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# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

NOVEMBER 1st, 1917.

ISSUED MONTHLY

FOR

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



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





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# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 41

5/- PER ANNUM.

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## National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

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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.

### OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1917-18.

President: Mr. W. E. BARKER, Peel Forest.

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

Executive: North Island—Mr. E. W. SAGE (Ohaupo), Mr. R. H. NELSON (Martinborough). South Island—Mr. J. RENTOUL (Cheviot), Mr. R. W. BRICKELL (Dunedin).

Secretary & Treasurer: Mr. FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.  
Editor of Journal: Mr. FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

Waikato Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., E. W. Sage, Ohaupo.

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

Canterbury Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Miss MacKay, Middle Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Christchurch.

Southland Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., L. Gardiner, 119 Elles Road, Invercargill.

Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Mr. Y. H. Benton, Featherston.

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

All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to

FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

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## EDITORIAL.

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One of the most serious problems confronting the beekeepers to-day is the world shortage of beeswax. We learn that all big manufacturers of comb foundation are giving notice that orders can only be received conditionally that they are able to get the wax to fill the order. One of the largest manufacturers in America, writing to a firm of importers, says: "We will send you what we can, but where the wax is to come from for next season's supplies we cannot say." From Australia comes the same complaint, and in New Zealand it is most difficult to obtain any considerable quantities.

\* \* \* \* \*

Whilst modern bee-keeping does not furnish as much wax as under the old sulphuring method, and comb-honey producers get very small quantities, we are convinced there is almost criminal negligence on the part of a number of beekeepers; and if they want to continue the use of foundation, they must give more consideration to the raw material.

\* \* \* \* \*

With the modern appliances now obtainable, there is no reason why one ounce of wax should be wasted, and one of the handiest is a solar extractor. These are easily and cheaply made, cost nothing to keep going, and take care of all odd scraps that by themselves seem nothing. The Editor always

takes a box when going through his hives, and scrapings, burrs, combs, little pieces of broken combs are all saved and put in the solar, and it is surprising the amount that accumulates.

The matter is of such importance to the industry that we feel we must urge our readers not only to be careful in saving their wax, but also how they dispose of it. Chemists, dentists, boot-polish manufacturers, cabinetmakers all use beeswax, but when sold to them it is lost to the industry, and only accentuates the scarcity; therefore our advice is to sell only to those connected with the industry; either get it exchanged for its value in foundation at the H.P.A. or the makers, or get it exchanged for goods from the bee-supply people, as it is only by so doing we shall avoid a scarcity of comb-foundation and the loss such would cause.

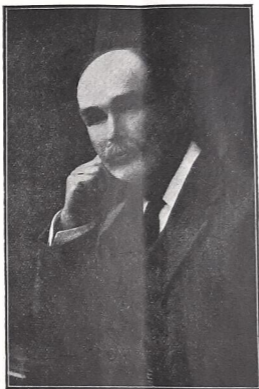
The Editor tenders his thanks to all those who sent him their September copies: he was able to satisfy the demand and a few over.

There is something wrong with the system of inspection—or is it lack of system? Last month we published a report from a man in Southland, and the following came to hand this month from a man who had purchased an apiary of seventeen colonies, which was close to a new apiary site. He says:—"The place was a sight—hives anyhow. Two lots of hives were placed one on top of the other: one hive in a nail-keg, six gin-cases, and the balance in hives with frames with the combs built across them. The late owner boasted it had been there for at least ten years." This comes from Canterbury, consequently is in Mr. Bowman's district. Considering the time the Apiaries Act has been passed, it is disgraceful to have such a rotten state of affairs existing to-day, and we suppose that had it not been for compulsory registration this menace would have been there until disease got rid of it, to the loss of the man who had started an apiary close by. Mr. Kirk, we are looking your way just now!

Robt. Black, in "Stray Bees" (page 700), asks the question, "Will honey put in second-hand benzine and kerosene tins receive the same grade points?" The answer to that is that honey put up in kerosene tins will be condemned unconditionally. Second-hand benzine and petrol tins are permitted if the top has been removed and a lever top inserted. The regulation provides that the whole top must be removed. We understand that representations are being made to Mr. Kirk to permit of a small hole being cut just sufficiently large to allow of the addition of the lever top. It was pointed out at the last meeting of the directors of the H.P.A. that if the whole top is removed there is very much more raw edge of tin to blacken the honey than would be the case with the small piece. We believe that the addition of the top or lid would be permitted.

Yes, we agree that the October issue was a good one. We want eight new subscribers to pay for the increased cost. Could you find one? Will you try?

Subscriptions for the current year are overdue, as they should be paid in advance, and we shall be glad to get them in early. Please do not leave it until the end of the year: you never know these days what is going up in price, and postal notes might catch it, so get in early before the rise comes.



Our President: Mr. W. E. BARKER, Walkoini Apiary, Rangitata, Peel Forest.

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### THE SELLING END OF THE HONEY BUSINESS.

By FRED. C. BAINES.

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Our readers will remember an article on the above from my pen which appeared in the July and August issues; and whilst that was being written, prices for honey, both in England and America, were soaring to heights never dreamed of. Those who take "Gleanings" would see in the May issue that the prices ruling in Liverpool on March 27th, 1917, were as follows (dollar reckoned at 4/2 sterling):—

Jamaican	.. ..	89/-	to	97/6	per cwt.
Cuban	.. ..	92/-	to	100/-	"
Haitian	.. ...	87/-	to	97/-	"
Chilian	.. ..	92/6			"

and in the British Bee Journal English honey was offered at 200/- per cwt.

I wrote Mr. Gilling calling his attention to these figures, and stating that we should expect to hear something very

pleasant from him, as one would expect New Zealand honey to be in the front rank at top prices.

Mr. Gilling had not replied when I received the following:  
Manawaru, Te Aroha, 27/8/17.

Mr. F. C. Baines, Kati Kati.

Dear Sir,—I enclose for your perusal a letter to me from Mr. A. V. Port, of London and Liverpool, dated 24/5/17, giving the position of the present market conditions for honey in the Old Country.

In view of the information disclosed that Cuban honey (page 3) fetched £100 per ton in the open market early this year, do you still advocate that the B. and D. are doing their best for the New Zealand honey interests?

I challenge you to publish Mr. Port's letter referred to in the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal. You dare not do it, because it would show up both the directors of the H.P.A. and the B. and D. in an unfavourable light.

Kindly return Mr. Port's letter, &c., &c.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. COTTERELL.

For the purpose of this article, it will be necessary for me to give the prices quoted by Mr. Port, which are practically the same as already given.

