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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

AUGUST 15th, 1916.

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

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

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20 Linton Street - Palmerston North.

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 26 DUNEDIN. 3/6 Per Annum.

HONEY VALUABLE IN COOKING.

In America honey has hitherto been used largely in its uncooked form. But with the increased appreciation of it as a food, and the consequent development of the beekeeping industry, housewives will naturally adopt the custom of European householders, who use it in cookery to quite an extent. It will doubtless surprise many readers to learn that American confectioners and bakers use large quantities of honey for cakes and sweet crackers. The leading cracker manufacturers buy honey by the car-load; for honey used in the place of sugar in such products permits them to be kept moist and sweet much longer.

The Nutrition Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture has made a series of careful experiments with various types of honey recipes, in order to discover the effects of using honey in the place of sugar or molasses. The results, as stated in Bulletin No. 653, are that honey can be used in place of molasses in all forms of bread, muffins and cakes, and makes a more delicately flavoured product.

As honey contains less acid than molasses, it requires less soda. The allowance ranges from one-fourth to one-half a teaspoonful for a cupful of honey. In substituting honey for sugar, use cupful for cupful, and for each cupful of honey use one-fifth cupful less of milk or other liquid than the recipe calls for. Honey is especially useful in cakes without butter; they will keep fresh for months, and improve in flavour. It is interesting to note that in the majority of European honey recipes for cake, some spices are used; for honey combines especially with such spices as coriander and cardamon seed, and with nutmeg, ginger, cinnamon and cloves.

Butter Honey Cake.

Rub together 1½ cupfuls of honey and ½ cupful butter; add the unbeaten yolks of 3 eggs, and beat thoroughly. Add 5 cupfuls flour, sifted with 2 teaspoonfuls of ground cinnamon and ½ teaspoonful salt; 1½ teaspoonfuls soda dissolved in 1 tablespoonful orange-flower water. Beat the mixture thoroughly, and add the well-beaten whites of 3 eggs. Bake in shallow tins, and cover with frosting as follows:—

Orange Frosting for Butter Honey Cake.

Mix grated rind of 1 orange, 1 teaspoonful lemon juice, 1 tablespoonful orange juice, and 1 egg yolk together, and allow the mixture to stand for an hour. Strain, and add confectioner's sugar until the frosting is sufficiently thick to be spread on the cake.

Honey Sponge Cake.

Mix ½ cupful sugar and ½ cupful honey, and boil until the syrup will spin a thread when dropped from a spoon. Pour the syrup over the yolks of 4 eggs which have been beaten until light. Beat the mixture until cold; then add 1 cupful sifted flour, and cut and fold the beaten whites of the eggs into the mixture. Bake for 40 or 50 minutes in a pan lined with buttered paper, in a slow oven.

Honey Bran Cookies.

Mix ½ cupful sugar, ¼ teaspoonful cinnamon, ¼ teaspoonful ginger, and ½ teaspoonful soda with 3 cupfuls bran, ½ cupful honey, ½ cupful milk, and ½ cupful melted butter. Drop from a spoon on a buttered pan, and bake 15 minutes.

Baked Honey Custard.

Beat 5 eggs sufficiently to unite the yolks and whites, but not enough to make them foamy. Add four cupfuls scalded milk, ½ cupful honey, one-eighth teaspoonful powdered cinnamon, and ¼ tablespoonful salt. Bake in cups, or in a large pan set in water, in a moderate oven.

Honey Caramels.

Mix together 2 cupfuls granulated sugar, ½ cupful cream or milk, ¼ cupful honey, and ¼ cupful butter. Beat and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Then cook without stirring, until a firm ball can be formed from a little of the mixture dropped into cold water.

Beat the mixture until it crystallises, pour into buttered pans, and cut into squares. The addition of pecan nuts improves these caramels.

WINTON DISTRICT OF SOUTHLAND FOR HONEY.

I find there are a few Journal subscribers in the district. As a honey-producing district, I am confident Winton ought to be second to none in the Island. There are hundreds of acres of natural bush and rough land carrying nectar-bearing flowers running in a narrow strip right down through the district. Everywhere are to be seen gorse fences, willow plantations, &c., while for summer nectar-flow we always have an abundance of white clover and other valuable nectar plants.

At present bees are kept by people only as a side-line. Until inspection eliminates the box-hive entirely, not much can be done commercially; but even as it is those who work bees at all intelligently find the little fellows a paying proposition. If we had more Berberis, Darwinii, flowering currants, and tree fuchsia for spring flow, beekeeping at Winton would be a steadily remunerative business. But we must have Mr. Earp or a co-instructor.

