



E.A. 50/1

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

MARCH 23rd, 1915.

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS'
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, Middle Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Christchurch.

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.

OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

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

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

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.

March 23, 1915.]

E. A. East

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 9

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DRONE.

(By J. TINSLEY, Expert (First Class), B.B.A., and Lecturer,
Stone, Staffs.)

Fertilisation in confinement is a dream of the past. Scientific queen breeders would give much to prove it an accomplished fact, but as no hope is held out, we must face the question with this information at our disposal. Nature's marvellous method of preventing interbreeding in the honey bee in the natural way, and under natural conditions, is perfect. I do not suppose that in the whole realm of nature we can get a more perfect object-lesson in the proof of the survival of the fittest than we do in the reproduction of the species in connection with "Apis mellifica."

Drone production is as natural to the bee as the building of nests is to the birds. It is an instinct of the honey bee which will never be altered by man. As to the argument that in producing drones there is considerable loss of honey, what can the loss be in comparison with the fact that the vitality of the future population is ensured? What is the feeding of a few hundred drones to the gain of a queen whose progeny may top 200 lbs. of surplus next year, or to the strengthening of the race to such an extent that disease may find no medium for propagation?

The male plays an important part in bee-keeping, far greater than has ever been estimated by modern writers. The beekeeper is particularly careful to select those colonies which show every desirable trait when he is selecting a mother; but as to the drone—well, to say the least, it is haphazard working with him, and drones are restricted in every possible way.

Conversely with a breeder of cattle. What is his basis for improvement of stock? Not the mother only, but the father also, and in this particular line the male always receives more attention than the female.

The Government are now giving money grants towards the formation of Bull Societies in country districts for the advantage of the small farmer and small holder who cannot afford a pedigree bull. Scientists and practical agriculturists assure us that by this method not only the standard of the cattle will be improved, but the milk yield will be considerably increased. If this applies to the higher walks of life, surely it is obviously plain that it applies in no less degree in the lower ranks, such as insect life. Modern text-books are all in favour of restricting drones, and beekeepers themselves look on the males as so many "undesirables."

Drones! "The lazy fathers of the industrious hive," as Evans depicts them. This is simply the language of the poet, who is allowed the usual license. Knowledge has progressed since the above was written, and, although we have no proof that drones fulfil more than one mission in life, yet they seem to be familiar with the district, for I find, when moving bees in the summer, that the drones will find their way back, a distance of from three to four miles, to the old stand, unaccompanied by the workers. This shows that their excursions abroad must be more frequent than is generally supposed, and the distances covered must be fairly great. We are perfectly well aware that the drone is so constructed that he cannot hie to the flowers and sip the golden nectar; but are we to suppose that his only journeys abroad are for the purpose of mating the queen? Science will probably come to our aid in time.

In a close study, I find that the drones from skeps are larger and stronger than those reared in frame hives. Probably this is accounted for by the fact that the bees, when left to themselves, build better combs than they do from foundation, and they also have plenty of scope for their work.

It is not to be supposed that I wish everybody to burn his frame hives and go back to the skep. Every beekeeper should make a point of allowing some of his best stocks to produce drones. He may not really want them for his own use, but he will be assisting Nature in sending into the district hardy specimens which, in ordinary circumstances, would have been produced naturally in the skep.

It is a good plan, when working with frame hives, to insert one frame fitted with half a sheet of worker foundation. The bees will complete the remainder of the comb with drone cells.

I am no advocate for trapping drones, especially when one imagines that he does not require their services because all his queens are mated. Possibly his neighbour's drones have been responsible in this respect, and Nature, in her marvellous manner, has brought this about in order that an exchange of blood may be effected and interbreeding obviated. The beekeeper's own ignorance may result in the deterioration of the race in his neighbourhood, and in time this will be felt severely. Who knows but that the present "Isle of Wight Disease" is attributable to the lowered vitality of the male? Probably this pest that has wiped out thousands of stocks has been brought about by man's own ignorance, and Nature is simply clearing the land of the unfit.

Scientific appliances need scientific working. I am convinced that at the present time we are paying too much attention to the queen and too little to the drone.