	Normal Price, per cwt.	To-day's (24/5/17). per cwt.
Jamaican	30/-	80/- to 100/-
Cuban ..	25/- to 30/-	Average 90/-
Chilian ..	25/- to 28/-	Average 80/-
Haitian ..	25/- to 28/-	Average 92/-

This gentleman made out that it would be to our interests to send our honey through him, as he could place the different grades, colours, flavours, etc., in the exact spot where they are wanted. He also stated that it is useless trying to get behind the regular packers, different firms controlling different districts. It is nonsense to talk like this, because the B. and D. have offered to take 1,000 tons of our honey and sell it to retailers if we will send it; their chief cry has been "more honey," so that if the B. and D. are capable of doing that what brokers say cannot be done, it seems to me to be evidence that they are not quite so unbusinesslike as some of the shareholders would have us believe.

The total imports of honey into the United Kingdom 1910 to 1914 were 6,853 tons, value £211,945, being an average of £30 18s. 6d. per ton. Our lowest grade table honey returns the grower £38 10s. N.Z. port.

Kati Kati, 3/9/17.

Mr. J. S. Cotterell, Manawaru.

Dear Sir,—Herewith please find Mr. A. V. Port's letter, which I have read through very carefully two or three times. My opinion is that we should not be improving our position in any way by transferring our business from the B. and D. to him, as there are many charges the other end which he would make that we do not now pay. We would have to pay all

charges to England, and that without any advance from him when loaded here, which is very little use to us. After ten years handling the Jamaican crop, the price realised by him averaged £30 18s. 6d. per ton, which is not a tempting figure, and wouldn't net us much above 2d. per lb.

The suggestion of the British Empire Honey Producers' Association is very good, and I hope you will send the letter to Mr. Barker.

The chief thing that concerns us in the letter is the prices ruling for honey in England to-day, and I had already noted these from May "Gleanings," and drew Mr. Gilling's attention to them, also to the price of English honey, which is quoted at 200/- per cwt. I am now waiting to hear from Mr. Gilling on the result of the directors' meeting held recently on this point, as I believe Mr. Baden-Powell was there. It rests with the result of that meeting whether I publish figures or not, but you can rest assured of this: that if the B. and D. can only keep our business by we accepting what they choose to give us irrespective of the prices ruling at Home, I am going to bring it right out in the open.

Thanking you for the loan of the letter,

Yours faithfully,

FRED. C. BAINES, Secretary.

Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty,  
September 3rd, 1917.

The Manager Bristol & Dominions  
Producers' Association, Ltd.,  
Wellington.

Dear Sir,—I have this week received from Mr. J. S. Cotterell, Te Aroha, a letter addressed to him from Mr. Albert V. Port, of Mincing Lane, London, and Liverpool. There is a lot of interesting reading in the letter, and the chief is the prices honey is fetching in the open market. I had some time ago noted the prices ruling, and had called Mr. Gilling's attention to them, and I have no doubt you have seen them, but in any case here they are:—

	Normal Price. per cwt.	May, 1917. per cwt.
Jamaican	30/-	80/- to 100/-
Cuban ..	25/- to 30/-	Average 90/-
Chilian ..	25/- to 28/-	Average 80/-
Haitian ..	25/- to 28/-	Average 92/-

These are verified in my American Bee Book, and in the British Bee Journal of 5th July English honey was offered at 200/- per cwt. It is only natural that on the face of these figures we should expect a considerable increase on the price we have been getting, as all the foreign honeys quoted above are not reckoned first-class at all.

I shall be glad to hear from you on this matter, as I want the figures published, and as there are always two sides to a question, I wait your reply with interest.

Yours faithfully,

FRED. C. BAINES, Secretary.

Bristol & Dominions' Producers' Association, Ltd.,  
Wellington, Sept. 7th, 1917.

F. C. Baines, Esq.,  
Secretary N.B.A., Kati Kati.

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for yours of the 3rd inst., and I appreciate your referring to us.

This matter of prices was threshed out at the Honey Producers' meeting, where figures practically the same as yours were produced by different members of the H.P.A.'s Board of Directors.

I endeavoured to point out to them, as I do to you now, that at the period when these high prices reigned no honey belonging to the H.P.A. was on the English market. We were entirely without supplies, and therefore could not take advantage of the high prices. If the honey had been there, you can rest assured that Major Norton would have charged the highest possible prices consistent with retaining the goodwill of the connection built up for New Zealand honey. Up to the end of August the total arrivals of this season's honey would only be 269 cases, and we are not sure if the cases have arrived, as the time taken by cargo steamers going Home at present is considerably lengthened by the fact of the roundabout route they are forced to take. As the Major stated in letters handed to Mr. Gilling, honey was worth any money in bulk in May and June. He stated on June 20th that two or three months before Californian was sold as high as 110/- per cwt. London, while Cuban, of doubtful quality, reached 95/-!

These exorbitant prices, however, were not long-lived, and were caused for various reasons: first, the extraordinary demand for any sort of substitute for sugar; secondly, the short supply.

Just recently prices have declined very considerably, and the market to-day is considerably weaker, the chief reason being an order from the Food Controller prohibiting the manufacture of all classes of cakes and fancy pastries, and prohibiting confectioners substituting honey for sugar, also the accumulation of stocks of inferior honey from Cuba.

During the period referred to we have had no New Zealand honey whatever, and by the time the new season's shipments arrive in any quantity the new season's from California will be available all over the country. Already first grade Californian clover, alfalfa and raspberry is being quoted at 45/- to 50/- per cwt., to arrive about September or October, and I can assure you, good as the average quality of New Zealand honey is, the best of the Californian is quite equal, if not better. Consequently, but for us and our connection with the retail grocers, if the New Zealand producers had to quote their honey forward at this period, it is very doubtful if they could find any buyers at higher than 50/- for any quantity.

On June 28th Major Norton writes:—"By the time your new season's honey is available in any quantity, the Californian sold forward at from 45/- to 50/- will also be here, so it is quite likely that the ordinary retail price for papier mache vessels will be about 10½d. each. The information obtainable as to what retailers are charging is so varied that no happy medium can be struck. For example, if there are any grocers in England at the present time that have honey in 1-lb. screw-



top jars, it will be absolutely necessary for them to get 1/2 to 1/4 each: the cost of the jar alone would be 4d! The quantity that would be available in the whole of England would, however, be negligible, as glass has been off the market for many months now."

