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E. A. Taylor

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

MAY 18th, 1917.

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



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



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May 18, 1917.]

E. A. Gair

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 35

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

REFORM WANTED.

Under the present system the four apiary inspectors are directly under the control of the Director of Horticulture. This gentleman's time is fully occupied with horticultural affairs, and though he may do his best, it is impossible for him to give the detailed attention that is necessary to properly develop the bee-keeping industry. The inspectors are left pretty much to themselves, and can do as they individually please as to where or when they go out inspecting, how they grade the honey, or how they answer complaints. There seems to be a lack of policy and system, due, we think, mainly to the fact that the absence of control by a qualified beekeeper has led to a lack of cohesion amongst the staff of inspectors. Things seem to muddle along, and the officials avoid publicity. While some of the inspectors do their work conscientiously, it is perhaps too much to ask of human nature to expect them all to do so. The time has come when a Chief Inspector of Apiaries should be appointed. He would be able to make a personal investigation when complaints are made. At present when a complaint is made against an inspector, it is referred to him to make a report on, and naturally he can make out a good case for himself when the other side cannot be heard. A better system than this is required. Another matter that a Chief Inspector could attend to is the carrying out of a policy of inspection so as to get a larger number of visits made with a less amount of travelling. By that we mean that there is probably too much time wasted in long-distance travelling, where an inspector tries to appear busy by putting in an appearance in too many districts without inspecting them thoroughly. We know that wet and cold weather often makes it impossible to open hives, but even then the inspector can do useful work by visiting beekeepers and imparting instruction. (Officially they are called instructors.) We think also that the inspectors could be relieved of a good deal of unnecessary correspondence. A few years ago the National spurred the Department up until they provided the inspectors with motor bikes, but even with the greater facilities for travelling the number of visits of inspection shows no increase. At the last few Conferences, when the work of inspection has been criticised, Mr. Kirk has defended his officials by putting forward the difficulty of locating apiaries, the increased correspondence, and, latterly, the honey grading. We have dealt with the first excuse lately. The last excuse sounds reasonable enough, though most of the grading is done in the slack part of the year, and we have never been shown how many days

a year are devoted to it. But the grading need not interfere with the inspection work if a Chief Inspector is appointed and all the grading put into his hands. There are several reasons why we think this would be an advantage. The chief would need to travel up and down the country in any case, so it would not entail any extra travelling. We believe it would be a guarantee that the grading decisions are uniform. From the number of complaints that are being made in regard to the grading at Lyttelton, we are satisfied that there is room for improvement. Further, it is a wrong principle to allow the same man who does the inspecting to do the grading. The decision of the grader decides the price the producer is to receive. As most of the producers who send honey in for grading have a direct interest in seeing that the inspector carries out his duties of inspection in a thorough manner, it sometimes happens that they have complaints to make. Some refrain from complaining because the inspector grades their honey; others don't. We have mentioned the port where trouble is occurring, as it would not be fair to cast reflections on all the inspectors.

The appointment of a Chief Inspector would not only clear up the present trouble, but it would also be a guarantee that the like would not occur again. For several years now the Conference has urged the appointment of more inspectors, a course which would accentuate the present difficulty. At last Conference there was on the Order Paper a proposal to urge the appointment of a Chief Inspector, but for some unknown reason the proposal was dropped. It is to be hoped that the Conference next month will give the matter its serious consideration. Of course, while the war lasts there is no hope of further appointments being made, but the matter should be urged on the Government at once, so that the necessary power can be taken next session to deal with it when the war is over.

The Future of the Journal.—The question of raising the subscription to the Journal will have to be considered at the coming Conference. It is too soon yet to state the exact financial position, as a large amount due for advertising should be in this month. If all the subscribers who are behind hand in their payments would renew at once there would hardly be any need to raise the subscription rate. New subscriptions continue to come in, while a few have been closed; but it should still be possible to raise at least another fifty new ones. There are now over five hundred subscribers. With a little more advertising matter and six hundred subscribers paid up, the Journal can be carried on at the present subscription. By raising it to 5/- the Journal could be enlarged to twenty pages. Quite a number of subscribers, when sending their dues, are expressing their appreciation of the Journal, and announcing their readiness to pay an increased rate, while some are already paying a higher rate. It is to be hoped that those who are in arrears will pay up immediately, so that the Conference can better decide what to do.

CO-OPERATION.

A correspondent writes as follows:—"Will you kindly let me know what it costs a member of the N.Z.H.P.A. in yearly fees? I am reaping the benefit of the enhanced prices for honey due to the Association, but I do not want to become a member. I think, though, that it would be only fair to subscribe an amount to the Association equal to what it costs to become a member."

