in Great Britain by the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd. By this contract or agreement the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association, who are called the "Principals," have agreed to supply not less than ONE HUNDRED TONS of first-grade honey per year for a period of three years, and the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd., termed the "Agents," have agreed to receive and sell on commission all the honey available for export during the above-mentioned period, under conditions which are distinctly favourable to the honey producers. We have no hesitation in saying that the day this contract was signed was a red-letter day for the New Zealand beekeeper!

There is no good reason why, at this stage, we should not mention that Major Norton showed figures which indicate that the nett returns will be somewhere in the vicinity of five-pence per lb. Just think of it! Bulk honey in 60-lb. cans at £46 per ton. Of course, this sum is not obtained by the same methods as have prevailed largely in the past, where the bulk product has been dumped into auction rooms, and sold very often under most unfavourable conditions, as the unfortunate honey producer in New Zealand has too often learned to his cost. The Bristol Company move on twentieth century lines. It acts as exclusive agents for the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association, receives its honey in bulk, and re-bottles the same in sizes to suit the British market, turning out the product nicely labelled with a standard and uniform label, which will commend it to the retail grocers of the United Kingdom. By this means the great percentage of profit is handed, not to the brokers at the London end, but to the producers at this end.

Writing from Adelaide recently, Major Norton, the representative of the Bristol Co., is very emphatic in his assertion that in the past the New Zealand Beekeepers have been most unfairly dealt with by the Home dealers. "And," he adds, "we will have no difficulty in proving my statement correct." When we read of the high prices obtained by the British beekeepers and the splendid figures ruling for honey from the South of France, we are justified in assuming that the Major

knows his market thoroughly, and that his assertion is based on solid experience, as a consequence of which we in New Zealand will receive better returns than ever before.

We must not, however, lose sight of the fact that the absolute guarantee which the producing Company holds is for fourpence per lb. f.o.b. This is certainly a vast improvement on what the New Zealand producer has been receiving hitherto; and many will be content to build on this with complete satisfaction. For our part, we expect still bigger things, and, realising as we do the tremendous importance of efficiency on the selling end; having now secured this, we look forward to securing returns that will average in the neighbourhood of 5d. per lb.

In selecting a heading for this article, we were at a loss whether to use the term we have employed, or that of "A Big Thing for New Zealand." The latter phrase stands good, for the National Beekeepers' Association have accomplished something that completely justifies its existence in being the medium of bringing about such an eminently desirable and helpful measure for the direct benefit of the beekeepers of New Zealand. The announcement of the Honey Producers' Association, Ltd.—the Association which will handle the honey product of New Zealand, is now, we understand, on the way to beekeepers.

From what we have been able to gather during the past few weeks, it seems evident that the shares will be snapped up immediately they are available, the beekeepers being quite astute enough to recognise the "good thing" that is now within their reach. As there is, therefore, every probability that the shares will be over-applied for, it has been decided that preference will be given to applications coming from producers who are members of the National Beekeepers' Association. It is felt that the splendid work of the Association deserves some substantial recognition, and as the engineering of the whole project from initiative to completion was largely carried out by the Executive of the Association, it is only fair that that body should reap some little indirect advantage.

To belong to an Association that is live enough to be able to do such effective work on behalf of its members is "good business." As membership will give priority in the allotment of shares, those who have not yet affiliated will probably accept this fact as a suggestion that the time is opportune for them to enrol.

It takes time to do things. "Rome was not built in a day." The dairy industry was many a year before being established upon a satisfactory footing; and the frozen meat industry took years before it was placed on a satisfactory basis. The honey producers of New Zealand have at last been put in a fair way to receive a generous reward for their labours and a handsome return for their products. No finer honey is produced than that which comes from New Zealand, and no better market exists than that of our own Motherland. Therefore, we feel that our readers will agree with us that we are thoroughly justified in marking the stage now happily attained with the title "A Great Achievement."

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

The Director of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division has received from apiary instructors the following reports concerning honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Honey crop prospects in Auckland Province are poor owing to the dry weather, which still continues. The Great Barrier Island reports heavy losses of bees during late winter and spring.—G. V. Westbrooke. Jan. 11, 1915.

Wellington.—The weather will have to improve considerably before a good crop can be expected in the southern half of the North Island. Bees are, however, in good order generally, and, given an opportunity, should produce good results.—F. A. Jacobsen. Jan. 5, 1915.

Christchurch.—The season has been a very trying one, and up to the end of December very little had been stored in the supers. Merchants are doing a fair trade at steady prices. There do not appear to be any large lots offering; still the supply up to the present is meeting the demand. There is very little of this season's honey on the market yet. So far, the season's prospects in Canterbury generally are rather below the average.—L. Bowman. Jan. 5, 1915.