The arguments supplied by Mr. Cotterell and other gentlemen who know all about the trade, and are better informed than the man on the spot, who have to apply to competitors of ours for information (said competitor naturally looking for an opportunity to get a smack at the Association, being supplied with ammunition by the H.P.A. shareholders!), are like the arguments made by the consumers in this country with regard to produce. They see in a southern paper that potatoes are quoted at £5 per ton Oamaru or Dunedin, and immediately make an outcry—"Why should they pay £9 10s. at Auckland!" The producer in the south knows the price at Auckland, and he raises his price proportionately to, say, £7. Everyone declares there is a shortage of potatoes, and within a few days of the reigning price of £7, you find a large quantity of potatoes offering; the high price brings forward all sorts of outside supplies, and immediately the market weakens. Because one or two men manage to sell at £7, it does not prove that is the true market value. The same rule applies to honey: one man in one district can get any price he likes; in another district the seller has to keep in line with competitors and sell at the market rate, because other people holding supplies well bought are content to cut.

They say "proof of the pudding is in the eating." Surely a man like Mr. Cotterell, who claims to be a business man, should know that the "pudding" has been all right up to the present. The "B. and D." took on a big gamble when they tackled the honey proposition. Their advance, without recourse (advance, mark you!) was more than the producer had been previously receiving as the total payment. As the consequence of the export market we created, **not the market we found waiting for us**, but created, the local merchant has been offering as much as 6½d., and I believe 6¾d., ever since. Surely after finding the "pudding" as good as that the beekeepers can afford to trust Major Norton and the "B. and D."

Do they want a permanent market, with a good steady demand every year for their honey, or don't they? Do they imagine we are getting away with the difference between the prices they **think** we are going to return for this year's honey and the market rates sent them by competitors or possibly ignorant grocers, who know nothing of the world's supply and demand? Haven't we told them over and over again that our books are open to inspection, that all we want is our commission, and that all profits, over and above legitimate working expenses, are **theirs**?

We have, to save them money, incurred heavy liabilities for pots, cases, labour, and premises to conduct **their** business in, to say nothing of the plant and fixtures. Up to date we have made nothing out of their business, and I live in hopes that next season may see us on the right side of the ledger.

Coupled with shipping difficulties and war conditions and disloyalty to their own Association by some of the producers, we have no certainty that even next season is going to be a

profitable one for us. We get nothing but work and worry, cavilling and suspicion from men like Mr. Cotterell and others, who will only see their side of the question. He wrote me some while ago complaining of the disparity in the prices advanced by us and that realised by the retail grocers in England. As we deal with the H.P.A. and not individual beekeepers, I forwarded the letter to Mr. Gilling, who replied explaining the position. Mr. Cotterell then got his letter published in the "Farmer." Mr. Gilling answered in the following issue, stating that he had already explained to Mr. Cotterell, and that there had been no need for the publication of his complaint against the "B. and D."

We have done more than our share towards raising the standard of New Zealand honey in England, and provided a profitable export market and a very handsome local market.

The H.P.A. have the option of appointing an auditor in England to examine our books on their behalf. We have nothing to hide, and nothing to fear from criticism of anyone concerned with the H.P.A.

We don't want to work for Companies or Associations who continually cast aspersions on our methods and our honesty: we can make more money handling foreign honey, that includes Australian. South Australia would be only too glad for us to take up the cudgels for them again.

I have written you thus fully because I know you have the interest of the H.P.A. at heart and a common-sense estimate of what the "B. and D." are doing.

Yours faithfully,

H. BADEN POWELL,  
General Manager.

[We have excised portions of the above letter, as they were of too personal a nature.—Ed.]

N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd.  
Hawera, Sept. 8th, 1917.

Mr. F. C. Baines.

Dear Sir,—It seems to me that the best I can send you in reply to yours of the 3rd inst. are extracts from letters between ourselves and the "B. and D.," and Mr. Brickell to Mr. Cotterell bearing on the subject. For my part, I would say publish them without taking sides: it will do no harm for the rank and file to see what is being done.

Yours faithfully,

H. W. GILLING,  
Managing Director.

[Copy.]

Hawera, August 6th, 1917.

B. & D., Wellington.

Dear Sir,—

British Bee Journal, June 7th, 1917. "Editor's reply to a correspondent." "There is every indication that honey will be a high price this year. The upward tendency appears general, not only here but in other countries. No doubt the price will vary in different localities. Your grower's quotation

of 1/4 per lb. jars is a fair price. A shop owned by a well-known firm and about 100 yards from our office has displayed in the window honey labelled English, medium colour, 1/9 per lb., and sections 2/- each. Narbouné honey is quoted at 1/4 per lb. jars. In another shop we noticed small red earthen ware jars, holding about 12 ozs., marked 1/4 each."

Would it not be advisable for Major Norton to cable what he is returning per lb. for this shipment. We badly want to get busy securing next season's honey, and we feel sure that if Major Norton could cable us as we suggest, the information would constitute an unanswerable argument.

While we do not expect the Major to adopt a catch-penny policy in the disposal of this or any of our honey, on the strength of the above quotations we naturally expect a big advance in the prices returned.

[Copy.]

Hawera, August 9th, 1917.

The Manager "B. & D.,"

Wellington.

Dear Sir,—

While 7½d. Bristol is admittedly a good figure as compared with prices ruling when we commenced business with you, it is low compared with prices obtaining in England to-day, according to the British Beekeepers' Journal.

The statements of this periodical are no doubt reliable, being a trade journal, and an old-established reputedly conservative publication. This paper is read by many of the beekeepers in New Zealand and quoted by New Zealand publications, so you can readily see we are likely to have numerous correspondents wanting to know the reason of the disparity in prices.

[Copy.]

Hawera, August 20th, 1917.

The Manager "B. & D.,"

Wellington.

Dear Sir,—

At a meeting of the directors of our Association, held in Christchurch recently, some reports were received from brokers, shareholders, and other sources, giving detailed information of the position of the honey market in Great Britain and other parts of the world.

The information went to show that the value of the honey in bulk in Great Britain in the early part of this year was for medium grades from 80/- to 100/- per cwt. From one source we heard that 130/- was secured; that jobbers in California were offering in May 65/- per cwt. f.o.b. sea ports, and that merchants are, even at this early date, offering prices never before heard of in this Dominion.

The information was discussed at considerable length, and your representative, Mr. Baden Powell, had an opportunity of addressing the meeting.

We feel that you have done and will continue to do good work in the disposal of our honey. Still, the fact remains that we are up against reports of prices far in excess of the advances we are now obtaining, and this must have an effect on

the quantity we will be able to handle. A resolution was unanimously passed: "That a letter be sent to you setting out in detail the foregoing, and stating that there is every probability of our being able to send 200 tons of honey during the coming season, and we have agreed not to pack any for the local market until at least 150 tons is in sight available for export."

In order that we may obtain control of increased quantities, it is, however, necessary that we be in a position to offer shareholders and prospective shareholders something approaching that which they can obtain outside. We therefore approach you thus early asking that you let us know as early as possible in view of the exceptional circumstances what you are prepared to advance against next season's crop.

