



The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

FEBRUARY 19th, 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. 32

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

EDITORIAL.

It has fallen on me to carry on the duties of Editor for the remainder of the year. Although our subscription list is not very large, it is recognised that the Journal has justified its inauguration, and I feel sure it will continue to be supported in the future as in the past. With the arrival of a better season, I hope to see the Journal in a more flourishing condition at the end of the year than it has yet been.

Show Schedules.—With a view to obtaining uniformity in the drawing up of schedules for honey classes at the various Agricultural Shows, the 1915 Conference drew up a standard schedule for circulation amongst the societies concerned, to give them a standard to work upon. The reason for doing so was that the lack of uniformity meant that beekeepers desirous of competing at several shows had to prepare separate exhibits for each one to comply with the schedules, whereas uniformity would enable them to send the same exhibit from show to show. Our readers should bring this matter under the attention of their local show authorities. A case in point of haphazard methods occurs in the last issue. The New Plymouth Society calls for one clear glass jar containing not less than 3 lbs. The largest clear glass jar is the 2 lb. size, excepting fancy confectionery jars. The Fruitgrowers' Show in Dunedin has a class—Honey in Comb, not exceeding 4 lbs. Does this mean section honey or one comb?

Honey Prices.—Beekeepers are now ready to sell their crops. The question of the price to ask is most important. The beekeeping industry has been in a sorry state for many years simply because the majority of the beekeepers were a disorganised lot, and had such a poor opinion of their bees that they were content to accept any old price. We are judged by the value we set upon ourselves, and this year we are going to occupy a more important position in the community. The example of price setting in California given in last issue is true of New Zealand conditions. The price used to be set by the ignorant or hard up beekeeper. It would be the same this year but for the advent of another factor in the game. A number of beekeepers have already disposed of their crops without attempting to find out what the real value is. They will eventually discover that they have sold too cheap. Honey has already been sold in Christchurch at from 4¼d. to 5d., and even to 6d. The latter is a good price, and the buyer found the jars, the seller filling and labelling them. The greater quantity though has been sold at 4¼d. in bulk. We shall be glad to receive reports of all sales, so that they can be published. Sales are the surest index of the price buyers are prepared to give, and it is the seller's own fault when he quits at the lower prices.

But we have mentioned that there is another factor, and it is a most important one. It is this: the price of honey this year will be governed by the price that is obtained by exporting. Co-operative selling of honey has in a few short years obtained splendid results. Where individual selling results in prices being kept low, co-operative selling enables every individual to participate in the benefit of higher prices. We should think that every beekeeper who has even a few cwt. to sell should this year see the wisdom of co-operative selling. The Honey Producers' Association is in a position now to be able to advance 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. for honey on the basis if delivered in grading store packed for export. When it is remembered that this price is advanced without recourse, and that there is a good chance of a further payment being made in the future, it must be realised that the operations of the Honey Producers' Association will have a profound effect on the market price of honey. Producing honey is an art in itself, and selling it is another art. Few beekeepers are good salesmen, but it is up to every beekeeper now to join the H.P.A. and share in the benefits. We congratulate the directors of the H.P.A. on the progress they are making, and wish them continued success in the work they have undertaken.

Registration of Apiaries.—We do not see why there should be any further delay in providing the machinery for the above. A complete record of people who keep bees is the first essential to enable the inspectors to thoroughly inspect a district. A partial inspection of any district is ineffective, and so a waste of time. If the Department officials would look at it this way they would not need to say that the shortage of staff has caused the delay. Most of the registration will be done by small country post offices, and we cannot imagine their staffs being overworked with it. The tabulating of the registrations by the head office would not be an enormous task, and we think the existing staff should be able to cope with it even under present conditions. If the inspectors had to do the work themselves, they could soon make up the time spent on it by the better results obtained through having a complete list of apiaries. We trust the Department will look at it this way and give up procrastinating. We presume that registration will be annual, and that particulars of wax and honey production will be asked for, so that reliable statistics can be obtained. The census statistics are of no value, as they are taken only once in five years, and then seem to fall on the bad seasons every time.

ASSOCIATION ITEMS.

By the SECRETARY.

The Canterbury Branch of the National called its quarterly meeting for Tuesday night, 6th February, but owing to members being away at their apiaries there was no quorum present, and the meeting lapsed.