Dunedin.—Hot north-west winds had a damaging effect on the clover pastures in South Canterbury and North Otago during the early part of the month, but latterly a few showers have improved conditions generally. In Southland a spell of fine weather has been experienced, and consequently prospects are much brighter. It is yet early to anticipate the result of the season's crop. In some districts extracting has commenced, but only where bush flora is plentiful. Taken altogether, the outlook is promising. Market conditions are unchanged.—E. A. Earp. Dec. 31, 1914.

REPORTS.

The Canterbury Beekeepers' Association held a quarterly meeting on January 5th, Mr. E. G. Ward (President) in the chair. The attendance was small, probably on account of proximity to the holidays. The question of the annual field day was discussed, and arrangements were left in the hands of the Secretary and President. Mr. R. McKnight, secretary Cheviot Branch, wrote inviting members to attend its annual field day, to be held at Mr. J. Rentoul's apiary on January 16th. Attention was called to the autumn show of the Christchurch Horticultural Society, when it is hoped the Association will stage an exhibit. The Horticultural Society is offering several prizes, and it is hoped members will freely enter as a means of drawing public attention to honey, and so help to create a demand for it. It was reported that arrangements for the export trade with the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association would probably be complete in a few weeks. The present season has been very disappointing up till the date of report, but a good rain is hoped for, and a fair crop may be obtained even now if warm weather follows.—E. G. Ward.

Christchurch, January 8th, 1915.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."

Beeswax seems to be in short supply, and we have had a number of enquiries for it at up to 1/5 per lb.

A correspondent sends a sample of nephonset paper roofing which was used in an exposed position for more than ten years as a covering for roofs. The sample is apparently as good as new, being pliable and waterproof.

"The N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal is about the brightest exchange that reaches us, and contains many good hints for Californian beekeepers."—Extract from the "Western Honey Bee."

Obstinate Swarms.

Occasionally a swarm will repeatedly return to the spot where it first clustered. When this happens, shake the cluster into an open box, and immediately give the bees a good sprinkling of water. That will stop them from rising when they are shaken in front of their new hive.

A Rarity.

A Banks Peninsula beekeeper recently came across an undoubted case of a queen facing the wrong way in the cell, and so being unable to gnaw her way out. It was not a case of her having crawled in again and the hinged cap being pushed to, as the cap had not been perforated. She was dead when found.

Another Suggestion for Keeping Grass Down.—Buy a few cull lambs in the autumn. They can be got fairly cheap, and they soon grow into money on a small place. They may require a little hay to see them through the winter, and they should be dipped again in the spring. Besides this, a stay should be put against the fence so that they can rub their backs. They won't knock the hives over then. The writer cleared 30/- on three cull lambs in six months.

AN APPEAL TO PATRIOTIC BEEKEEPERS.

The National Beekeepers' Association, through its Executive, have decided to appeal to the beekeepers of the Dominion for contributions towards a great gift of honey for the distressed poor of the Homeland. All who are willing to express their sympathy in this practical fashion with those in the Mother Country to whom the war has brought suffering and distress, are requested to send in a memo. of the amount of honey they wish to give to the Secretaries of the District Branches of the National Beekeepers' Association, or to the General Secretary, so that arrangements may be made to ship Home as early as possible.

BEEKEEPING FOR WOMEN.

(By "Glenco.")

To the young women of our land whose help is required in the home but with a natural colonial independence in their nature I pen these lines.

There is nothing equal to a number of colonies of bees, your very own, to bring a brightness and vim into your life. The housework will not be neglected, but rather better done. There will be an incentive to rise early in the morning and get the work finished by 9 a.m. in order to have an hour or two in the glorious sunshine among the bees.

You ask, But what about the stings? From my own observation girls as a rule are much braver than their brothers. I witnessed an amusing scene one day when we invited a party to visit our apiary. The bees were rather inquisitive as to their visitors, and in a few moments one young man who had lost his head-covering rather early in life was performing antics across the paddock, his bald head bare, hat in hand, arms and legs exercising to their full, and altogether a picture of extraordinary excitement. A young lady present was also a subject of the inquisitiveness of the little pets, and she received a bung eye to the amusement of her friends on her return home, but, brave little woman, there was no fuss, and she will go among bees any day now, while the man, who never even received one sting, has vowed it would be his last trip to the bees. Yes, you will get some stings, but these will very soon become a secondary consideration.