Under natural conditions drones are extensively reared. Under modern conditions they are extensively restricted. Until we know more about the drone apart from his "one object in life," we shall do well to copy Nature and encourage a good sprinkling of drones in our best colonies.

EXPERIMENTS IN INTRODUCING.

Seeing that this season the honey crop was doomed to failure, I set to work to re-queen the whole of my apiary. In the early spring, having a number of weak stocks, I placed a number of them on strong colonies above excluders. In each case both queens went to work, and filled up top and bottom supers with brood. I placed a number of weak colonies on weak colonies; result, the bees of the upper colony deserted and joined the lower colony, but neither queens was killed, though the upper one was left with very few bees, and spent most of her time on the excluder.

When re-queening in February, I reasoned that if the queen and the bulk of the brood were put in the top storey, and, say, two frames of brood in the bottom storey with a ripe cell, all would be well: the cell would hatch, and, having an open door, would mate, and when laying, the upper queen could be killed and the lower one allowed to take her place. Result.

I chose twenty-four hives along the back row, put the queens in the upper storeys above excluders, put down two frames of brood, and gave a ripe cell. The cell hatched all right, and all seemed to be going well, though I noticed that some of the virgins were having a fairly rough time. A month after I examined these hives, and not one virgin laying out of the lot; all killed, and nothing but a lot of old worker bees with tattered wings in the bottom storey, while the original queen was doing famously in the upper super. All honey was carried into the upper super, while the combs in the lower one were blocked with pollen.

Well, thought I, that method is no good, so I must give the smoke method of introduction another severe test. I have lately noticed in the bee journal that it is not a success. Last year I introduced sixty queens in as many minutes by the smoke method and never lost a queen; but as seasons often alter cases, I decided to try again this year. In the middle of February I went through twelve hives, killed their queens, and by the time I was finished robbing was getting a fair hold. Within an hour I smoked in a laying queen to each. Next week I went through them all, and found the queens laying just as if there never had been a change. Since then I have smoked in queens into all classes of hives—hives that have been queenless for six weeks; hives that have been raising cells for me, and I have even smoked in a laying queen into a hive that had already two laying queens (mother and daughter), and all three worked together for a month, until I discovered the triplicity and dissolved the partnership.

My method of procedure is:—Be sure the hive is queenless; get the smoker going strong; secure a piece of wet cloth to block up the hive (a dish-cloth is just the thing). Blow a good strong blast of pungent smoke into the hive, and block up with the wet cloth. Leave for one minute. Turn back one corner of the cloth and blow in another blast of the smoke. Trot the queen in, block up, and leave for twenty minutes to half an hour. Take away the cloth, but don't open the hive for a few days. I prefer a week, for if I then find eggs, I know she laid them and that she is safe.

ROBT. GIBB.

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.—As previously reported the honey crops will be below the average. In a few cases a light late flow slightly improved matters. Waikato beekeepers report trouble with thick honey this season. Prospective good export prices are giving a stimulus to beekeeping. Several enquiries have been made regarding suitable locations for starting.—G. V. Westbrooke. March 1st, 1915.

Wellington.—Average crops in Taranaki, Manawatu, and Wairarapa; a very poor crop, owing to the drought, in Hawke's Bay; a phenomenal yield round Palmerston North, one man to date (20/2/15) having extracted from 500 hives 67,200 lbs. with a prospect of a still further yield. Higher prices than usual should rule this year.—F. A. Jacobsen. March 5th, 1915.

Christchurch.—From almost every part of my district reports are to hand stating this is one of the worst seasons experienced for many years. In Marlborough several leading beekeepers complain of the very dry season and shortage of honey. In North Canterbury everything has suffered for want of rain. Several large apiarists estimate their crop will only be about one-quarter of their usual. These conditions are also applicable to mid and South Canterbury. There are, of course, one or two rare exceptions to the above. Many beekeepers are asking 4d. to 4½d. in bulk. Sections are scarce, and should command higher prices this season.—L. Bowman. March 1st, 1915.

Dunedin.—There is nothing fresh to report this month, conditions being the same as reported last month.—E. A. Earp. March 1st, 1915.

