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F. A. Scott

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JUNE 28th, 1917.

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



PER ANNUM : **5/-** IN ADVANCE.



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June 28, 1917.]

F. A. Sayer

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 36

DUNEDIN.

5/- PER ANNUM.

EDITORIAL.

To Our Subscribers.—

At the Conference held in Wellington in June I was asked to take over the Editorship of the Journal, and in accepting the position I fully appreciate the confidence placed in me, but at the same time realise that I can only occupy the position successfully by the loyal support of you all, both in keeping up the list of subscribers and in sending along any article you think would be of interest to the beekeepers generally. As far as I am personally concerned, I will do my very best to maintain the standard already set, and if at any time you are tempted to think the Journal is not up to standard, I would ask you to bear in mind the following story:—In the backwoods of America, where most men carry firearms, when they organise a concert and are not quite sure of the capabilities of the pianist, they stick up on the piano a large notice—"Please don't shoot the pianist; he's doing his best!" May I then make the same request to bear with me, and I feel sure we shall all get on very well together.

Kindly address all communications to

FRED. C. BAINES,

Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

The Conference this year was a very good one, considering how awkwardly it happened that the late Secretary was called into Camp just a week before the event, as it meant he was unable to complete all the arrangements he was making; consequently we were not quite so prepared as usual. However, everyone accepted the position as the best possible, and we congratulate ourselves on being able to record another good and helpful time that these Conferences usually give.

May we in our initial effort beg all the subscribers to send articles for publication: it may be a description of an appliance, an experiment, a result of an article seen in another publication, or only a clipping; even if you doubt it being suitable, just send it along and let us judge. The most successful hive is the one that has the most workers; and if every bee thought in its little head, "I can only bring in about a teaspoonful of honey in my life, and there's plenty of others," I am afraid that we beemen would have only a poor result. So with our Journal. Because you're one beekeeper unattached to any local Association, please

don't think your small item of news or interest is not wanted. Too many drones are bad for the hive. We beg to suggest the same applies to the Journal; therefore consider yourself a worker, and a hustler at that.

The Journal is late being published this month, as the Editor was unable to reach home until the 20th inst., and we hope to publish the July number about the middle of the month, and from then on the 1st of every month following. We are securing the services of a very excellent man to carry on the articles for beginners. We also hope to get regular correspondents in various parts of the Dominion, so that we all shall know how matters are shaping in other parts as well as our own.

As you will see by the report of the Conference, the subscription for the Journal is raised to 5/- per year instead of 3/6. This change has been contemplated for some time, and is rendered necessary by the fact that a loss of about £24 was made on last year's working. The practically unanimous decision at the Conference for this step proved to us the Journal is now a real help to many, and since the publication last month numbers of letters have come offering to increase the subscription if necessary. Therefore, when forwarding your subscriptions for the ensuing year, kindly remember the increased price.

Regarding the subscribers who have paid in advance, we are not going to debit them with the difference; if they feel they would like to send the extra, well and good.

After this month, instead of publishing the receipts of subscriptions, we hope to send out post-cards giving particulars of amount received and date subscribed to, as we learn the present arrangement is not satisfactory to some, as there is nothing to indicate the period paid for, and misunderstandings occur.

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.

Further particulars from JOHN KEMPTON,
Morrison's Bush, Greytown.

FOR SALE, APIARY, 165 Colonies, North Canterbury; produced 9½ tons honey this year; very full working plant; as a going concern.

T. D. CARTER,
Springfield, Canterbury.

NATIONAL BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

REPORT
OF
Annual Meeting & Conference
JUNE 1917.

The fourth Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand and the Annual Conference of the beekeepers of the Dominion was opened in Edmanson's Hall on Wednesday, 6th June. There were present: Mr. J. Rentoul (in the chair), Mr. F. S. Pope (Secretary of Agriculture), Mr. T. W. Kirk (Director of Orchards and Apiaries), Mr. Baden Powell (of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association), Messrs. E. A. Earp, F. A. Jacobsen, L. Bowman, G. V. Westbrooke (Apiary Instructors), E. W. Sage, H. W. Gilling, J. Allen, H. R. Penny, W. E. Barker, C. A. Jacobsen, R. Stewart, F. Hemmingsen, Mrs. Hemmingsen, M. Pinny, Miss R. Meek, T. J. Mannex, N. J. Bowman, W. Heseltine, F. J. Pinny, J. Finlay, H. W. Earp, T. H. Benton, J. Kempton, C. R. Benton, G. V. Sanderson, A. Barnes, T. Barnes, M. Manning, W. Parrant, R. H. Nelson, C. A. Pope, E. Simpson, Mrs. E. Simpson, Miss M. Shepherd, E. G. Ward, A. Barrett, W. B. Bray, R. McKnight, S. C. Rhodes, W. H. Teed, R. W. Brickell, A. Ireland, A. H. Davies, E. Pink, G. Askew, F. C. Baines.