To those who have no bees at all, I would suggest the buying of a colony from some neighbouring beekeeper, and then arrange to assist some beekeepers in their work occasionally in return for a little knowledge. Fit yourself out with veil, gloves, smoker, a fairly long cotton dress, a pair of brown stockings over another thin pair, and you need not fear stings. Most girls can drive nails, and the fixing up of more hives is not hard. Procure some petrol cases, take them to pieces, and re-make with the top edges even all round; nail strips of wood in each end to hold the frames, and you will have a hive that will hold as good a colony of bees as a bought hive.

I do not recommend keeping only a few colonies. Extracting honey is heavy work, and if there are no brothers interested enough to assist, it is best to increase to thirty colonies or over, and it will then pay to employ a man to do the heavy lifting.

In building up an apiary, do not grudge a few bags of sugar in the early spring or for winter feed, given before cold, frosty weather starts. It is of more importance than expensive hives and fittings. In putting on supers, always put one frame of brood up and replace it with one of foundation, otherwise the bees will not work readily in the supers. Get into touch with some successful lady beekeepers, write your questions down, however simple they may be, with a penny stamp for return letter, and you will get a lot of useful help without taking up their time in talk.

Most young women need something outside the hum-drum of housework, and in the beekeeping industry we have many advantages that are not found in other ways.

There is the equal pay for equal work, a blessing that is as yet denied to a great number of women fully entitled to it. There is the hour or two in the open air, with an interesting occupation that gives life and health; there is an added zeal to the indoor work, which becomes no longer a drudgery, for the monotony has vanished; and there is above all the real fun and pleasure of it all. As to honey itself, why, no honey that was ever bought tasted just as good as that from your own hive.

BEEKEEPING FOR WOMEN.

A REJOINER.

This article is inspired by a desire to present to the readers of your journal the opposite view of the case to that held by "W. B. K." I rise up in defence of my sex. It is a difficult matter to find an opportunity to do so in this fair Dominion—we women are treated so well here; but I see my chance, and hasten to grasp it.

I am a woman apiarist of several years' standing, and own at present forty-seven hives, and wish I had more. I think I may say with perfect truth that I "run the show" myself. Perhaps before I go any farther, I had better confess that "W. B. K." has touched my weak spot. I have never made a hive in my life, but deep down in my mind is buried a conviction that I could do it if I had to. I have made up frames—hundreds of them—and get about 95 per cent. of my nails in straight, but up till the present I have beguiled an amiable man into doing the rest of the carpentry.

And now for the rest of "W. B. K.'s" objections. I think she confounds "nerves" with cowardice. I suppose I am as nervous as the next woman, but as soon as I grasped the all-important fact that bees seldom sting except under extreme provocation, I entirely lost my fear of them, and it has never yet returned. As for lifting heavy supers, I have only Punch's advice to offer—"Don't." Provide yourself with a handy barrow, an empty super, and a clean sack, and put enough frames out of the storey you are going to lift into the empty super to reduce the weight in the full one till you can lift it comfortably. It takes longer, of course, but it saves hours of backache. Anyway, how many of us, under ordinary circumstances, manage altogether to escape the strain and trials of washing-day? To my mind—and I speak from experience—there is nothing in beekeeping which compares with laundry work for producing tired muscles and worn-out nerves. Of course, we don't wash every day, but we do it practically once

a week all the year round, and we lift wet clothes from boiler to tub and from tub to basket, and there doesn't seem to be any easy way to do it. You can lighten your lifting in the apiary 50 per cent. if you do it intelligently. When the hives are only one storey high, it is better to kneel beside them than to bend over them when handling the frames. It saves the back, and incidentally protects the ankles. Take a sack round with you, and the damp earth won't harm you.

There is only one disagreeable thing about apiculture in my opinion, and that is extracting, but it lasts only a short time, and is fairly profitable after all.

To the woman who is thinking seriously of taking up bee-keeping, I should like to offer a little advice. Don't be easily discouraged. I suppose I've had all the different sorts of bad luck a beekeeper could have—principally a combination of bad seasons and a large dose of disease, which had to be treated at a huge sacrifice, but I'm still "going strong."

Never attempt to work without a veil. The only bad stinging I ever got was in trying to hive a swarm without a veil. Wear a white one with a black front; you can't credit the difference in the temperatures under a white and black veil unless you have tried both. Don't wear gloves—they're clumsy things, and irritate the bees where your bare hands will pass unnoticed.

Don't be afraid. Women are not cowards as a rule. They only think they are because they've been told so for generations. Bee-stings aren't pleasant, but they don't hurt half as much as burns or scalds, and what housewife escapes those? Besides, the pain from a sting is gone in a few minutes, and a burn lasts for days.