I am informed that at two field meetings held in Southland last month there were seventy beekeepers present, of whom only fifteen were members of the Association. Beekeeping is

going ahead there, but why do beekeepers consider it is worth while attending a field meeting, yet not worth while joining an Association? Surely they do not expect the other fellow share all the benefits with them and stand the whole cost, too! The Association works for the benefit of the beekeepers as a whole, and if it is found that these selfish ones continue to stand aloof, the Association will have to consider the question of asking the Government to collect a tax from every beekeeper who sells honey, the tax to be handed over to the Association to carry on its work. The Fruitgrowers' Federation is financed on the above principle, which, after all, is the fairest way. Beekeepers must not forget that the Government are treating them very generously this year by paying half their subscriptions. In other words, the Government will subsidise us pound for pound on our income from subscriptions up to £100. Many of our readers are not members yet, but I hope they will see their way to join before the year is up.

The annual Conference will be here in a few months. I expect the attendance will be larger than ever, and I should like to hear from members as early as possible as to any special business they would like to bring forward. If members will mention the subjects they would like to hear papers on, I will endeavour to find writers.

N.Z. CO-OPERATIVE HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

A PROGRESSIVE ORGANISATION.

PURCHASE WELL-KNOWN BEE SUPPLY BUSINESS.

MEETING OF DIRECTORS.

A full meeting of the directors of the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association was held at the Royal Hotel, Palmerston North, on Monday, February 12th, 1917.

A report from the Director of Agriculture was received quoting the estimated honey crop for the season at 1,250 tons.

The balance sheet for the first year's operations in the packing of honey by the Bristol and Dominions' Association in Bristol was received. Considering the enormous increase in the cost of everything used at the depot, the balance sheet was considered satisfactory.

It was decided to pay out at once an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. on all the honey shipped in 1915.

Correspondence was received from the Bristol and Dominions dealing with advances for the present export season. It was decided to pay out on the 20th of the month following

receipt of the honey at the grading depots $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. for A grade, $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. for B grade light and medium amber; $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for the other B grades; $4\frac{1}{4}$ d. for C grade.

The Chairman of Directors reported that there has been for some time a growing feeling amongst shareholders that the Honey Producers' Association should enter into the bee supply business, and that he had therefore opened up negotiations with the Alliance Box Co., Ltd., with the idea of coming to some arrangement with that Company, and it was for the directors to give the matter of the purchase their careful consideration. It was decided unanimously to purchase the business of the Alliance Box Co., Ltd., as a going concern at a figure satisfactory to the Association. In order to raise the additional capital required, it was decided to appoint one or more organisers to travel through the honey producing districts to secure applications for shares and regular supplies of honey. Mr. W. B. Bray was appointed organiser for the South Island, and will commence work at once. The appointment of the organiser for the North Island was left in the hands of the Chairman.

WHITEWASH AND OTHER ITEMS.

I see by your last issue that Mr. David Campbell would like to know how to make whitewash that sits tight. Let him try these. Take two quarts skim milk, 8 ounces fresh slaked lime, 6 ounces linseed oil, 2 ounces white Burgundy pitch, 3 lbs. Spanish white. Slake the lime in water, expose it to the air, and mix in about one quart of the milk, the oil in which the pitch is previously dissolved to be added a little at a time; then the rest of the milk and the Spanish white.

Slake half a bushel of lime with boiling water, and cover the vessel to retain the steam. Strain the liquor, and add one peck of salt previously dissolved in warm water, 3 lbs. of rice boiled and ground to a paste, 8 oz. Spanish whiting, 1 lb. glue; mix, and add 5 gallons hot water; let it stand a few days, and apply hot.

Some people reckon that a pint of varnish in a bucket of ordinary whitewash gives it to a great degree the qualities of paint, but I do not see how it is mixed.

A good composition for house roofs, and I suppose hive roofs also: Take one measure of fine sand, two of sifted wood ashes, and three of lime ground up with oil; mix thoroughly, and lay on with a painter's brush.

Speaking about making hives, do you know how to true them? All you do is just to hold them side on to you, and screw your eye over the edge until you can just see the lower edge; then plane down the high corners. If you cannot get the idea, just watch a blacksmith making a horseshoe.

I hear some chaps murmuring about wedges, how to fasten them in, &c. I reckon they are fool things at least, there is no need for them at all; they keep coming out unless you take

a lot of trouble with them. The best way is to run wax along the top of the tongue, and, of course, the other side of the foundation. It holds it just as secure as the single groove way of fastening, and is practically the same thing. Leave the wedge out completely. If you don't have anything better, a tin or an old spoon does to pour the melted wax with.