R. R. WILSON.

[On his last visit Mr. Earp spent eight days in the Winton and surrounding districts. A return visit was due last summer, but as South Canterbury had recently been added to the Otago district, nearly the whole of the inspector's time was spent in the north.—Ed.]

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

Opening page, July Number.—Although we cannot expect to come near the extensive scale of show advertising that is reached in America, we ought to do better than we have done in the past. I am aware that many of our leading beekeepers realise that something should be done to bring their product more prominently before the general public. Nothing whatever is done at present on a scale to command attention, nor is any press advertising done, so that if we did not see it occasionally (and it is only occasionally) in a shop window, we would not know that such a thing as honey can be obtained. The National Association should move in this matter, then something might be done with the aid of all its branches.

Page 428.—Pine needles and pine cones make excellent smoker fuel, so far as the smoke they produce is concerned, but it is the dirtiest fuel ever I used, corroding the smoker with a gummy tar substance nearly every time it is used; it takes too long to clean the smoker so often for pine needles and cones to be profitably useful as smoker fuel.

I cannot quite follow "Apiarius" in his description of McKnight's Wedge Press. Perhaps it is like a simple wedge press I know of and use, but could not describe it without diagrams. To ensure the wedge sticking in the grooves securely I often shorten it a half-inch or so, then break the wedge into three pieces and put them in separately; they will then hold the foundation like the proverbial "grim death."

Page 429 (first par.).—The honey gathered from yellow box (E. Melliodora) is highly prized by Australian consumers. So says Mr. Tarlton Rayment, who is an authority on Australian bee flora. He says: "The Australians of the cities prefer this honey to all others." I have sampled about twenty different varieties of eucalyptus honey, and found most of them good, some very good, and one or two horrible in taste and smell.

Page 430.—"Thoroughwork" agrees with Mr. Ireland that "growth" in honey is a misnomer! Granted for the moment and for the sake of argument, but he has not cleared the air by substituting the word "crystallisation," which may be taken as symbolic of growth. Has "Thoroughwork" never heard or read of the "growth" of crystals? Has he never seen them grow from strong solutions of salt and water or soda and water? Quite recently I saw on the moving picture screen quite a number of examples of "growing" crystals of different chemical substances, and the title of the series of pictures was "The Growth of Crystals." Try again, "Thoroughwork."

I am surprised the Baldridge treatment of foul-brood should be considered perfect by "Thoroughwork," while the McEvoy plan is condemned by him. I rather think he is singular in this respect. The Baldridge method had its vogue

among a few beekeepers at one time, but it appears to have been entirely dropped during the past few years. It is never mentioned now, while the McEvoy plan is still uppermost.

Page 431.—It is certainly advisable that the owner of a commercial apiary or some accredited representative of his should be present when an inspector, local or otherwise, is going through his hives. It might not be judicious in all cases to inform beekeepers when to expect the inspector, but the latter no doubt would rather the owner were present than absent. In the case of out-apiaries, the inspector would doubtless inform the owners when he was about to pay them a visit, as he might call several times without finding anyone about.

Page 432.—I agree with Mr. Luke re the condition of some of the honey still put up and sold. Not long since I was asked by a large grocery firm for my opinion of some which I understood they had on offer. I advised them to have nothing to do with it, but, notwithstanding, I have reason to believe it was secured and put up in retail packages for sale. It will be asked, "How are we to prevent this?" We may not be able to stop such inferior stuff being put up for sale, but by making known by show cards in grocers' windows, exhibitions at Winter Shows, and advertisements the difference between first class honey properly harvested and inferior rubbish the sales of the latter would soon cease.

Page 435.—I really cannot see the connection between Mr. Barker's adaptation of a portion of Bishop Heber's "From Greenland's Icy Mountain to India's Coral Strand" and the source of nectar in plants, but it may be owing to obtuseness on my part. To deviate for the moment from the subject in hand, before we condemn Bishop Heber for representing man as the vilest thing on earth, we must remember that he lived and preached at a time when the Church declaimed from the pulpit that we were all "miserable sinners," and condemned to everlasting perdition. No doubt his residence in India when "John Company" ruled, and when the low caste native was treated as an inferior animal would tend to lower his estimate of mankind generally, hence our vileness. But we have come to see that instead of being fallen angels we are risen animals, though apparently we still retain some of the lower animal instincts, which seems natural at present and until we evolve on to a higher plane.

