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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JULY 19th, 1917.

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

PER ANNUM: 5/- IN ADVANCE

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National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

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Vice-President: Mr. H. W. GILLING, Hawera.

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Secretary and Treasurer: Mr.. FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

Editor of Journal: Mr. FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

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Taranaki Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., H. W. Wareup, Hawera.

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South Canterbury Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., R. Lang, Geraldine.

Cheviot Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., R. McKnight, Domett.

July 19, 1917.]

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 37 5/- Per Annum.

EDITORIAL.

In a case where there have been three different men occupying the position of Secretary within five months, it is more than likely that some of the correspondence has not yet been attended to; therefore the Secretary would be glad to hear from any member who has written on any matter and has not received a reply, and he will reply either in the Journal or direct, as the case calls for.

For all subscriptions received during the last week in May and through June to date a receipt has been sent, which we think will obviate any misunderstandings or doubts as to when the subscription runs out. Any member not receiving a Journal who thinks he is entitled to one, please write the Editor, who will have the matter put right immediately. Should any member receive a gentle intimation that his Journal subscription is overdue and he has already given notice that it be discontinued, please write in a firm but gentle manner, and it shall not occur again.

In this month's issue we are re-inserting the personnel of the Executive, also the address of the Secretary and Editor, and the Associations affiliated with the National. It has been pointed out that no information is given as to the Secretary's address, and members are in doubt as to where the subscriptions, both for the National and Journal, are to be sent.

All wrappers enclosing the Journal addressed in red ink indicate the subscription is owing on the previous year. Is yours in red? If so, please let it revert to black soon!

There seems to be an idea that the National Beekeepers' Association and the Honey Producers' Association are one and the same, as we find letters relating to the Journal being sent to the H.P.A., and our advice is being sought on the question of the price members should charge for their honey. To those who are not quite sure on the subject, we want them to understand the two Associations are absolutely distinct, the H.P.A. being a trading concern, whose only object is to put your honey on the market under the best conditions, whereas the National is purely a social organisation of men and women who have formed themselves into an Association for the furtherance of the industry, and for mutual help and goodwill.

We were in Auckland recently, and had the opportunity of seeing some grading done there, and, judging from the pains taken by the grader to give everyone the utmost points his honey could reasonably obtain, we are convinced of the absolutely "square deal" the producers receive. We are not going into the question here as to whether our system of grading is the best or not, but it occurs to us that there is not a great deal to be remedied. Only one case has been brought to our notice where the grading here was questioned in England, and that was without doubt not a matter of faulty grading, but the honey had got overheated some part of the voyage and deteriorated en route; consequently it was not grade C when it arrived, as it was when it left here.

Whilst in the Grading Depot we had the great pleasure of seeing a number of 4-ton lorries taking the honey to the ship's side, and we wished we could have taken a photo to reproduce here, as it would emphasise the fact that had it not been for the contract with the Bristol and Dominions, all that and a hundred tons more would have been thrown on the local market, to the loss of hundreds of pounds to the beekeepers, as there would have been a supply far greater than the demand, and the merchants would have been able to buy as much as they wanted at their own price, which, we venture to say, would not be anywhere near what the beekeepers are now receiving for their honey.

Since the war started and the shipping problem became acute, it put the question of shipping honey to England privately practically out of consideration, as the agents want the shipping documents before they will make any advance, and the shipping agents are not going to bustle themselves to get space for three or four tons of honey; consequently the honey would be lying in the store for months, without any guarantee that it would be shipped "this year, next year, or some time after." There are about forty cases of honey in the store at Auckland for private shipment; they have already been there months, and as far as we can see are likely to remain so. We venture to assert that had it not been for the B. and D. contract, not five tons of honey would have been exported this season, but the existence of this enables us to put the honey ready for shipment and get a payable advance at once, no matter when it will be shipped.

There must be a great number of our readers who do not belong to a local Association, neither are they members of the National. We make an urgent appeal to these ladies and gentlemen to assist our finances by becoming members. The subscription is very small—from 5/- upwards—and the increased funds would enable us to further the interests of the industry considerably. Think it over well, will you? And don't let it rest there: act whilst it is fresh in your mind.