In view also of the exceptional circumstances, we ask you to seriously consider the advisability of packing as little honey as possible in retail packages, and to sell the balance in bulk at the highest possible price if this price will return more than packing, as unless we can offer some big inducement it is quite certain that many of our shareholders will cease to supply, and sell for the immediate return rather than wait for something in the future.

As you are well aware, the honey crop in many parts of the Dominion has been poor for some three years past, and whilst a considerable number of our shareholders will stick to the Company through thick and thin, others, while they might like to do so, are really not in a financial position to do so, and it is the immediate cash return that they must look for rather than the prospective price and a permanent export trade.

Yours truly,

N.Z. CO-OP. HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSN., LTD.

H. W. GILLING, Chairman.

(Signed) per R. W. B.

Dunedin, August 22nd, 1917.

Mr. J. S. Cotterell,  
Te Aroha.

Dear Sir,—

We had our meeting of directors in Christchurch in the middle of last week, at which all the members were present, as was also Mr. Baden Powell, representing the B. & D.

The report you sent me from Albert V. Port was read, and carefully considered. Whilst the prices in Great Britain at the present time are a long way above the prices we are receiving, the fact remains there is more than a reasonable probability of our being able to obtain better prices after the war is over than we did before, and we are therefore building up a permanent export trade. Were we to turn down the B. & D. now and hand the honey over to brokers, the immediate result would be good, but it is quite certain that the B. & D. would not renew their contract and recommence packing at some later date.

After giving the matter the most careful consideration at two or three different meetings, we drafted a resolution asking our agent to advise us as early as possible what they will be prepared to advance against next season's crop, to seriously

consider the advisability of packing as little as possible in retail packages, and to sell the balance in bulk if the bulk price will obtain us more money; and we also instructed them to cease advertising until the supply equals the demand.

The directors are in a most difficult position. On the one hand there is an immediate certainty of prices up in the vicinity of 8d. to 10d. per lb. at Home by handing the honey over to brokers, and there is also a certainty if this course is adopted that fresh arrangements will have to be made later on for export.

I had a letter from California a little while ago in which my correspondent made the statement that jobbers there were offering 65/- per cwt. f.o.b. sea ports, that last year the price was 33/-, and a few years ago 14/-.

In the "Western Honey Bee" a note appeared just after the publication of the terms of our contract which said:—"The price New Zealand beekeepers are obtaining for their honey makes the mouths of every beekeeper in the State water."

(Signed) R. W. BRICKELL.

[Telegram.]

Hawera, September 22nd, 1917.

Baines, Kati Kati.

Major Norton cables that Port Lyttelton shipment will probably realise 80/- to 100/- in bulk Bristol.

GILLING.

I have accepted Mr. Cotterell's challenge, and have published the figures he dared me to do, and in the light of the above correspondence I am more than ever convinced that the selling end of our business is in good hands, and until someone can show me an agreement drawn up by a reputable firm in England or elsewhere that will serve us better than the "B. & D." are doing, I shall not believe otherwise. Certainly Mr. Port could not: he is a broker who sells to packers—two gentlemen whom we do without, and since we do not give them a chance of earning any commission, of course we are not marketing our produce to the best advantage (to them). Mr. Jas. Allan, in the Otago Witness of May, 1912, says:—"At present there is a good market for our honey in London at a very payable price, something like 35/- to 40/- per cwt. for good honey." In 1917 producers are getting 46/8 per cwt. ex N.Z. ports, and if Mr. Allan, who is a keen business man, reckoned his figures "very payable," what term shall I use for the H.P.A.'s?

In 1912 I sent two consignments to England—one London, one Bristol. Each realised 37/6 per cwt. for first grade white honey. The merchants advanced me 3d. per lb., and that was the first and final payment. It cost close on £11 per ton for freight, charges, and commission, which does not include tins and cases. Here are two actual examples, and the H.P.A.'s price for the same class of honey means a gain of £20 per ton to the beekeeper.

I have had twenty-two years commercial business experience, most of it in London, and from it I say that to decry the work of the two Associations who have made such splendid

solid progress for us, or to jeopardise the existence of our own Association by disloyalty, lack of support, or careless criticism is foolish in the extreme.

Any man holding two shares is allowed to hold the position of director, and it is an easy thing to be nominated, so if a shareholder is dissatisfied with the work of the present directors and thinks he has the ability to do better, then by all means get on the Board, and every shareholder will thank him. But if you will not help, then for heaven's sake do not hinder. Do those who attended the Conference when the co-operative movement was suggested remember the words of Mr. Hopkins? They will serve as a fitting end to my article:—"If you do start a co-operative concern, for heaven's sake 'stick together.'"

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## Beekeeping for Beginners.

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### MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—NOVEMBER.

[As these instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland Districts, an allowance must be made for difference in latitude North and South. Average bee-seasons in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

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#### THE MAIN HONEY FLOW.

In the North the main honey flow usually sets in during the second half of this month; it may be very light at the start, but gradually increases, until it is in full swing in the first half of December. It all depends upon the weather: if the temperature reaches an average of the figures given last month a strong flow of nectar in clover blossoms sets in. Many years ago I could always depend upon starting my first extracting a few days before Christmas, and the earliest extracting ever I did was on the 14th of December. For many years past the weather during November and December has been so unsettled that instead of a flow of nectar taking place we have had to feed the bees. At all events, everything should be in readiness for a flow as though we were certain of it.

#### DELAYED SWARMING.

Where steps have been taken as advised last month to delay swarming, should the weather and flow be favourable beginners should expect swarms toward the end of the month or very early in December. They will then be rousing swarms of 6 or 7 lbs. in weight, and, everything favourable, will have the ten sheets of foundation worked out in their new quarters and need a top box in about one week after hiving.

#### TAKING A SWARM.

A first swarm, with the old queen at its head, may be depended upon to settle somewhere very close at hand; it may be in a convenient spot for taking it or it may not. In the latter case one has to use a little ingenuity. What is necessary is to get them into a box—any common box—as soon after the bees cluster as possible, prior to hiving them. As a rule swarms settle in a shady spot, and should the sun in its course subsequently beat down on the cluster, the bees are pretty certain to decamp and be lost to their owner. In any case take the swarm without delay.

The best method for a beginner to adopt is to lay a sack below the cluster, or as near as possible. If the bees are hanging on a convenient branch of a tree or shrub, hold the box close under the cluster and give the branch a smart jar with one hand, when most or all the bees will drop into the box. Next turn the box on to the sack, with the bees underneath. After a second or two prop up one end of the box about one inch or so, and if the queen is with the bees, which she is sure to be if all or nearly all the cluster was taken, a loud contented hum will be set up. Cover the box with a sack, leaving the entrance free, and any bees that are outside will soon join their companions in the box.