HONEY FOR THE DISTRESSED POOR OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Now that the extracting season is in full swing and we have honey available, it is opportune that an effort be made to collect and ship the first contribution of honey for this very laudable object. If you are prepared to contribute even a very small quantity, will you please send a note to one of the Secretaries of the Branches of the National Beekeepers' Association stating how much you can spare, the class of package, and when it will be available. Arrangements for shipment can then be made, and instructions will be sent you when and where to forward it.

It would be a good plan if some enthusiast were to canvass each district. We might even have district contributions. In order to save expense in the Home Land, and to ensure a wide distribution, the most suitable packages would be 1, 2, and 5lb. pots, tins, or packets. We shall be glad also of contributions of cash to pay the cost of shipment.

R. W. BRICKELL,

Secretary National Beekeepers' Association.

FOUL BROOD AND OTHER DISEASES OF BEES.

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

(Continued from last issue.)

Symptoms.

The larval bees (in last of May and through June) show light brown spots; a little later the cappings have small holes in—the cappings are not shrunken or dark coloured, as in foul brood. The dead bee will be first swollen, with a black head dried to a hard bunch, and often turned up—Chinaman-shoe-like. The skin of the dead bee is quite tough, and, if punctured, the thin, watery fluid of the body will flow as freely as water, often a little yellow or brownish coloured from the dissolved pollen from the abdomen of the bee. It has very little or no smell; does not at any time stick to the walls of the comb; is easily pulled out of the cell; is never ropy or sticky, and, if the colony is properly cared for, the bees will take care of themselves. Plenty of liquid, unsealed honey and pollen near the brood, and hives so protected as to keep the bees and brood comfortable on cold days and nights.

Never put bees on old black brood-combs, or those with dead broods in; better make wax of the combs, and give the bees full sheets of brood-comb foundation.

Treatment.

Keep all colonies strong, with plenty of unsealed honey near the brood, and if hives are properly sheltered, so as to be warm on cold days and nights, there will be little or no pickled brood. If the queen is old, shows signs of weakness by putting several eggs in one brood-cell and nursing several others, so that the brood is patchy, I would kill such a queen, feed the bees a little, and, when queen-cells are started, remove them all and give them a queen and bees, between two of her own brood-combs from a hive where she has lived. I do not think pickled brood is often the fault of the queen, but rather a lack of proper food and heat in the hive, in most cases a shortage of liquid honey, or mouldy pollen, even in hives with plenty of sealed honey in the outer combs. There is a time in spring in Wisconsin, between dandelions and white clover bloom, when there is no honey coming in from flowers, and often cold days and nights, so that the live bees consume the liquid, unsealed honey first, and cluster in a compact body to keep warm. The result often is the larval bee, just changed from the egg to a tender little grub, is either starved, half-fed or chilled, so that it grows slowly, and too often it dies, and then it is we first notice this about the time white clover honey begins to come in. In other parts of the State where pickled brood appeared, it was from the same cause, and at other dates, which was due to a difference of time of honey bloom.

Wherever I fed daily some honey, or even sugar syrup, and kept the hive warm, all dead brood soon disappeared, while in the same apiaries other colonies affected and not so treated continued for some time, but got rid of it as soon as treated.

(To be continued.)

Applications are invited from BEEKEEPERS ONLY
for SHARES in this important enterprise.

NEW ZEALAND CO-OPERATIVE HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

CAPITAL - - £3,000

This Association is a Co-operative Organisation, established for the purpose of marketing the honey product of the Dominion solely in the interests of producers.

It has taken over from the National Beekeepers' Association an offer received by it from the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd., and has made a firm contract with the latter Association for the delivery of not less than One Hundred Tons nor more than Five Hundred Tons per annum of High-grade Honey, for a term of three years, on a fixed guarantee of a return of 4d. per lb. The price is nett for Honey delivered f.o.b. at main ports, less packing expenses and 5 per cent. commission. The Producers' Association, while guaranteeing a return of 4d. per lb., also undertake to pay as much larger a sum as possible, the impression being that up to 3d. per lb. will be forthcoming.

The experience of honey producers in the past throughout New Zealand, as far as export to Great Britain is concerned, is that the results have not been particularly satisfactory. The honey has been dumped on to the Home market, and handled in the rough-and-ready style generally accorded to overseas consignments. Under the contract above referred to, the Bristol Association receive the honey in bulk at their warehouse in Bristol, where provision will be made for its bottling and packing in such a way as will meet the requirements of the retail market in Great Britain. It will be sold bearing a uniform and attractive label, and with a continuous supply of a standard quality, it will doubtless command top prices. In this way the honey producers of New Zealand will receive the bulk of the profit instead of the middleman, as heretofore.