In opening the proceedings, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (Mr. F. S. Pope) said they had met under somewhat peculiar conditions, owing to the fact of the Secretary (Mr. Bray) having been called into camp, and to there being a good deal of uncertainty as to whether he would be able to get leave to enable him to attend the Conference. In the meantime he gathered that the Executive was in a good deal of trouble on account of his absence. After referring to the value of annual Conferences of persons engaged in such industries, Mr. Pope said that the beekeeping industry had made great strides in New Zealand, and was now on a far better footing than formerly. That was to a great extent owing to the fact that several of these Conferences had taken place. Another factor was the work done by the Government through the Department of Agriculture. They had in Mr. Kirk, Director of the Horticultural Division, a gentleman who had always taken a great interest in the bee industry, and done what he could to advance it. Then they had four instructors, whose whole work consisted in visiting beekeepers and helping them in every possible way. The work done by these gentlemen had had a very considerable effect in helping the industry. The passing of the Apiaries Act had been of the greatest assistance also in enabling the Department to compel beekeepers

to keep their bees under reasonable conditions. Difficulties in regard to grading had gradually been overcome, and he was certain that if they exercised patience they would find the grading scheme working satisfactorily. The apiaries at the Experimental Farms were now under the direction of the Horticultural Division, and he was certain that they would be of great use to the industry. In regard to the future, the first matter that the Government had in view, and which was likely to be brought into effect at an early date, was the registration of all apiaries throughout New Zealand. The process would be simple, and would greatly assist the instructors in their work. Another matter that the Department had in mind was the establishment of a queen-rearing apiary, which would be located at Tauranga. The Conference would also be called upon to consider the question of looking after the bee-farms of men who had gone to the front; and he was, further, looking forward to a number of our returned soldiers going in for beekeeping. Means would have to be found to train them for the work. There was room for any number of beekeepers in New Zealand. If there were ten times or a hundred times the present number it would be better for all of them. There was no fear of over-production. It was perfectly certain that there would be an ample market for all the honey we can produce, not only abroad but in New Zealand, and at thoroughly remunerative prices. He was looking forward to a big increase in the industry in New Zealand. It was going to be of very great importance as a secondary industry.—(Applause.)

The President, in the course of a brief address, said the past year had been a "lean" year, but he thought they had reached the limit of adverse conditions, and the prospects for next season were better than they had been for the past four years. It was, he added, a strange thing that this year in New Zealand there is a bigger demand for honey at increased prices than he had ever known before. He then invited discussion on the question of beekeeping for returned soldiers, asking for information as to what members would be prepared to do in the event of beekeepers being called up. After the matter was considered, it was proposed and carried that the Chairman, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Baines be appointed a committee to go into the question of assistance to beekeepers being called into camp.

NEW ZEALAND HONEY.

OUR PRODUCT IN ENGLAND.

In giving his observations on the honey situation at Home as far as the New Zealand product was concerned, Mr. Wright (late Government Supervisor of Dairy Produce at Home) told the beekeepers at the Conference that as far as he could judge as an outsider there was nothing to be gained from altering the present system of marking. Now that there was an additional bond of sympathy between the Old Country and the Dominions, in addition to the fact of the good quality article New Zealand was giving, he believed that they would be given

preference. Honey came from all parts of the world to London, including some foreign countries, so that the preference would be a valued consideration.

A delegate asked if Mr. Wright had noticed any honey at Home other than that handled by the Bristol and Dominions' Company.

Mr. Wright said that all the honey he had seen had been shipped Home through the Company mentioned. It might be thought by some that he had some interest in the Company, but he could assure the delegates that such was not the case. Still, it was the first Company to handle New Zealand honey, and, personally, if he were keeping bees he would do as the delegates were doing—ship it through the Bristol and Dominions' Company.