#### HIVING THE SWARM.

If the hive is not already prepared, get it ready and set down in its permanent position, well clear of any fence, building, or tree. Leave the swarm where it is until just before sundown; spread a sack in front of the hive, with one edge close up to the entrance; carry the swarm to the hive, which should be propped up in front a little to make a large entrance, then with a sharp jar dump the swarm down on the sack near the entrance. In a short time all the bees will enter the hive, when it should be lowered on to the bottom-board and be given a fairly wide entrance. Should the sun be pretty warm, throw a folded sack over the hive for a few days to keep it cool.

Old hands usually hive swarms right away, but for amateurs and to make certain the swarm does not rise again the foregoing method is best. When the bees are disturbed again soon after clustering in the box, in nearly every case they will decamp, hence it is best to hive them near sundown.

For the information of those I am writing for, a 5 lb. swarm is a very fair one, but anything below that is getting small, and as a rule a delayed swarm will weigh from 6 to 7 lbs. I have had them as high as 8 lbs. In order that amateurs may satisfy their curiosity, make a nice light and handy swarm box, weigh it, and mark its weight on the box, then weigh it when the swarm is in. In round numbers about 5,000 bees weigh 1 lb.

#### PREVENTING AFTER-SWARMS.

This is important, as a 100 per cent. increase in the one season is all beginners should aim at. The queen, from the egg to emerging from her birth-cell, takes practically 16 days. She may emerge on the 15th or 17th day if the weather has been specially favourable or the reverse, but we reckon on the 16th day. On the 8th day from the egg the cell is sealed, when the larva rapidly develops into the pupa stage. All things being favourable, the swarm issues when the first cell is sealed, and in the ordinary course the first young queen emerges eight days after, and we can reckon in all cases upon a second swarm coming off on the ninth day from the first one headed by the first virgin queen to emerge.

The exception to this is when unfavourable weather for swarming has prevented the swarm coming off at the usual time; it may be delayed from day to day up to the last minute, but this extreme case rarely happens. Now, we may reckon as a certainty that there will be several queens matur-

ing, and as we only need one when preventing after-swarms, we must see that all queen-cells but one are destroyed. As the queen is laying nearly up to the time she swarms, and the bees have the wherewithal to raise other queens up to the fourth day after she leaves, we delay destroying the surplus cells until the fifth day, when no more queens can be raised. In choosing the cell to keep, pick out the largest and most shapely one, broad at the base, and tapering uniformly to a blunt point and well crinkled.

#### TREATMENT OF DISEASE.

About the middle of the month as a rule is the correct and safest time to treat disease, but as the treatment is fully explained in Bulletin 55, with which I fully agree, and which can be obtained for the asking, I must ask beginners to apply for a copy.

#### SIZE OF "SPRING ENTRANCE."

"First Aid," in last issue, in referring to my paragraph on feeding in September issue, says that "no mention is made of the size of spring entrance." I must confess to being puzzled, as I cannot see the connection; but anyway, my method has always been to give a good wide entrance at all times, so that the bees may secure ample ventilation. If bees are obliged to fan outside, then undoubtedly the management is at fault—widen the entrance.

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## Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

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[These Comments, be it understood, are not to be accepted in the light that "Critic" thinks he knows everything about bees, because he knows he does not, and never can. They are simply intended to help in some small way the development of our industry.]

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October Number (page 674)—**Grading Honey.**—Two or three incidents like that mentioned would have a very serious effect in so far that our commercial honey-raisers would lose all confidence in our graders, and there would be no end of appeals from those whose honey is classed below the highest grade. It is obvious that unless, as I pointed out some time ago, our four graders are brought together every now and again at the different grading ports when there is a considerable amount of grading to be done, to give their individual opinion on the different lots and the grading points, a variation in judgment of different honeys is bound to occur between the graders. When once confidence in a particular grader has been shaken, I think it would be a very difficult matter to restore it in full again. There would be less chance of error were our graders brought together occasionally and made familiar with all the varieties of honey raised in the different beekeeping centres, and a united agreement come to as to grades. Mere samples in bottles of different honeys as a guidance in grading are, I consider, worse than useless, and misleading. Nothing but united grading in bulk would be of any use in securing uniformity of judgment.



Pages 675-682—**Swarming and Its Control.**—This is such a controversial question, each individual beekeeper differing more or less from one another, that one would need more than the space of the whole Journal to comment upon all the variations. All have their good points, but no hard-and-fast rule can be laid down in anything connected with bee culture, for, as Mrs. Harrison, the well-known American lady beekeeper, wisely remarked:—"Bees do nothing invariably." That the excessive impulse to swarm in some bees, which probably most old beekeepers have experienced, can be modified by select breeding there is not a shadow of doubt. In my very earliest days of beekeeping I have had swarms (black bees) come off when the brood chamber was only half full of bees and brood, and first swarms swarm again in less than four weeks. I soon bred this evil out of them when I started queen-rearing.

With regard to breeding a strain of non-swarming bees of which so much talk has been current during the last few years, I do not for one moment believe that such a thing is possible. If it were, and the queens as prolific as they are now, and need to be to be profitable, we should either need hives as big as small cottages to contain all the increase of bees during the season, or shorten their lives in some way, to say nothing of altering the nature of the animal in the process. In the meantime, however, the control of swarming gives us something to exercise our ingenuity upon.

Page 684—**Foul-brood in Southland.**—Can it be true that "foul-brood is very prevalent all over this district," Waianiwa? And that only two visits of the inspector to the district has been made in five years? If so, the sooner a local inspector is appointed the better. We cannot afford to allow disease to run rampant anywhere without taking drastic measures to stamp it out oftener than twice in five years. I am safe in saying it is not the inspector's fault that he has not paid more frequent visits to that and other districts. Each of the inspectors have to cover too large a scope of country to be able to get round as often as they wish; but the appointment of more inspectors at the present time is practically out of the question, as to appoint less than four more ordinary inspectors would be of little use. But I feel convinced that the appointment of a good live Chief Apiarist to look after things would be of more benefit to the industry than four more inspectors. But he would need to be someone not already drilled into routine work from Wellington.

Page 688—**Annual Registration.**—Mr. Ward has learned ere this that annual registration of apiaries is not in force, more's the pity, and I sincerely hope the "National Association" will see that we, who took the first steps to bring about annual registration, do not remain behind New South Wales beekeepers, who took their cue from our proposals and beat us—more power to them!