I hear a chap speaking against those things that are made of wood, with the wood fully exposed to the sun, to fit on top of hives—covers, I think some people have the cheek to call them. They are the silliest things ever made; they warp, and twist, and split, and shrink, and fall to pieces. Telescope covers, with metal or paper roofs, are the only things fit to put on a hive. I cannot see why the others were ever made.

W. BROWN, Junr.,

Cheviot.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

The honey flow in most districts has lasted longer than usual this year, but it will be possible now to extract all surplus honey and get the bees ready for wintering. If this is done while there is still a little honey coming in, all the supers can be taken off, and then the bees are forced to pack it in the brood chamber. In such a season as the past, a great deal of pollen has been stored. This helps to make the hives very heavy, and allowance must be made for pollen when deciding how much to leave for winter. It is a good plan to leave one or two colonies with a full super of honey to the good, which can be drawn on in the spring to help others which may be short.

If it is preferred to have the extracting combs put away dry for the winter, the supers containing them can be put underneath the brood chambers for a few days. The bees will clean the honey up and carry it above to the brood nest.

Now is a good time to send away for an Italian queen, if it is desired to go in for a better strain of bees. Most breeders will have queens on hand now, but if it is left till next season to order them, it means nearly a season's delay, because it is well into the middle of the season before breeders have young queens to send out. It is two months after the new queen is introduced before the old queen's bees are gone. If a young queen is introduced now, though a good many of the old bees will live over the winter, the colony will be fully Italianised by late spring, so that it will be possible to make an accurate comparison between it and other colonies.

The first thing to do when the new queen is received from the post is to find the queen in the hive in which you wish to introduce her. If the weather is unsuitable for handling bees, the cage containing the new queen can be placed on the top of the frames in the meantime to keep her warm. If one has never seen a queen on the combs, it will be a difficult

matter to spot her. The best plan then is to sift her out with queen excluding zinc. There are several ways of doing it. One way is to put a drone trap on the entrance, then shake all the bees off the combs in front. The queen will be unable to get through, and can be spotted easy enough when most of the bees have gone in. Another way is to shake the bees into a box, putting the combs into another super. Put a queen excluder on and an empty super on top. Shake the bees out into the empty super, and blow smoke gently round the edges till the bees go down through the excluder, and the queen is left. Kill the queen when found, and leave the young queen in her cage between the top bars and the mat for a day. Then as gently as possible, using very little smoke, lift the mat and uncover the hole, which is plugged with candy. It will take the bees a day or two to release their new mother. She will settle down to her duties in her new home, but if the hive is disturbed too soon the bees are likely to ball her and do her some injury, if they don't kill her outright. The hive should not be disturbed for a week at least. At this season of the year hives should not be opened up unless for a special object, and then only for the shortest time possible.

The beginner will now be able to review the results of his season's work. Possibly mistakes have been made by doing the wrong thing, or perhaps neglecting to do the right thing at the right time. In the former case experience will teach, but in the latter case the bees will get the blame when really the owner deserves it. There is nothing else on the farm which will give such good returns for the amount of time spent as the apiary will, provided the required work is done at the right time. If, however, it has got to wait till time can be found, then it will be better to do without bees and buy the honey. I know of an instance where a farmer kept a few hives for years. They received no attention, and were allowed to swarm to their heart's content. This season an expert worked the bees (eight colonies), and took six cwt., the first honey they had ever produced.

As soon as you see the bees killing the drones, you can reckon that the honey season is over.

NEW ZEALAND HONEY.

It is about a year since we called attention to the fact that Major A. E. M. Norton D.S.O., F.R.C.S., F.G.I., the popular Trade Commissioner for the Government of South Australia, was resigning his position to take over the Managing directorship of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association. Major Norton was best known to our readers as a lecturer and organiser of South Australian produce at Grocers' and Bakers' Exhibitions throughout the country. He was also an enthusiastic and practical supporter of the Institute of Certificated Grocers.

As the result of several years' investigation, Major Norton came to the conclusion that the retail grocers of the United Kingdom were not in as direct touch with the producers in Australia and New Zealand as they should be, and consequently

considerable profits were being made by altogether unnecessary middlemen, but he saw in the formation of the Bristol and Dominion Producers' Association a means whereby this evil might be remedied. The Bristol and Dominions Association is an Association composed of many hundreds of producers of all classes of produce in New Zealand and Australia, who have co-operated together in order to ensure themselves that their produce is being taken as directly as possible to the actual consumer, and is also being sold as from the country of origin.