There are no annual fees paid to the N.Z.H.P.A. It is a limited liability company, composed of beekeepers holding a 40/- share for every 4 cwt. of their average crop. The share money may be either subscribed in one sum, or in instalments spread over a number of years. Shareholders are bound to supply their whole crop to the Association, which deals entirely with the marketing problem. As our correspondent is in an isolated district, where he has a clear field in the local market, it is probably the question of compulsory supply which prevents him from becoming a member. There is no question but what the operations of the Association have materially increased the general price of honey, and it is hard for isolated producers who wish to take a share of the burden of organisation to decide how best to help.

There are several factors to be taken into consideration. That which looms largest in the eyes of the scattered producers is the question of supplying the local retail trade direct from the apiary, as against shipping the crop in bulk and allowing the local trade to be supplied with the Association's honey through the usual wholesale channels. While at first sight the latter method may entail unnecessary handling, there are other advantages which counterbalance. A standard quality in a standard package will allow an extensive scheme of advertising to be undertaken, and this will lead to an enormous increased consumption. We believe, too, that beekeepers will find it ever so much more profitable to concentrate their energies on increased production and send their honey away in bulk. The larger the quantity that the H.P.A. can handle, the more it can concentrate on the selling problem. The producer is more likely then to get increased prices than he is now by restricting his production and chasing round the merchants and stores trying to squeeze an extra farthing. We know of beekeepers in a large way who this year sold their honey to merchants at what they considered was a better price than they had ever received before. Had they been shareholders in the H.P.A. they would have received a better price. Individual selling means selling in the dark, and only a few lucky ones every get the top price. Co-operative selling is the only logical course for the beekeeper.

MOTOR CARS FOR INSPECTORS.

The Department evidently intends to provide all the apiary inspectors with motor cars. Continuous motor cycling is a great strain on the rider, and the inspectors will appreciate the change. It seems rather odd, though, that five-seater cars should be used where two-seaters would do. A small car would

provide enough room for luggage, and enable the inspector to take a beekeeper with him sometimes to show him the way. But from a newspaper clipping we reprinted last month, it appears that the large cars will be used for the benefit of higher officials. While a car will be found useful for them, it practically means that the inspector becomes a chauffeur, and the work of inspection is hung up. Another objection to the larger car is that it will be a great temptation to the inspectors to use them for the benefit of their friends on week-ends and holidays. The life of a car depends a good deal on the mileage, so it is to be hoped that a strict account of the mileage will be kept to see that the cars do no useless running.

Notices.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the members of the National Beekeepers' Association will be held in Wellington on June 6th, commencing at 10 a.m., in Edmanson's Hall, Lambton Quay, for the purpose of receiving the Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending May, 1916; receiving the Report and Balance Sheet of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal; the election of office-bearers; the appointment of an auditor for the ensuing year, and general.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference of the Beekeepers of the Dominion will be held in connection with the above meeting. Every beekeeper in New Zealand is invited to attend this Conference, and to take an active part in the proceedings. No other notice of the Conference will be sent out, so beekeepers are asked to accept the above as a personal notice and invitation.

The programme, which is not quite full, is appended below.

The Executive will be pleased to hear from anyone who is willing to help or would like to see additional subjects discussed.

After 1st June all communications should be sent to Barrett's Hotel, Wellington; before June 1st to Utiku.

W. B. BRAY,
Secretary.

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., will be held in Edmanson's Hall, Lambton Quay, Wellington, at 10 a.m. on THURSDAY, 7th June, 1917.

Business: To receive Annual Report and Balance Sheet; Election of Board of Directors and Auditor, and general.

Most of the beekeepers attending the Conference usually stay at Barrett's Hotel, Trocadero Private Hotel, or the People's Palace. There is a wide choice of hotels in Wellington. Anyone wanting to secure accommodation ahead of their arrival should send instructions to the Secretary.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

PROGRAMME.

WEDNESDAY, 6th JUNE, 1917.

- 10 a.m.—Annual Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.
 Opening of Conference.
 President's Address.
 Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
 Inspection of Officially Graded Samples of Honey.
 Notices of Motion.
- 2 p.m.—"Crystallisation of Honey."—Mr. W. E. BARKER.
 "Criticism of the Grading System."—Mr. E. V. SAGE.
 "Bees on the Share System."—Mr. J. RENTOUL.
- 8 p.m.—"How to Fit Up and Manage an Up-to-date Apiary."—
 Mr. W. B. BRAY.

THURSDAY, 7th JUNE.