But revenons a nos moutons. I think our subject is honey, and not the saccharine juices pressed from the common sugar-cane (saccharum officinarum), which differ largely. Like many of the graminacea, the blossoms have no attraction for bees, and the cane is usually propagated by suckers chiefly. The better the soil the more robust and healthy all plants grow, and are thus better enabled to perform their several functions. What could be expected but a dearth of honey in plants deprived of nourishing moisture as in your illustration: as well expect a starved person to perform the work of a healthy, well-nourished one.

With regard to the development of nectaries in flowers, I cannot agree with our friend that the plants themselves had any control whatever in the matter, being stationary; but such plants as were not adapted to their environment, which, as an evolutionist, our friend must know is for ever changing, ceased to exist, leaving those that could better propagate their kind by having the wherewithal to bring about cross fertilisation to live. Another case in point. We often hear of insects mimicking twigs, leaves, &c., to deceive their natural enemies, and some people really believe that this is knowingly done by the insect itself, when it really comes about through the law of variation in nature. The insect that happens to develop a deceptive appearance lives to propagate its kind; the others are killed out by their enemies. Enough, Mr. Editor! I think you had better open a scientific section. I will go more into the derivation of honey in a later issue.

As for the controversy between Mr. Barker and Mr. Bartlett-Miller concerning mitasis, cytology, and blast——I mean plasted cromosomes, I must leave them to work out these and the "morphology of the nucleabus" themselves, but I hope it will lead us to the knowledge of how to raise another pound of honey.

Please alter that peculiar word wrongly accredited to me on page 427—viz., "reforestising" to "afforestation."

SMILING BOB CURING FOUL-BROOD.

Regarding the demonstration I gave at Ruakura State Farm on February 2nd for the cure of foul-brood without destroying the combs, and which was briefly outlined on page 356, exception to which has been taken by Mr. Nelson (p. 388), I should explain that the text of the article was taken not from my address but from what was put together by the reporter of the "Waikato Times," which he desired to be free of all technicalities in order to interest the general public. At Ruakura I publicly stated that Samuel Simmons (an English authority) discovered the fact that queenless bees, plenty of them, recently hatched, would clean up the combs affected slightly with American foul-brood. The essential part of the demonstration I made was the use of the "Dudley tube" for swarm control (see back numbers of Beekeepers' Review). It was while experimenting with this "tube" that I claim to have discovered the method of curing foul-brood in the majority of cases the same season it is put into commission, and it was so stated by me at Ruakura. There will, of course, be combs too far gone for the bees to completely clean up—that is, there will be left fully sealed (mark this) a larger number of cells than it would pay in time to remove, and the cocoons from these combs must be burnt. It is now some years ago that my apiary of one hundred colonies developed American foul-brood. All colonies were treated by McEvoy plan, starvation and full sheets of foundation. The following season foul-brood again asserted itself in almost every colony. They were then treated by the Simmons-Dudley-Cotterell method without destroying the combs, some 10 per cent. showing a few diseased cells. The

next season, after again being through the mill of the Dudley tube, these cells were removed as formerly by pulling out the cocoon containing the diseased matter. The apiary was cured, and has stayed cured since that time, and please note, Mr. Nelson, that brood combs once containing diseased larvae have since and are now hatching out healthy bees.

To attempt to cure American foul-brood by removing the queen for 21 days without the use of the Dudley tube, or the principle involved by its use, is only to court failure. This I have only too good reason to know.

Many of our readers would like to know what is this Dudley tube for the control of swarming, and I would here ask "Ye Editor" to reprint the description of it from the Beekeepers' Review. When this appears, I will endeavour in the same issue to describe my method outlined above, for the two must be read in conjunction in order to grasp the principle involved. To those who may elect to put this Dudley tube into use next spring or early summer, I think they will be astonished at the results after twenty-one days' application, as the brood combs will appear free of pollen, honey and brood, and if any foul-brood is present or has been present there you will see the tell-tale fully capped cell or cells.

J. S. COTTERELL.

TREATMENT OF FOUL-BROOD.

Since I gave my method of the treatment of foul-brood to the beekeepers, I have received a number of letters speaking in the highest praise of the method, and, on the other hand, quite a number write and inform me that they had not found it altogether successful, and in almost every case I find they have not complied with my instructions.

"Apiarius," page 367, seems to have fallen into the same mess, for he states he has followed my method carefully, and his experience has been failure in three-fifths of the cases. He states that my contention that the bees do not take any honey down is not verified.