Since leaving the service of the South Australian Government, Major Norton has toured throughout New Zealand and Australia, and only returned quite recently to take up his position in Bristol. Major Norton reports that despite the depressing effect that the war and drought was having in Australia, he had a most successful tour in that country and also in New Zealand. He has arranged for large quantities of produce of all descriptions to be regularly shipped by the producers themselves direct to their own Association and to the port nearest where it is required—be it Bristol, Liverpool or London.

Amongst the many Producers Co-operative Associations in Australia and New Zealand that have joined up with the Bristol and Dominions Association, is the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association, Ltd. This Association is composed of the leading bee farmers in New Zealand. The Executive of this Association have accordingly undertaken to ship the whole of their surplus supplies to the Bristol and Dominions Association, who are putting the honey up in vessels at their depot in Bristol for distribution direct throughout the United Kingdom.

All the honey shipped by the N.Z.H.P.A. is guaranteed by the Government of New Zealand to be absolutely pure, and the flavour and aroma is equal to anything the world produces. Major Norton further reports that he has made arrangements with some of the leading butter factories in Australia for regular weekly supplies during the season, and will be prepared to distribute it direct from the ship to buyers, thus affording many grocers in this country an opportunity that they have been a long time looking for.

We have often had complaints from our readers that they were unable to obtain Australian and New Zealand butter in as direct a manner as they considered they should. We would accordingly recommend them to get in touch with the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association as early as possible for particulars of brands, &c. Note the address: The Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, St. Stephen's avenue, Bristol.

—The Irish Grocery World, 24th July, 1915.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received during the month:—

Messrs. A. Crawford, C. A. Grainger (two years), B. Holmes, T. McCutcheon, A. W. Westney.

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, I learn that the previous estimate of a good honey yield is being realised. Prices are likely to be about the same as last year. Beeswax is in demand at 1/6 per lb.—G. V. Westbrook. 1/2/17.

Wellington.—It is estimated that the honey crop this year will be an average one. The weather in the Wellington Province and Taranaki has been unusually dry, but there is still time to secure a second crop if rain is forthcoming. In Hawke's Bay the rainfall has been good, and no fears are entertained regarding the crop there. The lack of high winds in the central part of the North Island has undoubtedly been of great value to bee-farmers, as the bees have been enabled to range wide distances in search of food.

Christchurch.—About the middle of the month a thunder-storm was fairly general over Canterbury, the rain penetrating the ground 1 in. to 1½ in. The parched pastures freshened up, and a light honey flow followed for a short while. The main flow is now over, and the season working to a close. Speaking generally, the season has been a trifle better than last year. The crop, so far as can be estimated, only promises to be moderate.

There is a good demand for table honey by local merchants. Prices are better than last year, 5d. to 5½d. offering in bulk, and 7/- to 9/- per dozen for sections. There is an enquiry by a large firm for ten tons of first grade honey for export.—L. Bowman. 2/2/17.

Dunedin.—In the northern parts of my district there is practically no alteration in respect to this season's crop. The weather continues dry. In Otago and Southland there has been an abnormal flow, and reports to hand point to the best season yet on record. Extracting is in progress, and operations are likely to be continued, as the clover is still yielding abundantly. Prices are firm.—E. A. Earp. 2/2/17.

HIVE COVERS.

The above has been quite a live subject lately, so I thought I would write a little of my experience in that line to help to keep the little paper going.

Some years ago I noticed a description of a cover in "Gleanings" which I thought good, so I promptly adopted same. The construction is simple. Cut ½-in. to 5-8in. timber 1¼ in. longer than hive-body, and same width. Nail two strips on the underneath side, one at each end, to overlap the hive-body; nail four 1-inch x ½-inch strips crosswise on top side, one at each end, and divide space between with the other two; to finish, nail on top of strips a sheet of 26 gauge galvanised iron; don't drive any nails on to surface of iron