The New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., have now before them the task of raising this large quantity of honey, and invite the co-operation of the beekeepers throughout the Dominion in taking full advantage of the splendid terms which are now before them.

In order to deal with the proposition in a business-like way, the honey will only be received from members of the Association, every one of whom will be required to undertake the supply of a certain minimum quantity of honey per annum for three years. Shares will be allotted in accordance with the average quantity of honey to be supplied by each producer in the proportion of one Share for every hundredweight of Honey delivered. The value of the Shares is £2 each. No deposit or other payment is required, as the deduction of one-eighth of a penny per lb. on the returns received from each shareholder's honey will be applied to the payment of the shares until such time as the shares are fully paid up, when no further deduction will be made, and honey may then be shipped by the producer in any quantity free of share deduction.

As it is anticipated that the shares will be fully applied for, it has been decided to give preference to applications from members of the National Beekeepers' Association. Those who are not yet members of this Organisation should become so without delay, and thus secure preference in their application for shares in the above Company.

An application form for shares will be posted on receipt of request by any of the following:—

Mr. H. W. GILLING, Chairman of Directors N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., Matapu, Taranaki.

Mr. F. C. BAINES, Secretary N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., Normanby, Taranaki.

Mr. R. W. BRICKELL, Secretary National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z., P.O. Box 572, Dunedin.

And the Secretaries of all the District Associations

ANNUAL FIELD DAY.

The members and friends of the Canterbury Beekeepers' Association to the number of about fifty went by motor launch to Governor's Bay on February 20th. They were welcomed and hospitably entertained by Dr. and Mrs. Pairman in their beautiful grounds, the host and hostess expressing their pleasure at meeting the members and their friends. Among those present were Mr. J. Rentoul (President) and Mr. R. McKnight (Secretary Cheviot Branch of the C.B.A.) and Mr. W. E. Barker (Peel Forest). The weather was ideal, and the time was pleasantly and profitably spent in demonstrations and discussions relating to bee culture.

Mr. L. Bowman (apiary inspector) opened and examined a hive, and explained how to detect disease if present. Dr. Pairman had carried out some experiments on lines laid down in "Gleanings in Bee Culture," and the examination by the inspector demonstrated the complete success of the treatment.

Mr. Barker read an interesting paper on "The Flora of New Zealand in Relation to the Honey Bee," and showed what a valuable asset the native bush is to the beekeeper.

After-lunch Mr. E. G. Ward (President) reviewed the activities of the Association from its inauguration in 1907 till the present. He showed the advantages and privileges of membership, and made an appeal for help in honey contributions to the fund being raised by the National Association for the poor of Britain and Belgium.

Mr. R. W. Brickell (Secretary of the National Association) expressed his pleasure at being present, and gave an exhaustive explanation of what the National Association had done to put the industry on a better footing. He explained the details of the contract between the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association and the recently-formed N.Z. Honey Producers' Association for the export of honey and the Government regulations dealing with the grading and packing of honey. Much interest was shown, and a hopeful future for the industry expressed.

Mr. A. Ireland gave a history of the action the Canterbury Beekeepers' Association had taken during the last three years in bringing about the present satisfactory state of things, and energetically urged those present to become shareholders in the Co-operative Association.

The afternoon was spent in social intercourse, and the discussion of some of the technicalities and experiences in bee-keeping. After tea hearty votes of thanks were passed to Dr. and Mrs. Pairman and the ladies for providing refreshments. The party left for town well satisfied with the field day of 1915.

E. G. WARD.

Did you ever stop to think what a beautiful word "honey" is, and how careful you had to be when you said it to the other fellow's girl?

POVERTY BAY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Poverty Bay Beekeepers' Association was held recently. The election of officers resulted in Mr. Geo. Stevenson being re-elected President; Mr. B. L. Scott was re-elected Vice-President, and Mr J. B. Adams re-elected Secretary. The President pointed out that on account of the recent dry weather the honey crop was almost a total failure in the East Coast District. Mr. Adams referred to what he considered an inaccuracy of the Government inspector's recent report, in which he stated that the honey crop in this district would be an average one. This could not possibly have applied to this portion of the inspector's district, as at the time the report was made there was no honey in view.