I differ from Mr. Ward's idea that they were "leading lights" who suggested that branches of the "National" are a hindrance. If he had said "mis-leading" lights I could have agreed with him. Without branches to support it, it would only be "National" in name, and without authority beyond itself.

**Exhibits of Honey at Agricultural Shows.**—Why, as Mr. Ward brings to notice, has the "National Association" Executive not carried out its instructions to prepare a suitable exhibit of honey for exhibiting at our principal agricultural shows? This being the very best and the cheapest form of advertising of and bringing our product before the general public, it is incomprehensible why such an opportunity has not been taken advantage of long ere this by the National since it has been in funds.

Page 689—**Tagasaste** (*Cytisus proliferus*).—Why on earth will some of our beekeepers continue to perpetrate an error by calling Tagasaste "tree lucerne" (*Medicago arborea*) when the error has been pointed out time after time? The two plants are quite distinct, the former being the true bee plant.

**A Good Bee Country.**—I can quite understand that the parts of the Bay of Plenty mentioned by "R. B." being good bee country, for more than thirty years ago I received samples of excellent honey from Matata and Opotiki. Anyone seeking a bee farm site should pay those parts a visit.

Pages 690-1—"A Merri-cuss."—Not being a spring poet or a poet of any kind, I am not on speaking terms with any of the goddesses of the tuneful nine, so cannot comment upon his effusion.

Page 693—**Growth of Crystals.**—Glad to see the "Barker" (vide "A Merri-cuss") agrees with my contention that crystals do grow. Amen!

Page 697—**Reasoning v. Instinct.**—It is rather bold to assert that swarming is an act of reasoning and not instinctive. Now, instinct is a kind of blind impulse, mostly concerned in the first place with self-preservation, inherited from ancestors. Put a duckling into water for the first time, and it begins to swim, and swims as well as it will ever do. Originally habits were acquired which benefited the animal, and were transmitted to offspring by heredity, and these habits became more or less fixed until circumstances compelled a modification, when the most useful were preserved and the least adaptive rejected. Arguing from this point of view, swarming is undoubtedly an instinctive action with honey bees in the direction of self-preservation, which also tends to preserve the race.

Page 700—**Sulphuring Combs.**—"R. B." has made out an alarming case against the use of sulphur in the comb room. It is over 35 years since I first used sulphur for the purpose, but I have never noticed the least harm resulting to metal utensils from its use. Doubtless, if you burned enough sulphur in a close smoke light room to kill EGGS as well as moths and their larvæ, metal in the room would be affected. I never heard of anyone trying to kill eggs with sulphur; the usual formula is to fumigate, say, to-day, and again in a fortnight or so, when any eggs remaining after the first fumigation would have hatched.

Page 702—**Queen Introduction.**—It is safer to dilute the honey used in queen introduction, as the bees can clean the queen sooner, and she is not so liable to suffer from her spiracles, through which she breathes, being clogged so long.

Page 703—**Mats.**—Mats of absorbent material are undoubtedly beneficial in winter and spring.

## QUEEN-CELL STARTING.

By C. S. HUTCHINSON.

The following system is the one we have had the most success with in our localities on the plains of the Waikato.

When the spring has advanced that we judge good queens can be raised, select several very strong two-storey colonies. We make a point of selecting hives which show a lot of small queen-cells and dummy cells. These do not have eggs in them, but are a good sign of good queen-raising hives. Having selected the hives, we next shut the queen in the bottom super with a queen excluder, bringing all the frames of brood into the top super, with the exception of two or three frames with a little brood in them, which leave in the bottom super to keep the queen laying. Three days later prepare six or more hives in the same manner, and so on every three days through the season.

At the end of six days remove bottom supers from the first lot of hives prepared to a new stand. This, of course, removes the queen. Put the top super on the old stand, look through and destroy any queen-cells started, also arrange that the second and fourth frame from each side has brood in, the third frame on one side leave out, and no brood to be in the third frame on the other side. On the same day prepare one frame of grafts per hive (10 to 12 cells), as per Doolittle system, place one in each hive, and feed some syrup. Next day prepare two frames per hive, 15 cells per hive, in the same way. Now remove the first frame of grafts, and replace at once with one of the new frames; also remove the third frame on the other side of the hive, and put the other frame in its place, and feed.

Brush bees off started cells, and remove those missed, making each bar to have twelve cells if possible; pencil date on frame, place in one of the second lot of hives between two frames of uncapped brood.

Remove and replace the cells each day until the bees refuse to start more, which will be in three or four days, according to the weather and the bees. Do not waste time, bring back their queen in super, and if more queens are needed, the second lot of hives are ready by this time. Feed all hives raising queens if the weather is unfavourable. Each hive should start from 30 to 50 cells in about three days. It is necessary to have a supply of royal jelly for the first two days grafting; after that use some of the started cells.

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Books Received.—We have received from the Alliance Box Co. the following:—Answers to 150 Questions, and the 1917 Edition of A.B.C. & X.Y.Z. of Beekeeping. Both these are published by Root's, and the first is a small booklet, giving answers to most of the questions that a beginner would ask. The A.B.C. needs no introduction, and this edition is a splendid book, and we strongly advise all those who want to learn the last word in the industry to secure a copy.

## District Reports.

### WAIRARAPA.

It is rumoured that Mr. Lenz will shortly start commercial beekeeping again in a large way.

Prospects are increasingly good for the coming season. In most cases colonies have already gathered sufficient honey to tide them over any future dearth that may occur before the main flow.

The three largest beemen in Southern Wairarapa are considerably increasing the number of their colonies this spring.

4/10/17.

Y. H. BENTON.

At a meeting of Wairarapa beekeepers it was unanimously decided to form a Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association. Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, Government Apiary Instructor, presided.

Mr. R. Holditch proposed that Mr. R. H. Nelson be elected President. Seconded by Mr. Y. H. Benton.—Carried.

Mr. H. Benton proposed that Mr. F. A. Jacobsen be elected Vice-President. Seconded by Mr. J. Kempton.—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. F. A. Jacobsen that Mr. Y. H. Benton be elected Secretary-Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. J. Kempton.—Carried.

Mr. R. H. Nelson proposed that Mr. J. W. Henderson be elected Auditor. Seconded by Mr. J. M. Russell.—Carried.

A Provisional Committee of three was then elected to hold office until the next general meeting, consisting of Messrs. C. R. Benton, J. M. Russell, and J. Kempton.

Mr. J. M. Russell proposed that this Society be designated the Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association. Seconded by Mr. R. H. Nelson.—Carried.

The President then took the chair, and the business of the Association was continued.

Moved by Mr. J. M. Russell—"That 100 pamphlets of the Association's rules be printed for circulation." Seconded by Mr. R. H. Nelson.—Carried.