Now, everyone who has read my instructions carefully knows that I recommend full sheets of foundation and a division board feeder filled with medicated syrup. He finds that an average colony will carry down almost or quite fill an extractor comb. I would ask what is he doing with extractor combs in the new brood nest? Our friend is like many other men—they have a good thing before them, and want to improve on it with some fantastic idea, hence they fall in the soup.

W. N. B., with a division board feeder filled with syrup at the time when the bees are driven. No one can see how much honey they take down. They immediately set to work on foundation, but I have thoroughly convinced myself in the matter by driving the bees into the empty hive, with the queen caged and perforated zinc in the entrance, with the result that the whole of the bees were dead in two days.

C. J. CLAYTON.

BEEKEEPING "UP TO DATE" IN THE GOLDEN BAY DISTRICT.

Golden Bay District consists of two valleys—Collingwood and Takaka—about eighteen miles apart, and capable of carrying four or five apiaries, and giving a high grade of honey.

I have carried on beekeeping in the Collingwood section for the past seven or eight years with moderate success. The great drawback is, of course, disease. The majority of the dairy farmers have a few bees, some in frame and some in box hives, and both equally neglected, and containing more or less disease. They mostly hope to secure enough honey for their own use, and don't either know or wish to know any more about beekeeping. We have had, to the best of my memory, two visits by the Government inspector in seven or eight years. I remember he paid a flying visit three seasons ago at the request of Mr. Langford, of our district. He supplied notices to most of the keepers of bees to have their hives attended to within three weeks' time, when he threatened to pay another visit. Most keepers of bees simply moved their hives back among the manuka bushes in case the inspector should return. But the three weeks is not up yet! Mr. Langford's apiary is now reduced from thirty to two colonies on account of disease and neglect. Which goes to show that we have some disease in our district.

Last spring I circulated a rumour to the effect that the inspector was coming when in an unusually bad humour. This rumour had the effect of causing the farmers to again drag their hives back among the scrub bushes. I then furnished our inspector with the names of all beekeepers in the Collingwood district, telling him which ones I had cleaned, and also all the suspicious cases, and asked for an early visit. But he is still coming! In one instance I cleaned up twelve colonies for a neighbour, putting the bees all on new combs and in clean boxes. I did this at my own expense, and he never took the trouble to put on a single super. I asked him if he would sell me his bees, but he refused, saying that he wished to keep his bees as a hobby. Just so!

I have been fighting the disease for seven or eight years, but the conditions have improved little or nothing in that time. I intend to start a new apiary in the adjoining valley (Takaka) this spring, and I believe from a local beekeeper that disease is as bad there as in Collingwood. Will they never come? I've a good mind to report these careless people to the inspector, but I doubt if they would take the trouble to hide their hives this time.

This season a rather rough-and-ready beekeeper asked me to come and assist him to take off and extract his honey from thirty hives. When I got there at 8 o'clock sharp, I found him in a very cramped-up honey-house trying to scratch the cappings from a few combs with a blunt table knife into a Baines uncapping melter. He had evidently put a little warm water into the melter the night before. So I went home and got my own uncapping gear, and got it going. We had to take

the honey off the hives, and in some cases four or five rough frames which had been split out of the firewod heap filled a super. However, we got along very well; but not so the fowls bought by his good wife three days previously and put in a yard in the centre of the apiary. In the afternoon the good wife drew our attention to these fowls. The bees were rather busy, and paid the fowls a visit. Most of them flew over the netting, and have not yet returned. We got the rooster and one hen. Their heads were covered with stings. The good wife was almost hysterical through the severe loss. I told her to wring a piece of old blanket out of hot water and wrap round the fowls. She did so, but kept unrolling it again and again to pick the stings out. She sat up most of the night nursing her feathered friends and bewailing her loss, but by the next morning the poor fowls had gone to the great beyond. Resolved to use bee escapes next season!

Another keeper of bees asked me to extract his honey. I asked him how many supers he had. "Oh," he says, "I'd no time to put on any top boxes. I'll take the honey from the bottom boxes." I suggested that they should be left with all the honey in the brood boxes. "Oh, but," he said, "I'll only take about five or six frames from each one." Nuff sed!

TREATMENT OF FOUL-BROOD.

By J. C. HOBBS.

Being much interested in "Apiarius's" article on "Foul-brood Cures" (page 367), and having tried Mr. Clayton's method, I thought I could not do better than give my experience.