- 2 p.m.—"Packages for Export Honey."—Mr. W. E. BARKER.
 "Apiary Sites."—Mr. J. RENTOUL.
 "An Improved Capping Melter."—Mr. H. BENTON.
- 8 p.m.—Written questions answered by members.
 Conditions which bring about the Swarming Impulse.

FRIDAY, 8th JUNE.

- 10 a.m.—"Administration of the Apiaries Act."—Mr. W. B. BRAY.
 "Financial Side of Beekeeping."—Mr. R. W. BRICKELL.
- 2 p.m.—Beekeeping for Returned Soldiers.
 Election of Officers.
 Unfinished Business.

STRAY BEES.

(By R.B., Bay of Plenty.)

(Continued from last issue.)

Honey in this district is being advertised and sold at 32/6 per 60lb. tin, 5/9 per 10lb. tin, and 15/- per dozen 2lb. tins. Those families who buy their 60lb. tins at the advanced price are quite satisfied when shown that honey has advanced less than 50 per cent., while many other things have gone up 75 to 100 per cent. and more. The managing director of the Honey Producers' Association, writing in January, said the

price of 2lb. tins had been fixed at 15/- per dozen, and orders were coming in very freely. Two of the big towns had supplied orders for 10,000 dozen before the middle of the season. One firm of grocers led off with an order for 2,000 dozen, and these orders are coming in without any special effort being made to obtain them.

(Since the above was written, news has come to hand to the effect that the best Waikato honey is being sold at 18/6 per dozen.)

Our Agricultural Journals have been advocating lately that farmers should extensively plant the algaroba or carob bean tree. This tree, the botanical name of which is *Prosopis juliflora*, is planted by the hundreds of thousands on the Hawaiian Islands for the production of beans, fuel, and honey. The trees produce up to 500 lbs. of beans each, and large quantities are exported to America for feeding stock. It reaches a height of 50 ft. and a diameter of 2 ft., thus providing a quantity of firewood, which is said to be of good quality. A gum is obtained from the tree for varnish-making, while the bark contains tannin for tanning purposes. The bees on the islands collect annually about 300 tons of water-white honey from the blossom of the algaroba, and it is stated the honey has the same body as that of white clover. Some small plantations of this tree have been growing in New Zealand for thirty years or more, and now that attention is being drawn to their value, the area will, no doubt, be greatly extended.

Second-hand petrol tins may now be used for holding and marketing honey, and no doubt the bringing in of this regulation has brought joy to the heart of the man who cares nothing for the ultimate good name of our produce, and whose only desire is to make "a good deal" (apparently) for the present time, without regard to the taste of the consumer or the effect upon future sales. The excuse put forward is that the price of tin containers has gone up. As a matter of fact, the increase in the price of the tins required to hold a ton of honey is just under 18/-, while the value of the honey itself has risen about £19 per ton. Every effort should be made by those who have the welfare of our industry at heart to prevent honey packed in petrol and kerosene tins being exported to Great Britain, where our honey has up to the present such a good name. The regulation says that the top of the petrol tin must be removed and a new top with a friction lid soldered on. When the top of a kerosene tin is removed there is little except the smell to distinguish it from the petrol tin, and even the smell will be covered up for a time when the tin is full of honey. In the back-blocks of Australia, these second-hand tins are used to considerable extent, the result being that people who were supplied with kerosene-flavoured honey have ceased to use honey of every description. Second-hand honey tins might, however, be used to advantage in New Zealand, especially where the honey is emptied at the bottling depot, where, with a plentiful supply of live steam and boiling water, the tins could be well cleaned and dried before being sent back to the supplier.

Field Day at Ruakura State Apiary has come and gone. The weather was perfect, and the same may be said of the arrangements, which were carried out by the officers of the State Apiary in conjunction with the officers of the Waikato Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association. Quite a few of New Zealand's leading men were present, and made congratulatory speeches. The statement which seemed to meet with most approval was "We have decided to make field day an annual affair." The large number of lady beekeepers present took a very intelligent part in the proceedings, and it would appear that the day is not far distant when many commercial apiaries will be managed by them.

QUEEN EXCLUDERS.

(By L. C. HOBBS.)

Twenty years ago we (Hobbs Bros.) secured fifty queen excluders to test them, with the intention of using them on all our colonies if they proved satisfactory. In our first trial we found that they increased swarming at least threefold, so we discarded them for the time being. Later on I was convinced that if there was a bee space on top of the frames and also another above the excluders the bees would do better, so I soldered strips of stout zinc down one side of the excluders, and also strips along the ends with the rabbited hives we use. This secured a bee space top and bottom of the excluders, thus giving the bees access to every perforation top and bottom. I found they were then less objectionable to the bees.