Mr. Wright, on being asked if New Zealand honey was liquid or granulated when purchased in England, said it was always granulated. He had noticed a slight white rim round the top of the honey, but nothing so defined as a sample that was submitted to him in the room. He described the manner in which the bulk honey was treated on reaching Home. The tins were opened, the blocks were dropped into 50 or 60-gallon coppers, and water-heated until it was in a liquid state, when it was run off through a tap into the receptacles in which it was retailed to the public. He noticed that the running-off commenced as soon as the honey was liquid enough to run.

Mr. James Allen (Southland) said that a proposal was coming before the Conference advocating the experiment of sending honey in block to England in boxes similar to butter-boxes (instead of 60-lb. tins) in cool chambers.

Mr. Wright wished to know whether the boxes were to be lined with parchment paper or waxed.

Mr. Allen said it was only proposed to wax the joints of the boxes.

Mr. Wright replied that he thought it would be rather harsh treatment for the honey, and thought that either the whole of the interior of the box should be waxed or it should be lined with parchment paper. Still, if it proved to be cheaper to carry the honey that way instead of in the tins, it was well worth the experiment.

Asked about the quality of New Zealand honey at Home, Mr. Wright said it was regarded as excellent; still beekeepers must know that their produce travelled a long way, and that must always interfere with its superfine quality. Incidentally he said that British shopkeepers were only too glad to give the fullest display of show-cards of any goods they were selling.

CRITICISMS OF GRADING.

(By E. W. SAGE.)

In presenting this, a few remarks upon the present system of grading honey, I do not wish it to convey the impression that I am adverse to the principle of grading, for such is not the case. I am fully aware of the necessity for a proper examination and classification of all honey exported, and it is my endeavour to point out a few of the shortcomings of our grading

rules. At the present time points are given for the various characteristics of our honey upon the following scale:— Flavour, 40 points; colour, 10 points; condition, 15 points; grain, 12 points; freedom from scum, 10 points; packing and finish, 5 points.

First and foremost flavour should be the factor which should decide the quality of our produce. Everything depends upon the flavour if we want to command a high price. Our present points for flavour are only 40, not one-half of the total, which is ridiculously low, when it should command at least 75. If this were done, then aroma (which is only another name for smell), and for which 8 points are allowed, could be done away with altogether, seeing that they are so closely related to each other, for it is a well-known fact that the sense of taste is greatly impaired if by any chance the nose becomes obstructed. Most samples have very little smell to the ordinary person, consequently should be little considered, and aroma and flavour could easily be combined without losing any points.

Next on the list is colour. This, I think, we should consider least of all. We have not in New Zealand the great number of varieties of colour of honey the same as they have in America, that any serious consideration need be given to this. Besides, we sell quality, not colour, and the latter should not be considered in any article of food. How would the Dairy Companies fare if they sold by colour? for as we know there are many different colours of butter. This, according to grading rules, is worthy of 10 points, and in view of the fact that so many honeys are so nearly the same shade, and the difference being visible only when viewed side by side. I wonder also if our graders' eyesight is seriously tested in regard to colour. A test similar to that to which our recruits for the front are subjected would perhaps in a measure off-set the much-vaunted belief that grading for colour is somewhat a gamble.

Now take condition, for which 15 points are allowed. I presume this means whether liquid or candied, and if so I believe these 15 points could easily be added to the quality, because if the honey is found to be liquid when opened for grading and the owner charged storage for same until granulated, the term would soon die for want of use. As for packing and finish, for which 5 points are allowed, it seems quite plenty, because there are only two tins and a case to deal with, none of which are made by the apiarist himself; so if "condition" was really necessary, it could easily be included in "Packing and Finish."

Twelve points are allowed for fine granulation, and no doubt we all like to eat honey of a very fine grain in preference to coarse, but the grading upon this point proves itself a fallacy when we know that our honey is all reliquified when it reaches the Old Country. Honey will not always granulate evenly in the same tin. The top will be of a very fine grain, as good as any could wish to see, but the grain will vary greatly until near the bottom of the tin it will be as coarse as ordinary sugar. The same is often in evidence between the sides and the centre, so it would appear as though a good deal of guess-work is necessary when grading under such circumstances.

To make up the total of 100 points, 10 more are yet necessary, and these are allowed for freedom from scum. This is a very important item in our grading system. While it would be very difficult to avoid a slight trace on every tin, it can be reduced to no concern by the careful producer, and it is quite worthy of the 10 points allotted to it.