and so let water in. I nail the iron to the end of each middle crosspiece and along the sides of end pieces. One 72 in. x 36 in. sheet of galvanised iron cuts into 6 sheets the right size for hives of the 10-frame size. The above cover is cool, as it is air spaced and very light, yet does not blow off, as the bees glue it down, no mats being used. I decided against mats some years ago. I boil the strips in coal tar, and tar between joins. Benzine case timber lends itself very nicely for making these lids. Last winter, wishing to make more covers, and galvanised iron being high in price, I bought a roll of tarred building paper, and made some gable covers that will never leak. I cut out timber for platform, as in other cover described. I cut the end pieces out of 7-8 in. timber, and made them 4 in. wide, grooved same to take ends of platform and the two sloping boards, allowing about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of end piece to overlap hive body. After putting platform into grooves of end pieces, I then glued on top of platform a sheet of tarred paper. I used coal tar for glue, tarring both boards and paper (when dry the tar sticks like glue). I then slipped the two sloping boards into their grooves and nailed on a ridge board. It does not matter how much water gets through the gable roof, it just runs off the tarred paper underneath. The sloping boards need not be more than 7 in. wide (speaking from a 10-frame hive standpoint). Make up the difference with a 6 in. wide ridge board. This cover does not tip sideways when a super is set on it, as the end pieces are the same width right along. This lid should be cool, it also being air-spaced. The roll of building paper cost me about £1 2s. 6d., and it contained enough superficial measurement to do about 350 covers. I boiled the wood-work which comes in contact with the weather in coal tar for an hour or so, which treatment sinks the tar well into the wood, and makes a lasting job. I used a large old factory milk-can for a boiler, taking care to do the work away from any building.

J. WALWORTH.

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

Sir,—May I ask for space in your columns to explain a few things in connection with our Company?

The longed-for bonus, why so long in coming? The B. and D. balance their accounts on November 30th. On November 30th, 1915, only about one-third of our 1915 shipments had been disposed of. Under the circumstances no further returns were obtainable until after their 1916 balance on November 30th. A balance sheet showing the profits made in the bottling depot from December 1st, 1915, to November 30th, 1916, is just to hand. This includes the balance of the 1915 shipments and part of 1916—a rather puzzling statement, as it includes part of two seasons' shipments. The directors, however, have done the best possible under the circumstances, and have decided to pay out a bonus of $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per lb. on the 1915 shipments. This is

far below the expectations even of the pessimist. It is, however, accounted for by the excessively high freights and other charges due to the war.

The Bristol and Dominions' system of marketing our honey leaves very little to be desired, and with a return to normal conditions as regards freights, insurance, etc., we will be on an exceedingly good wicket. Even situated as we are, the prices now obtained are far ahead of anything previously even dreamt of. The beekeeper, therefore, who does not do his best to help in the maintenance of the good work is very short-sighted.

This season we are advancing 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per lb. for medium amber B grade and A grade, and 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for A grade and light amber B grade. This will seem a low advance in view of the fact that we are guaranteed 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for the latter grades. The directors, however, do not feel safe in advancing any more at present, but if we get the honey away all right the bonus on this year's output will be worth having.

Some who have a record crop this year are holding back from joining us, under the impression that they will be expected to take shares on the basis of their highest output. This is not so; we endeavour to adjust the shares on the basis of the shareholder's average crop.

In dividing the profits, all the profits are pooled, also all the honey, and the profits divided over the whole. If we do sufficient good business in bee supplies, wax, and other lines, we may, therefore, pay more for the honey in the long run than we get for it. This did occur one year, the Company having made a big profit in a deal in bees.—I am, etc.,

H. W. GILLING,
Managing Director.

BEST METHOD OF TREATING FOUL-BROOD.

Please do not, everybody, including, of course, the keeper of bees who knows nothing, lift up your hearts and voices all in a heap in hasty condemnation! I am not the inventor. But as I have used this method much, and perhaps improved on it some, please excuse my using the capital "I" considerably.

Foul-broody colonies are easily distinguished in early spring, and wooden toothpicks, such as florists use, are very handy for trying suspicious cells. I mark the colonies I decide to treat by putting a stone on the cover, or two if the colony is weak. Also "Care F.B." is entered on the register; there must absolutely be no chance of a mistake in this matter. I treat when the honey is coming in decidedly, and in decent weather and early in the day by preference, so that the brood piled up on weak colonies may have the whole of a warm day to start with. A colony having two good frames of brood and bees enough to cover them well may be treated with success in good weather. I do not advise a beginner to make his first experiment on a colony so little strong. I do not often do it;

it almost never pays. Much better to pile on that colony for, say, a week, and then shake it, removing the pile to some other weak colony. Here are a few things which should certainly be found in every reasonable apiary, and which are especially useful with this method:—

(1) I always use Izal, 1 in 400, a little less than a teaspoonful to a quart of water, and, if the job is likely to be messy, I have it in two dishes—one for the dirty and one for the clean wash. Any soluble carbolic acid—i.e., if there is any such besides Izal, should do.

