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E.A. Kemp

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JANUARY 23rd, 1917.

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



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



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 31

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

HONEY MARKETS.

(By Prof. FRANCIS JAGER.)

The other day I was in one of the biggest grocery stores in Minneapolis, whose retail business in honey amounts to several tons a year of both extracted and comb honey. While looking over the honey exhibit in a casual way, the floor-walker, whom I know well, came along, and I engaged him in conversation about honey. "How do the prices of honey compare with other foods," I asked him. "The honey to-day," he answered, "is the cheapest food on the market." "And the demand?" "It is increasing rapidly, as people are finding out it is so cheap."

They had some beautiful comb honey on the counter, stamped C.H.P.A. "How do you like this?" he asked. I had to confess that it was very nice comb honey. "We are selling a great deal of this," he said, "at 22 cents a section, and do you know what we are paying for it?" Being Colorado honey, I said, "You get it probably for 13 cents a pound delivered." "Less than that," he answered, and gave me a knowing wink, whilst a lady asked him for a certain brand of coffee. Less than 13 cents with a wink which, if my friend Mr. Rauchfuss, manager of the C.H.P.A., could have seen, he would have raised the price of his beautiful comb honey to what our grocers were educated to pay for years. The difference between less than 13 cents and what our local market would be willing to pay represents a loss to some poor fellow in Colorado or to the C.H.P.A.

I mention this instance because I wish to ask a few questions of you big producers:

1. Can you expect to earn any profit from the product of our toil and capital invested in bees unless we organise in a national organisation?

2. Does the law of demand and supply regulate the price of honey to the producers, or do the big dealers regulate it?

3. Do the honey prices have an upward or a downward tendency when one fellow undersells the other in the same town, one local organisation undersells the other, and one section of the country cuts the prices of the other?

[Change the names to any of our own towns, and the above article describes exactly the conditions of the honey market here. Last night the Editor bought a section of snow white clover honey for 1/-, and had a treat. To-day the commission houses quote section honey at 7/- per dozen. Wake up, Mr. Producer. Everyone else is getting all they can, and you may as well have a share.]

Hints for Beginners.

WHAT TO DO.

(By W. B. BRAY, Barry's Bay.)

By the time these notes appear the honey flow in most parts will be over, or nearly over. Where the bees have been attended to properly a good crop will have been secured. Except on the Canterbury Plains, where a dry season has been experienced, a fair to good honey flow has been general, and it has been possible to extract several times.

Mr. Gibbs' description of the honey flow in his district, printed in last issue, is valuable as showing what can be done by strong colonies when a good flow is on. Had he attended to the bees the way most farmer beekeepers do—that is, to leave the extracting till after harvest—he would have had a very ordinary crop, perhaps no more than three tons; but by getting to work with the extractor as fast as the hives got full, and keeping on with it to give the bees room, he was able to take every advantage of the flow. Beekeepers lose tons and tons of honey through not extracting early enough. Bees do not work to a time-table. This year we have the greater part of our crop off at an earlier date than we have started extracting other years.

It will be necessary now to do the final extracting, and great care must be taken to prevent the apiary getting in an uproar with robbing. The wire cloth escape frames are especially handy at this time of year. Do not keep a hive open longer than is absolutely necessary, and be very careful not to allow honey to drip about outside the hives. If the honey is removed by brushing the combs, and there are not too many to do, it is easier to do a few hives each day, late in the afternoon, so that robbing will not get much of a start. Bees that get into the extracting room make for the window. They should not be let out until late in the evening. If released sooner they return in ever-increasing numbers, and will find their way in through the smallest opening. It is better to keep the empty combs inside till the extracting is finished, and then put them all on again late in the day to be cleaned up. It is not essential to have them cleaned up at the end of the season. They can be put away wet if they can be kept in a bee-tight place.