After continuing their use experimentally for a number of years, I found that the pure Italians took to them better than did the hybrids. In the end I was able to use them without any apparent increase in swarming.

One method of using the excluder that has been given great prominence is this. When a two-storey hive is full or nearly so of bees, brood and honey, take a super of empty combs and an excluder, find the queen, put her on a comb containing some eggs, and larvæ, place this comb in the middle of the super of empty combs; put this in the place of the brood chamber, put on the excluder, and place the brood chamber and super on top. With me this method has given very unsatisfactory results. If a bad turn came in the weather the queen would stop laying, and the bees would build a lot of cells above. I may just as well have gone and killed the queen. If the weather continued fair and there was a good flow, I would find very often two laying queens in one hive, but not much honey. I found a modification of this method was better: that is, put three or four combs of brood below with the queen.

When I set out to use queen excluders, it was with the intention of using bee escapes when extracting, but they did not clear the supers well enough, and I had to go over the combs and brush them, besides having the honey cold to extract. I gave up the idea of using excluders extensively.

In the past I have used them extensively for queen-rearing, with very satisfactory results. But the last few years it has been necessary for me to use a surer and quicker method. Excluders have also been found very useful for dividing hives and catching queens. To catch an elusive queen, take an excluder and spare super, shake the bees off the combs into the brood chamber, put the combs in a spare super, put excluder on top of empty brood chamber, and the brood and combs on top of all. In a few hours, or at next visit, the old queen is usually easily found below the excluder.

Mr. Gibb is to be congratulated on his success in securing such a fine return from his bees during the past two seasons. It shows he has the right kind of bees, and has given them every attention, and, above all, has not lost heart after a run of five or six bad seasons. This should be a lesson to beekeepers not to lose heart when light seasons come. (See Mr. R. Gibb's article, page 560.) All the same I am satisfied that as good results can be secured without excluders, with less labour to beekeepers and bees, the brood being kept below, too, except in the case of the extra good queens that require more room than the ten-frame Langstroth hive supplies in brood chamber.

I keep my queens below in the following simple manner. When the main flow is beginning, most of my colonies are in two storeys. Place the flat lid of hive upside down in front of hive, put super on top of it. All the brood possible is put below if there is a lot of it; the rest is put in the middle of first super. Say there are thirteen combs of brood; nine are placed in brood chamber, and four in middle of first super; then four combs partly filled with honey are put in a second super, and two empty combs or sheets of foundation put each side of them. When all are put in position it will be found thus:—Brood chamber, nine combs of brood; first super, two empty combs each side, four combs of brood in middle; second super or third storey, two empty combs or sheets of foundation each side, and four combs of unsealed honey in middle.

When the foundation is nearly built out in the third storey, a fourth may be added, half combs and the rest foundation. The two nearly completed combs at each side are put in the fresh super in the centre, and the four empty combs put in their place, and so on up to six storeys. It will be seen that in the middle of each super added are placed four combs partly filled with honey or nearly ready to be capped by the bees. These four combs block the queen from coming into the upper storeys, and do it without hampering her, or making it necessary to retard the bees with an excluder. It will also be seen that each super has eight frames or combs in it, which is a great advantage when extracting.

Ten frames have been tried by me in the brood chamber many times, but nine have been found better. I only use ten when transferring in early spring, but soon change them to nine again. I have no objection to six-storey hives; have had only one this year. I don't run for a ladder to take off the honey,

but step on to a super placed on its side against the hive, or get on to the apiary barrow, or else stand on a benzine case. In a good season four supers of solid honey are taken off the six-storey hives at an extracting.

That good results can be obtained without queen excluders the following will show. Some years ago Mr. J. Walworth secured 22½ tons of honey from less than 200 colonies (spring count) without the use of excluders. From 43 colonies in one apiary (spring count) I secured five tons. I increased to 65 by making strong nucleus hives and building them up with brood. Only one hive swarmed. This was done without the use of excluders. After the hives were supered up the apiary was left for three weeks until we came to extract. Most of the colonies were in four, five and six storeys. An abundance of combs and foundation, no swarming, and a good honey flow were the main factors in securing this good return. Little labour was bestowed on this apiary, but it was well supered up before being left for three weeks. When we came to extract there was only one colony that should have had another super. When bees gather an excess of pollen, as they do here in some seasons, they would greatly hamper the queens by storing it in the brood chamber. If there are combs containing a great deal of pollen, they are put at the sides in the brood chamber.

