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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

MAY 22nd, 1915.

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

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

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

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.

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 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. Earp

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 11 DUNEDIN. 3/6 Per Annum.

"A Keeper of Bees" in our March issue asks what appears on the surface to be a very simple little question—namely, "What is the best size hive to use?"

In order to try and find an answer to this question, there has been an immense amount of controversy and a large number of experiments conducted. The first experiments were conducted by Langstroth about 1851, followed by Gallup, Adair, Quinby, Heddon, Danzenbaker, and others. In recent years we have had the Jumbo, with ten frames, 11¼ inches deep; the Danzenbaker, with small storeys, tiered up, reversible and interchangeable; the Bolton, on somewhat similar lines; the Hand, the Heddon, and others too numerous to mention. All of the inventors claim that theirs is the hive to use, and that its adoption will increase the honey crops. It would appear that these special hives do possess certain advantages, the advantages disappearing under different climatic conditions and different manipulation.

In New Zealand and in most parts of America the ten-frame Langstroth has been adopted almost universally. The only question, therefore, which is exercising the minds of the beekeepers of New Zealand is whether 10-frame hives will provide sufficient comb space for the queen to lay in just when an abundance of room is necessary, and yet not of such a large size that in the off season the bees cannot keep the hive warm. Amongst our leading and thoughtful apiarists opinions are sharply divided. As an answer to the question, they say: "The best information I can give you is from such authorities as Doolittle and Hand. (See next article.) Speaking generally, a ten-frame Langstroth hive with ample supering will meet all the climatic requirements of the Bay of Plenty, provided they are presided over by a young queen, preferably of good Italian strain, well managed, and the apiary kept free from disease." Another correspondent says:—"All the commercial beekeepers in Taranaki originally used 10-frame hives, but have now without exception adopted the 12-frame. Personally I was loth to adopt the 12-frame hive, but have now come to the conclusion that on the whole it is the best size. In very cold districts I think the 10-frame hive would give the best results, but for any part of the North Island I would unhesitatingly recommend the 12-frame."

The question is coming up for discussion at the Conference in Wellington, and what we should like to hear from speakers is, "Why do you use a ten or a twelve-frame hive, and what advantages does it possess over any other size?"

THE BROOD-SURFACE IN DIFFERENT-SIZED HIVES.

(By ARTHUR C. MILLER, in "Gleanings in Bee Culture.")

Brock uses ten-frame hives. Oppenheimer uses twelves, and Old Man Philetus uses eights; and each one is cocksure that he has the right size, and that the other two are wrong. Perhaps each is right. What do you think?

"Location," did you say? "Location" be hanged! No, you needn't get huffy, but just listen and cool off.

Brock uses a standard ten-frame body in which the frames, after a little swelling and propolizing, fit so snugly that the outer surfaces of the outer combs are so close to the hive sides that they rarely have any brood put in them, and hence not much on the other surface. So he really has but little more than eight combs available for brood.

Oppenheimer's twelve combs fit about as do Brock's ten, so he loses nearly two, leaving him with but about ten for brood.

Old Man Philetus' hives are standard eights, with ample room for the frames, which are kept away from the hive sides, so that the outer surfaces of the outer combs are occupied with brood.

Didn't realise how nearly alike the different brood-nests were, eh? Well, they are nearer than that; and, what is more, Old Man Philetus actually has more brood in his hives than either of the others.

We will do some measuring and counting, not because you like to fiddle with figures, but because they are good for your mental digestion.

A standard L. frame with inch-thick top-bar has an internal area of 134 square inches. Figuring 25 cells to the square inch, and doubling it for the two surfaces, such an area would have 6,700 worker-cells; by count it is 6,800. Those are the figures, provided the combs are built on foundation, and fill the frames. But how many combs approach that condition? Let us go to the different yards and see.

O. M. P.'s combs fill the frames solid from top-bar to bottom-bar, and from end to end, and all worker comb—that is, all but the lower half of one comb in each hive, and that is drone comb, and all the drone brood is there. Wise Old Man Philetus! His combs are beautifully filled with brood, even regular sheets of it, and only a narrow line of honey and pollen next the top-bar.