In doing the final extracting, allowance must be made for the winter requirements of the colony. In most parts of New Zealand there is no honey flow in the autumn months, so at the end of the flow from clover enough honey must be left to carry the bees over the winter. Most beginners are in a quandry when it comes to deciding what is sufficient. Some look on the

honey in the bottom storey, or brood nest, as belonging to the bees, and they take all in the supers. Bees treated like that are not worth much in the spring if they do manage to survive. To get the best results in beekeeping the bees must never be kept on starvation diet. The colonies that are kept strong and well supplied with honey are those that gather the big surplus, and surely they deserve a fair share for winter. I like to leave enough in the second storey so that any in the lower one is to the good. At least eight good combs of honey should be left for winter, and ten would be better. Not only must the bees have enough to winter on, but there must be enough left over for them to build up with in the spring. Even though a locality may be good for spring honey, bad weather may prevent the bees getting it; therefore it is advisable to be on the safe side and leave plenty. That is one of the elements of profitable beekeeping. Another is to see that the colonies have young queens. Plenty of honey and an old queen—say over two years old—is not a good combination, while a young queen and less honey is better; but a young queen and plenty of honey is the best of all. The small beekeeper may say that he has not the time to bother with the age of his queens; but I say that any beekeeper, whether in a large or small way, cannot afford to neglect this matter. It is intensive bee culture only that pays.

I have stressed the importance of not letting robbing get a start. For one thing it makes the bees so spiteful that it is very painful to work amongst them. The chief reason, though, is that if the bees spend the autumn robbing one another they will wear themselves out, and become considerably weaker by the spring. Prevention of robbing is one of the essentials of good beekeeping, and carelessness in this respect will soon put a man out of beekeeping. Facts that have come under my notice prove that this is not mere theory. Extracting too close and feeding up for winter, with the consequent robbing, has put an extensive apiarist that I know out of business. Another large beekeeper lately told me that his bees had not really got in good condition since he extracted them too close some years ago.

Do not leave honey in the tank and run the risk of its candying there. In any case honey should not be left in the tank longer than a few days, especially in the North Island, as it will absorb moisture from a damp atmosphere, and the last few tins drawn off will ferment as a result.

LITTLE KINK—BIG MONEY.

One of our big producers of extracted honey says: "I seldom open a hive during the extracting season without taking from the brood-nest one or two combs of brood, replacing them with full sheets of foundation.

This has a great tendency to prevent swarming; the brood can be placed in the supers or used wherever needed, and it gives you hundreds of fine new combs, while the bees feel no loss, as wax is being unconsciously secreted far in excess of their needs every day."

STRAY BEES.

(By R. B.)

It takes considerable skill and some intelligence to be a successful bee-farmer and to produce a good crop of honey; but the beekeeping fraternity possess a commercial intelligence of a very low order, for they will sell their crop at a valuation so low that it requires 5 lbs. of high-grade honey to equal the selling value of 1 lb. of butter. The beekeeper cannot, however, claim the prize for showing the greatest amount of commercial ignorance, for the housekeeper who compels children to eat high-priced butter when they would rather have honey which could be bought for a mere song, would certainly win that reward.

Should we encourage beginners? That depends on the class of beginner to be dealt with. If he is the sort who arrives at the busiest time of the day with an old battered benzine case, and delivers himself thus: "Say, you know a little more about bees than I do; would you mind making a legal frame box out of this, and lend me some comb-starting stuff, then come over to-morrow after lunch and draft the bees out of the old box under the cherry-tree into it? After that I could get along all right myself with the loan of your veil and fumigator"—far better forget to train this kind. But if you must train more producers of honey, get after the right men. Look around for the directors of a dairy factory company (including the chairman), get them interested in bees, and train them until they are thoroughly keen. You will be helping the beginner, the honey producer generally, and incidentally yourself. These men would bring the same business acumen into the bee-keeping business that they have displayed in building up the dairying industry. A few years back farmers were peddling their butter round at 5d. a pound; but these business directors are now getting them 1s. 8d., without the farmer having to trouble about the market. They have even got the Government to make the shipping of their produce an Empire war necessity, while honey and other exports have to wait.