Honey graded according to the present rules is branded "Special" for 94 points or upwards; Prime, 88 to 93½ points; Good, 82 to 87 points; and Manufacturing, under 82 points.

It is worthy of notice, however, that whether a consignment is graded Special or Prime, no difference in payments is made, so if we want to know what good comes from having the two grades, we had better engage the services of the nearest solicitor.

Without reflecting in any way upon those gentlemen who are grading our honey, I would just like to point out a few possibilities which may occur at any time, or at least would occur fairly often if I was official grader myself. Supposing a consignment of five tons required grading, and just prior to going on duty the official grader refreshed himself with a light whisky or two; maybe he also partook of a fragrant cigar or more common cigarette in addition, could he grade that honey correctly? Upon tasting it he could not possibly get the true flavour of the honey, neither the correct aroma by smelling; still this honey is at his mercy, and the slightest mistake upon his part means a considerable loss to the owner. Then again prejudice may often cause a great loss to some producers, who may have been unfortunate enough to cross the official grader, and into whose hands his honey may come to be graded, for in such a case the grader has an opportunity for vengeance which would be hard to prove. Having pointed out these possibilities, I venture to suggest that it is entirely wrong for any one man to have the grading of our honey left entirely to his judgment, however conscientious he may be, because we are all apt to make mistakes; but in the case of grading honey they would be hard to prove. In reference to the H.P.A.'s method of grading honey, I would like to say in conclusion that it appears to work entirely upon a system of guess-work. Honey has no quality with them, only colour. They buy according to colour and sell according to colour, and while using no great amount of judgment in deciding that, regard honey as entirely devoid of any other characteristics.

Mr. Ward, of Christchurch, in criticising the paper, agreed with Mr. Sage that the quality should be given more consideration, colour a secondary place, and the grain last. He thought that the question of grain might be modified in the grading, as Mr. Wright had told them that the honey was reliquified at Home, and that it did not granulate the same. A system of grading would have to be evolved which would be applicable to the markets of the world they wished to exploit. The speaker also referred to a very dark honey among the Government exhibits, which he noticed was graded a deal higher than the honey produced in Canterbury.

* Mr. T. W. Kirk (of the Agricultural Department) stated that there were three classes—white, light amber, and dark—the colour determined the grade, but a honey could score the highest points in its own class.

Mr. Allen said that he did not wish to say anything about the paper, but they were making real progress—they had a grading system, and they could now be quite sure that no low-grade honey was finding its way to the English market.

Mr. Gilling (Honey Producers' Association) said that the H.P.A. had been accused of grading only by colour, and that was so to a great extent, particularly as far as the operations during the season, because a special price had been asked for clover honey.

Mr. Earp (Government grader) made an explanation in order to clear the air as to the difference between class and grade. Colour determined the class and not the grade. Having found the class of a honey, the grader then proceeded to allot the points.

A Voice: Could a honey in C Class score 100 points?

Mr. Earp: It is not likely, but it is possible.

Mr. T. W. Kirk answered the chief points in the paper in a semi-humorous manner. Mr. Sage had suggested that a grader might not be able to grade after drinking three or four whiskies and smoking a cigar. He could quite imagine that Mr. Sage or himself would not be able to grade after such indulgence, but the graders did not so indulge before they did their work. They might afterwards to take the taste of the honey out of their mouth. They would appreciate that if they saw some of the samples they had to taste. Finally, Mr. Kirk referred to the difficulties in getting the grading system going as far as they had gone, but they were always ready to hear suggestions which might benefit the grade note, and he suggested that a small committee should be set up to consider any points of value which might bring about any real improvement; only they must bear in mind that any alterations made must be such as to suit the grading of the whole of the produce of the Dominion and not that consigned through one particular firm.

Mr. Teed asked whether the Government could not issue certificates to people entitling them to grade honey for the local market.

Mr. Kirk said they had not considered the point, but they had done something in regard to other industries. In the case of the fruit industry, growers were troubled with people who went round offering to prune and spray the trees. In some cases these people were frauds, and the police went after them. For that reason they issued certificates to those who passed an examination in practice and writing, in pruning, spraying, grading, and packing. There was a certificate for one or more of those accomplishments. He did not see why something of the kind could not be done in respect to honey for local consumption.

Mr. R. H. Nelson (of Martinborough) then gave a description of

THE BENTON CAPPING MELTER.