Deducting the half-comb of drone and the total area used for pollen and honey in the eight combs, we find that there are about 45,000 cells of worker brood. (Not nearly enough for a good queen and best results, as O. M. P. has learned, and he is changing to larger hives.)

Brock has good combs built on foundation in wired frames, but the combs do not touch the bottom-bar, and are rounded off on the lower edges or have a fringe of drone-cells and more of the same in the lower corners. By measure we find that an area equal to a frame and a half is thus wasted. In other words, he gives to drone comb about double the surface given by O. M. P., and loses the area of half a comb by unoccupied space. The amount of honey and pollen is much the same as in O. M. P.'s, except that the two outer combs are all or nearly all honey and pollen.

By measure and estimate we find Brock's ten combs when in use have available for worker brood the equivalent of but seven perfect combs of the O. M. P. capacity, or 47,600 cells.

Brock doesn't like the showing, but has to admit its truth. To make him feel better we will take him with us to Oppenheimer's.

O.'s "twelve-frames" look immense beside O. M. P.'s "eights," yet there does not seem to be much more hustle, except of drones. We open up some hives, and here is what we find. (Really, it is a shame to expose O., but after all it is best for everybody concerned.) Some of O.'s combs are built from starters, some from full sheets, some wired, and some not. The two outer combs contain only honey and pollen. The other combs contain many drone-cells, sometimes a strip along the lower edge two to three inches wide; also spots of them here and there over the surfaces. The brood in these combs is not in solid sheets, as in Brock's or O. M. P.'s, except in the combs where wired frames of foundation chanced to have been used. Pollen and honey are found in patches here and there among the brood; and where the foundation has stretched, wide strips along the top-bars are filled with honey. By measure and estimate we find that O. has the equivalent of but seven combs of the O. M. P. type.

To be sure, his queens have more room to lay; but it is in drone-cells, and hence a loss to him. And Oppenheimer is mad, and insists that his combs are as good as the average run of combs. He is right there, but the "average" is lower than what a hen lays an egg on daily.

By a little figuring we shall find the available worker-cells in the three typical classes of combs, to be as follows:—

O. M. P.'s "Best," 6,460.
Brock's "Good," 5,950.
Oppenheimer's "Average," 4,760.

But more brood is produced in the same worker-cell area of "Best" and "Good" combs than "Average," so the latter are even poorer than the figures indicate.

That is a long way around to reach the point; but the longest way around is the nearest way home, or is so reported by persons not really strictly sober.

One of the boys will say that his queens keep only an eight-frame hive properly full of brood, while his neighbour says it takes twelve combs to accommodate his queens. Possibly it is the queens; but it may be the combs.

Lest you should run out of food for thought, consider the following: It costs less to get "Best" combs than it does those of the "Good" grade; and when you take into account trouble and labour, combs which have to be cut out and replaced, excess of drone combs, uneven comb, etc., you will find that the "Average" grade is the most costly of the three.

These are cold, hard facts. Use the cold part to relieve your aching head.

Providence, R.I.

THE ECONOMICS OF HONEY PRODUCTION.

(By J. E. HAND, in "Gleanings in Bee Culture.")

While beehives do not gather honey, the fact remains that economical methods of honey production must result from economical principles of beehive architecture. The acme of hive perfection is not merely to furnish sufficient room for breeding and the storage of surplus honey, for, aside from these, there are problems to solve that bear directly upon the economics of honey production, and the hive and system that affords the most economical solution of these problems will yield the greater profits. This refers to the increase problem, the swarming problem, and the wintering problem. It is a deplorable fact that the hives of to-day are powerless to solve these important problems without resorting to expensive equipment and excessive labour without due compensation, for reasons that will be apparent to those who follow the trend of this discussion.

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF BEEHIVE ARCHITECTURE.