Wear sensible clothing. A big overall with long sleeves and a pocket is a boon. The pocket holds your hive-tool and brush, and the overalls keeps your frock clean. Don't wear an apron that can't be buttoned down the back, or it will rise and float gracefully over the frames with every puff of wind, and drive both apiarist and bees into a condition bordering on frenzy. A light cotton frock, suitable underclothing, and a shady hat will pull you through the hottest part of the summer without any inconvenience.

Don't walk among your bees in the summer without a hat of some kind. The most beautiful head of hair is only a trap for the homeward-bound bee, and even a seasoned bee-woman gets flurried when an angry bee buries itself in her back hair and can't extricate itself.

I shouldn't like to hold myself up as an illustrious example of patience, self-control, and perseverance, but these are admirable qualities to cultivate in beekeeping. You can't make a success of apiculture unless you learn to work quickly, quietly and intelligently. Study your bees, study each hive individually, and learn its idiosyncrasies. Don't jump; remember the bee that crawls on your hand isn't going to sting. It's the bee that darts that means mischief, and you can't usually jump quickly enough to avoid her.

Try and get an up-to-date plant together. Let the bees pay their way by all means, but don't grudge the money for good appliances if you can possibly spare it. My dream is of an apiary of 150 to 200 colonies, a convenient extracting-house, with windows that will swing out, and liberate the bees which one brings in at extracting time. I want a large extractor, power-driven, and then, for me, the trials of harvesting my crop will be reduced to a minimum. Get a steam-heated knife, a proper uncapping-can, an abundance of suitable utensils for holding honey, and keep everything in the room in such a condition that you can show it to all enquirers, and you will have accomplished two things—have made your work a joy to yourself, and, in addition, have gained for yourself and your honey the best advertisement obtainable, because people do like to think their food is cleanly and hygienically treated.

Don't experiment too much. The old and proved methods are good enough for the average beekeeper. I like to increase my apiary naturally—that is to say, I like to get one good swarm, and one only, from a good hive, but I also like to do a little queen-raising "in between whites." An observation-hive is most enthralling, especially if one starts it with a ripe queen-cell.

Of the merits of bee-keeping as an outdoor pursuit I have little to say. They proclaim themselves, and I have yet to find anything which gives me greater pleasure than a stolen hour of absolute idleness in my apiary on a hot morning in summer. To the enthusiast there is no sweeter music in the world than the low, contented hum of a prosperous apiary when the honey flow is on, and no prettier sight than that of a steady stream of workers dropping on each alighting-board and crawling heavy-laden into each hive. It is nerve-soothing and invigorating just to watch one's faithful subjects toiling through the long, hot hours, and one finds oneself building huge castles in the air, which are to take concrete form when that long-expected good season comes.

MELISSA.

PREPARATION OF HONEY FOR EXPORT.

1. The honey to be extracted when thoroughly ripe.
2. All appliances—honey tank, extractor, etc.—to be kept scrupulously clean.
3. When extracted, honey should be strained and run into a tank or other vessel, and allowed to stand not less than forty-eight hours, that all scum and foreign matter may be able to rise to the top. The scum should then be skimmed off quite clean.
4. The honey tanks should be large enough to fill a number of tins. Each tin from the tank should be specially marked to save the work of the grader, who would be able to grade one tin of each marking.

5. When filling tins the utmost care should be taken that no scum or foreign matter be allowed to pass into the tins, as this will affect the grading, and may lead to the rejection of the whole or portion of the consignment.
6. The Executive re-affirm the following resolution of the Conference:—"All tins must be clean, strongly constructed, with no leakages. They should be laquered on the outside to prevent rust in transit." Two tins should be packed in a wooden case, with $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch ends and $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch sides, tops and bottoms; the timber to be dry, and dressed on the outside.

PRO FORMA GRADE NOTE WHICH WILL BE USED THIS SEASON BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE.

(Orchards, Gardens & Apiaries Division.)

GRADE CERTIFICATE OF HONEY FOR EXPORT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day classed and graded 30 packages of the undernoted honey as follows, and at the same time have stamped the packages according to class and grade:—

- 18 packages A or Special Grade Medium Amber Honey
 6 packages B or Prime Grade Light Amber do
 4 packages C or Good Grade Medium Amber do
 2 packages D or Manufacturing Grade White do

30 Total number of packages.

	Maximum points obtainable.	A or Special Grade: 94 to 100 points inclusive.	B or Prime Grade: 88 to 93½ points inclusive.	C or Good Grade: 80 to 87½ points inclusive.	D or Manufacturing Grade: 65 to 79½ points inclusive.	Description of Packages.
Flavour ...	40	38	37	36	32	Brand.
Colour ...	10	10	9	8	10	
Condition ...	15	14	11	14	10	
Grain ...	12	12	10	10	8	
Aroma ...	8	8	8	6	2	
Freedom from Scum and Froth ...	10	10	8	6	4	Shipper's Mark.
Packing and Finish ...	5	5	4	4	5	
	100	97	88	84	71	

Remarks:—

Port.....Date.....Honey Grader.....