Mr. Nelson first apologised for not bringing down the actual machine, which was due to the fact that one or two improvements had been made since the first machine was completed, and the perfect machine had not been completed in time. He then

gave a description of the appliance, which consisted of a circular vessel, which contained a copper coil rising in a cone shape to a few inches of the top. Steam was put through the coil by a boiler made of an oil-drum connected with rubber tubing. This part of the appliance is separate from the receptacle for the wax and honey, into which it fits, this being a vessel the same size as that containing the steam coil, which contains a moveable screen and an outlet for the honey. The strong point in favour of the machine is that the cappings or solid combs of honey are melted entirely by the heated coil, and after that do not come in contact with any further heated surface, thereby avoiding any chance of discolouring or spoiling by overheating.

The opinion of those present was that the machine had evidently a very great deal in its favour, but it was difficult to express a decided opinion until the machine was seen in operation. This Mr. Nelson said would be done at the next Conference, and he hoped to have the appliance on the market before then; but owing to the high cost of copper he was going to try using both tinned steel and galvanised iron for the coil to see how they would act.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Nelson.

Mr. J. Allen (Southland) moved—"That permission be granted by the Department of Agriculture to export honey in boxes similar to butter." Mr. Allen said that for six years past he had been using white pine and kauri boxes in which to keep honey. His product had always brought 6d. per lb. on the Dunedin market, so that no one could say that his honey had suffered at all from being kept in wood. As the result of experience, he had scrapped the tin slides he had used within the box, and now he advocated a box about the size of a butter-box, a little longer and a little narrower, but a box that would hold 64 lbs. of honey. The box and the tin slides were fairly expensive, and he found that with his new box he was able to cut the pats more accurately to the pound, and that he was able to pack the pound pats in the same box that he had kept the bulk honey in to granulate. He had gone very carefully into the matter of cost, and counting everything—paper, box and labour—the cost was $\frac{5}{8}$ d. per lb. This was the box he advocated for the export trade. The joints could be waxed, and there would be no leakage, as no honey is accepted for the export trade in a liquid condition. If a package such as he urged was adopted, he could see Major Norton cutting the honey into pats and wrapping the pounds into parchment paper for sale on the English market just the same as he was doing in New Zealand, instead of melting it down and putting it out in mono-vessels. The boxes would have to be sent Home in cool chamber, and he judged that if the honey were sent Home in cool chamber it would arrive very hard.

Mr. Nelson raised the question of the difference in freight, and also as to whether the honey would absorb moisture, and arrive Home mucky.

Mr. R. W. Brickell moved—"That the Department of Agriculture be asked to allow of the export of a small shipment of honey in wooden boxes in order to test whether this package could be substituted for tins." This was seconded by Mr. Allen, and carried.

Mr. Jacobsen, who wished to send half a ton of honey to England in the new wooden boxes, thought the idea was a great one, and he moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Allen. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Kirk (Department of Agriculture) stated that although the exporting of honey as suggested would be a breach of the existing regulations, he was quite willing to allow a small shipment to go through simply as an experiment.

During the afternoon the President gave an interesting address on running apiaries on shares. He thought the best working basis was that the owner of the apiary should pay all expenses, and that the working partner should take half the net profits. Mr. Jacobsen said he was at present working on such lines, and it worked very smoothly. His arrangement included taking stock and re-queening.

INTERROGATION EVENING.

The evening meeting of the Association was devoted to questions of general interest. It was asked, "What is the best method of preventing swarming?" The simple answer appeared to be that the removal of the queen bee would put a stop to it, but several speakers pointed out that no fixed rule could be applied, for what had proved successful in one district was ineffective in another. Furthermore, breeding by selection would greatly reduce the trouble.

With respect to the question of "Does it pay the honey producer to rear queen bees?" one answer was that it did not pay because queen-breeding was a very delicate matter; besides the market price was too low to make it profitable. Another beekeeper with about 400 colonies said it paid him to rear queen bees, but at the same time he agreed that it would pay him better to confine himself to honey production provided he could buy queen bees at, say, 2/6 each, at which price the breeder should be able to supply them. There was considerable discussion on this subject, several questions varying in detail being asked. The meeting was of an informal character, but interesting and instructive.