THE CONFERENCE OF 1915.

The annual Beekeepers' Conference will be held in Wellington early in June, probably about the date of the King's Birthday, so that those attending may take advantage of the cheap fares announced by the Railway Department.

The Conference will be the most important yet held. In spite of the fact that the season has been a comparatively poor one, a large attendance is expected, as beekeepers are a hopeful crowd, and place great confidence in a bountiful crop next season.

Foremost amongst the matters for discussion will be the new co-operative selling scheme, more effective organisation, how to obtain a better administration of the Apiaries Act. If there is any question affecting the general welfare which readers would like brought forward, they should communicate with the Secretaries of the Beekeepers' Associations in the various districts.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Californian Beekeepers' Association have announced an International Congress of Beekeepers in 1915, to be held in San Francisco in the currency of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, in September or early in October.

The Secretary, Mr. A. B. Shaffner, 4232 W. First Street, Los Angeles, will be glad of the name of any beekeeper who would be likely to attend the Exposition, and who would take part in a five-day programme.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received since last issue:—

E. D. Best, Bristol & Dominions Assn., John Ball, C. D. Chisnall, A. Cunningham, John Deegan, A. R. Dickie, Geo. Gilbert, G. Hamilton, D. F. Hughes, O. J. Herrick, W. J. Jordon, J. L. Lennie, G. L. Murray, Wm. McKnight, Dr. Pairman (1916), J. Pritchard, K. Paton, W. Robertson.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."

Beekeepers who are battling with disease, block up your honey house bee-escapes.

A woman writing from a mid-Canterbury district asks if she can get an extractor to extract comb from box hives. How many box hives?

Mice do a great deal of damage about the hives in the winter, but a little poisoned wheat put under the hives where it will keep dry will keep the place free of these vermin.

One of the things that makes honey especially desirable is its content of enzym, which seems to aid digestion by its mere presence. There is none in sugar.

As a result of representations made to him by the National Beekeepers' Association, Dr. Frengley (chief Health Officer) under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act has agreed to amend the regulations which allow the water content of honey the very high percentage of 26 and to substitute 20 per cent.

Mr. J. A. Moreland tells the story that a shipment of honey was sent from Blenheim some twenty-six years ago. The producer thought there was a fortune in shipping to England. His disgust and annoyance may be imagined when he found that the costs had eaten up all the returns, and he had to pay a further 2/- for the privilege of inaugurating exports from New Zealand to the Homeland.

The only bright spots in an exceedingly barren outlook in Marlborough recently were the patches of lucerne clover, and these gave the beekeepers of that district the only surplus they obtained. The honey is of almost white colour, with a smooth grain and a delightful flavour. Lucerne is rapidly coming into favour among dairymen as winter feed, and in those districts which are affected with drought it would pay the beekeepers to bring lucerne prominently before the notice of their neighbours, and, where possible, to sow a patch.

Now that the new season's honey is being placed upon the market, we draw the attention of the packers to the regulations under the sale of Foods and Drugs Act governing the labelling of honey. These regulations have been drafted, as far as we can gather, without any reference to the Beekeepers' Associations of the Dominion, and we shall be glad of an expression of opinion as to whether they are on right lines, and, if not, wherein they could be improved.

Reports from all over the country seem to indicate that the present system of apiary inspection is not giving quite the amount of satisfaction that is expected, and that the box hive nuisance has not yet been wiped out or anything like it. We are under the impression that not much further advance will be made until we have a change of system. It will be the duty of the next Conference to take the administration of the Apiaries Act into very careful consideration, and to suggest to the Department of Agriculture some method by which an improvement can be made.

Plum Trees for Shade, Profit, and Wind-breaks.—My apiary of 100 colonies is located on an area of 48 square rods of land. On this plot of ground I have fifty-five plum trees, four apple trees, and three pear trees. I find the plum trees extremely well adapted for shade, and each occupies only a small space. I find also that they are very profitable, as the net income from my plums last season was £16. The trees afford a much better wind-break than a fence. I have tried both.