AN OPEN LETTER.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I take this opportunity of thanking you for electing me as your President, and I will do my best to advance your interests. In conjunction with the H.P.A. before leaving Wellington, I had a long interview with Mr. Baden Powell, and you will be glad to hear that the Bristol and Dominions has renewed its contract with the H.P.A., and at a still further advance, so that I believe the H.P.A. will be able to offer you an advance of 5d. per lb. right out, and with every prospect of a substantial bonus at the end of the year. Needless to say, this is a very generous offer; it remains only for you to support the Company by putting into their hands all the honey you can so that they may fulfil their part of the contract. I feel assured that the interests of the National and the H.P.A. are one and the same, and would therefore urge every beekeeper to take at least one share in the Company and thereby strengthen its hands. I would also urge upon you to support the Journal, either by contributions to its columns or securing new subscribers. I feel assured that it is to the interest of every beekeeper to support the advance of these two Associations, and so help to keep up the price of our product. As far as in me lies I will do my part: will you do yours? Join the National, subscribe to the Journal, take a share in the Honey Producers' Association.

W. E. BARKER.

AN URGENT APPEAL.

The following letter was sent to Mr. Rentoul too late to bring before Conference. We think the matter could not have been given the prominence it deserves, and we hope our Canterbury friends will give it every support. If Canterbury beekeepers cannot supply the half-ton, then we think the other districts should be given a chance. We suggest that every man who can send to do so at the first opportunity, letting us know how much he has sent, and then we shall see if the amount has been made up. If not, we trust that the H.P.A. would have sufficient to make up the deficiency, and the Editor will authorise them to debit his account with £1 to help pay for it, in hopes that others will follow his example. We are enabled to carry on our peaceful industry only by the sacrifice of our brave boys; surely we are not "doing our bit" if we let them want a little honey. Now then, what about it?

EDITOR.

John Rentoul, Esq.,
Chairman National Beekeepers' Association,
and Cheviot Beekeepers' Association, Cheviot.

Dear Sir, —

You are no doubt aware that about six weeks ago, in response to an appeal for honey for the hospitals overseas, our

Department was promised half a ton by a private firm provided the beekeepers of Canterbury contributed the other half.

The response so far is so small (only one beekeeper having come forward with a contribution of 56 lbs.) that we think your members cannot have been properly notified of the conditions of the offer, or they would have come forward more readily, and thus avoid letting such a good offer lapse for want of their support. Honey is looked upon by the wounded and sick in the hospitals as a great luxury, and we are sure that if you only bring the matter before your members they will generously respond. We shall be glad if you will call a meetnig or notify by letter all your members, asking for their support.

Any contributions are welcome, no matter how small, and will be gladly received at the Red Cross Hospital Comforts Department, Manchester street.

We will be glad to hear from you as early as possible.

Yours faithfully,

F. BOYLE,
President Women's Section
for the Comforts Dept.

A GREAT OFFER.

Through the generosity of a friend we are enabled to make the following splendid offer. A copy of the Townsend Bee Book, which explains how to make a start with and keep bees successfully, by one of the best beekeepers in U.S.A., will be presented to every one who succeeds in getting a new subscriber to the Journal. This book alone would cost you 3/- to buy, and as we have only a limited number we anticipate a big rush, so please get in early and thus secure a bargain. If desired, the book can be sent to the new subscriber, which would ensure his goodwill to the Journal, as many of our readers no doubt possess the book. Just state when sending the new subscriber's name who is to have the present, and it shall be sent off immediately.

Now, then, who's first? Delay is dangerous!

DO YOU KNOW—

That it pays to re-queen every second season?

That greasy waste is an ideal smoker fuel?

That honey is a safe thing to produce? It will keep.

That it is not wise to treat a colony for foul-brood unless a honey flow is on?

That a good inspector will clean up a district without destroying many colonies or making enemies?

That the N.Z.H.P.A. is going to be a big thing?

That feeding is necessary if stores run short? But it is better to leave plenty so as not to feed at all.

That strong colonies of Italians will not tolerate moths?

That it pays to have a vigorous young queen in the hive in Spring?

That carbide drums are first-rate articles for boiling frames and rendering wax in? (Be careful not to leave wax in an iron vessel, or it will be badly discoloured.—Ed.)

CRYSTALLISATION FROM A GEOLOGIC POINT OF VIEW.