Let us all remember that the foundation of success lies in getting rid of the infected honey in the sacs of the bees, and giving them clean hives to start again. How our experiences do differ! After trying Mr. Clayton's plan, I have decided to retain everything but the use of the carbolic cloth. It is that part that has disappointed me. After procuring a bottle of Calvert's No. 5, and soaking a cotton cloth with it till it would absorb no more, I expected the bees to shift pretty quickly, but they would not budge more than an inch from the cloth. By the way, I treated about twelve colonies, every one of which is cured. The transferring was done during a cold spell we had in the spring, and the bees were not in a hurry to breed up at the start. I used one part of carbolic acid to 700 parts of syrup. That is the proportion Chesire gives, and we tried it years ago, but we did not find it a cure then. I have, however, cured twelve hives by it by Mr. Clayton's method. The bees must mix the carbolised feed with the infected honey in their sacs and thus sterilise it.

I drive the bees down with smoke, and also shake them off the combs. What does it matter whether they are shaken down, driven down with smoke, or carbolic acid cloth, as long as we get them off the combs?

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In the last issue of the Journal I notice A. L. Luke has drawn attention to the class of stuff which is undoubtedly deteriorating the sale of honey. In this district most of the honey is put up in 2-lb. pots—good, bad, and indifferent, all in similar packages. The grocer who handles my honey suggested glass jars, as customers complain that they had seen some awful stuff in those pots. Now 2-lb. glass jars cost 4½d., honey pots 1½d., therefore it costs 3d. more to market 2-lbs. of honey in glass jars, and then there is always the danger of breakage (drawbacks for the clean honey man). My experience is that the majority of customers want the 2-lbs. of honey—the package to them is valueless. A good live Pure Food inspector could do an immense amount of good to the public, also the beekeeping industry, by paying a little attention to the honey on the market. As one writer states, nothing but the best is exported, but, alas! the local market is sadly neglected. What use is it to advertise honey unless we see that the article is as good as it is represented to be? The beekeeper who goes to the expense of up-to-date hives, extractor and appliances, has at present to market his product with the box-hive, boil-down, comb, honey, &c., man who sells his to the grocer at a lower price, and can supply him with just sufficient to seriously damage the sale of the genuine article. Every season I average at the very least one cwt. of extracted honey per hive, which is handled from my bees to the buyer perfectly clean and pure. If the above-mentioned evil were remedied, I would have no hesitation in keeping three or four times the number of hives I have at present. One writer says the West Coast is regarded as a joke from a beekeeper's point of view. In my opinion there is an immense amount of honey going ungathered for want of proper beekeepers, although there are several fairly large apiaries about Hokitika and Ross. My experience last season was the same as reported by Southland correspondent. Up to Christmas the production was practically nil owing to the cold wet weather, but the way the bees filled up the supers right up to the middle of March astonished me, and never before have my bees wintered with such an abundant supply of honey. So I am hoping for a good season if the weather is favourable.—I am, &c.,

TO WIT.

Kumara, July 31st.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice in the July number of the Journal in "Notes on the May Issue," "Thoroughwork" throws cold water on sending honey to men at the front per way of "John Government." I would like to put it to him, as he paid the postage, whether he realised that he was contributing to "John Government" through this channel 6d. on every pound if sent in single 2-lb. tins, 4d. if sent in 6-lb. (or 3 2-lb.) tins, and 3.6d. if sent

in 10-lb. tins, the largest quantity which would be allowed to be sent in one package? I am not aware that the Government has made any reduction in postage on parcels to our boys at the front. It would be interesting to know how much "Thoroughwork" has spent in this direction. I don't think his "long acquaintance in England with matters military" can apply to the present war, for, instead of hearing of anything of a parsimonious character, the boot has been on the other foot, for we have heard of a good deal of waste through the lack of power to consume as many rations as have been served out.

I read some time ago that honey, being more nutritious, was being given to the Home tommies in lieu of jam. I think "Thoroughwork" will admit that honey and jam do not go well together. There was no suggestion that either was to take the place of butter. I have noticed on several occasions that the Dairy Associations have given large quantities of their product for the men at the front, and it may be asked why in the case of honey only individuals have been asked to contribute? I take it that were the H.P.A. in a better financial position they would have followed suit. They are, however, I understand putting up the honey into packets which they are supplying, and also paying freight to the depots. Should we be less generous than the dairy farmers, especially as we have had such a good example set us by the Hon. R. H. Rhodes' liberal contribution of £100 in this direction? I would also like to point out that this is a paying proposition in the long run. Tommy, having seen the brand of the H.P.A. on the honey served out to him, will say, "My word, I'll look out for that brand of honey when I get back; it's the best I ever tasted."—I am, &c.,