The habit of expansion and contraction of the brood-nest is so highly developed in bees that due allowance must be made for this principle in beehive architecture; hence expansion and contraction are the fundamental principles of economical beehive architecture. There are two distinct principles involved, known as "horizontal expansion" and "vertical expansion," and there is a wide difference in the scope of their efficiency. Vertical expansion is chiefly employed to increase the capacity of small hives by tiering up with another hive-body—a relic of defunct sectional hivism that necessitates extra equipment and excessive hive-handling without offering an economical solution of any of the problems mentioned; hence a flat failure from an economical point of view. On the contrary, "horizontal expansion" is the embodiment of principles in beehive architecture that solves every important problem with the utmost economy.

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

A Special General Meeting of the shareholders of the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association will be held in Wellington on THURSDAY, June 3rd, at 10 a.m. Special business to be brought before the meeting will be announced by circular. It is important that all shareholders make an effort to be present, as the directors propose to place before the meeting a report showing what has been accomplished by the Company in the short period of its operations, and the very substantial advantages which will accrue from co-operation in the future. Opportunity will be given for a general discussion on the principle of co-operation and the policy of the Company.

Owing to the disorganised state of the shipping this year, suppliers are requested to forward their honey to the grading depot immediately it is ready.

Hawera, 13th April, 1915.

FRED. C. BAINES,
Secretary.

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

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

Auckland.—Local merchants report good honey very scarce and prices steadily advancing. Beeswax is bringing from 1/4 to 1/5 per lb. wholesale. I have graded 268 cases of honey for export, the bulk of it being "Prime Grade." It is now in store awaiting shipment. There seems to be considerable difficulty in securing space for it on the Home boats.—G. V. Westbrooke. May 5th, 1915.

Wellington.—The season now being closed enables one to report accurately on the harvest gathered. Unfortunately, and wholly due to climatic conditions, very small returns have been reported from all districts. Up to date some forty odd tons have been exported from Wellington and Taranaki, and enough has been retained to supply local demands. The quality in the northern district has been up to the usual high standard. It is disappointing that a young industry, practically only now feeling solid ground, should receive a check from a quarter with which it is unable to cope.—F. A. Jacobsen. May 6th, 1915.

Christchurch.—The local trade in both extracted and section honey is steady. Sections appear to be in demand, and are advanced slightly in retail price. Reports from South Canterbury state better prices are being obtained this season. The export season commenced at Lyttelton grading stores last month, 93 cases being graded and exported. A few lines are forward for this month to grade, and will be forwarded to the oversea markets as soon as possible.—L. Bowman. May 6th, 1915.

Dunedin.—Reports received to date are no brighter. There is no available honey for export, and beekeepers are unable to supply local demands. Bulk honey held over from last season is being liquified, and is commanding ready sale. There is very little pat honey offering. Section honey is scarce. Beeswax is in strong demand.—E. A. Earp. May 3rd, 1915.

THE ORIGINAL NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

While thanking you for your kindly remarks in last issue concerning my work in the past connected with our industry, a few notes on the initiation of the first National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z. will doubtless prove interesting to your readers. At a meeting held in 1884, the late Mr. T. J. Mulvany said:—"**I hope an Association will be formed embracing the whole of New Zealand, and that provision will be made for forming Branch Associations in any locality where there are sufficient beekeepers to do so.**" On August 7th, 1884, the first general meeting was held in Auckland, at which the rules were adopted, and the officers and Executive Committee for the ensuing twelve months were elected. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Vice-Presidents, His Worship the Mayor of Auckland and His Honor Judge Smith; Executive Committee—Colonel Bailey (Timaru), Major Noake (Wanganui), Captain Daly (Hautapu), Dr. Dalziel (Pukekohe), and Messrs.

Bagnall (Thames), Hopkins (Matamata), Mulvany (Katikati), Newland (Waikato), Robinson and Shadwell (Northcote), and Stevenson (Gisborne); Secretary and Treasurer, H. H. Hayr. The above Association did a great deal of good pioneer work. It would occupy too much space to enumerate the particulars, but among its chief accomplishments was the establishment of a reference library; the largest and finest exhibition of honey, beeswax, apiarian appliances, and bees that has ever yet been shown in New Zealand; and the starting of a honey depot. It was owing to the failure of this latter scheme that the Association temporarily came to a standstill for a couple of years, to be revived again, as the Editor points out, by my calling a meeting in 1888. The revived Association did even more good; but that is another story.