Mr. F. A. Jacobsen moved—"That this Association meets next at Masterton, December 8th, 1917." Seconded by Mr. C. R. Benton.—Carried.

Mr. F. A. Jacobsen moved—"That the different personages of note in the district be approached in the matter of joining as honorary members, and that it be left to the Secretary's discretion as to whom would be suitable." Seconded by Mr. R. Holditch.—Carried.

Mr. F. A. Jacobsen moved—"That this meeting instructs the Secretary to write Mr. H. W. Gilling to the effect that this meeting extends its sympathies to Mr. H. W. Gilling, who was unable to attend the meeting owing to illness in his family." Seconded by Mr. R. H. Nelson.—Carried.

Mr. J. W. Henderson then moved—"That a hearty vote of thanks be accorded Mr. F. A. Jacobsen." Seconded by Mr. R. H. Nelson.—Carried.

It was then decided to adjourn the meeting until the 8th December, 1917, and finish up the day by visiting the Secretary's apiary.

The Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association bids fair to become one of the largest Associations in the Dominion.

Featherston, 15/9/17.

Y. H. BENTON,  
Secretary.

#### TARANAKI.

By R. H. PENNY.

Prospects for the coming season are fairly good at present, but it is too early to say with any certainty.

Clover plants are showing in the pastures in greater abundance than for some years. Willows have yielded much heavier than usual, and are still in flower.

Our spring flow started much earlier this season, quite a sprinkling coming in as early as September 5th.

Owing to rough weather there has been practically no dandelion honey gathered until to-day, the bees being right at it at time of writing (October 13th). Dandies are later than usual, being at their best at present, and if we get a spell of fine weather the bees should store a little to help carry them through November. If, however, the weather breaks again, stocks will need careful watching.

Stores have held pretty well generally, as the very cold August retarded early brood-rearing, consequently colonies did not get strong too early, as is usually the case in Taranaki.

#### "CANTERBURY TALES."

By E. G. WARD.

Prospects for the coming season are still favourable. Last month was showery, but the weather now seems more settled, and vegetation is growing fast. I visited my apiary in the third week of September, and found the bees in excellent condition. I have never known the bees to come through the winter in better order. I found a good proportion of Mr. Gidley's to be very weak, and the only reason I can suggest is that he had re-queened too late. All my re-queening was done before the end of January, and all colonies were strong when left for winter.

It is now four years since I took my bees to their present location, and at last there seems a hope of getting a crop. I am going to do all I can to secure my share, and desire to draw attention to the Editor's remarks in "Gleanings" in reference to increasing the production. Honey is a food, and a valuable food, too. We shall be helping to win the war by doing all we can in this direction.

On account of the shortage of tin-plate, no doubt a good deal of honey for export will be put up in petrol tins. I know a number of beekeepers in Canterbury who are preparing to pack in this way. There is one point we must keep in mind, and that is perfect cleanliness. Although a petrol tin looks clean and bright, it is still necessary to wash it out. A swill out with warm water is not sufficient. My own plan is to cut out the top, and before soldering in the new one I first wash the tin out with hot soda water, and then rinse out with clean hot water, and dry thoroughly. As the regulations have been relaxed to allow petrol tins to be used, it is "up to us" to prove that we are to be trusted not to take any advantage.

It will be remembered that at last Conference Mr. Allan suggested a different package for export—namely, a wooden box, such as is used to put honey in to granulate before cutting into small blocks. It was suggested that a trial shipment of half a ton should be sent to Bristol. If the air can be excluded it should succeed, but unless this can be done there is danger of fermentation. A large quantity of honey is shipped in barrels successfully, but a barrel can be tightened with the hoops, but a box is another matter. It must be remembered, too, that provision must be made so that the grader can get at the contents of the package, and I do not remember any suggestion being made as to how this was to be done. I have an idea which should meet the case, and will experiment with a view as to the soundness of the plan, and report later. I beg to suggest that this is a line of research which might be taken up by the gentleman who is appointed to determine the length of the bee's sting after that question has been settled.

Talking of the bee's sting has reminded me of something which appeared in a local paper recently. It is a perfect "gem" of its kind, and I have much pleasure in handing it on. It is as follows:—

"Revenge.—Most often revenge hurts both the offerer and the sufferer, as we see in a foolish bee, which in her anger evenometh the flesh and loseth her sting, and so lives a drone ever after."—Bishop Hall.

Isn't learning a splendid thing? I wonder if the worthy bishop's theological learning was on the same plan.

I see Mr. Jacobsen, apiary instructor, mentions elder as a honey-producing hedge plant. I wonder if locality has anything to do in nectar secretion of this plant. There is an elder tree next section to where I live, and although I had bees here three years, and there are still plenty of bees about, I have never once seen a bee on it, although it blooms profusely.

I wonder if we shall ever reach finality in bee manipulation. In last month's issue Mr. Allan makes fun of the Hand floor-board, and Mr. Trythall sings its praises. We see the same thing in almost everything connected with beedom, and each opposing party has plenty of evidence in his favour. Who is right?

A few words on the honey method of queen introduction. I have not tried it yet, but both Mr. Rentoul and Mr. McKnight, of Cheviot, have used it successfully. They take the honey from the hive they are going to introduce the queen into. By this method the temperature of the honey is just right, and if there is anything in the scent theory, there is the additional safeguard that the scent is right, and finally there is no danger of introducing disease through infected honey if disease should be present in some other hive in the apiary.

Some time ago I think Mr. Cotterell promised to tell us something about wood mats. I think, too, the Editor uses them. Perhaps it would be interesting to others besides myself to learn something along this line. At present I am dead against them, but open to conviction. What about it, Mr. Cotterell?—[I do not use mats at all.—Ed.]

I wish to offer my congratulations to the Editor for last issue of the Journal. It is a credit to all concerned in its production, and should silence those croakers who thought a 5/-

subscription would kill the publication. The subscribers are getting good value for their money, and I should not wonder if the numbers increase by leaps and bounds.—[I expect to get "fired" when I send the cheque to be signed by the President to pay for that extra special number.—Ed.]

## Correspondence.

### APIARY SITES.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Department of Lands and Survey,

Wellington, 1st October, 1917.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 12th ult. addressed to the Right Hon. the Minister of Lands, I have the honour to inform you that the matter of providing apiary sites in blocks of land subdivided by this Department for settlement purposes is receiving attention. The under-mentioned sections have been withheld from disposal for the purpose mentioned, and are still available for settlement:—

Auckland Land District.

Section 5, Block XVI, Waiawa S.D.; 10 acres.

Section 17, Block XIV., Karioi S.D.; 10 acres.

Otway Settlement, 10 acres.