In the supers frames of foundation and combs are never alternated, but kept by themselves, except that the combs are usually put in the middle of the supers and the foundation at the sides. The alternating of combs and foundation causes the bees to build out the combs very thick and the foundation very thin, which is very undesirable. Foundation is on rare occasions alternated in the brood chambers, but very little brood spacing is done by me now, as there is too much risk with it.

Excluders are valuable in localities where the honey flow is light and of short duration, as by confining the queen to the brood chamber the bees are prevented consuming all the surplus honey in unnecessary brood rearing. Half combs and half foundation are not always used. Sometimes there are more of one than the other.

Kauwhaka, Palmerston North.

QUEEN BREEDING AND INTRODUCING.

(By F. C. BAINES.)

Our enterprising friends the Alliance Box Company have recently sent round a notice that they are arranging to supply a quantity of select tested queens which they are personally bringing from America, and when I received their notice the following thought occurred to me: I shall, if I order one, be paying the highest price I've ever paid for a queen, and although I've not the slightest doubt that this queen will be bred from good stock and every care taken that she should have the chance of meeting and mating with a choice drone,

there is still a possibility that she will not beat or even equal those I bred myself. I don't know the exact way our queen-breeders have when breeding queens for sale—I mean, if they keep a certain number from, say, this year's raising, and after seeing they are purely mated put them in the apiary to test how their workers bring home the goods. For, after all is said and done, the latter is the test to me of a good queen. She may be a fine-looking one, or the reverse, I don't care; large and well-proportioned or slim and genteel-looking doesn't matter in the least, her progeny full Italian blood, golden or leather, or rather black, for my purpose I don't mind—my select tested queen is the one that wants a super on first in the season, and another one later on, and can spare three or four frames of brood when they are wanted.

In shifting my bees last winter, owing to striking a very hot day when being carted, some combs containing my breeder melted, and she got daubed and killed. However, I had a number of young queens amongst my hives, so I kept a good look out for one to prove herself good enough to breed from, and I found two. Both these were pure Italians, and both right from the start had their hives full of bees, worked early and late, no loitering on the bottom board, but in and out as if they recognised they had to do their best for their good master. Supers were required by them a fortnight before others, and I was compelled to shift honey from them and give empty combs, as I wasn't ready to extract, and in both cases these bees had caught up with the others when I came to take the honey off. From the two queens all my hives have been re-queened that required it, and judging from the amount of brood there is in them I'm not far wrong in my judgment.

Now, I know what my breeder is capable of, and I don't know what my high-priced imported queen may be. She may be even better, or she may turn out a failure; but at any rate I'm not working in the dark. I quite recognise that a professional queen-breeder wants new blood now and then, but whether it is necessary to go outside the country for it is a matter of opinion. For my part, I shall do as I have done before—buy a few untested queens from a reliable breeder from time to time, and thus get new blood in my apiary, and breed from the queen showing best results every time, unless, of course, she was an out and out hybrid, then I would take my best showing Italian.

Whilst on the subject of queens, I should just like to add a little on introducing. In Doolittle's "Scientific Queen-rearing" he mentions one way which I don't think has been practised much—viz., rolling the queen in honey and dropping her into the hive. The first year I started beekeeping I remembered reading it, and I successfully introduced one queen, but it seemed such an unorthodox way compared to all the established beekeepers' methods that I fell into their way of cage and candy, with an occasional departure to the smoke method, which I couldn't make a success of. Now Mr. Baldwin, who contributes to "Gleanings," has brought that method into prominence again, and has used it with complete success. He

kills the old queen, contracts the entrance of the hives, puts the queen into half a cupful of diluted honey, and pours honey and queen down between the frames. Others have written recording success of the system.

Remembering what I had done the first year, I thought it was good enough to give it a trial on a large scale this season, and I am very pleased to state it is a splendid idea, as I did not lose one queen. I do not follow Mr. Baldwin exactly; I use a good large tablespoon, have the honey very liquid, the tin containing it standing on a hive in the sun making it just warm, find my old queen, kill her, close the hive, go to nucleus and get young one, and find by this time the bees in the old hive are just realising their loss. The young queen is now between my finger and thumb in my left hand, held by the wings, a generous spoonful of honey is taken and her majesty promptly put right in it. The cover is slipped off the old hive, and honey and queen all run down between the frames, scraping the spoon with my finger to follow her down with plenty of honey. The following day I found her in every case doing her business quite naturally. I think the success of the system is due to the fact that the queen isn't excited by the caging and new surroundings, her laying capabilities are held up for only a few minutes, and the bees are only too glad at the recovery of their queen, and by filling themselves with honey in cleaning her are not inclined to sting even should she be a bit upset.