Auckland. I. HOPKINS.

INJURY TO HANDS AND FINGERS.

At the Edinburgh Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, an interesting paper on "Injuries to the Upper Extremities" was read by Sir John Collie, Chief Medical Officer of the Metropolitan Water Board.

The doctor said that, judging from the very large number of poisoned wounds which he sees in the course of a year, he is confident that some modification of the present methods of rendering first aid is imperative. He believes that if all wounds were freely treated at the time of their occurrence with a 2 per cent. solution of iodine and rectified spirits, and then covered with a dry dressing and not interfered with except by a surgeon, there would be fewer cases of blood-poisoning.

The doctor gives the following as a dressing for small wounds, cuts, &c. The following materials should be kept in stock in a large wide-mouthed glass bottle, and labelled "For Wounds and Cuts":—

1. A 2 per cent. solution of iodine in rectified spirit.
2. Ounce packets of sealed aseptic boric lint.
3. Bandages.

When an injury of any sort takes place, whether it be a tear or even a prick, a little of the iodine solution should be at once poured directly on to the wound and surrounding skin from the bottle. The skin around the wound or prick opening should be stretched a little to allow the iodine solution to sink in. The place should then be covered over with a dry pad of boric lint and then bandaged. Washing and scrubbing a wound, or even the skin in the neighbourhood, often leads to blood-poisoning later. Therefore, the less the wound is interfered with the better; neither wash nor cleanse the wound nor the surrounding skin. The iodine solution should not be applied to wounds of the eye. When a packet of boric lint has been broken into, the unused portion is not to be kept for future use.

The Apiary Instructor for Otago and Southland, Mr. E. A. Earp, reports that during one of his visits to the Pembroke District he saw 4,000 acres of beautiful white clover, but there were no beekeepers within miles. What an opportunity for out-yards on the Alexander or the Wilder Plain!

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 **5d. 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 4 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 qunatity 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

SOME INCIDENTS IN A BEEKEEPER'S CAREER.

By J. ALLAN.

I have been long enough a bee-writer to know that what is personal and pertains to personal experience is more appreciated than what is merely theoretical; hence, at the suggestion of another, I write this little bit of my own experiences.

It was in the year 1884 I bought a 600-acre farm near Wyndham, in Southland, and received along with it my first colony of bees. The former owner (peace to his ashes!) was a Scot from the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and possessed the characteristics of his race. The colony was evidently a very late cast, and as it was a wet, cold season, had gathered very little stores. Some time later I examined it, and found only its ashes remaining. The donor kindly informed me afterwards that he never intended it should die. That was my first experience as an apiarist.

A few months later I received from a neighbour a hive in what was known as a gin case. It was a fine, strong colony, though, unfortunately for me, more particularly as I did not know anything about it, it contained foul-brood. At that time I knew nothing about frame hives. I am not aware that I had ever seen one. I became, however, impressed with the idea that I should like one, and having received the catalogue of Mr. T. G. Brickell, and noting that the price, taking three hives, was relatively cheaper than taking one only, I sent an order for three. Unfortunately for me, my knowledge of the whole business was so slight that I did not send for the frame hives until my one colony had swarmed, and did not get a transfer made into the new hives until the swarms were just reaping the advantage of brood beginning to hatch. That advantage they lost through the transfer, and the colonies consequently were much reduced before brood was again hatching. What a Chinese puzzle those first hives presented to me. They were purchased in the flat, and I had never seen a sample. Mr. Brickell, however, was very patient with me. As my thirst for knowledge increased, I found in him practically the only source from which I could draw. I knew nothing of bee literature in those days, though I soon got on to the track of it. I became a subscriber to the British Bee Journal, Gleanings in Bee Culture, and, later, to the Beekeepers' Review. I have also had a great many books on the subject, but I have not been able to keep them. Others were in need, and they were passed on and no track kept. As I have said, Mr. Brickell was very patient with me: he wrote page after page in answer to my letters, also inviting me to his apiary, where half an hour spent in his company was of infinite value to me. The last time I saw Mr. Brickell left a deep impression on my memory. He was suffering from an internal complaint, and was looking forward to the near approach of the coma stage, knowing that it was not far away, and yet going about his business in the same way as usual, and ready to talk of it all in a way that drew my admiration. He never made his fortune, but to him more than to any other man the South Island is indebted for help in its beginnings in bee culture.