(2) I do not use a brush, but a goose or turkey feather instead. It is always thrown into the clean dishful of Izal when not in use, and when too grubby it is rammed into my big smoker and no more trouble. My hive tool and some other odd tools are usually in the Izal also.

(3) I have a sieve for finding the queen and for catching up broken bits of comb and rubbish when shaking. It is made by nailing a wood and wire excluder to the bottom of a shallow super. A rim 16 in. by 20 in. outside measurement will do, and better, because it has no rabbet for the bees and queen to play hide-and-seek in.

(4). A box to carry 10 frames, with bottom nailed on and cover that can be very quickly slid on, is made like a hive, only deeper, so as not to crush up bees on the bottom, as frames are quickly put in. The ends should be of 7-8 in. wood, $14\frac{1}{2}$ in. ($14\frac{1}{4}$ in. will do) by 10 1-8 in. (not any less); that is the depth of the box; $\frac{3}{4}$ in. rabbet should be cut out, and not made smaller by any kind of tins in order that room may be left for the crosspieces that hold the lid together; bottom sides and top of 3-8 in. wood (kerosene cases). These boxes should not be heavy, of course, but they must be absolutely bee-tight.

(5.) Use smoke. I believe in the largest smoker I can get, but I do not use much of it; water is much quicker and much more effective in subduing bees, even the most savage. I sprinkle it on with a brush, which I bought at the local grocery store for about one shilling, and which they called a paste-brush. Moreover, if you use water, you may find the queen, and if you use smoke you never can.

When honey is certainly and steadily coming in and the weather is more or less settled, and time for shaking operations at hand, I go to all my marked colonies with my carrying box, and take away from them all that is not brood. This may be done at any time of the day. From the combs thus taken to the honey house, I especially reserve two for each colony to be shaken (three for a very strong colony may be needed, and one would be ample for one not strong). Any kind of combs will do, only they must be absolutely empty. I prepare an absolutely clean fit out for each colony I intend shaking—i.e., clean bottom board, a clean cover handy, and a clean hive-body with clean frames on it, with full foundation wired, room in the middle for two frames being left. This I place exactly on the spot where the old hive stood. I put on the two drawn combs in the place

reserved for them, and place the sieve on top of this prepared hive, and the hive to be shaken on top of it. There being but a few frames to shake, the operation does not take long, and with a feather you can actually scrape the bees off the whole depth of the frames on both sides while they are hanging in the old hive still; and when the frame is taken out the few old bees are quickly brushed off, and into the carrying box it goes. When all the frames have been shaken and the queen found and clipped if need should be, cover is put on, and the bees left so for forty-eight hours. At the end of that time I go to the shaken hive with the carrying box, take out, brushing quickly, the two drawn combs, slide the frames together, and insert two new frames of foundation, at each side one, and the whole job is finished. Only two days, no hurry, no fuss, and bees never desert, because they settle on the drawn combs at once, and when these are taken away forty-eight hours later, those next to them, which are then moved up together, are quite ready for business at once, and so business goes on as if not interrupted. The two drawn combs taken out contain all the old honey bees deposited that was not used up in building, and all the eggs laid by the queen. And the next batch of eggs must of necessity stay cured, there being no old honey for them if the job has been cleanly and properly done. I pile up on weaker colonies over the excluder, according to the ability of these colonies, otherwise much chilled brood may result. I have even in very warm weather piled up brood all by itself, and with good results. Cells must be guarded against on the brood above the excluder, and so should the colonies piled upon be also watched; they soon get strong, and take on a notion to swarm. Hives, bottoms, and covers I neither boil nor burn out. I scrape them—i.e., if no honey stains are on them, and paint them liberally with kerosene. If stained with honey, I wash them in some disinfectant and dry them, and then paint them liberally with kerosene. Frames I steam hard for twenty minutes after the combs have been cut out. Old combs I render into beeswax, all the operations of that pleasant job being performed strictly inside of the bee-house. I sweep the bee-house occasionally, but no sweepings are ever thrown out: fire is the surest of disinfectants.

S.A. APIARY (STEPHEN ANTHONY),

Coromandel, N.Z.

The Beekeepers' Exchange.

ADVERTISEMENTS on this Page will be inserted
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WANTED, APIARIST capable of managing our five Apiaries of 450 colonies next season; must not be liable for military service; liberal terms.—Apply

BARRETT & BRAY, Wainui.