(Paper read by Mr. W. E. BARKER, at the Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association.)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Fear not from the heading of this paper that I intend to inflict upon you a learned discourse upon Tetrahedrons or Rhombic Dodecahedrons or other such-like awful combinations of names as are necessary to the thorough study of this interesting subject. My intention is to make this paper as short and simple as possible, with just so many points contained therein as may lead to an interesting after-discussion. I have here a rock which, some 15 million years ago, in the Yurassic period, formed part of a mud flat in those days of our history when the Dominion of New Zealand extended from the Chatham Islands to Norfolk Island, and o'er whose flats and plains wandered the moa birds or their ancestors, the gigantic Rails of Queensland, in search of lizards, locusts, or succulent molluscs. This mud was then composed of vegetable humus and quartz grains which, when the land subsided, under intense heat and pressure became a melted magma, in which were bubbles of gas which, as the rock cooled, became filled with fused quartz, so causing Geodes. Now, notice here I have a Geode formed of hydrous and anhydrous quartz—i.e., quartz with water and quartz without. The hydrous quartz has not crystallised into the anhydrous form on account of a certain proportion of potash contained midst its mollecules, the same as our glass of commerce is kept in an amorphous state by an admixture of pearl ash.

Here are some of the ferns from which the potash was obtained. Now, in ancient times crystals were so called because they were supposed to be frozen water or congealed ice, an idea by-the-bye not yet dead, for when I was an under-graduate at Cambridge a fellow student wrote me from Italy in all seriousness that he had picked up at the top of St. Gothard's Pass a magnificent piece of congealed ice. I told him he must have made a mistake; "no, he had picked it up himself out of the snow." It turned out to be as I expected—a very fine specimen of quartz crystal.

It used also to be considered that crystals were purely elemental, yet now we know there are dimorphic, trimorphic, and even polymorphic crystals. Here we are treading close on the footsteps of God, for there is such a thing as the loves of the crystals, little yet as we can understand them—or shall we say mollecular affinity! In Gypsum we have a case of Dimarphism; here the elements of lime and sulphur combine to form one crystal. I have a specimen of an Ammonite that must have lived on this earth some 50 million years ago; its nearest living relative to-day is the homely wood-louse, yet so common were they in those days that one wonders if they were all consumed by our cave forebears in the form of oyster patties (as there were no inspectors in those days to look after our food laws), or what other catastrophe could have overtaken them. It died on a portion of wood, its body has disintegrated, the lime and the sulphur have formed a crust of gypsum crystals, the wood has carbonised, and under favourable circumstances would have taken a step further and turned into diamonds.

Now, all crystals may be classed according to their stability, and in this sense butter may be classed as an unstable carbon crystal, honey a more stable form of the same, and the diamond as its stable form. Some crystals need a high, some a low, temperature to form; electricity also helps the separation when in solution. In the Moeraki boulders of Otago we have another good instance of this aggregation of crystals of a mollecular affinity. If you ask the residents in the locality, they will probably tell you they were formed by rolling on the beach, but to the geologist their origin is much more interesting. Here again we have an ancient mud flat, but this time composed largely by the disintegration of an older limestone rock with an admixture of iron and sulphur; what quartz there is present has formed itself into that amorphous form of silex we call flint, as is often noticed where such is found in conjunction with animal or vegetable decompositions. Why? Because, gentlemen, whilst in a semi-liquid state it too has imbibed potash from its surroundings, and wherever a bone or the remains of a fish occur as a nucleus we find the mollecules of lime and sulphur have concentrated and combined, and so we have the Moeraki boulders as a consequence, and so subtle is that combination that Portland cement can be made from those boulders. Now, science is getting increasingly diffident of saying this is organic and that inorganic; here is life, and there it is not, and many in fact claim even for crystals some form of life, foremost among whom is Dr. Le Duc. In fact, their growth and peculiarities in many ways much resemble life phenomena, and some of Dr. Le Duc's experiments along this line are certainly hard to confute, he having succeeded in producing by crystallisation close resemblances to many of our plants and foliage. But the great difference is that crystals do not grow, they accrete; yet another sign of life is that crystals show signs of being tired or over-strained. A motor car gets tired if over-run, and recuperates after a rest; a fly-wheel on an engine will fly to pieces if not given a time of rest, and it is supposed by some that the cause of this is that the crystals in their composition need time to readjust themselves

to bear the necessary strain, and that by purely mechanical means they are thrown apart, and that given time by the law of mutual affinity they will readjust themselves.