My early years in bee-keeping were much hampered by foul-brood. I did not know the enemy at first, and when later I did get to know him—well, his octopus clutch had got firm hold. Taking my cue from Cheshire and the British Bee Journal, I fought the enemy at first with carbolic and other disinfectants, but all to no use. Then later I adopted first the Jones and then the McEvoy method of treatment, repeating the latter on several occasions. On one occasion I McEvoyed my whole apiary (then one hundred colonies) in the autumn, but in the late spring traces of the disease began to reappear. I asked the inspector to look up the neighbourhood, and as a result of his inspection an apiary was found just two miles away rotten, and with the combs thrown about for the bees from far and near to lick up. Under those conditions no treatment could possibly be of much use. In spite, however, of foul brood I had very satisfactory returns. An average of about 100 sections per colony for those producing comb honey was not infrequent; consequently, what was begun purely as a relaxation, and because I had fallen in love with the bees, became a means of supplementing the farm returns for the year, and as a result came to be regarded from a business point of view. I may say here, however, that though the bees are responsible for at least half of my annual income, I have never lost my first love, and I go to my apiary to work with the same old interest that I always had.

One Saturday afternoon I was busy in the apiary when a young man, fishing-rod in hand, on his way to a near-by stream, called in. His interest in my work spoilt his catch for that day. He asked if he might come back, and was made welcome. Soon he wanted to purchase a colony for himself, and soon he was as fast in the toils of bee-keeping as any trout that ever rose to his minnow was to its barbed appendages. That young man was Robert Gibb, well known both north and south, and now the worthy President of the Southland Beekeepers' Association. He is a keen naturalist, fond not only of spiders and all other creeping things, but also of all plant life. Last time I saw him he was busy putting together a collection of weeds for the Invercargill Museum. Since giving up his connection with the apiary department, he has struck quite a run of very indifferent seasons, but our sunny south has got something in store for him yet if he will only keep up his heart.

Now, Mr. Editor, I must not overtask your space and patience, but if you want a continuation, it will be quite a pleasure to give it.

CONFERENCE NOTICES.

The annual general meeting of the members of the National Beekeepers' Association will be held in Wellington on June 2nd, commencing at 10 a.m., for the purpose of receiving the report and balance sheet for the year ending May, 1915; receiving the report and balance sheet of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal; the election of office-bearers; the appointment of auditors for the ensuing year, and general.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I think Mr. F. C. Baines has hit the right chord in regard to a collection of samples of honey from all New Zealand to be exhibited at the most prominent shows. I take it he means every year. I will bring or send along one jar of honey and a sample of wax.—I am, etc.,

N. SMEDLEY.

Te Awamutu, April 12th, 1915.

[Bring the honey and wax with you when you come down; you will enjoy the Conference.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—For Mr. Bray's information I may state the prices of beeswax referred to were obtained for my own beeswax through an agent. I am, therefore, unable to say who the firm was who paid these prices.

I have been told by other beekeepers in the Auckland District that they have obtained similar prices, so that I presume mine is not an isolated case. It is not for me, however, to divulge other people's private business, even had I the information.—I am, etc.,

W. H. TEED.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re basswood planting, if the beekeeper has the courage to plant trees for the next generation, all well and good; I can assure them they will see no bloom for twenty-five years. I have them growing here, and my experience is just opposite to Prof. Macdonald. He says it grows best in deep river bottom soils; mine do best on a high dry bank—grow just twice as fast as some planted by the creek-side. I have never seen but one flower in New Zealand—that was from a tree that had been planted twenty-five years.—I am, etc.,

Ohaiawa. H. B.