The Journal of Agriculture for December contains a warning to beekeepers in regard to the kind of buildings they shall use for handling honey, and quotes section 14, subsection (d), of the regulations under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, which provides that "every place used for or in connection with the sale, manufacture, preparation, storage, or packing of any food for sale shall, so far as practicable, be used for that purpose only, and no place shall be so used which is at any time used as a sleeping apartment, or in which any animal is allowed to be or which is or has been used for any purpose which would be likely to contaminate such food or injuriously affect its wholesomeness or cleanliness." It will be seen from this that the day of slipshod methods is past, and the man who proposes to start beekeeping must be in a financial position to erect suitable buildings, buy up-to-date machinery, and modern frame hives.

A good deal of misleading information in regard to the cost of starting beekeeping is printed from time to time, and it is only recently that a farm journal contained the statement that all the capital necessary to start a commercial apiary of 100 hives was £200. This sum would not do much more than put up the necessary buildings and instal the machinery, tanks and other fittings. Another £250 will be required for 100 four-storey hives, nailed up and finished, three coats paint, and containing frames of full sheets wired foundation, landed at the apiary. Then there is the cost of bees, queens, fences, land, shelter trees, honey tins, cases, etc., besides interest and depreciation incurred while the beekeeper is waiting his returns when the good season comes. Someone will say that a fair amount of the above could be saved by the beekeeper doing the work himself, but then why should the beekeeper work for nothing? In all other commercial undertakings wages are charged up to the full amount incurred, and the man who today thinks he can find labour without paying for it will have a sorry tale to tell at the end of the season.

It is often stated that the subscription charged for the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal is far too low, but there could be no argument about this if the Journal gave the market quotations for beekeepers' produce. It would then become a practical requirement from a business point of view, and the writer would not grudge double the present subscription for it. It is very strange that every newspaper or journal in New Zealand which runs an apiary column has at one time or another started a list of market quotations, only to drop it after one or two trials.

The Germans seem to have a better idea of the food value of honey than we have, for all their crop goes to the soldiers in the trenches, because they consider it a nutritious food in a highly concentrated form, and a medicine which counteracts the evils of bad food to a marked extent. It would appear that it would be an advantage all round, both to soldiers and producers, if our Government were to commandeer, say, 75 per cent. of our honey crop for the trenches. The soldiers would accept it as the finest treat our Government could send them, and at the same time they would have a highly nourishing food and medicinal stimulant combined at a cost below that of other foods, say, butter, for instance. The commandeering of 75 per cent. of the honey crop by the Government would be advertised in all the newspapers over and over again, with the result that almost every householder would be clamouring for some of the honey left, which would be just enough to whet their appetites and educate them to be a nation of honey-eaters.

With regard to the contract with the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd., apparently this cannot now be carried out, as shipping is unobtainable except for Government and war requirements, as is shown by the fact that honey sent forward last winter for shipment is still lying in the Auckland shed, and the shipping people say they do not know when it will get away. This being so, why waste the chance of a great advertisement, and the chance of educating the people to use

the best of all health foods? If properly managed, there appears to be no reason why honey should not be sold at double its present price, or 8d. per lb. upwards. To prove this, ask any careful housekeeper which she would prefer—2½ lbs. of honey or 1 lb. butter—and see what her answer will be. Yet this amount of honey at 8d. would cost the same as 1 lb. butter at present retail price. If anyone will argue that 75 per cent. of the crop would be too much for 75,000 soldiers, he can be told that the Government is buying millions of sheep and cattle, and does not measure the quantity by the number of our soldiers, but by the necessity of the whole army. The French, Irish, Scotch and English troops know more about eating honey than the colonials, although they have to pay 1s. and upwards for it.

[We should like to run a column giving market quotations, but cannot get reliable information, because such information is not available. Many of our large producers sell their crop to some merchant with whom they have been dealing for years, at a price which is satisfactory to the merchant, but not quite so satisfactory to the producer when subject to a little criticism. Recently we heard of the sale of a large output in 2 lb. tins at 11/6 per dozen. This seems a good price, but when we remember that printed tins cost 38/- per gross at the railway siding, and to this must be added cartage to the yard, packing, waste, cartage back to the railway, at least another 4/- per gross must be added, making a total cost for tins of 3/6 per dozen. Deduct this amount from the amount received, and it leaves a nett price of 4d. per lb. for honey, at least 50 per cent. below its present value. Do not suppose for one moment that the consumer gets the benefit of this low price. This same honey was retailed last year at 1/5 per tin, and it was cheap at that. There will not be very much improvement until the Honey Producers' Association or some other co-operative Company opens depots in the honey producing centres, and is prepared to take all the honey that is produced.—Ed.]