W. HOOPER TEED.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—"Thoroughwork" burning the whole box of tricks, &c., with 180 diseased colonies would not suit me. Well, to begin with, I've never had 180 colonies diseased, and, moreover, I don't intend ever to allow foul-brood to get such a grip. Twenty-five colonies out of eighty-six is about the tallest that I've reached to date. Oh, yes, I've tried the Baldridge plan. With a yard of 180 diseased colonies, I should say the safest plan for the whole neighbourhood as well as the man working them would be to smother all the worst cases. Shake the remainder on to starters, and take them away to a new location, for the time being anyhow. Then you may possibly turn your diseased combs into beeswax; extracting combs as well. Whether it pays to boil or otherwise disinfect the frames is an open question. Personally, I would burn the lot, and that as quickly as possible. A good plan where foul-brood has got a grip in a yard is to number all colonies and supers before starting to extract. Say No. 66 is four supers up. Number the lot 66 with blue chalk or something that won't easily rub off. Afterwards if you find any colony diseased, cut the extracting combs out. Foul-brood can be spread through a yard by an interchange of extracting combs. A party that has kept me

on the jump for the last four years has hiked to another part of this Dominion—bees and all. On the day following his departure I took my wife out for a stroll and bought her a new hat! She is still wondering what struck me, but I am like "Brere Rabbit."

The expert I have in mind is the chap lots of us are acquainted with—the man that knows all about everything. He is to be found in all walks of life. New Zealand grows a peintiful crop of him—climate, perhaps! He will turn up at your bee-yard some day, as sure as fate. When he does, welcome him. Listen to all the drivel he pours into your ear. It isn't wise to contradict a fool. Make him believe he is "it." He may be slightly astonished at your effusiveness, but never mind. Now, take him round your yard, until he is perhaps, say, 12 ft. in front of you but slightly to one side of your gentlest Cypro Italian or other gentle breed. If he is wearing a black hat of the plug variety so much the better, or worse; all depends on your angle of vision. You may now back him gently by heated argument or otherwise, until he is directly in the line of flight of said colony. We have now—er, got him, as it were. Bees! Why, what's up, old chap? Going? Well, goodbye, you yell after him as he disappears into the adjoining scrub. It requires an artist to accomplish this properly.—I am, &c.,

R. H. NELSON.

Martinborough, August 5th.

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

The Director of the Horticultural Division has received from the Apiary Instructors the following reports concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Nothing further to report since last month. The Auckland district is experiencing a wet late winter.—G. V. Westbrooke. 1/8/16.

Wellington.—The prospects for the coming season, as far as the spring is concerned, are good, as evinced by several varieties of plants showing signs of life fully six weeks before their usual time. What the season will eventually be remains to be proved. Honey prices are particularly good, and I know of one line of a ton sold for delivery next season at 1/6 per 2 lbs. in Aitken honey bags. If these prices could be secured in all parts of the Dominion, beekeeping would receive a fillip never to be fogotten.—F. A. Jacobsen. 3/8/16. [The price quoted by Mr. Jacobsen is surely a mistake.—Ed.]

Christchurch.—There is practically nothing further to report, prices being about the same as last month.—L. Bowman. 4/8/16.

Dunedin.—There is practically nothing fresh to report. All lines are in demand. Prices are firm.—E. A. Earp. 1/8/16.

The Director of the Horticultural Division announces the names of the following persons who have been appointed local apiary inspectors. In a covering letter the Director says:—

"New names will be added from time to time. Every precaution will be taken to protect the interests of beekeepers in connection with these inspections. It is understood that any requests for assistance or inspection by these officers should be made to the Head Office, Wellington, and on receipt of the request the inspector will be asked to call. The Director will be glad of the names of other beekeepers who are willing to assist the Department in stamping out disease."

Auckland.—J. Banks, The Schoolhouse, Whakarewarewa; G. Bishoprick, Te Puke; R. Black, Waimana, Bay of Plenty; A. H. Davies, apiarist, Hamilton East; W. W. Earp, Roberts avenue, Devonport; W. Heald, Opotiki; H. F. Housler, Netherton; A. L. Luke, Whakatane; M. P. Millett, Ardmore Apiary, Papakura; E. W. Sage, Ohaupo; W. A. Willis, Pukekohe.

Wellington.—H. W. Warcup, Hawera; R. Penny, Okaiawa; Allan Bates, Kaponga; H. Benton, Newstead, Featherston; W. Haseltine, Roslyn road, Heatherlea, Levin; R. H. Nelson, Martinborough; B. C. Scott, Highlands Apiary, Gisborne.