NEW ZEALAND HONEY AND THE "BRITISH BEE JOURNAL."

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Referring to your footnote (p. 173) last issue under the heading "Imports into the United Kingdom," I have long been aware of the inordinate conservative policy of the "British Bee Journal" in dubbing produce raised in the British Empire outside of Great Britain as "foreign." It is many years since I first called attention to this through the "N.Z. Farmer." The "British Bee Journal" went so far as to refuse an advertisement from the representative of a New Zealand beekeeper offering the latter's honey for sale. Could conservatism go further? It is such conservatism that has kept British beekeeping so far behind that in other countries.—I am, etc.,

I. HOPKINS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In some issues of the Journal I notice Mr. Bray airing his views on "Foul-brood" in his district, and does it as if all the trouble emanated from the wee apiaries of his neighbours. Being an experienced man, you would think he would look for the seat of trouble, which, in my opinion, is with the escaped swarms that have established themselves in old stumps and valuable trees, which are fairly numerous about the Peninsula. When splitting posts last week, I came across a wild hive that was fairly rotten. You may guess I soon had a good fire going. Now while such a state of things exist, I think we may check but never eradicate the disease here.

Mr. Bray says there is plenty of room in this district for another up-to-date beekeeper, and I quite believe there is.—I am, etc.,

SMALL BEEKEEPER.

[We have excised portions of our correspondent's letter, which were personal.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re excluders, I am using zinc excluders. I considered that the honey carriers must have a good deal of trouble in continually climbing through the small openings, so this spring I bored two 1-inch holes in all the supers of one colony, and, of course, the workers streamed through the holes all the season, and one day after I had put on a super without boring, the bees hung and crawled over the front of it all day until I bored it. That colony gave me a deal more honey than any other, and next season I intend to have all my supers bored. The idea is not altogether new, but it may act as a reminder.—I am, etc.,

P. M. McKAY.

Rockville.

[We understand that Mr. C. J. Clayton, who is a strong believer in excluders, doubles the zinc back for about an inch at the front. Is this so, Mr. Clayton, and what is the advantage of the space left at the front?—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I write this believing it will be a benefit to other beekeepers, as I have found what I am about to tell you of was a benefit to me. I take two Bee Journals—one from America and this (our own). I have often read arguments in "Gleanings" on capping melters. Now, capping melters are all right in many districts, and all wrong in districts where there is a dark honey. Some claim they do not darken the honey, but no one can say they lighten the honey, and this is what we want in districts where our honey is on the dark side. This season I uncapped into a press, and the honey from the press is much lighter and finer in grain than the honey from the extractor, and it will start to granulate in twelve hours. Now, for such districts where the honey is dark we want a suitable press. The one I have is too slow. If any reader has had

experience with a satisfactory press, whether home-made or factory-made, will he voluntarily come forward and give us his experience. I am thinking of making a water-press large enough to hold the day's cappings, then by means of an endless chain lower the tank, which will fit into the other part, and leave it to press the honey out all night. The tank will be about half a ton.—I am, &c.,

ADVANCE.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Here are two small hints that might be useful. I was working under a very hot sun one day. Thirst came on to torment me, and I then thought of an article I had read some years ago in a French journal. Thirst cannot be quenched by beer, of course, nor by lemonade, nor any soft drink, because all the sugars and all acids cause the water from the blood to be used for the purpose of diluting these which Nature rightly considers poisons. Then we drink more and yet more to replace the moisture thus used, and in a short time are reduced to the consistency of a limp rag. The French in Africa use orange skins—the white part and all, but not the orange itself—macerated in water, but boiled and strained will do just as well or even better. I use any very bitter principle in a couple of ounces of water occasionally till nearly leaving-off time, when I just make up for the lost time, as the body must have moisture; then a warm bath, and a meal, say an hour later. Quassia (chips boiled) is good, clean, handy, cheap, and intensely bitter.