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

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

Auckland.—From reports to hand the indications are for a good yield in the Auckland districts. The frequent showers have caused the white clover to blossom freely, and in consequence the honey this year should be of good quality.—G. V. Westbrooke. 3/1/17.

Wellington.—The honey crop prospects for the 1917 season are very bright. What is really wanted now is a few showers of rain to freshen up the clover again and stimulate growth.

An almost unheard of thing for the Hawera district is a crop of about five tons of bush honey before Christmas. Honey is not usually gathered in this district until after Christmas. The bees generally are in good condition for the flow, and the expectations are for a good crop all round.—F. A. Jacobsen. 4/1/17.

Christchurch.—The very dry season experienced on the Plains this year is not conducive to the best conditions for beekeeping, and only a small crop is anticipated; but nearer the range of hills extending from north to south beneficial showers have fallen generally, much to the advantage of apiarists, who are reasonably looking forward to a fair crop. From Banks Peninsula a fair crop can be expected. It depends very much on what rain we get now on the continuance of the honey flow.—L. Bowman. 3/1/17.

Dunedin.—Indications point to a half crop in South Canterbury and North Otago districts. Hot north winds have dried up the clover pastures, and in some quarters no surplus will be taken. In Otago and Southland conditions are favourable for another good season. The clover began yielding quite six weeks earlier, and as a result beekeepers have started extracting a month in advance of last season. Again, the quality is excellent. Prices are likely to be maintained.—E. A. Earp. 3/1/17.

TARANAKI METROPOLITAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

HONEY SCHEDULE FOR WINTER SHOW, 1917.

- Mr. O. J. Herrick's Challenge Silver Cup, value £5 5s. (points prize). To be won twice in succession, or three times at intervals.
- Points Prize, W. Rowe's Special, value £1 1s., for highest number of points scored in Honey Classes.
- 1 Frame, containing 4 sections Comb Honey, W. Rowe's Special, value—First, 10/6; second, 2/6.
- 1 Hoffmann Frame Comb Honey, W. Rowe's Special, value—First 10/6; second, 5/-.
- 1 Hoffmann half-frame Comb Honey.—First, 7/-; second, 3/6.
- Best Granulated Honey, in clear glass jar, to contain not less than 3 lbs.—First, 10/6; second, 5/-.
- Best sample Liquid Honey, in clear glass jar, to contain not less than 3 lbs.—First, 10/6; second, 5/-.
- Best sample Beeswax, not less than 3 lbs. (for commercial purposes).—First, 7/6; second, 5/-.

Best collection of Honey, in clear glass bottles, to contain 1 lb. and 2 lbs. nett of honey (commercial bottle), not less than 18 lb. To be staged on space not more than 2 ft. square (labels allowed). W. Rowe's Special, value—First, 25/-; second, 12/6.

NOTE.—This class must contain an equal proportion of 1 lb. and 2 lb. bottles, also a proportion of liquid honey.

Schedule may be obtained on application to A. L. HUMPHRIES, Secretary, P.O. Box 19, New Plymouth.

The New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation, Ltd., has arranged an apple show to be held in Dunedin in May. The secretary, when writing, said:—"I hope your industry will be well represented in the honey sections, Classes 113-116. It has been suggested to me that as the results of bee-farming adjacent to orchards is of practical benefit to our industry, it might be convenient if a short paper was prepared on this subject and read at the show. If your Association considered it worth while preparing and submitting a paper for the purpose, we would be pleased to consider same, and will provide for its being read at the show."

113.—Honey, two glass bottles. 2 lbs. each.

114.—Honey in comb, not exceeding 4 lbs.