Christchurch.—T. Chaves, Kelly's road, St. Albans, Christchurch; R. McKnight, Monoti Apiary, Cheviot.

Dunedin.—E. Parkin, Otekaike School.

BEES AND CLOVER.

We do hear of the Root's famous long-tongued red clover strain, and bees working red clover now and again. Within a mile or so of our home yard there is a lot of red clover grown for seed, somewhere about forty acres, and it was just alive with bees, with their busy hum coming and going. The honey stored in the supers at the time was rather dark, but the flavour was good. Some collected a good surplus, while others didn't get a drop. The bees on the clover were mostly Italians and halfbreds, with an odd black one. Was it the dry season and no other flowers about that made them work there? My next-door neighbour threshed out about three bags (200 lbs. in a bag) to the acre, while others went about two to the acre. The farmers think that the bees helped to secure such a good yield.

H. R.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."

All kinds of contrivances and systems are used to register the details of the inside of a hive and the season's working. Mr. Stephen Anthony, Coromandel, submits the following as being simple and effective. Cut small pieces of paper a little less than a half-plate photo glass, and write whatever is necessary with an H.B. pencil. Have small pieces of glass cut about the same size; place the paper on the roof and the glass on top. The glass acts as a weight, and the writing may be read even when wet.

"H. H.," Invercargill, writes: "Is it safe to use extracting combs from a diseased hive in the brood chamber? The combs in question have not been used as brood combs."——Answer: No, it is not safe, although many beekeepers do use them, and then wonder why they are not able to stamp out their disease.

"N. J. B." Woodville.—We have not the details of the Baldridge system for the curing of foul-brood, but will publish it next month.

We shall be glad of contributions on matters of general or particular interest to the beekeeping industry for publication in the forthcoming issues of the Journal.

In response to several requests we will re-publish next month the article on "Queen Rearing," by Robt. Stewart. which elicited such favourable comment at the Conference of 1914.

"I congratulate the beekeepers of New Zealand on the splendid manner in which they are organised. Please continue Journal for another twelve months. I should not like to miss a copy."—A Queensland correspondent.

In our issue of February last an article appeared entitled "Bees in Relation to Agriculture." The article was first published by the Department of Agriculture, and was written by Mr. I. Hopkins, late chief Government apiary instructor for the Dominion.

The Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association would like to add to the attractiveness of the Journal by publication from time to time of photographs and illustrations. In order to do this a much larger subscription list is required. Will you try and secure one additional subscriber? The Journal is of such interest to beekeepers that it only requires to be brought under their notice to secure their co-operation. Double the number of subscribers, and the Journal would be increased at once to twenty-four pages, with at least three ilustrations per month. Who will help?

Food and Drugs Act Breach.—William Wardell was fined 20s. and costs for selling honey not properly described, in that the jars containing it bore no stamp as to weight, &c. Mr. Alpers, who appeared for defendant, said that the oversight had now been rectified.

I have read several articles in different bee papers on mating queens above excluders in the supers, and providing an entrance in the back for them to fly out and mate. I would like to hear from someone who has had experience along that line, and whether it is practical to keep both queens all through

the honey flow and use both entrances. In that way you would get more bees in a hive, and you can make increase this way if desired, or kill the old queen and put the virgin down under the excluder. I think it would make re-queening easy and give you rousing big colonies.—This method—often called "the Alexander method of increase"—can be followed to some extent, but not for long. Soon after the young queens begin to lay they are apt to "turn up missing" any day. The different storeys—supers—should be separated and placed elsewhere as soon as the young queens have a brood-nest well established. I believe Mr. Alexander's limit was five weeks from hatching of queen. The brood-nests should be separated by two excluders to prevent the queens from quarreling.—"Honey Bee."

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received during the month for the year ending 30th June, 1917:—

Messrs. L. Anderson, T. Abbott, Miss Bernard, Messrs. W. Bennett, W. C. Brown, N. Bowman, Thos. Blay, O. R. Bostock, D. R. Boyd, John Bray, H. Bryans, F. C. Baines, J. Bayne, H. W. Blackie, J. Clark, R. Crow, D. Campbell, D. Cameron, J. T. Chave, R. E. Eagle, A. F. Ellwell, S. Gardiner, R. C. Groome, John Gordon, L. Gardner, H. F. Housler, M. Hope, D. Hughes, H. Hamilton, W. G. Humphrey (8/-), E. Jensen, A. C. Kimber, W. D. Kingston, W. M. Livingstone, C. Lucas, T. Low, G. L. Murray, Miss J. Mackay, Messrs. H. Miles, J. Mander, J. McCarrick, F. Parkes, T. Pelham, A. Phillips, H. Parrett, A. Renall, J. Shaskey, A. Simpson, Dr. G. M. Scott, E. Simpson (7/-), D. J. Sculley, F. Sherwood, J. Schmidt, W. Hooper Teed, H. Voyse, H. R. Wilson, Mrs. A. Wood, Mr. E. G. Ward.