My second small hint is as to cutting queens' wings. I have read in "Gleanings" where a beginner, in describing his experience on that matter, said that he would rather rope a bull than cut a queen's wing. There are, of course, many best ways of doing this, but when her majesty is young and very lively it is troublesome; and to cut off only one of her wings or to clip off some of her legs is perfectly easy. Throw her into a basin of water and duck her under once, and she becomes perfectly tame, and her two wings stick together, so you are sure to cut them both; and last, but not least, when you take her back to the hive, the bees receive her more readily. When taking a queen back to put her into her own hive, I always place her on the combs, because that is where the bees would naturally expect her to be, whereas, coming in at the entrance, she would at once be suspected of being a stranger, and she might meet bees there to whom she practically is a stranger—i.e., the old stagers who live on the outside combs and smother up everything with propolis.—I am, etc.,

STEPHEN ANTHONY.

The Editor will be pleased to receive contributions and articles from beekeepers and others on any matters of general interest to the honey industry—articles on technical questions, suggestions for improving the flora of districts to fill the gap between early spring and the clover flow, the advantages of a 12-frame over the 8 and 10-frame hive, the uses of excluders, &c.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."

"P. S.," Temuka, writes:—"I would like to know the easiest way to feed bees."

If I had to feed up my bees for the winter, I would use equal parts of sugar and water and a Miller feeder. In the absence of a Miller feeder, trays about 2½ inches deep, made by cutting benzine tins lengthwise, using end-bars or similar pieces of wood for floats and a piece of sugar-bag bent over the edge for the bees to crawl up. We have frames the same length and breadth as the hives and 3 inches deep to put under or on top of the hive to accommodate the feeder. In the absence of even this simple feeder, I would feed in empty combs. A 2-lb. honey tin perforated on the bottom like the rose of a watering-can will answer very well to fill the combs. Fill both sides.—H. W. Gilling.

In reply re feeding, I would say almost any method can be used, the weather still being fine; but for winter feeding a syrup of two to one should be used, and should be fed warm in the Alexander feeder, two or more being used as required by placing them under the hive. It is desirable that the feeding be done in the evening, and that the amount required be fed in two or three lots to prevent undue excitement amongst the bees. Later on, in very cold weather, it will be necessary to use candy.—C. A. Jacobsen.

Answering your correspondent's request for a good method of feeding colonies during May, first of all sugar and water alone must be used. For a small number of hives needing from 5-lbs. to 20-lbs. of stores, feeding out in the open is a method not to be despised, provided neighbour bees are not close enough to join in. I had no robbing that I could perceive from neighbour bees when using this method. For inside feeding, I would use one part water and two parts sugar by measure, and had I to buy feeders would use Alexander feeders, and quite hot syrup, and place enough feeders beneath the hive to completely cover the bottom of the hive except an entrance. Thus, each colony could be fed sufficient for its needs (provided it is strong enough to survive the winter) each night. Then the whole battery of feeders could be moved during the day to another hive, and the feeding of that one done in one act. By this method the feeders lie on top of the bottom board, leaving an entrance in front for ventilation, and there is no awkward suspending of the feeder—the one bugbear of the Alexander feeder. At time of writing (May 12th) Waikato has not had its first autumn frost, and it is for that reason I recommend feeding the syrup quite hot. It will rouse up the dormant bees, and they will take it all up before cooling, and not touch it until cool enough. Estimate honey in hive, and feed till you have added enough sugar (weighed as dry sugar) to make up to thirty pounds. Then watch them shell out the brood in spring.—H. Hartlett-Miller.

HONEY COMPETITIONS AT SHOWS.

The Honey Competitions promoted by the various Agricultural Societies deserve the very hearty support of the beekeepers. Exhibits such as these are seen by thousands of people, and are one of the best advertising mediums we have. If honey is worth producing and selling, it is certainly worth while making some effort to help the distributor sell what he buys from us.

NEW PLYMOUTH WINTER SHOW.

June 9th to 12th, 1915.

ENTRY, 1/-.

Mr. R. J. DEARE offers a Points Prize, value £1 1s. for the highest aggregate number of points in Honey Classes.