Now honey is composed of dextrose, granulose, and levulose. These are, of course, only names given to designate the different mollecular densities of the subject as determined by the Polariscope, levulose being the most difficult to crystallise owing to its potash content in very subtle combination, as I have before mentioned when speaking of the crystallisation of hydrous and anhydrous quartz. If you take a glass rod—say, the bulb of a hydrometer—plunge it into a jar of honey, and then, having withdrawn it, plunge it into a mixture of honey and water, you will observe from its end mollecules of matter, like smoke from a chimney, only going downwards diffusing themselves throughout the mixture. These are particles of honey searching for their kindred affinities, when they will accrete themselves to their surfaces, and this will continue till outside influences effect a further crystallisation or regrouping into a looser or closer formation owing to change of temperature, or electrical or artificial manipulation. But how does honey effloresce? Why has not the Apiary Department had some of this efflorescence which they in their ignorance have labelled scum subjected to polariscopic investigation to see of what it is composed? If it is as I suspect due to unequal crystallisation, of course the natural remedy to guard against it is either to heat or paddle your honey, but here we run against—er! er!—our friends the inspectors, who demand that all honey before grading must be granulated hard. The present tendency, too, is for beekeepers to do away with the horizontal open tanks and use perpendicular deep ones.

All plants flourish according to their several ability to extract from their organic or inorganic surroundings foodstuffs. It is to be expected, therefore, that the nectar gathered from various sources varies greatly as to its solubility. No one, for instance, who has made a microscopical section of the manuka, which flourishes on poor land, will be surprised at the insolubility of honey obtained from that source, for its cells will be seen crowded with insoluble crystals, probably some form of silex. My contention is that the efflorescence is caused by unequal granulation, caused by atmospheric changes, and that an analysis will prove it to consist of levulose, from which the H20 or water has evaporated. At the last Conference Mr. Jacobsen ventured the opinion that efflorescence was caused by using small honey taps and letting the honey fall from too great a height, so getting air bubbles entangled. I thought I would give this idea a good test, so I tried putting some honey through a separator. This was on 13th January. I should not advise anyone else to repeat the experiment, especially if his wife takes a personal interest in the dairy. However, the final result was interesting, not to say surprising. After about an hour's grinding without result, I had reluctantly to heat the honey, when, after considerable trouble, it began to throw out of the milk spout freely. This I gave a good fall and collected in a jar (No. 2). The air was so thoroughly incorporated that the honey was now milk white,

and remained so for some days, but gradually cleared, leaving a thin scum on the surface, some of which I removed and placed in a bottle (No. 6). I added a modicum of crystallised honey to it. The pure honey contained in the dome of the separator I put in a jar (No. 1). It was quite clear, so on 1st February I added a lump of crystallised honey to it, which gradually sank to the bottom. After a time it showed signs of crystallisation unevenly scattered throughout the mass. No. 2, on the other hand, had become most interesting and surprising. It also had been clear for a short while, then it began to crystallise very evenly throughout its mass, save for three-quarters of an inch from the surface, which remained quite clear and distinct save for the capping of scum. This was written on April 28th. On April 23rd I placed a small portion of granulated honey in it, which sunk through the transparent portion and then rested on the clouded, and began to throw down feathery prolongations into the clouded honey below. I am in hopes the specimen may be wholly granulated ere the Conference meets.

This experiment with centrifugal force suggests the idea that extracting at an excessive rate may be the cause of efflorescence of honey, and accentuates the fact that the proper remedy lies in the after manipulation of the apiarist by paddling and adding thereto granulated honey. Of course, I do not deny that air bubbles if incorporated with honey will act as starters and assist granulation; that is a well-known fact. They act like the fish bone aforementioned in this paper as a nucleus around which the crystals accrete themselves, but I do not consider that they could ever be sufficient to account for the phenomena of efflorescence: they will come to the surface and dispel themselves, as is sufficiently demonstrated in the specimens before you.

THE SELLING END OF THE HONEY BUSINESS.

By FRED. C. BAINES.

As I occupied the position of Secretary to the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., for two years from its inception, I thought I might be able to give a few particulars of the working of that organisation, also a few of the difficulties that had to be faced in the beginning of operations, and I hope to be able to show that the H.P.A. has not only justified its existence, but should command the support of every beekeeper, as mainly through its operations the price of honey has increased to a price that a few years ago would have been thought impossible. I don't say the H.P.A. is entirely responsible, but the fact stands that honey-producing has been going on in the Dominion for a great number of years; and the price obtained previously to the formation of the Company stood still for the whole time, and the ruling price for our product was about 4d. per lb. in bulk, and from 8/- to 10/- per doz. for 2-lb. tins. Three years ago

I was shown a sample of first-class honey a merchant had bought in the Wairarapa for 8/- per doz., but Mr. Lenz, who practically controlled the Wellington market, used to get 9/- per doz. f.o.r. Masterton. These prices did not return a fair remuneration to the beekeeper, and the H.P.A. was started to bring about a better state of things, and the simple fact that not a pound of honey has been sold at anything so low as these prices this year proves to my mind that the H.P.A. is mainly responsible for the improvement.