This season I have had to kill several queens which would not start laying, though they were mated and developed as fully as heavy-laying queens. Late in the season I saw one which had not been mated very long, as the drone organs were still attached to her. Over a week afterwards she had not started laying. On examining her closely, I found a part of the drone organs still attached. It was dried hard and about twice the size of a pin's head. I removed it with a pin, and a few days after she was laying.—A. B.

NEW ZEALAND CO-OPERATIVE HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, LTD.

SHAREHOLDERS.

The Company is experiencing very considerable difficulty, owing to the few steamers sailing and the shortage of space, in obtaining space for the shipments of honey to Bristol, and in order that arrangements may be made as early as possible it is necessary that you advise me at once when your honey will be ready.

TIMARU SHAREHOLDERS' NOTICE.

The advice note for all honey consigned to the Government Grading Stores, Timaru, should be sent and addressed to the Timaru Cold Stores and Ice Co., and not to the New Zealand Express Co., as previously advised.

F. C. BAINES, Secretary.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—At last year's Conference I proposed that the Executive should collect samples of honey from all parts of the Dominion to form a permanent exhibit to be shown at the most prominent shows in both Islands. I don't know whether anything has been done in the matter, and even if something has been I think my suggestion will help.

If all the beekeepers attending Conference will bring a sample of their honey, put up in an exhibition jar, we should have at once a representative exhibit, and the whole could be set up in the room in exhibition form so that we could give an order to the factory to make the necessary stands, also the cases for holding them for transshipping. The clear white glass jars with fancy stoppers used by confectioners make an excellent jar for exhibiting honey, and can be bought off confectioners for 2/- or 3/-. I paid 2/6 for mine. Therefore, to set the ball rolling, Mr. Editor, I will bring one jar of the finest honey New Zealand produces (that'll fetch 'em!) for our exhibit; therefore, brother (and sister) beekeepers, if you think you can beat the cream of Taranaki, or if you don't, bring along, send along, but get it there—that sample put up in a nice jar, to form a good exhibit to boost the industry along. Further, if it is thought that some beeswax would be a help, I will bring a slab of the very best, one that has taken so many prizes that I'm afraid to say how many; you might not believe me. (Oh, yes!)

To avoid simply a few of us bringing down samples, only to find there wasn't enough to make an exhibit worthy of the cause, and consequently have to take them home again, I would suggest you insert a list in the Journal of all who will bring along samples, which you can start with my name for one jar of honey and one slab of beeswax.—I am, etc.,

FRED. C. BAINES.

Normanby, 14th March, 1915.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Would you be kind enough to answer through your Journal which is the most suitable hive to adopt, as I understand some beekeepers prefer a 10-frame hive and some 12-frame, and a very few 8-frame. I had three hives of bees this last spring, and caught four stray swarms; one hive I split up and made two colonies in spring, and from one of them I secured 114 fine finished sections; the other hives and swarms I caught, I increased up to 42 strong colonies. Is this considered a fair increase? Last season from my one hive I got over 200 lbs. of honey. I intend to go into the bee business when I gain a little more experience.—I am, etc.,

AT PRESENT A KEEPER OF BEES.

Whakatane, February 25th, 1915.