FOUL BROOD AND OTHER DISEASES OF BEES.

(Extract from Thirteenth Annual Report of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association.)

(Continued from p. 88, October issue, 1914.)

Experiments.

1. A prominent Wisconsin beekeeper some years ago had foul brood among his bees so bad that he lost 200 colonies before the disease was checked. Having a honey-extractor and comb-foundation machine, he first boiled the hives in a large sorghum pan, then in a kettle all combs were melted after the honey was extracted; the honey was boiled, and also the extractor and implements used. The bees were returned to their hives on comb-foundation he made from the wax made from the melted combs, then fed the boiled honey. Several years have passed, and there has been no sign of disease in his apiary since.

2. Foul-brood germs are not always killed when exposed to a temperature of 212 deg. F. (boiling point) for 45 minutes. But in every case where the combs are boiled in boiling water, and same were well stirred while boiling, no germs were alive.

3. Foul brood in brood-combs is not destroyed when exposed to the temperature of Wisconsin winters of 20 deg. below zero, and in one case I developed foul brood from combs that had been exposed to 28 deg. below zero.

4. Honey, if stored in diseased combs, acts as a preserving medium, and in such cases the germs of disease will remain so long as the comb is undisturbed—four years at least.

5. Honey or beeswax, or the refuse from a solar or sun-heat extractor, is not heated enough to kill foul-brood germs. Several cases of contagion where robber bees worked on solar extractor refuse or honey.

6. Comb-foundation made by supply manufacturers is free from live germs of disease and perfectly safe to use. To prove this experiment beyond a doubt, I took a quantity of badly-diseased brood-combs from several apiaries and rendered each batch of combs into wax myself on the farm where found. Then on my own foundation mill I made some brood-foundation. I also took quite a quantity more of said wax, went to two wholesale comb-foundation manufacturers, and both parties willingly made my experimental wax into comb-foundation, just the same as they do every batch of wax. I then divided the various makes of foundation, and selected 20 of the best bee-yards in Wisconsin, where no disease has ever been known, had the same placed in 62 of their best colonies, and in every case no signs of disease have appeared. Those same colonies continue to be the best in the various apiaries.

Symptoms of Foul Brood.

1. The infected colony is not liable to be as industrious. Hive entrance with few guard bees to protect their home. Sometimes fine dirt or little bits of old comb and dead bees in and around the hive-entrance, and often robber bees seeking entrance.

2. Upon opening the hive, the brood in the combs is irregular, badly scattered, with many empty cells which need inspection.

3. The cappings over healthy brood are oval, smooth, and of a healthy colour peculiar to honey-bee brood, but if diseased the cappings are sunken, a little darker in colour, and have ragged pin-holes. The dead larval bee is of a light colour, and, as it is termed, ropy, so that if a toothpick is inserted and slowly withdrawn, this dead larva will draw out much like spittle or glue.

4. In this ropy stage there is more or less odour peculiar to the disease; it smells something like an old, stale glue-pot. A colony may be quite badly affected and not emit much odour, only upon opening of the hive or close examination of the brood. I have treated a few cases where the foul brood odour was plainly noticed several rods from the apiary.

5. Dried Scales.—If the disease has reached the advanced stages all the above described conditions will be easily seen and the dried scales as well. This foul matter is so tenacious that the bees cannot remove it, so it dries down on the lower side-wall of the cell, midway from the bottom to front end of the cell, seldom on the bottom of the cell. According to its stage of development, there will be either the shapeless mass of dark brown matter on the lower side of the cell, often with a wrinkled skin covering, as if a fine thread had been inserted in the skin lengthwise and drawn enough to form rib-like streaks on either side. Later on it becomes hardened, nearly black in colour, and in time dries down to be as thin as the side walls of the cell. Often there will be a small dried bunch at the front end of the cell, not larger than a part of a common pin head. To see it plainly, take the comb by the top bar and hold it so that a good light falls into the cell at an angle of 75 degrees from the tip of the comb, while your sight falls upon the cell at an angle of about 45 degrees. The scales, if present, will easily be seen as above described. This stage of disease in combs is easily seen, and is always a sure guide or proof of foul brood. Such combs can never be used safely by the bees, and must either be burned or carefully melted. Be sure not to mistake such marked combs in the spring for those soiled with bee dysentery. The latter have a somewhat similar appearance, but are more or less surface soiled, and will also be spotted or have streaked appearance by the dark brown sticky excrements from the adult bees.