On behalf of Southland, Mr. Allen moved two remits—first, that a chief apiary instructor be appointed for the Dominion, and, second, that Conference should again urge that the registration of apiaries be brought into force as quickly as possible. In doing so, he particularly emphasised that registration was now imperative.

The first remit was carried unanimously, with the addition of the words: "In addition to the present staff."

The other remit was altered to read as follows:—"That this Conference protests against the continual delay in bringing into force the provisions of the Apiaries Act concerning the registration of apiaries, and appoints a deputation to wait upon the Minister of Agriculture." In this form it was carried amidst applause, and Messrs. Allen, Sage and Penny were appointed to act as a deputation.

MOTIONS.

On the motion of Mr. Ward, a discussion took place on the placing of apiaries within distance of an existing apiary.

The general impression on this subject was that it was almost an impossible thing to dictate to a man who owned land near an existing apiary that he should not include beekeeping on his land, and the following resolution was passed:—

“That this Conference of beekeepers strongly deprecates the action of anyone establishing an apiary to the evident injury of an apiary already established.”

Mr. E. W. Sage moved—“That every beekeeper who subscribes to the National be urged to join the local Association nearest him.”

The discussion on this motion showed there was no power given to the National Association to insist on this being done, it resting entirely with the individuals concerned.

Mr. Hooper Teed moved and Mr. Jacobsen seconded—“That certain alterations be made in the Constitution.”

An amendment was moved by Mr. Rentoul, seconded by Mr. Barker—“That the alterations to the Constitution be brought forward at the next Conference.”

The amendment was carried.

Mr. J. Rentoul moved—“That the matter of reserving the sites surveyed and set apart for the establishment of apiaries be discussed.”

On discussing this matter, it was proved that sites had been set apart for apiarists on land being opened up, but owing to them not being applied for by apiarists these were allowed to be taken up by anyone, and in stated cases had been secured as residential sites, so that if a beekeeper wanted to settle in that district there was no small spot suitable for him to establish himself.

The following resolution was passed:—“That the Department of Lands be asked in reference to the setting apart of apiary sites to do so wherever possible, and that these reserves, if not applied for at the time of the ballot by an apiarist, be held as reserves for future application by bona fide apiarists.”

Mr. Jacobsen moved—“That a discussion be made on the subject of beekeeping for returned soldiers.”

The general opinion was that the industry would be a suitable one for a great number of men who would be unfit for a more strenuous life, but it would not be wise to advise any man to spend money in starting until he had spent some time amongst the bees to get an idea whether he would take to the industry or not. It was suggested that many of the commercial beekeepers would be only too pleased to assist any returned man.

The following resolution was passed:—“This Association desires to give all assistance to any returned soldier who is desirous of taking up beekeeping.”

Mr. Rentoul moved, and Mr. Barker seconded—“That this Conference approves of the system of local inspectors, and heartily appreciates the work done by those gentlemen during the past year, and recommend the Department to appoint further local inspectors where possible.”—Carried.

Mr. Barker moved, and Mr. Rentoul seconded—"That the regulations set forth for the removal of bees as provided for in the Apiaries Act be enforced as soon as possible."—Carried.

Mr. Baines moved, and Mr. Allen seconded—"That it be placed on record that this Association desires to express its high appreciation of the services of Mr. Brickell, and at the same time to express its regret at his inability to continue to occupy the dual position of Secretary and Editor of the Journal."—Carried.

The members of the deputation who waited on the Director of Horticulture reported as follows:—

Registration of Apiaries.—A circular would be issued requiring all to register their bees by July 31st, and the circular would be sent out every three years thereafter.

Appointment of Chief Apiary Instructor.—Owing to the war and the consequent shortage of staff in all branches of the Department, Mr. Kirk could hold out little hope of the appointment at present, but he would support the proposal when normal conditions prevail.

The Acting Secretary then submitted the balance sheet for the year just ended, explaining that owing to the short time he had had to go thoroughly into the figures some of the amounts would probably need adjusting, and the following was as near as possible.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

For the year ending 31st May, 1917.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash in hand, 31/5/16	35	17 9	Salaries 1915-6	20	0 0
Journal Subs.	92	17 0	Conference Expenses 1916	8	16 9
" Advts.	12	4 0	Journal Printing	86	10 6
Members Subs	£	s. d.	Subs. to Branches	17	19 9
Assocn.	38	12 3	Postages, etc.	12	4 9
Members Subs			Sundries	0	17 0
Direct	34	11 6			
		73 3 9		£	s. d.
Government Subsidy Report	20	0 0	Balance in Bank 78	9 9	
Government Subsidy	56	16 0	Cash in hand	66	0 0
				144	9 9
	£290	18 6		£290	18 6