FOUL-BROOD.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—One who lives in a foul-brood-infected district can find a good deal of sympathy for R. J. Bibby's and W. B. Bray's protests. In what I am going to say I am not at all blaming the inspectors, but wish to point out that it is now time that a new method of dealing with beekeepers was adopted by the Department. When the Apiaries Act first came into force, it was necessary to educate many beekeepers up to it, and this appears to have been the policy of the Department, and the work still carried out by the inspectors is more that of instruction than inspection. Of course, the work of instruction could go on indefinitely, as there always will be beginners; but with the literature now in existence, a Department always ready to advise, and Associations in every district, the beginner who wishes to get advice can always do so, and the Department's officers could give more time to making the business worth while when they did learn. While inspection and instruction go together, the first becomes the last and the last first, and one man's instruction is probably his neighbour's destruction. Under the present system this sort of thing happens: a man has a few colonies of bees; he puts supers on and takes them off all in due season, and everything is lovely. How about the brood chambers? Oh, the inspector went through them two years ago, or three years ago, and said they were right. The inspector comes again in due course, and this time they are wrong, and he gets a notice to clean up by a certain date. The owner leaves it as long as he can, and then he gets a bustle on. There may be a honey flow and may be not, but he cleans up, and all his neighbours' bees help him; and things settle down again for another period. With this sort of thing going on, I see no hope of eliminating disease in the next fifty years. When the registration of beekeepers becomes an accomplished fact, and every beekeeper located, the Department then should put the responsibility of dealing with disease on the beekeeper. Instead of the inspector, after finding disease, having to give notice of treatment and shepherd his man until he did it, a beekeeper should be made liable who has disease in his apiary, and who has not taken reasonable steps to get rid of it. This may strike some as very severe, but I am satisfied it is only by stringent measures that the elimination of disease will be secured. The casual and careless beekeeper would soon learn that he must examine and treat his diseased colonies at the first honey flow in the spring. The industry is now, I think, on a large enough scale for the man right in to have first call, and the beginner and casual a standard to keep up to.—I am, etc.,

APIARIUS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—My apiary is run with a view to producing as much wax as possible, as honey here will not extract with a rotary extractor. In every Journal there are letters from wiseacres proclaiming the necessity of inspection by officials for the purpose of stamping foul-brood out of the colony. I believe in inspection as much as anyone, but it is nonsense to talk about

stamping the disease out. The colony contains immense areas of impenetrable bush, containing thousands of hives of bees, among which disease is rampant. Until we can serve the same notice on the Lord Almighty as is served on the human beekeeper a large part of the colony can never be kept permanently free from disease. Foul-brood is a disease easily controlled by careful attention to the brood chamber in spring. My advice to any beekeeper in an infected district is—give the bees entire new combs every spring, and boil the old ones down for wax after hatching out the brood.—I am, etc.,

H. N. DRAPER.

Te Kauwhata, March 7.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir.—At the risk of showing my ignorance, may I ask you where Mr. Jacobsen's district lies. I notice in his official report he says "he anticipates an average crop in his district." Most certainly the whole of the East Coast cannot be in his district, as it is impossible to get an average crop in a desert. Incidentally this is the worst season since 1882 to my knowledge. Hawke's Bay is in a similar condition. I would be pleased if you will publish the enclosed news clipping:—

"Drought Effects—Position in Hawke's Bay—Bad Prospects. In parts of Hawke's Bay, owing to continued drought, the position is desperate. . . . There has never been anything like it since 1879. . . . In many places stock are dying of starvation. Large numbers have been sent over to the West Coast, and are being grazed there. . . . Unless we get rain within the next six weeks the prospects of winter growth will be very remote, and a heavy loss of stock may be anticipated right away from Kidnappers to the Wairarapa Lake."

—I am, etc.,

JAS. B. ADAMS.

Gisborne, March 9th, 1915.

[The Wellington District includes Wellington, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Manawatu, Hawke's Bay, and Poverty Bay.—Ed.]

INSPECTION OF APIARIES.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Beekeepers could to some extent help the inspectors to keep track of the area affected by foul-brood if, after overhauling the bees in the spring, they were to make a report to the district inspector showing the number of colonies (if any) affected with disease. I think that most of the readers of the Journal would willingly supply a report. As a matter of fact, it is compulsory to notify the presence of disease within seven days. I make the suggestion to the Department that they send out forms to all subscribers of the Journal to make a trial of the idea. I would suppose that they at least would be wide awake enough to know disease and the advantage of detecting it; but nevertheless the question could be asked, "Are you acquainted with the symptoms of foul-brood?" and "Do you know of any diseased bees in your district?"—I am, etc.

W. B. BRAY.

HONEY COMPETITIONS AT SHOWS.

DUNEDIN WINTER SHOW, JUNE 1st to 4th, 1915.

Class No. 42—Honey, in two glass bottles, total not exceeding 5 lbs.—First prize, £1; second prize, 10/-.

Class No. 43—Honey, in comb, not exceeding 4 lbs.—First prize, £1; second prize, 10/-.

Special Prizes given by Alliance Box Co., Ltd.—For the Best Case of Honey ready for Export; to be judged on Points by the Government Grader:—First prize, £1 10/-; second prize, 10/-.