(To be continued.)

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.

Correspondence.

WHAT ARE THE INSPECTORS DOING?

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I think it would be a step in the right direction if our Executive were to ask the Secretary for Agriculture to remove any obstacles in the way of allowing the inspectors to contribute reports and articles to our journal. It would help us to keep in touch with their work if they sent short reports covering the condition of the bees, the districts they have worked, and any matter of special interest that has come under their notice. I know that the heads of Government Departments have almost a horror of anything going out to the public without their perusal and approval, which generally takes so long to accomplish that the report is valueless when published. But it must not be forgotten that the inspectors are there for the benefit of the public, not for the glorification of the heads of the Departments, and we have a right to their services. Why should they not be allowed to come before the beekeeping public and show them what value they are giving for their money?

Just here comes in the question of whether the inspectors are making any headway in the eradication of disease. Those who were at the last Conference will remember I expressed a strong opinion to the effect that as the inspectors' work was primarily the inspection of bees for disease, they would be better employed at that than in grading honey. I got very little support, but I venture to say that more will be found to agree with me at the next Conference if I bring the subject forward. In referring to the work of the inspectors, I do not wish to criticise them personally, but rather the system under which they work. I said "system," but rather is it a lack of system, for they seem to be sent flying here and there by headquarters to attend shows or visit someone who wants an idle curiosity satisfied on some trivial matter. I am speaking from experience gained over four years ago, and I do not think the inspector's lot is any happier now. He has more correspondence to attend to, and there is the grading to be done between whiles. Practically it amounts to this now—that the inspecting is being done between whiles. A good deal of time could be saved if a simpler system of grading were adopted. At present a large line of honey will be gone through, so that the exact number of points for each tin of honey is ascertained, and, after all is done, it is found to be within the one grade. Last year I numbered all my cases, and sent a list of the numbers from each tankful. Nevertheless every tin was opened—at my expense.

My advice to the Department would be to do the grading, if it is to be done, in a businesslike manner, and let the inspectors get on the trail of the foul-brood. Then give them a chance to work an area thoroughly without sending them on wild-goose chases all over the place. I venture to say that there are very

few districts that can be declared clear of foul-brood, though we have had seven years of inspection. In the centre of the largest beekeeping district in the North Island a friend of mine last year bought three lots of bees, two of which were diseased. My own district could have been cleared of foul-brood two years ago if the first inspection had been followed up, but it has not had an inspection for five years now, and in some places it is a case of the last state being worse than the first. I myself have not much to complain of, as I have got my neighbourhood fairly clean, but others a few miles away are having a hard battle with it. There is plenty of room here for more up-to-date beekeepers, but it would not be safe for them to come into some of the bays where the foul-brood still runs wild. I think that before any more new ground is broken the old ground should be gone over thoroughly until clear of disease. If a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing thoroughly.

I trust the above will pierce the "epidermous hide" of officialdom, and show the beekeepers what lies beneath it.—I am, etc.,

W. B. BRAY.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I read somewhere some time ago of an easy method of introducing queens, but have lost run of the account of it. I think it is called the Millar plan. After giving three puffs of smoke, the queen is allowed to run in at the entrance, but I forget the conditions. Would you kindly mention the plan in your next issue.

The weather here is extremely windy, but still the bees are gathering fairly well, and we are looking forward to a good season.—I am, &c.,

P. McKAY.

Rockville, Collingwood, 14/12/14.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In your September issue appears a copy of a memorandum regarding the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. Could you kindly inform me whether the term "all packages of honey" includes comb honey in sections or only extracted honey in jars and tins? If the former, has each individual section to be stamped with its exact nett weigh (i.e., the comb and honey, excluding the wooden part), or would it do to grade the honey according to weight into three or four classes, and mark each class with its minimum nett weight? A rubber stamp would no doubt be the best method of marking sections.

Wishing your Journal every success in the future,—I am, etc.,

A. W. WESTNEY.

Mangere, Auckland, Nov. 12, 1914.

[Section honey is exempt from the weight regulations.—Editor.]

STRAWS THAT POINT THE WAY.

A honey pedlar in Orange County has a route in a rural section, no large towns, which he established some years ago. He has covered this as usual this season. At latest he had sold eleven tons of extracted honey.

A certain large honey-producer of Los Angeles County, who is a shrewd salesman, "stands in" with various charity and religious organisations. A hygienic and food-fad lecturer of much renown came in Los Angeles. Our beeman was "wise" to the situation, "got in" with the lecturer, and had him advocate the liberal and continuous domestic use of honey. The beeman was on hand, of course, with the literature and samples of his product. In an hour he had taken orders for 100 60-lb. cans of honey at 22/- per can.