115.—Honey, one case, ready for export.

116.—Best collection and display of honey; space not to exceed 6 ft. x 4 ft.

The honey classes provide a wide scope, and we trust that a good display of honey will be made by the various beekeepers. Further particulars in connection with the exhibition will be announced later.

HOW THE PRICE IS SET.

"Now," said the old-timer, "I've been producing honey in Southern California on a commercial scale for more than thirty years, and of course have formed my own opinion, but I would like to have your idea of how the buyers establish a price each year."

"Well," returned the travelling man, "I've been buying honey for my firm in Los Angeles a good many years, too, and here is my confidential knowledge of how it is usually done:

All the larger buyers keep careful watch, not only of the honey and sugar markets, but of the estimated stocks of all sweets carried over and the probable future yields. Nothing is neglected to get accurate knowledge on these points.

As the honey season advances and some honey begins to be reported in the apiaries, our firm or one of the others selects a certain beekeeper—not one of the larger producers, but one who usually has from two to five tons to sell, and always one who is forced to sell.

Then, with the advantages of knowledge of the market and of the financial necessities of the beekeeper on his side, the buyer drives the sharpest bargain he can, and usually secures the crop of honey at a figure well below the probable average price for that grade of honey.

Within twenty-four hours every buyer on the coast knows of that sale, the quantity and the price paid, and a precedent is established for the season."

The lion is of little use to man—in fact he is the enemy of mankind. The sheep is one of the most useful of animals. Yet the lion commands the absolute respect of everybody, while the meek sheep is the prey of every wandering cur in the country. If you want your business respected, respect it yourself, and make everybody respect it also. Assert yourself.—Booster.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The following is the reply received from the Minister of Agriculture with reference to the registration of apiaries:—
"With reference to your letter of 31st ultimo enclosing a letter dated 30th idem. to yourself from the hon. secretary of the Cheviot Beekeepers' Association in regard to the registration of apiaries, I have the honour to inform you that the preparation of regulations dealing with this matter is now in hand, and it is hoped to issue them soon. I may say that there is a real difficulty in the way of bringing about registration in the very near future owing to the shortage of staff due to war conditions, and to the fact that for some little time the Department's hands will be full in connection with the registration of orchards and the collection of the orchard tax. The registration of apiaries will not, however, be lost sight of, but will be taken in hand as soon as a suitable opportunity offers, as the Department recognises its importance to the industry."

The above reply was received by Mr. G. W. Forbes, M.P., in reply to a letter from the Cheviot Branch secretary, which he forwarded on. You could publish it in the Journal.—I am, etc.,
J. RENTOUL.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Friend Bartlett, I fear you are a captious quibbler. "What's in a name?" "What's in a string of words?" They are but synonyms to help us to collocate and understand certain obscurely observed facts. What matter whether we talk of molecules or units, ids and ions, dominants, recessives, or even chromosomes. I advisedly used the word "blend" as the better describing certain facts in the evolution of the chromosomes in the nucleus of the cell sap, and I still see no reason to change it. I am glad to hear that you feel it in you to instruct us in the laws of Nature, and I willingly waive my right and sit on an apple-case at thy feet, as I am somewhat afraid of Mrs. Citizen's wrath. Only keep clear of the neucleolibus and the mitasis, or you will have the average man accusing you of giving him infantile paralysis. I quite agree with you that a series of articles on how to improve our present methods of selecting and breeding queen bees and drones is required. But what is really wanted is not so much a pedantic discourse—that is useful only to kick "dog sense" into the genus homo as personified in the average bee man as to the possibilities of permanently improving, or may I say standardising, the race of bees—but a properly instituted Government experimental station, where queens and drones may be raised and carefully mated and distributed, and an end put to the present haphazard methods. Fare ye well.—I am, &c.