I should like a few experienced men to try it with one or two queens. I believe they'd find it a success. The only danger I can see is the possibility of it setting up robbing in the time of dearth; but with a contracted entrance and the operation carried out in the evening, there should be no danger. At any rate it has been a complete success with me, and is simple, needs no appliances, and I think it worth knowing.

WORK IN THE INTERESTS OF YOURSELF AND THE H.P.A.

The uppermost thought in every beekeeper's mind, as in every right-thinking person's, is: How can I further my own interests? Such a thought requires careful consideration.

Now, it has been suggested to me that there is a possibility in the near future of merchants offering a bigger price than the H.P.A. is able to give. Should such a state of things come to pass, it will no doubt shake the Association to its foundation. It will also point out those that are blind to their own interests—those who act without thinking of the consequences. God forbid that there be any of them among us.

Boys, fight for and with the H.P.A., and you fight for your own welfare. Fight the middlemen, and you fight for your own interests. If they offer you a bigger price than the H.P.A., snap your fingers in their face! Laugh at them! Tell them to keep their price!

The following is the tale of a ton of honey I sold last year to a merchant for 5½d. per lb. He put it up in 2 lb. pots and sold to another merchant. This merchant sold to a retailer in my own township. Now, what think you was the price he was selling at? 1/- per lb! Not a penny less. I then and there swore that any honey I did not send through the H.P.A. I would sell direct to the consumers.

Do you know just how much you are working in the interests of yourself and the H.P.A.? If not, answer the following questions truthfully. When the answer is "Yes," put 10 opposite the question; if the answer is "No," put a "0." Total up the tens, and you will have in fairly accurate figures the percentage of work you are accomplishing in your own interest and that of the H.P.A.

1. Are you a member of the H.P.A.? .. .. .	..	..	.....
2. Are you a believer in co-operation? .. .. .	..	..	.....
3. Do you get your supplies from the H.P.A.? .. .. .	..	..	.....
4. Do you try to induce other beekeepers to join the H.P.A.? .. .. .	..	..	.....
5. Do you try to encourage slovenly beekeepers to employ better methods? .. .. .	..	..	.....
6. Do you send at least 3 parts of your honey through the H.P.A.? .. .. .	..	..	.....
7. Do you take pains to make your honey grade as many points as possible? .. .. .	..	..	.....
8. If you were offered a bigger price than the H.P.A. were able to give, would you remain loyal to the H.P.A.? .. .. .	..	..	.....
9. Would you support the buying of a manufacturing plant by the H.P.A. by taking shares thereof? .. .. .	..	..	.....
10. Do you take the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal?.. .. .	..	..	.....
Total .. .. .	..	..	.....

In conclusion, beware of the merchant! He resembles a candle; you are the moth; he would lure you to your doom! Keep in your mind that the H.P.A. is the foundation of your present and future prosperity. On that foundation pile bricks in the form of tons of honey, that we may build therefrom a large industry for our country and ourselves.—I am, &c.,

H. BENTON.

Featherston, May 5th.

COST OF ESTABLISHING AN APIARY.

I notice in the February Journal Mr. C. A. Jacobsen mentions that two men can nail, wire, and put in foundation 350 frames per day. I suppose he means eight hours. This works out at less than three minutes per frame. Not bad going!

I wonder if Mr. Jacobsen would like to take a trip up to the Bay of Plenty next August. It would be a pleasant trip. I am quite prepared to board him free and show him around—that is, if he will nail up, wire, wax, and embed some eight thousand odd frames for me at the rate of 175 per day of eight hours. I am quite prepared to pay 10/- per day, and in addition pay a war bonus of 10 per cent.

I have been trying to work out the cost of an apiary of 100 colonies, allowing four dovetailed storeys per colony, and I can't make my figures come near to Mr. Jacobsen. I think he has under-estimated some of the material and labour. I have taken the list of material from the Alliance Box Company's price list, 1916-17:—

To 400 dovetailed boxes at 2/-	£40 0 0
„ 4000 frames for same	28 0 0
„ 100 reversible bottom-boards at 1/10	9 3 4
„ 100' roofs at 2/6	12 10 0
„ 100 lbs. nails, 17 lb. frame wire	4 2 6
„ 500 lbs. medium brood foundation at 2/8 per lb.	66 13 4
„ Nailing up 400 boxes and 100 roofs and bottom-boards at 1/6 per hour	9 10 0
„ Nailing up, wiring, waxing, and embedding frames	24 19 6
„ Painting boxes, roofs, and bottom-boards, 3 coats, 300 yards at 1/6 per yard	22 10 0
Freight, shipping, and carting to land the above order at my apiary would cost about	15 0 0
Total	£232 8 8
Against Mr. Jacobsen's estimate	£178 0 0

I notice Mr. Jacobsen allows £50 for a large honey room. To erect a good convenient honey house complete would cost double that estimate in this district.