But, says one, the price has increased because of the increased demand. I reply, the demand has always been there, but owing to lack of organisation amongst the producers they didn't know it and it wasn't met. The beekeepers in the Auckland Province naturally looked to Auckland for their market, and the merchants were offered as much as ever they cared to handle at their own price. I know full well that two or three careful men, whose honey was reliable and packing good, realised a better price than others, but even these particular gentlemen could not quit the whole of their crop at this better figure, and had to export more or less, and it was agreed by them at conference that a better system was necessary, as is evidenced by the fact that a sub-committee was appointed to go into the question of co-operative selling. Of course, with the limited time at their disposal they couldn't formulate any practical scheme, and between that time and the next Conference the H.P.A. came into existence.

Now, the directors were told that to put 20 tons on the Auckland market would flood it. Listen what happened under organisation. A keen business-man was appointed as selling agent, who in one week without bustling placed orders for 1,200 cases of 4 doz. 2-lb. tins, and wired the H.P.A. should he go on, as he could double it easily! Here were 52 tons sold in one week **by organisation,** whereas without it 20 tons flooded the market. You may think as you please; I choose to think the methods adopted by the H.P.A. was the means of supplying the existing demand, which could not be met without it. You may have the finest selling proposition in the world, but if you don't have the organisation for putting it on the market it won't sell.

In 1915 Major Norton, of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd., toured New Zealand, meeting most of the Associations, and putting before them the finest buying proposition that had ever been placed—viz., 4d. per lb. for first class honey f.o.b. main ports. This was eagerly picked up by them all, but the H.P.A. couldn't accept for financial reasons—they were being financed by the firm who were exporting their honey—and they couldn't very well shift to another firm on a moment's notice. So the difficulty was, as none of the Associations were trading concerns, who was to secure this splendid offer? Both Canterbury and Waikato started to form a Company to enable them to do so, when the H.P.A., after consultation with their friends, were enabled to accept it, and thus avoid two companies working against one

another. I am sure in years to come beekeepers will point to that event with pride, and say from that date our industry began to be a really paying one.

This contract with the Bristol and Dominions couldn't be completed without the guarantee of a number of beekeepers to supply the minimum quantity of 100 tons a year, and it was necessary they became shareholders to avail themselves of the offer made. This had the effect of increasing the shareholders from about 20 to 90, and it looked as if the H.P.A. was going to be a success after all, as it only wanted the loyalty of its members, and nothing could prevent it becoming so.

Now, I want to press a point (let it prick, please!) Fourpence per lb. f.o.b. main ports was the price jumped at, as it was the finest price ever offered. I want you, as Pat said, to make a mental note of that in your pocket-book: it will be useful later on. The first year 108 tons were exported, and before this was sold a cable came to enquire if the H.P.A. could guarantee 200 tons for the following year (organisation again), and to make it more attractive they would advance an extra 3/- per cwt. The following year they offered 5d. per lb. for first grade, 4½d. for second grade, with an offer to take 1,000 tons if we would produce it. Did they create this enormous demand, or was it there? Of course it was there, but waiting for the organisation to fill it. It would be desirable just now to enquire what the Bristol and Dominions are supposed to do on their side of the contract. They agreed to advance the price stated, ship the honey to England, pack it in retail packages, and sell these direct to the retailers only, the H.P.A. to take all the returns less the expenses incurred and 5 per cent. commission. The books relating to the H.P.A. business are open for inspection by any authorised agent of the H.P.A., or from the office of the High Commissioner in London if so advised. Are they doing their part faithfully? I have every reason to believe they are, because in the photos of the window displays of the honey that have been sent out from time to time I notice the price of the honey in the first was 8½d. per lb. pot; later on 9d. and 9½d., and from a relation who has just come from Edinburgh I learn the prices charged there for our honey is 10d. and 11d. per lb. pot. This to me is sufficient evidence that the Bristol and Dominions are doing their part, and doing it well, and please don't lose sight of this fact that our honey is being sold and purchased under its own name, not Narbonne, Californian, or English (it has been sold as all three), but Pure New Zealand Honey.