W. E. BARKER.

HOW MUCH IS THE JOURNAL WORTH? ONE MAN
SAYS £5 A YEAR, AND HE PAYS IT.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice in last issue just to hand there is still a shortness of subscribers to the Journal. So far I have refrained from sending mine in, as I have been waiting to see how things would go, as I don't want to see the Journal fall through. I enclose a cheque for £5. Please send me two copies, and use the remainder to help carry the Journal a little further on its journey. Trusting that some further help will come along to keep it going, as I think it would be a big loss to beekeeping generally if it has to close down.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT STEWART.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—It will be a great pity if the National has to give up publishing the Journal through lack of subscriptions. Every reader should renew his sub. at once, and endeavour to get new ones. The writer has sent in four new subs. since last Conference. Can anyone beat that? In order to help increase the circulation of the Journal we will give a young laying queen from our best breeder to each of the first twelve members of the National whose Association and Journal subscriptions are paid up, and who can send in a new subscription during February. We are not selling queens, but our re-queening is nearly finished, and we expect to have a few young ones to

spare. They will not be tested for mating, but our average of pure matings is good. So hurry up and be one of the twelve.—We are, &c.,

BARRETT & BRAY.

HONEY EXHIBITS AT PANAMA EXHIBITION,
SAN FRANCISCO.

Sir,—The beekeepers of New Zealand are doubtless aware that the Waikato Beekeepers' Association had an exhibit of honey entered for competition at the above Exhibition, and secured a gold medal. The writer was interested to know who had secured the Grand Prix in this class, and with that end in view addressed the following letter to the A.I. Root Co. of Medina, Ohio, on 24th September last.

[Copy.]

“Re Exhibits of Honey, Panama Exhibition, San Francisco.—In every issue of ‘Gleanings’ that comes to hand I have looked for some authoritative article or a list of honey exhibits sent for competition, and the prizes awarded at the above Exhibition. It would be interesting to learn whose honey and from what source secured the Grand Prix. To me it is somewhat surprising that ‘Gleanings,’ with such a world-wide reputation for alertness, has so far overlooked this international exhibit of honey.”

The reply to this is as follows:—

Medina, Ohio, October 28, 1916.

Mr. J. S. Cotterell.

Dear Sir,—We recognise the criticism in your letter of September 24th. However, in our own defence will say that there was a very poor showing of honey at either Exposition. The various California Counties had very neat and attractive displays. We believe the finest exhibit of honey was in the Canadian building, and our impression is, in awarding the Grand Prize, that these would be considered as a part of the larger exhibit which represented the general resources of a county.

The A. I. Root Company's exhibit received the Grand Prize and medal at the Panama-Californian Exposition. However, this was almost entirely given over to an educational exhibit of beekeepers' equipment.

We believe other journals were no more successful than ourselves in obtaining accurate information regarding the honey exhibits. We regret that it is difficult to interest beekeepers as a representative body to get together, and make displays at Expositions that are really worth consideration.

Yours very truly,

THE A. I. ROOT CO.

An Opportunity which should not be missed by Beekeepers who keep Bees for Profit.

The success of modern beekeeping hinges to a very large extent on the strain of queens at the head of each colony. When the flow starts the profitable colonies are those who get to work early, and keep at it good and hard as long as the light lasts. It is also well known to beekeepers that certain strains are able to combat disease much more effectually than other strains.

These are the principal reasons why importing of high grade queens still goes on, in spite of the fact that the proportion of queens which arrive alive is very small. It is stated that every queen which arrives alive costs the beekeeper about £15. The importing of queens, therefore, can be said to be a heart-breaking and a costly business.

A representative of this firm is leaving for the States shortly, and is putting into operation a scheme whereby we are able to guarantee safe arrival. At the present time all queens are carried in the mail-bags, with disastrous results. Our scheme is on entirely different lines, and will be tried out on the journey over with a large number of mismated and untested queens.

Would you like to order queens and be sure of getting what you order in good condition, or your money back? That is what we offer you. The queens will be delivered about September. A telegram will be sent you asking you to meet a certain train, and the delivery to you or to your representative of a live imported queen will fill our contract. Please understand that no queens will be imported other than those ordered, and that we take the whole responsibility of safe arrival.

The queens will be high in price, but cheap when you consider we guarantee safe arrival. Correspondence invited.