Awakeri, Bay of Plenty.

A. L. LUKE.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Seeing in the Journal the wish expressed that some subjects for the forthcoming Conference would be welcome. I venture to suggest the following for your consideration. As you know, beekeepers in the Alfalfa districts in America are continually pushing in, and where there is a living for one man, for two it is impossible. In a young country like New Zealand I don't know of any law (except moral) which will prevent a like occurrence here. A man has to go a good deal on faith in a new district, and when he has nicely settled and has laid out a fair sum of money, anyone can come along and take away his living. Now, Sir, when Conference meets, with all the beekeepers, surely some means to counteract the above could be hit upon, and beekeepers in general feel more secure in their holdings. Perhaps an abler pen than mine will take up the subject, and then with the help of Conference get a law passed which will prevent the above, and give beekeeping a much firmer footing.—I am, &c.,

C. A. POPE.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In almost every issue the Editor asks for additional subscribers, which he evidently doesn't get, and more dreadful still is the fact evidenced in the same issue that fifty odd subscribers haven't paid their subscriptions for the previous year. I've no doubt the money these subs. represent has been spent long ago, which means that either the Editor or someone else has to put his hand in his pocket for my (and others) benefit, and he in the end will probably be grumbled at because he did not do something he was not given the means to do. It is quite time the subscribers were told in a manner unmistakable that if they want the Journal continued they must pay for it. We were told the Conference before last that if the subscription list were doubled the Journal could be enlarged and illustrated. This was stated against the proposal to raise the rate of subscription, but neither has been done, and here we are practically dependent on the generosity of enthusiasts to carry on. Therefore, I think it is imperative that we either close the Journal down, which would be a big blow to most beekeepers, or the alternative, putting the Journal on a financial footing on the present number of subscribers by increasing the price. If the Journal cannot be carried on at 3/6 per annum, make the subscription 5/-, or even 6/-, and I venture to assert that those who appreciate the Journal will be the most willing to pay for what they're getting. There are always plenty ready to let the other fellow pay, and if these chaps say they won't pay the increase—well' let's lose them, but don't let us all be under an obligation just for their benefit.

The Journal has met with splendid success, and is to my thinking a marvel considering its age and limited circulation. Put it against an old Journal like the British Bee Journal, which is the chief English paper, and I am sure you'll say our Journal easily holds its own, and it has earned eulogistic remarks from America, Australia, and England.

Therefore I say it would be an absolute confession of failure and lack of enthusiasm if the Journal dies, and personally I am willing to do my bit to prevent it by stating my willingness to pay in advance for, say, five years at an increased subscription, if it can be fixed.

Put the matter clearly in figures, Mr. Editor, that we may know how matters stand, and if immediate action is necessary, let us act accordingly; if not, let us discuss it, so that the matter can be fully threshed out at the Conference.—I am. &c.,

CARRY ON.

A BAD STATE OF AFFAIRS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Don't you think it's nice to have good beemen for bee neighbours? I will tell you what nice lovely ones I have. The other day I went around visiting some of them, and got a sweet surprise at one place. I noticed a good many bees getting into a shed. The owner took me in, and oh, my badness! There was a host of bees having great feeds out of a lot of comb

that was there. "You know they take charge of this shed sometimes," he said to me. Then he picked up a lump of old comb honey and threw it out to the bees. I objected to this, but may as well have saved my breath.

"You know," he said, "I always sling out all the comb for the bees to clean up; that lot there will all go out when it is properly 'strained'; and we also put out all the comb or honey that we do not like; it keeps the bees well fed up for winter." I think I will have to own up that my heart was very nearly in my boots when I heard this; but all the same I think I have found out where the stuff my bees were gathering (twenty or thirty out of seventy have pinched it from somewhere) came from—there or from one or perhaps all of the other little apiaries, all of which are within half a mile of my own, and all worked on the same lines.

Oh, no! They never had any disease in their hives. They did not know what it was, but they knew their bees were quite healthy. As bad luck had it, that day was a bit too cold for opening up any hives, so I could not show any of these fellows what disease was like.

I think these chaps want a lot of educating. I will have to subscribe to the Journal for them. It's nice when you come into a new district to have your bees quite clean until the time for "straining" comes along, then they (the bees) all catch it at once.