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Outstanding Subs. (say)	10	0 0	Salary 1915-16	10	0 0
" Advts. "	15	0 0	" 1916-17	16	6 8
Cash Balance	144	9 9	Subs. to Branches	9	2 0
			Printing	33	14 0
			Executive Expenses	9	3 9
			Postages (about)...	5	0 0
			Balance...	83	6 5
				86	3 4
	£169	9 9		£169	9 9

Mr. Rentoul moved, and Mr. Jacobsen seconded—"That the balance sheet as shown be adopted, subject to audit."—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Jacobsen, seconded by Mr. Allen—"That the late Secretary's salary as shown in the balance sheet of £16 6s. 8d. be increased to £25."—Carried.

Mr. Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. C. Benton—"That the subscription of the Journal be increased to 5/- per annum."—Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Mr. W. E. Barker (Rangitata); Vice-President, Mr. H. W. Gilling (Hawera); Executive: North Island—Mr. R. H. Nelson (Martinborough), Mr. E. W. Sage (Ohaupo); South Island—Mr. J. Rentoul (Cheviot), Mr. R. W. Brickell (Dunedin); Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. C. Baines (Kati Kati); Editor of Journal, Mr. F. C. Baines (Kati Kati).

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring President (Mr. J. Rentoul) as an appreciation of his services during the past year; also to Mr. T. W. Kirk, of the Department of Agriculture, and to the Press.

During the Conference a number of samples of honey from various parts of the Dominion were graded by the four graders, and the results were shown, and members were able to judge for themselves as to whether the grading appeared satisfactory. It is quite evident that the grader at Auckland has a much larger variety of qualities and colours to grade than obtains in the other centres, owing to the many bush districts where bee-keepers are established.

N.Z. HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, LTD.

The adjourned Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., was held at Edmanson's Hall, Lambton quay, Wellington, on Thursday, June 7th, at 10 a.m., Mr. H. W. Gilling, Chairman of Directors, presiding.

The annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1916, stated that the operations of the Association were extending every year, and the chief difficulty now was to meet the demand created by the export of honey, this having the effect of considerably increasing the price obtained locally, thereby tempting shareholders to be disloyal to the Association.

It was pleasing to note that the majority of shareholders were acting loyally, and were satisfied with the result of the year's operations.

It was urged that on the export trade our prosperity depended, and the directors were advised to do everything

possible to maintain a continuity of supply to the Bristol and Dominions' Association, even at the expense of depleting the local market.

The shareholders recognised the difficulty the directors had to face with reference to the attempts by the merchants to break up the Association and once more have the market in their own hands.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the chief drawback in the operations of the Association was the want of capital; it was a big handicap to do anything really startling with a subscribed capital of £460.

The report and balance sheet were adopted.

Mr. Eric A. Wills was re-appointed auditor.

The following officers were elected:—Messrs. H. W. Gilling, R. W. Brickell, J. Rentoul, A. H. Davies, C. A. Jacobsen, E. W. Sage, R. H. Nelson.

Mr. Jacobsen moved and Mr. Barker seconded—"That the 'N.Z. Farmer' be asked to discontinue using the statement that the paper was the official organ of the National Beekeepers' Association."—Carried.

Mr. Gilling moved, and Mr. Nelson seconded—"That this Conference supports the proposal to close the hotels at 6 p.m. during the war and for six months afterwards."—Carried.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received during the month:—

Messrs. F. H. Allen, J. Bayne, Geo. Brownlee, J. Foster (7/), Miss D. R. Hart, Miss M. E. Hay, Messrs. Geo. Hooker, H. L. Jones (7/-), T. W. Pairman (7/-), A. Stimpson (7/-), A. Werner.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

"I hope to see the Journal go on, as it is very useful to some of us young beekeepers. Especially interesting have been the articles lately on the use of excluders. I have experimented a little with them this year, and found that it made no difference to the amount of surplus stored as far as I could see, while for convenient working I would far sooner use the excluders. I used them as directed by Mr. Earp in the Journal of Agriculture. I did not get a very good average this year—about two tons from 70 colonies, and increased to 100. As far as I can see I have got all the foul-brood out now, and am not sorry."