APIARIST leaving for the front wishes to unite nuclei and dispose of 40 surplus queens of the very best Golden Italian strain, six weeks old. Tested, 4/-; Select Tested, 5/-

B. HOLMES, Queen Breeder,
Pirongia, Waikato.

Correspondence.

LOCAL INSPECTORS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—“Critic” says (page 499) that the appointment of local inspectors requires some discrimination, and that supplementary inspectors should be appointed to inspect a district away from their own because, in his opinion, they will be inclined to favour their friends and keep strictly to the law with others. Now, I have always found that ten minutes’ quiet talk in explaining the situation was always enough to convince them to keep to the law was the better plan, as well as the most profitable. Get them interested, and they are all quite willing to improve on their methods of beekeeping, especially friends, or else to destroy their bees altogether. I know a local inspector who has lately cleaned up five or six box-hive apiaries without any trouble whatsoever. The fault of having to inspect a district away from your own lies in not knowing where to look for trouble “in the light of box hives.” A local inspector in his own district will hunt up box hives it would take a permanent inspector a lifetime to find.

See here, Mr. “Critic,” just you and others who think likewise buckle into harness as local inspectors, and never fear about what we may be inclined to do. I fancy we will do a lot more good than harm, even if we are not entirely free from bias. As to those we are compelled to deal strictly with, I do not see that they can make much trouble if we stick to our duty. The more local inspectors there are the sooner we will get rid of the accursed disease foul-brood.—I am, etc.,

LOCAL INSPECTOR.

[The average person who keeps a few hives, however neglected, will not give a local inspector credit for being unbiased, and hence he is more likely to imagine a grievance than if a total stranger, whether permanent or local, comes to inspect his bees. We want to see disease eradicated without causing friction, which may lead to opposition. It is not so much an army of local inspectors that is required, but a more complete inspection by the present permanent staff, and to get that we must have registration. If the work is done thoroughly the area of disease can be lessened, district by district, and if the problem is tackled in this way, the need for more inspectors disappears. There are districts which were infected at one time, but are now clean, and an inspector is not required in them.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In the December issue of the Journal Mr. R. Gibb, in his article on the abnormal crop from one hundred hives, makes the following statement:—“Now, I know I will rub somebody’s hair the wrong way when I state that I have never seen a blocked brood-nest where queen-excluders are used, and as I run the whole season with three or four swarms, and some

seasons none at all, the man who says they encourage swarming does not know what he is talking about." To me it appears the latter part of this assertion is rather a sweeping one, because, after all, one can only be guided by the experience of himself and others, and from what I can gather from the experience I have had and conversations on results with other more experienced men, is that the queen-excluder is only a doubtful blessing. My own experience is that I used the appliance in two of my apiaries, and I have never seen hives in such a deplorable state as they were. I was told by an enthusiast on the use of them how they enabled one to do this, that, and the other, but in my hands it was only "the other" that occurred, and that the wrong sort.

This is how I fixed the hives up. Two frames of brood and queen with ten frames foundation (12-frame hives), entrance 17 in. wide, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep; weather good; honey flow on, also queen excluder. The next visit, ten days after, showed there wasn't much honey stored above in the cells lately occupied with brood, but I assumed that was all right, as it was being used below. The next visit, in another ten days, I could see something was not going "according to the book," and on opening the hives for thorough inspection, I don't think I was ever so disgusted with bees as then. The bees had in some cases neglected the queen altogether; in others they had drawn out the foundation, but choked it with honey; most of them had swarmed; there seemed to be no brood about, only a lot of demoralised bees, disorganised hive, decreased honey crop, and a disgusted beekeeper. Such was my experience, and I have been asked by more than one if excluders are good, and I've only said that I personally couldn't do anything with them in the ordinary way. I find them exceedingly useful for raising queens, which is the only use I put them to.

I am sure Mr. Gibb will allow that Mr. Lenz, of Masterton, who at the time I put in a season with him was running 1,300 hives, with a crop of thirty-six tons, besides rearing hundreds of queens for sale and home use, knew what he was talking about on the subject of bees. His experience was and his advice to me was they induced swarming, and the only use he put them to was to place under neath maturing brood that was to be split up for increase and nuclei.

Please, Mr. Gibb, don't think my hair is rubbed the wrong way. I should have been only too delighted at the last extraction to have been able to have taken all the sealed honey, but was prevented by so many combs having brood in them; but to me, according to my experience, I have the choice of two evils—one the inconvenience of having brood in the storage supers; the other, the state of hives I have already shown; and of the two evils I choose the lesser.