Select tested queens from the very best breeders in America—men whose reputation is world wide.

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD., Box 572, DUNEDIN.

FEED OR FIGHT.

We have raised an enormous army of fighting men. Many of them have dropped their tools in the shops, left their machines, locked up their desks, or have left the ranks of the feeders to swell those of the fighters. We cannot all go to the firing-line to fight, but we can do our utmost to feed those who have, and their dependents whom they have left to our care.

Honey is a staple that is sometimes classed as a luxury. It has a very real food value, and at this time when sugar is so expensive it should be more extensively used than ever before. The production must be maintained.—Extract from Circular, Ontario Association.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"There is no question in my mind," says a well-known Californian queen breeder, "but that the artificial grafting of queen-cells, continued through long generations without a break, has had its effect upon our strains of bees, especially the Italians, rendering them more susceptible to disease." What do our New Zealand beekeepers think of this?

"Now," said the farmer to the new hand from the city, "I want you to clean up the pigsty, the stable, the henhouse, and all the other houses of the stock." For two days the new hand worked vigorously; then he appeared before his employer with both eyes nearly closed, his mouth swollen, and red lumps over face, neck and hands. "Gimme my money," he demanded; "I'm going to leave." "What's the matter?" asked the farmer. "I don't know what's the matter," returned the victim, "but it happened when I started to clean the beehive."

The fact that there is a shortage in shipping space is causing the beekeepers some little anxiety. The chairman of directors of the N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association (Mr. H. W. Gilling) informs us that his Company will pay out on all honey received either at its own depots or at the grading depots on the 20th of the month following delivery. This is as it should be, and is a good move.

It is stated by those who know that some interesting developments may be looked for soon in connection with the manufacture and distribution, of bee supplies and the packing and distribution of honey. We understand the movement is a co-operative one, and will be on a large scale.

Mr. W. B. Bray, Wainui, Akaroa, has been appointed Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association and editor of the Journal as from February 1st. We solicit on behalf of Mr. Bray the same kindly consideration and help which has been extended to his predecessor.

What promised to be one of the best field days yet held in this Dominion was arranged for at the apiary of Mr. Robt. Gibb, Menzies Ferry, on January 17th. The function had been widely advertised, and it was expected that at least 150 persons would have been present. Unfortunately the weather, which had been dry for weeks past, broke on the 16th, and at the advertised time of starting the weather was cold and bleak, with

An Opportunity which should not be missed by Beekeepers who keep Bees for Profit.

The success of modern beekeeping hinges to a very large extent on the strain of queens at the head of each colony. When the flow starts the profitable colonies are those who get to work early, and keep at it good and hard as long as the light lasts. It is also well known to beekeepers that certain strains are able to combat disease much more effectually than other strains.

These are the principal reasons why importing of high grade queens still goes on, in spite of the fact that the proportion of queens which arrive alive is very small. It is stated that every queen which arrives alive costs the beekeeper about £15. The importing of queens, therefore, can be said to be a heart-breaking and a costly business.

A representative of this firm is leaving for the States shortly, and is putting into operation a scheme whereby we are able to guarantee safe arrival. At the present time all queens are carried in the mail-bags, with disastrous results. Our scheme is on entirely different lines, and will be tried out on the journey over with a large number of mismated and untested queens.

Would you like to order queens and be sure of getting what you order in good condition, or your money back? That is what we offer you. The queens will be delivered about September. A telegram will be sent you asking you to meet a certain train, and the delivery to you or to your representative of a live imported queen will fill our contract. Please understand that no queens will be imported other than those ordered, and that we take the whole responsibility of safe arrival.

The queens will be high in price, but cheap when you consider we guarantee safe arrival. Correspondence invited.

Select tested queens from the very best breeders in America—men whose reputation is world wide.

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD., Box 572, DUNEDIN.

FEED OR FIGHT.

We have raised an enormous army of fighting men. Many of them have dropped their tools in the shops, left their machines, locked up their desks, or have left the ranks of the feeders to swell those of the fighters. We cannot all go to the firing-line to fight, but we can do our utmost to feed those who have, and their dependents whom they have left to our care.