Criticism has been made in another periodical of the working of the Bristol and Dominions with our honey, accusing them of exploiting the beekeepers of New Zealand to the benefit of the English grocer. When one looks at the retailed price of—well, say, 9½d. or 10d. for a nominal pound pot, and we are receiving 4d. for a guaranteed pound—there certainly looks as if an explanation is necessary. I have gone carefully into the matter, and I can't find anything very seriously wrong. To land your honey in Bristol under the war conditions will cost you from 2d. to 3d. per lb.; the Bristol and Dominions

will give you 7½d. per lb. Bristol for first class honey, which is fair evidence. The price of paper pots has increased 200 per cent., cases 300 per cent., railway freight 50 per cent., labour (what is obtainable, at least) 100 per cent., and poor at that. Therefore, if your landed cost for your honey untouched is 6d. to 6½d. per lb., and on top of all expenses the retailer has to get his profit, I cannot see there is a serious discrepancy. The initial shipment under the contract was in November, 1914, s.s. "Tainui," two tons, and even in those early days of the war the extra expense meant a loss of three-eights of a penny to the suppliers, so one can only guess what happens now. I have every reason to believe that the Bristol and Dominions are giving us an absolutely square deal, and are placing our honey in the best and most profitable market.

Do you know what happened to our honey previous to the existence of the contract? Let me tell you a tale.

During the first year of the contract practically no New Zealand honey was to be found on the open market, and it was missed. The following year, just before our season opened, an enquiry came from a firm in Reading, England, asking for 50 tons of New Zealand honey. Yes, 50 tons of New Zealand honey from one firm! That they were anxious to get it is evidenced by the fact that they wrote a firm in Dunedin, the Government, and the H.P.A. Here I am going to issue a challenge. I challenge any beekeeper in New Zealand to produce a similar order for honey from England or elsewhere previous to the existence of (that cherished word) "organisation." This firm wrote stating they had hitherto bought all the New Zealand honey they required on the open market, but now understood we were exporting it all through one firm, and if we couldn't fill the order from here direct to them, would we give them the name of the firm who was handling our honey. They were referred to the Bristol and Dominions who, in acknowledging the letter from us indicating this order, stated that if they (B. and D.) had 100 tons in store and this firm was the only one buying, they would not sell them a pound, for this reason: These people were in the habit of buying the cheapest West Indian, Jamaica, and other low grade honeys at 15/- to 17/- per cwt., then they bought our good light-coloured honey at their own price, from 35/- to 45/- per cwt., carefully blended the two, put it up in a nice glass jar with an attractive label branded "Pure British Honey," and sold it at 1/4 per lb! Here was exploitation in all its ugliness, if you like, and I put it to you as a business man: what chance is there of the market for New Zealand honey to improve when this is what happened? We were entirely at the mercy of such firms as these, and they did not spare us, neither would they again if they got the chance.

I think the foregoing is sufficient evidence that the Bristol and Dominions are studying our interests; they ignore merchants, deal direct with the retailers, build up a trade with a gradual increase of price, and, last but not least, put our honey up and sell it for what it is—"PURE NEW ZEALAND HONEY," the best the world produces.

Now that point again! Fourpence per lb. f.o.b. was the attractive figure; on top of this we got a bonus of ¼d. per lb.; 4 1-7d. was the price paid the second year; 4¼d. and 4¾d. are the prices paid the third year, with every possibility of a bonus on top of them; therefore, I think I can reasonably ask, Where has the H.P.A. failed? Why is it not more loyally supported? You must admit these figures show that splendid work is being done for us, and that it is entirely to our own interest that we give it every ounce of support.

(To be continued.)

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Government apiary instructor and inspector, proceeded in the Magistrate's Court on 10th May against Alex. Dickie for keeping bees except in a properly constructed frame hive.—The defendant wrote stating it was impossible for him to attend court, and said he had no wilful intention of breaking the law.—Mr. Westbrooke stated that defendant received notice in February, 1914, to transfer a hive of bees to an approved frame hive, but these bees were not to be seen on the next visit. Another box hive was found on 1st March, therefore defendant could not plead ignorance. The Department pressed for a penalty, as it was necessary to do away with box hives.—Mr. Dyer imposed a fine of £3 and costs (7/-).

Some 300 cases of honey were shipped from Auckland on 20th June.

Mr. R. J. H. Nicholas, of Hawera, secured the first prize and the Association's silver medal for the third time for the best case of honey for export at the recent show at Palmerston North. [Congratulations!—Ed.]

OLD NOTIONS ABOUT BEES.