I feel sure there are many who have had similar experience to mine, and would be glad of an article on the manipulation of the appliance, because I feel that, if it is successful in the hands of one man, there is no reason why it should not be in the hands of another, and I am quite willing to try again after

I have got an expression of opinion from men who have used them successfully, and "know what they are talking about."—
I am, etc.,

FRED. C. BAINES.

Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty, 30/1/17.

[Our readers will be interested to hear Mr. Gibbs' method of using queen excluders.—Ed.]

Good Things from Everywhere.

The purchase of a manufacturing plant by the H.P.A. was a good move, and the directors are to be complimented on the promptness with which they seized the opportunity of securing a going concern. Shareholders will be entitled to liberal bonuses on their purchases of supplies, and it is confidently expected that every beekeeper of any size in the Dominion will become a shareholder. A prospectus of a new issue of shares is now being prepared, and will be sent to anyone interested on application to the managing director, P.O. Box 104, Hawera. We recommend every beekeeper, whether a large one or a small one, to write for a prospectus.

Next month I shall send out a demand for all unpaid subscriptions, and those not paid by June will have to be cancelled. There are too many overdue subscriptions, and the Association cannot go on publishing the Journal another year unless the income improves. Probably it is mere forgetfulness causes the delay. The members of the Executive are personally responsible for the cost of publication, and unless readers show their confidence by remitting fees promptly, it is not likely that next year's Executive will be so obliging as to undertake the responsibility.

A hitch has occurred in getting the National registered under the Unclassified Societies' Act as decided on at last Conference. Mr. Brickell has twice prepared the necessary papers, and now the Registrar refuses to register the Association because he objects to the reference to Branches in the constitution. Mr. Brickell is interviewing him in Wellington this week, so I may be able in next issue to report on the grounds of the Registrar's refusal.

By the time this is out I shall be engaged on an important business tour amongst the beekeepers of the South Island. I hope to meet a good many beekeepers, and gather in more members for the National, besides subscribers to the Journal.

The season on Banks Peninsula has been peculiar. It opened well, with a good flow, which gradually dwindled away as the clover dried up under the long spell of hot weather. Then came several heavy rains in succession, which changed the face of the landscape. The grass turned green again and began growing. Clover has come out again nearly as good as it was before, and beekeepers are hoping for a spell of hot weather to give them another honey flow. The drones have not been killed yet (February 15th).

The Waikato Branch do things properly. They are holding their annual field day at the Ruakura State Apiary, and a neat folder has been sent out containing an invitation, the programme, and a railway time-table for the day. The programme includes live subjects, such as "Marketing Honey," by the Chairman of the H.P.A., Queen-rearing and Introduction, and other useful items by prominent beekeepers. Given fine weather, an enjoyable and profitable day should be spent.

It is very pleasing to see that some of our beekeepers are keen to keep the Journal going. Our thanks are due to Mr. John Cooper, Menzies Bay, Lyttelton, for the sum of 10/- donated for that purpose.

Cost of Establishing an Apiary.—Has not "R.B." overstated the cost? If the material is bought in large quantities there is a considerable saving. Two men can nail up 100 supers in two days, and apply the first coat of paint. Nailing, wiring and putting foundation in 350 frames is a day's work for two men. How would the following estimate do?

100 2-storey hives complete (10/-)	£50	0	0
200 extra supers, with frames	28	0	0
500 lbs. medium brood foundation	50	0	0
Labour nailing up and painting three coats (60 days at 10/-)	30	0	0
Nails, paint and wire	10	0	0
Freight	10	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£178	0	0

("R.B." estimates £250.)

One acre of land	£50	0	0
Large honey-room	50	0	0
Extractor	11	0	0
Tanks	5	0	0
Uncapping cans, &c.	4	0	0
Fencing	10	0	0
Sundries	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£150	0	0

Bees are not included in the above estimate, as their value depends so much on the season of the year, condition, and the sort of hives they are in. Generally speaking, bees that are for sale are in a neglected condition and the hives in a poor state of repair. If hives are factory made and are properly nailed and painted in the first place, the depreciation will be very small; but how many beekeepers do it?

"R.B." mentions tins and cases as another item, but these cannot be charged to capital account, as they are an annual charge against the honey crop.

C. A. JACOBSEN.

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,

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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:

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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 Bentall 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.

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