The Editor had a ton or so of "off-colour" extracted honey, odds and ends of the season, also nearly a hundred cases of "cull" comb honey, unfinished sections and the like, unsaleable to city dealers. He got in touch with a pedlar of honey and olives in a beach town, made him a price that would pay both, and in two months all was sold.

A bright young beekeeper who heretofore has sold exclusively to wholesalers concluded he could not afford to sacrifice his large crop of beautiful "water-white" sage at the prices offered, but was obliged to have money. So he got the finest white-flint glass jars with porcelain tops, of various sizes, to be obtained, and has sold nearly all his crop in this shape, mainly to country-town merchants, and nearly doubled his returns under his methods of marketing.

—"Western Honey Bee."

The Beekeepers' Exchange.

FOR SALE.

WANTED.

TO EXCHANGE.

ADVERTISEMENTS on this Page will be inserted
at the rate of 2/- per 36 words per insertion.

ARE YOU OVERSTOCKED WITH BEES, but want SUPPLIES? If so, write us. HIVES, FRAMES, FOUNDATION, &c., straight from factory. Also, Second-hand Two-frame Reversible Extractors. Sell or Exchange for Bees.

ASKEW BROS.,

Manakau

Get your AUTUMN WAX made up into Foundation for next season. I will guarantee satisfaction at Lowest Prices. Write for terms.

I am in immediate need of a Large Quantity of PURE BEESWAX. Highest prices given for good Wax.

A. ECROYD,

177 Shirley Road, Christchurch.

TO BEEKEEPERS!

We are the Largest Manufacturers in New Zealand of HONEY TINS of all sizes for Local and Export Trade. We supply Tins plain or decorated.

Send us particulars of your requirements, when we will be pleased to quote you prices that we know will be favourable.

We have no agents, and all enquiries must be made direct to us.

ALEXANDER HARVEY & SONS, Ltd.
ALBERT STREET, AUCKLAND.

The W.F.C.A., Ltd.,

LAMBTON QUAY,
WELLINGTON.

(By appointment Suppliers to His Excellency the Governor.)

We are Agents for this District for The ALLIANCE BOX CO., and carry Large Stocks of all BEE REQUISITES.

All orders receive prompt attention.

Do you know that our name is synonymous with the best of everything as suppliers of Food Stuffs.

DEPARTMENTS:

Grocery, Wines and Spirits, Crockery and Hardware.

THE WAIRARAPA FARMERS' ASSOCIATION, LTD.,

Lambton Quay, Wellington.

PAPER HONEY POTS.

We have just landed a Large Quantity of these Popular HONEY PACKAGES, and shall be pleased to send samples and quotations on request.

Honey packed in 1913 in these Pots is still in good condition.

Also—The "DANDY" HONEY SPOON.

PRICE—

Nickel-plated ... 1/- Electro-plated ... 2/-
Post free to any address.

DISTRIBUTING AGENTS:

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD., DUNEDIN.

CLOVER.

Close the shutter and latch it over!
But you cannot shut out the scent of the clover,
The delicate, dusty scent of clover!

I was too much with the trees last night
Pooled with shadow and patched with light,
Where the moonlight rippled the boughs between—
Too much with the frail, transparent green
And the dewy dusks of the lawn, spread over
With summer snow of the blossoming clover!

Now it is the warm siesta hour;
Shut out the story of bee and flower,
Seek silken pillow and close your eyes
To the reeling sun in the thirsty skies,
Make night of the quiet, curtained room
To dupe coy sleep by a cozening gloom;
Its cool white finger your eyes to cover,
But you cannot shut out the scent of the clover,
The faint, far sweets of the calling clover!

I know the way that it rides the hill
White and sunny and never still,
Under the leaf-house of the trees
Musical with the many bees,
A woven mat on the brown earth flung,
I know what it is to couch among
The slight slow musks of those quivering heads
To make your pillow of elfin beds;
The wind for piper, the sun for lover,
And your heart so near to the blossoming clover!

By a fairy timepiece that never strikes
Have you tallied hours on the clover spikes?
Have you stretched at length to see the swing
Of the bannered branches curtsying?
Have you tasted life from the lips of Spring?
Have you seen the moon like a phantom thing
Glide from the shroud of the cypress tree
When night has muffled the homing bee?

Oh! darken my room for shy sleep's sake
(How should I sleep with the leaves awake?)
Close the shutter and latch it over,
But you cannot shut out the scent of the clover,
The delicate, dusty scent of clover!

Queensland.