The following subscriptions have been received for the year ending 30th June, 1916:—

Messrs. R. J. Bibby, C. J. Clayton, J. Maitland.

FOREST TREES AS A SOURCE OF HONEY.

By E. PHILLIPS TURNER, F.R.G.S., of the Forestry Branch of the Lands Department.

(Address given before the Beekeepers' Conference.)

Ninety per cent. of the timber used in Europe is obtained from coniferous trees, the chief of which are Scots Pine, Norway Spruce, Silver Fir, Larch, Maritime Pine, Corsican Pine, and Austrian Pine. The chief factors which have caused these trees to be selected are the general usefulness of their timber, their successful growth on lands of very low value, and the large volume of timber they produce per acre.

In the New Zealand State plantations the chief trees that have been planted up to the present time are Larch, Corsican Pine, Western Yellow Pine, Austrian Pine, Oregon Pine, and

different species of Eucalyptus. To a smaller extent Sycamore, English Oak, Silver Birch, Alder and Tasmanian Blackwood have been planted, and during the last year special varieties of poplars and willows were introduced for raising cuttings to plant in special localities.

The main object of afforestation is the provision of a supply of timber for house-building, bridge-building, railway sleepers, packing cases, and fencing, and though some timber trees may also be a source of honey, it would not pay to grow them mainly for this purpose. Though there are small yields in the shape of thinnings from a forest-tree crop, the main return is not obtained until the trees are (on the average) fifty years of age. Herbaceous plants that are a source of honey, and are also valuable for forage, &c., can be grown at a far less establishment cost, a return is got annually, and probably more honey can be got per acre from them than can be got from trees.

Afforestation, then, has little to do with beekeeping beyond the provision of timber for packing cases for honey and for hives; for the former purpose any of the coniferous timbers grown would do, and for the latter purpose special boards from any of the soft woods would do. In any case the amount required would be small.

As, however, it is generally desirable that farmers should grow trees for shelter, fencing, and firewood, there is no reason why those who have bees should not select trees that, being suitable for these purposes, are also a source of honey, especially as many of these trees blossom at times of the year when herbaceous plants are not in flower.

Trees that produce durable timber and also nectariferous flowers are Eucalyptus citriodora (will not stand frost); E. corynocalyx, stands 20 deg. F.; E. hemiphloia, stands 15 deg. F.; E. leucoxylon, stands 15 deg. F.; E. melliodora, not frost-hardy; E. pilularis, not frost-hardy; E. polyanthema, stands 15 deg. F.; E. rostrata, stands 15 deg. F.; E. tereticornis, stands 15 deg. F.; Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood), frost-hardy; and Robinia pseudoacacia (Thorny acacia), stands frost. There are, of course, many other Eucalypts that produce nectar, but they detrimentally affect the taste of the honey.

The wattles, Acacia dicurreus, Acacia dealbata, and Albizzia lophantha, are very rapid growers for shelter purposes, produce superior firewood, and their flowers (which come when other flowers are scarce) yield nectar.

Of native trees that may be grown for ornament, the following bear flowers which attract bees:—Mahoe, Pittosporums, Hinau, Pokaka, Kaikomako, Rata, Pohutukawa, Houhou, Raukawa, Lancewood, and Cabbage-tree; there are others which I do not at present remember. The native flax is a well-known nectariferous plant, and it can be most effectually used as a hedge plant.

Though in artificial forests where Robinia, willows and gums and Blackwood are grown, it might pay to keep bees as one of the small subsidiary operations connected with forestry, the direct connection between the two industries of beekeeping and forestry is small, and is confined to the production of a comparatively small amount of timber for packing cases and bee-hives. The beekeeper is, however, as much interested as the rest of the community in insisting on the conservative treatment of our stock of indigenous timbers, together with ample replanting to ensure that this country will not in the near future be dependent on foreign countries for one of the chief requisites of civilised peoples—namely, timber.

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