Class 226—1 Frame containing 4 Sections Comb Honey.—First prize, 10/6; second, 5/-

Class 227—1 Hoffman Frame Comb Honey.—First prize, 10/6; second, 5/-

Class 228—1 Hoffman Half-frame Comb Honey.—First prize, 7/6; second, 3/6

Class 229—Best Collection Honey in clear glass bottles, to contain 1 and 2-lbs. Honey (commercial bottles); not less than 15 lbs. (labels allowed).—First prize, £1; second, 12/6

Class 230—Best Sample Granulated Honey, in large clear glass confectionery jar.—First prize, 10/6; second, 5/-

Class 231—Best Sample Beeswax, not less than 3 lbs.—First prize, 7/6; second, 5/-

Class 232—Best Sample Liquid Honey, in large clear glass confectionery jar.—First prize, 10/6; second, 5/-

Entries close MAY 29th at 9 p.m.

A. L. HUMPHRIES,
P.O. Box 19, New Plymouth. Secretary.

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

Best Exhibit Table Honey (Liquid), 3 jars of 2 lbs., clear glass.
Best Exhibit Table Honey (Granulated), 3 jars of 2 lbs., clear glass.
Best Exhibit Comb Honey, 6 sections.
Best Export Case Granulated Honey (Dark).
Best Export Case Granulated Honey (Medium Amber).
Best Export Case Granulated Honey (Light Amber).
Best Exhibit Bleached Wax, 3 lbs.
Best Exhibit Unbleached Wax, 3 lbs.
Best Exhibit 2 "Hoffman" Frames Comb Honey.
Best Exhibit 2 "Broad" Frames Comb Honey.

Prize money is £2 and £1 for Case Honey, and £1 and 10/- for Jar and Comb Honey and Wax. The Association's Medal will be awarded for Champion Export Case, and the judging will be done by the Staff of the Department of Agriculture. Certificates also will be given.

Entries to be sent to W. T. PENNY, Secretary, Palmerston North, on or before May 31st.

The Grocery, Provision, Oil & Italian Warehouse Trades'

TWENTY-SECOND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AND MARKET,

Royal Agricultural Hall, London, N., Sept. 18th to 24th, 1915.

COLONIAL HONEY COMPETITION. (Entrance Fee, 2/6.)

At the request of several colonial friends, it has been decided to include the following Classes for Honey and Wax amongst the competitions at this Exhibition. The objects are to introduce Colonial Honey to the British Isles, and the winning of a prize in either of these Classes by any competitor should enable him to sell the whole of his stock. The demand for Colonial Honey is annually increasing, and it is hoped that these competitions will give the industry considerable help.

Class 83—Twelve 1-lb. Jars of Extracted Granulated Honey.
1st Prize—Gold Medal and Diploma.
2nd Prize—Silver Medal and Diploma.
Third Prize—Bronze Medal and Diploma.

Class 84—Beeswax (in three 1-lb. cakes). Judged for quality of Wax only.
1st Prize—Silver Medal and Diploma.
2nd Prize—Bronze Medal and Diploma.
3rd Prize—Diploma.

Honey and Wax in the above two Classes to be addressed either to your High Commissioner, Agent-General, or Trade Commissioner in London, to reach him by September 11th, 1915.

Exhibits must be accompanied by a certificate from the Government Agricultural Department or the local Beekeepers' Association that half a ton of the Honey, or an equivalent of the Wax, a sample of which is sent to the Exhibition, was available for export.

These competitions are open to individual apiarists only, and not to Associations and Co-operative Stores.

The official number labels for exhibits in these Classes will be supplied to either the High Commissioner, Agent-General, or Trade Commissioner in London.

HONEY FOR THE DISTRESSED POOR OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Now that the extracting season is over 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.

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND.

I have pleasure in advising that I have received from Messrs. Barrett and Bray two cases of honey for this Fund, and from the South Canterbury Beekeepers' Association fourteen cases, each containing forty-five 2-lb. tins. Will Secretaries of all the other Associations advise me in time for Conference the amount ready for shipment in their districts? The first shipment will be made soon after Conference.

R. W. BRICKELL,
Secretary National Beekeepers' Association.

The Beekeepers' Exchange.

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