M. FORREST.

The Editor will be pleased to receive reports from beekeepers showing the prices ruling in each centre and the general conditions of the market. The information will be of great value to the Executive of the National in the development of the markets when their advertising scheme is put into operation.



ITALIAN QUEENS

From Root's Famous Long Tongued
Red Clover Strain.

THESE ARE THE BEES THAT FILL
THE SUPERS AND THE POCKETS.

SAFE ARRIVAL GUARANTEED.



PRICES.
Cash
with order.

Untested	-	10/-	15/-
Tested	-	20/-	35/-

M. SHEPHERD,

10 WILMER STREET

CHRISTCHURCH.

W. A. DAWSON, FORTROSE.

PRICE LIST OF QUEENS.

	1	2	3	5
Untested	5s.	9s.	13s.	20s.
Tested	10s.	18s.	25s.	42s.
Select Tested	11s.	26s.		

COLONIES OF BEES (without Queens).

2 Frame (Nucleus Colony)	...	...	Each—10s.
3 "	...	...	" " 12/6.
4 "	...	...	" " 15s.
Full Colony on 10 Frames	...	...	£1 12s.

To the above prices must be added the price of the Queen required.

BEES Free from Disease, and bred from good stock. All care taken to ensure safe transit, but no responsibility taken with the colonies. I will, however replace a dead queen, from the mail, if the box is returned intact.

TERMS—CASH WITH ORDER.

W. A. DAWSON, FORTROSE, SOUTHLAND.

THE "DAWSON ENTRANCE FEEDER."

The most Economical Feeder to use.

Saves TIME, LABOUR, & EXPENSE. Three great factors of importance to the Bee-keeper.

Some Facts
about
this Feeder.

It can be adjusted for use in one minute.
Is perfect working when in use, and costs little.
Does not admit robber bees easily.
Is not a hindrance to the honey-gatherers, and makes a little sugar go a long way.
One hundred Colonies can be fed in as many minutes.

Try one on each hive. Feed a little each morning early with a syrup of "two of water to one of sugar," and see how the bees will forge ahead to the point of storing a surplus in most cases.

PRICE - 1/8 Each.

Per Doz. - 18/-.

Mfld. by Wm. A. Dawson, Fortrose.

Selling Agents, Alliance Box Co., Ltd., Dunedin.

N.B.—Fill twice a week and keep your Colonies in good order.

The Feeder can be attached to any hive.

ROBERT STEWART'S PRICE LIST.

PURE ITALIAN QUEENS, GOLDEN & THREE-BANDED.

	1	2	3	4	5
Untested	5/-	9/6	14/-	18/-	22/-
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
Tested	10/-	18/-	25/-	33/-	40/-
Select Tested	12/6	22/6			
Breeders	20/-				

Queens supplied at above prices from a new strain procured from the A. I. Root Company, and tested during last season, at customer's option.

TERMS: Nett cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

All Queens guaranteed free from Foul Brood, Bee Paralysis, and all other diseases. Bred from pure stock, which have been selected for hardiness, disease resisting, good working, and non-swarmling qualities.

P.O. Order Office, Tapanui.

Address: R. STEWART, Cromkston, Otago.

To get the Best returns from your Honey you must use Up-to-date Equipment!

IN BEE-KEEPING, as in everything else, the man who utilises labour-saving appliances is the man who makes most money. Pottering away with old-fashioned plant is the most extravagant practice of which any Apiarist can be guilty. Let us equip you with the modern type of plant, and you will find that results will more than justify the expenditure.

Automatic Extractors Worked by Motors.

We would like to send you a FREE Pamphlet on Power Honey Extractors!!

It tells you about the wonderful machines which the large Apiarists are now using. The plant consists of a 4, 6, or 8 Comb Extractor with a Honey Pump geared to the side, and the whole outfit driven by a 1 or 1½ Horse Power Motor. It saves—Time, Labour and Wages, and gives an increase in the amount of Honey extracted.

We also stock the Latest Extractors for working by hand.

The "Baines" Capping Melter.

This ingenious appliance removes all difficulties in dealing with Un-cappings.

It is Automatic in action and produces a High-grade Wax immediately the extracting is finished. Will deal with combs in any condition while the Honey is not injuriously affected in the slightest degree.

Price Complete—50/-

Steam-Heated Uncapping Knife.

LEA'S New Patent Steam-Heated Knife is a tremendous boon to Bee-keepers.

The Knife has a hollow blade through which the steam passes all the time, keeping it always piping hot and ready for use.

*A PRACTICAL DEVICE, INVENTED BY A PRACTICAL MAN FOR PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPERS.

Price—42/-

Alliance Box Co., Ltd.,
Headquarters for Apiarists' Supplies,
CASTLE STREET - - DUNEDIN.