Entries to be sent to H. V. FULTON, Secretary, Dunedin.

MANAWATU WINTER SHOW, JUNE 22nd to 25th, 1915.

Table Honey in clear glass jars, 3 jars, 2 lbs. each. (May be assorted colours.)

Honey in Comb. 10 Sections.

Best Exhibit Granulated Honey, in clear glass jars. No limitation.

1 Export Case Granulated Honey (dark).

1 Export Case Granulated Honey (medium amber).

1 Export Case Granulated Honey (light amber).

The Honey will be judged by Government Graders.

Entries to be sent to W. T. PENNY, Secretary, Palmerston North.

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.

FOR SALE, a Small APIARY, consisting of eight Colonies of Bees, extractor, and sundries; good condition; plenty of stores.—Particulars from "WAIHOLA," P.O. Box 86, Dunedin.

BEESWAX WANTED.

RAW MATERIAL FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY.

Having large orders for Foundation to fill, we are buying BEESWAX on a cash basis. Keep the money in the country, and prevent the price of Wax from slumping by selling direct to us. Get a hot-water press. The extra Wax you get pays for it. We offer 1/3 per lb. for Clean Wax delivered at Lyttelton. Write for instructions.

BARRETT & BRAY,
Wainui.

PATRIOTIC BEEKEEPERS.—Support your country by using Local-made Goods. Use "ACORN" COMB FOUNDATION, and save 20 per cent. on your Comb Foundation bill. Beekeepers' own Wax made up.—Particulars from

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 Tin 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, Grockery and Hardware.

THE WAIRARAPA FARMERS' ASSOCIATION, LTD.,
Lambton Quay, Wellington.

PAPER HONEY POTS.

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

Honey packed in 1911 in these Pots is still in good condition.

The 'DANDY' HONEY SPOON

PRICE—

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

DISTRIBUTING AGENTS:

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD., DUNEDIN.



ITALIAN QUEENS

From Root's Famous Long Tongued
Red Cluster Strain.

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

SAFE ARRIVAL GUARANTEED.



PRICES
Cash
with order.

Untested	-	10/-	1 1/2/-
Tested	-	20/-	3 1/2/-

M. SHEPHERD,

10 WILMER STREET

CHRISTCHURCH.

W. A. DAWSON, FORTROSE.

PRICE LIST OF QUEENS.

Untested	3s.	5s.	7s.	10s.
Tested	10s.	15s.	20s.	25s.
Select Tested	12s.	20s.		

COLONIES OF BEES (without Queens)

1/2 Frame (Nucleus Colony)	Each—10s.
1 " " " "	15s.
1 " " " "	20s.
1 Full Colony on 10 Frames	42 1/2s.

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 mark, if the box is returned intact.

FRAMES—CASH WITH ORDER. W. A. DAWSON, FORTROSE, Otago.

THE "DAWSON ENTRANCE FEEDER."

The most Economical Feeder in 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 any climate, in perfect working order, and is simple to use. It can be used without any special treatment, and is not a hindrance to the honey gathering, and makes a little sugar solution. One hundred colonies can be fed in an entire season.

Try one on each hive. Feed a HIVE each morning early with a cupful of "tea of water to one of sugar," and you have the bees well fed, should be the point of feeding a creature to drink water.

PRICE - 1/6 Each. Per Doz. - 18/-.

Made by Wm. A. Dawson, Fortrose. Being Agents, Alliance Bee Co., Ltd., Dunedin. N.B.—Fill every a week and keep your Colonies in good order. The Feeder can be obtained in any hive.

ROBERT STEWART'S PRICE LIST.

PURE ITALIAN QUEENS, GOLDEN & VIGOR-BANDED.

Untested	5/-	8/6	14/-	18/-	22/-
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
Tested	10/-	18/-	22/-	32/-	40/-
Select Tested	12/6	22/6			
Standard	20/-				

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

REMARK: Full cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

All Queens guaranteed from from Foul brood, Bee Paralysis, and all other diseases. Bred from pure stock, which have been selected for hardiness, honest working, good working, and non-swarming qualities.

E.G. Grier Giller, Exporter. Address: R. STEWART, Cookston, 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.