"The bee (saith the Wiseman) is the least of birds, but shee is of much vertue and shee provideth both honey for pleasure and waxe for thrift. And not only doe they carefully preserve their owne petty state, but by their labours doe much sway in all human states and policies also, as is said in that verse:—

"The calf, the goose, the bee,
The world is ruled by these three."

Meaning that waxe, pennes, and parchments sway all men's states.

"Bees have three properties of the best kind of subjects; they stick close to their king, they are very industrious for their livelihood, expelling all idle drones, they will not sting any but such as provoke them, and then they are most fierce."

From "A Display of Heraldrie," by Joh. Gwillim, 1611.

A correspondent writes:—"I went into the U.F.C. at Timaru the other day about honey, and they told me they had bought 600 lbs. at 3½d. per lb., so I cleared." [There's an old saying, "A fool and his (honey) soon parted," isn't there?—Ed.]

The need of the hour in the beekeeping world seems undoubtedly to be—organisation.—"British Bee Journal," 19/4/17.

"One very strange habit has been recorded, and confirmed by subsequent observations. A small female is set apart for the duty of awakening the nest every morning with her piercing note, and has been called the 'trumpeter.' It seems that only those nests which are large and have plenty of spare hands can afford this luxury."

The latter extract, which is taken from Lyddeker's "Natural History," Vol. 6, p. 46, under "Hive Bees," has in substance been quoted in at least one modern natural history book. Can any Journal readers add their corroboration? The transcriber has never come across this idea of the hive appointing a bugler to sound reveillé in any work on modern beekeeping—perhaps the piping of the queen prior to swarming was ascribed mistakenly to a worker performing this picturesque duty. We know that in the breeding season the work of the queen and her children never ceases day nor night within the hive, while work in the fields is regulated by daylight and temperature. How, then, do the bees need a "knocker up"?—Red Cross.

—"British Bee Journal."

"We are experiencing very rough weather here at present. The wattle is in full bloom, and is a month earlier than usual; bluegums, too, are a mass of bloom."—Wairarapa, 4/7/17.

How the Arabs Collect Wax for Trade Purposes.—M. Gasquet gives a curious description in "Nahla" of the way the purchasers of the wax from Arabs proceed. He says he was at the market of Issers, about 7 o'clock in the morning, and saw two native merchants, in the open and in full sunshine, who purchased from all who brought little or much of combs from which the honey had been extracted by squeezing between the hands, whole combs as well as broken and crushed ones. Some contained brood in all stages of development in a putrid condition, showing unmistakable foul-brood, others containing sealed brood. All the combs were more or less invaded by wax moth, the whole lot being a veritable centre of infection for the thousands of robber bees which were swarming on this mess in search of the honey. At 10 o'clock there were so many bees that they quite obscured the sun from the heap, which was gradually increasing in size. Towards noon the merchants, considering their purchases ended, proceeded to open up large sacks and put into them the combs, each cell of which contained

a robber bee, and lumps of crushed combs containing little wax, but occupying much space, and when filled the opening of the sack was tied up, imprisoning the thousands of buzzing bees in it. The two Arabs then put the sacks on the ground, and trod on them with their feet until the contents were crushed flat. The sack was then opened, the prisoners no longer buzzing, as one may well imagine after this process. The contents were then pushed down to the bottom of the sack, more combs were added, and the same process was repeated three times, until the sack was full, and it was then thrown on the waggon for removal. M. Gasquet remained for some time contemplating this massacre, and reflected that this was happening that day at Issers, then it would be Bordj-Menail, Souk-el-Haad, Beni-Amram, Palestro, etc. Daily similar massacres would take place for several months. At last the waggon moved away, with 19 sacks of dead bees and a little wax.—The British Bee Journal.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

I am going to move 14 colonies of bees about twenty yards from where they are just now. Kindly tell me how to do it with the least loss in flying bees.—J. F.

You can shift your bees any time now without much loss of flying bees. Do the moving at dusk, and don't be too gentle in putting them down in their new location. Let the bees know something is happening.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of a small fee.

STRAY BEES.

By R. B., Bay of Plenty.

White clover bloom stayed later with us this year than it ever did in the past, unless it was before we began to keep bees, when the presence of clover and most other flowers passed almost unobserved. On the 28th May the few bees that were out sampled the last of the clover, for the following three days were cold, with the wind off the snow-covered ranges inland; then for a week we had frost every morning, and the thermometer registered 26 deg. Fahr. This sudden change caused most tender plants to assume a burnt appearance; even some of the eucalyptus trees have been set back.