"I find it is bad to allow bees to supersede the queen. There are too many losses in the winter. I would like to follow a plan which would allow two or more queens in each hive, and then pop in a newly laying queen each summer so as to always have young queens each season. The honey method of introduction has succeeded admirably with me. I hope to have all Italians soon; blacks are no good for the wax moth—too irritable and lazy in the early mornings and late evening business compared to Italians."

The following extract from "A Letter from a Beekeeper's Wife" in "Gleanings" is true of our own Conferences:—

"I've been over to the last session, but slipped out to write to you. They were carrying on a question-box when I left. That's the funniest thing! Any one who desires writes out a question he would like to have answered. These are read aloud, and then any one at all answers, whether he is an authority on the subject or merely thinks he is. I have an idea that some of them put in questions that they expect to answer themselves, for a lot of the men have not had much chance to talk to-day while there were real subjects being discussed. There will be five or six absolutely different answers to each question, so that I should suppose that an amateur would be pretty well muddled in the end. Of course, now that I've been with these beekeepers for two days I begin to see why they like to come to conventions, but I don't believe that most of them know the real reason. It isn't for the papers, and certainly not for the awful question-box, but for the human contact with beekeepers—and they are a mighty nice lot of people. After the sessions it's the hardest thing to pry Rob loose from any little group that happens to form, and last night he stayed up and talked to the apiarist from the college until half-past one. Poor Mr. Apiarist! I'm not pitying Rob, for I'm sure it was his fault. The beemen hang around that dingy room or the hotel lobby swapping bee stories until the lights are turned out. Rob says the convention has been a success this year, for the usual bore with a new hive did not come, and the man who has kept bees a few months but knows more about beekeeping than all the rest put together has been kept in the background. Rob is quite elated that they didn't make a new constitution this year, for he says that is the beekeeper's favourite indoor sport. I'm glad I came, for I have met lots of men that I've known by name for a long time. To-night we leave for home. Good-bye.—MARY."

It is a great deal better to have a lot of supplies ready that you do not need than to need a lot that you do not have ready. If moths are allowed to hatch in empty combs, then in a short time combs will get rather scarce; but prevent the moths hatching and moths will get scarce.

Absconding Queens.—Sometimes when introducing queens a beekeeper will be annoyed to have a queen take flight when liberating her at the entrance. This is easily prevented. Take a small piece of stick, dip it in fresh honey, and then daub the queen's wings with it while she is still in the cage. It is quite safe then to release her at the entrance to run her in, as she cannot fly.—W. A. Dawson.

Dr. Miller says in "Gleanings":—Someone is reported as getting even with the Dadants—freedom from swarming—by having two storeys for the queen till a week before harvest, then putting eggs and unsealed brood in the lower storey, hatching brood in the upper storey, an excluder between. I'm pretty sure my bees would swarm with that treatment. But they might not—I think generally would not—with hatching brood below and unsealed brood above.

Honey Pots.

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/=.
500 „ £5.

POSTED FREE to any Address in the Dominion.

ALLIANCE BOX CO.,

LIMITED.

P.O. BOX 572

- DUNEDIN

Beeswax WANTED.

We want unlimited quantities of BEESWAX, and will buy anywhere in the Dominion.

LET US KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HAVE!

We pay Cash immediately advice reaches us that goods have been put on rail or steamer.

ALLIANCE BOX CO.,

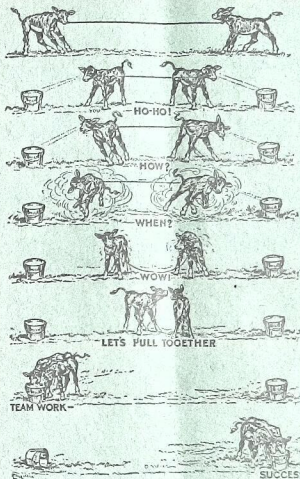
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P.O. BOX 572

- DUNEDIN

F. A. Taylor

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 shared 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 30/- 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.

Italian Queen Bees.

BEEKEEPERS! Your attention a moment, please!

SIX TONS OF HONEY per 100 COLONIES.

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

THE STRAIN WAS GOOD—THAT'S THE SECRET.

It will pay you to have Queens from this strain.

I can supply you. Let me know your requirements.

PRICES:

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

A. J. D'ARCY,

20 Linton Street - Palmerston North.