Honey is a staple that is sometimes classed as a luxury. It has a very real food value, and at this time when sugar is so expensive it should be more extensively used than ever before. The production must be maintained.—Extract from Circular, Ontario Association.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"There is no question in my mind," says a well-known Californian queen breeder, "but that the artificial grafting of queen-cells, continued through long generations without a break, has had its effect upon our strains of bees, especially the Italians, rendering them more susceptible to disease." What do our New Zealand beekeepers think of this?

"Now," said the farmer to the new hand from the city, "I want you to clean up the pigsty, the stable, the henhouse, and all the other houses of the stock." For two days the new hand worked vigorously; then he appeared before his employer with both eyes nearly closed, his mouth swollen, and red lumps over face, neck and hands. "Gimme my money," he demanded; "I'm going to leave." "What's the matter?" asked the farmer. "I don't know what's the matter," returned the victim, "but it happened when I started to clean the beehive."

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BEEKEEPING FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Beekeeping as a possible sphere of industry for returned invalided soldiers was advocated by Cr. F. W. Walters at the last meeting of the Piako County Council. One settler in the Waitoa district had, he said, lately despatched two tons of honey in one consignment. Already three tons had been taken this season, and the settler—who had by no means put in all his time at the industry—expected to take as much as six to seven tons of honey for the season. He got, Cr. Walters thought, 5d. per lb. wholesale. This was the industry for returned soldiers, and the Hauraki Plains was a natural harvest field, being covered with white clover. It was also understocked, and much pollen was going to waste. He would like the Farmers' Union to take up the matter.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

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.

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

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.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

- Waikato Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., E. W. Sage, Ohaupo.
- 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. J. Rentoul, Cheviot.

Vice-President: Mr. W. E. Barker, Peel Forest.

Executive: Messrs. W. B. Bray (Banks Peninsula), A. Ireland (Andover Street, Christchurch), H. R. Penney (Okaiawa), E. W. Sage (Ohaupo).

Secretary: W. B. Bray, Wainui, Akaroa.

Italian Queen Bees.

BEEKEEPERS! Your attention a moment, please!

SIX TONS OF HONEY per 100 COLONIES.

How does that average strike you? That was the actual result obtained in this district last season. The season was nothing exceptional, but the Bees that produced that splendid result were not too slow: they were what we call hustlers; no "Beg pardon" about them.

THE STRAIN WAS GOOD—THAT'S THE SECRET.

It will pay you to have Queens from this strain.

I can supply you. Let me know your requirements.

PRICES:

Untested ..	4/- each	..	10 for 35/-	..	20 for 60/-
Tested ..	7/6 each	..	three for 20/-		
Select Tested ..	12/6 each				

A. J. D'ARCY,

20 Linton Street - Palmerston North.

SEASON 1916-17.

Price List of ITALIAN QUEENS.

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

All Queens guaranteed free from Foul-brood, Bee Paralysis, and all other diseases, and bred from Pure Stock, which have been selected for hardiness, disease-resisting, good-working, and non-swarmling qualities.

Ninety-eight per cent. of Untested Queens guaranteed purely mated.

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

P.O. Order Office, Tapanui.

Tested Queens for delivery from October 1st; Untested from about November 20th to first week in April, 1917.

Postal Address:

**R. STEWART, CROOKSTON,
OTAGO.**

EXTRACTORS.

Tons of honey are lost in many apiaries because the bees have not sufficient room during the height of the honey flow.

Extract early and give all the room possible for future stores. Our latest model extractors are beauties. Two, four, six, and eight-frame machines kept in stock. The power machines, four, six, and eight, are particularly useful machines.

We have also the Gilson engine, 1 and 1½ horse-power. This machine is one of the best, if it is not the very best, cheap engine on the market.

The Bental 2 horse-power, made by one of the best British houses, is a machine anyone would be proud to own. It will drive two eight-frame extractors, a chaffcutter, pump, circular saw, or do any other work about a farm.

Correspondence invited.

ALLIANCE BOX CO., Ltd.
Castle Street - Dunedin.