Bees are in good condition, with plenty stores gathered during the Autumn. A good store of honey in the hive for early spring is a splendid perventative of spring dwindling and other diseases the bees fall heir to at this time of the year.

Does anyone know why the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal should be published at a 3/6 subscription if it does not pay to do it at the price? Most writers who have given an opinion consider it to be worth double this amount, and they would speedily find its value much higher if it ceased publication. One of the leading bee journals of the world, published in the United States, has raised its subscription about 130 per cent. since the beginning of the year, by reducing the number of issues per annum to twelve instead of twenty-four as formerly, and by charging the same rate of postage on the lesser issues.

In the May issue of our Journal a correspondent wants to know if it is possible to be a supplier of honey under guarantee to the N.Z. Honey Producers' Association, and at the same time be free to supply a few tins to neighbours. This is not the way he put the question, but by reading between lines this is what he wants to know, and there are scores of honey producers who want an answer to the question as well. In reply, the Editor says, or implies, that all honey from a shareholder and guarantor must be sent through the Association to neighbours, and cannot be supplied direct. Many a honey producer who read this must have thought, "That's final, and shuts the door of the H.P.A. in my face." If the Editor's reading of the Articles of the Association is correct, it would bring about a very absurd state of business dealings with our honey, a small portion of which we have been selling locally for years past. Under this ruling, our neighbour a few chains down the road, who gets and pays cash at the price fixed by the Association for a tin of honey every year, must now send to Hamilton for it. We will have to cart it ten miles to the boat, pay two steamer freights, one railway freight, two wharfages, write three letters of instruction, pay for transhipping, storage, receiving, delivering, insurance, and a few other things the middleman required from the toiling producer. My neighbour must then go through exactly the same performance to get back his tin of honey, which he could have in the first instance taken home in his milk-cart when passing our apiary. Extremely absurd, is it not? But read the next paragraph.

The Beekeepers' Exchange.

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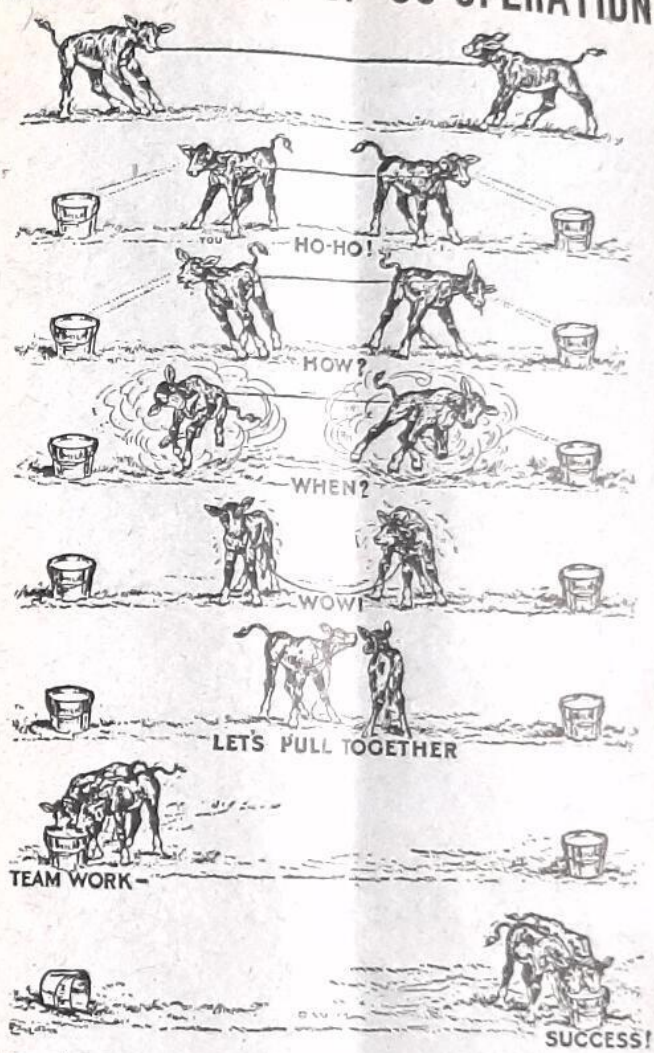
WANTED, SECOND-HAND FOUNDATION MILL, with three-inch smooth rollers. State price and condition to

H. BENTON, Featherston.

FOR SALE, CHAMPION CHEESE PRESS, suitable for Honey Press; in good order; also 62 Perforated Zinc Queen-Excluders, in good order; best offer.

C. SMEDLEY, Te Awamutu.

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.

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