There is an old box-hive man across the road from me. He had two hives in benzine cases. One was diseased, and I showed it to him. He was not quite so pigheaded as the other know-alls were. He said, "If that hive is bad I will 'take' it to-night." He said "take" in a good old-fashioned way.

Talk about local inspectors! We want about two for every beekeeper here—one to see that he cleans the bees, another to see that he doesn't shy out the old comb, as they will do, and perhaps an extra one to burn them up if he does not clean them properly. I offered one fellow the use of my extractor. "Oh, thank you, but we can manage very well without it."—I am, &c.,

DISGUSTED.

[We have withheld our correspondent's name and address as, though he has good cause for complaint, his neighbours may not see it in that light when they are compelled to comply with the Act. It would be interesting to know how often the inspector concerned has been to this district. The necessary particulars will be forwarded to the proper quarter, so that the matter can be attended to at once.—Ed.]

The Beekeepers' Exchange.

ADVERTISEMENTS on this Page will be inserted
at the rate of 2/- per 36 words per insertion.

FOR SALE, about 120 COLONIES of BEES; clean and in good order, with bee-proof shed, extractor, &c.; as a going concern.

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Morrison's Bush, Greytown.

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A Large Consignment of these Splendid Honey Packages has just arrived.

There is almost unlimited demand for HONEY packed in these vessels.

Samples **FREE** on request.

Prices { 100 for 21/-.
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We want unlimited quantities of BEESWAX, and will buy anywhere in the Dominion.

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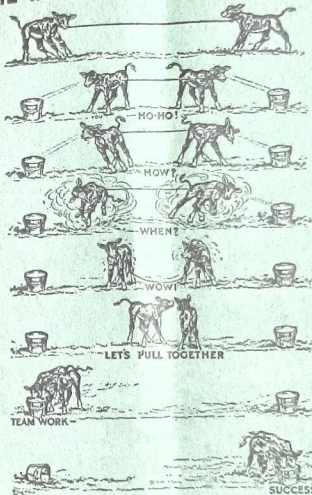
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DUNEDIN

May 18, 1917.]

N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' JOURNAL.

THE NECESSITY OF CO-OPERATION.



Our interests are so interwoven that, like the calves, we are practically tied together; and, like the calves too, we cannot attain our heart's desire unless we pull together.

In the past we have been each struggling one against the other for the merchant's and grocer's business. Now, the merchants are chasing us for our business, and we are getting better prices than we ever dreamt were possible. Why? Simply because so many of us are pulling together.

We have 227 shareholders now doing their bit. Quite a lot of them deserve the Victoria Cross, they have shaped so well for the common cause.

But we are not all pulling together; we are not all doing our bit. Some of our craft, like parasites, are living on the good things secured for them by others. Wake up, beekeepers; play the game; don't be a slacker, a parasite.

The British Nation will go to the wall if we don't win the war; but of course we are going to win. OUR INDUSTRY, TOO, WILL GO TO THE WALL IF WE DON'T "MAKE GOOD" WITH OUR CO-OPERATIVE MOVE. SO IT IS UP TO YOU TO DO YOUR BIT, AND TO DO IT NOW.

MAJOR NORTON NOW EXPECTS TO RETURN US NOT LESS THAN 80/- PER CWT. FOR FIRST GRADE HONEY.

Now, shall we send you a share application form?

N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers Assn., Ltd.

BOX 104, HAWERA.

Notice to Subscribers.—All those who are in arrears with their subscriptions will find their wrappers addressed in red ink in future as a reminder that their subscription is unpaid.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received during the month:—

Messrs. J. H. Appleby, J. B. Armstrong, W. L. Bird (6/6), Geo. Barclay, A. Carroll, A. Cocker, V. J. Crabbe, D. Collie (7/-), J. L. Camplin, A. A. Down, F. L. Douglas, J. Dugan (7/-), H. W. Earp, A. Edgecombe (7/-), C. Fogden, E. Garrett, C. L. Grant (7/-), R. Greenlees (7/-), C. Harling, W. Lyall (5/-), M. Meyenberg, T. J. Mannex (5/-), H. Bartlett-Miller, E. A. Nichol, T. W. Pairman (7/-), J. Patterson, G. W. Richardson, F. Richardson, D. Roland, G. H. Todd, A. D. Willis, W. H. Winter ((7/-), Mrs. E. Shallard, Mrs. H. Tate, Miss W. Poulton (5/-).

Italian Queen Bees.

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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.

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It will pay you to have Queens from this strain.

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