Section 10, Block IV., Piako S.D., Hauraki Plains; 10 acres.

Hawke's Bay Land District.

Section 3a, Block II, Ruataniwha; 10 acres.

Section 8, Block IV., Ruataniwha; 10 acres.

Wellington Land District.

Section 15, Block XV., Otahoua S.D., Poroporo Settlement;  
19 acres 2 roods 8 poles.

The two sections in the Hawke's Bay District have been proclaimed under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, and may therefore only be taken up by discharged soldiers.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. W. BRODRICK,

Under-Secretary.

F. C. Baines, Esq.,

Sec. National Beekeepers Assn. of N.Z.,

Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Mr. James Allan's remarks (page 672) about Mr. Miller's and Mr. Barker's articles being too high up in the clouds for him have my hearty sympathy. I don't despise learning, but if our 'Varsity beekeepers, who have swallowed classical dictionaries and encyclopædias that have never been in the hands of an ordinary individual like myself, would explain those words or terms they seem to delight to revel in, I for one would be exceedingly grateful to them.

We have had a very wet winter; rain nearly every day for weeks; this district is becoming a mud flat. No showing of clover yet; but the thistles made a good start last autumn, so there is at least a prospect of some honey from that source

later on. If the season continues wet, we are almost sure to have a buttercup season—there has been no buttercup honey to speak of here for a number of years.—I am, &c.,

Kauwhata, Palmerston N.

J. C. HOBBS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Page 701.—In reply to "First Aid's" enquiry in last month's Journal, "those thirty queens" averaged first week in October 7 brood—that is, each of the seven frames were well filled on both sides. We shall await with great interest the result of Mr. Ward's venture on the Latham method.

Page 685—Queen Deserting the Brood Chamber.—We fear we did not express ourselves sufficiently clearly on this, Mr. "Critic." The prolific layer had had the free run of three storeys **before** we made use of an excluder. She must have had brood and eggs in fully sixteen combs, even going up to the top box, which at our previous inspection showed only combs of honey just about ready for the extractor. In order to avoid this annoyance to ourselves, we bundled the lady below an excluder, giving her the use of two 10-frame boxes. It was after this she deserted the brood chamber proper, laying only in the upper box. She has now deserted us altogether!

Page 703.—Yes, please someone tell us whether those wretched mats cannot be dispensed with: they spoil our temper!—We are, &c.,

Misses BERNARD & BARNES.

[Last four words. Really! Well, well, fancy you admitting it!—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The following note on "Swarming" may be of general interest:—

There is one aspect of the swarming impulse which I have not seen touched upon. I dare say that every beekeeper has noticed how a natural swarm is far ahead of a made colony as a honey producer: a certain impetus seems to have obtained that is missing in the latter. Now, it seems to me that there are two reasons that may account for this—either that a failing queen obtains a fresh impregnation, or that her nervous organisation receives a fresh excitation by the very act of swarming. How possible this can be may be understood when it is known that a barren mare may be induced to accept a sire and ovulate by inoculating into her veins the milk from a young mare that has or is about to have a foal. This practice has been followed successfully by horse-breeders of late years in cases where it was desired to keep a very valuable pedigree dam in issue. The effect apparently is to stimulate the ovaries to fresh effort. I have always had my doubts as to the wisdom of suppressing swarming. It seems to me analogous to some doctors who whip out a man's appendix whether it is diseased or not, when we are at present not certain what its duty is in the human anatomy.—I am, &c.,

W. E. BARKER.



(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Mr. Earp, Government grader, states that a very large number of the tins going through his hands have deteriorated in the quality of the top. Previously all tins were made with an inserted rim and a pressed top, and this made an excellent job. Tins to-day are being stamped out, and the lid just rests in the hole thus made, and the slightest jolt or jar the top springs out. We must ask our shareholders in their own interests to use a better class of tin. If they do not do so, it will be necessary for us to employ labour at the grading stores to solder the lids at the producer's expense.—I am, &c.,

H. W. GILLING,

Managing Director N.Z.H.P.A.

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## The Beekeepers' Exchange.

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**WANTED**, a Practical BEEKEEPER; every convenience on hand for working apiary; work provided to capable man in off season.—Apply

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### ROLL OF HONOUR.

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"Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,  
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears;  
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears  
Are all with thee, are all with thee."

—Longfellow.

- R. G. EDWARDS, late of Geraldine. Invalided home.  
L. D. CARTER, late of Springfield. Invalided home.  
E. A. DENNIS, Glenroy.  
W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs.  
H. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed in action.  
W. B. BRAY, Banks Peninsula.  
R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch.  
J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch.  
P. B. HOLMES, Pirongia.  
T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.  
R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.  
J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.  
G. R. WILLIS, Pukekohe.  
A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Christchurch.  
A. CURTIS, Porowhita.  
W. G. DONALD, Brookside.  
E. N. HONORÉ, Otakeho.  
E. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt.  
J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki.  
G. ROGERS, Opotiki.  
C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed.  
P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed.  
G. NAPIER, Alfredton.  
N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton.  
W. J. JORDAN, Ngauruawahia.  
G. SQUIRES, Fairview.  
MURDO MCKENZIE, Dunrobin.  
W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.  
JAMES IRVING, Albany.  
R. M. HAMILTON, Etrick.  
A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.  
JAMES MARSHALL, Maungatua.  
A. BEVAN, Waihu Downs.  
D. CRAWFORD, Waikeke.  
H. McCALL, Wallace town.  
R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-volunteered.  
S. G. HERRBERT, Ruawai.  
G. HARRISON, Waiapa.  
F. W. LUNT, Adlington.  
C. G. QUAIFFÉ, Russell's Flat.  
G. T. SHAW, Domett.

# 1917-18 PRICE-LIST OF ITALIAN QUEENS.

## PRICES :

	1	2	3	4	5
Untested	6/-	11/-	16/-	20/-	25/-
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
Tested	10/-	18/-	25/-	33/-	40/-
Select Tested	12/6	22/6			
Breeders	20/-				

Queens guaranteed free from all disease, and bred from pure stock, which have been selected for hardiness, disease-resisting, good working, and non-swarmling qualities.

Ninety-five per cent. of untested Queens guaranteed purely mated.

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

P.O. Order Office, Tapanui.

Tested Queens for delivery from October 1st; untested from about November 20th to the end of March, 1918.

NOTE.—Owing to high cost of all material, no reductions can be allowed on list prices for larger quantities.

Postal Address :

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

## **BEESWAX!**

*In response to our Advertisement in last Month's Journal we received a large quantity of Beeswax, but not quite sufficient for requirements. We offer 1/8 per lb. Spot Cash for reasonably clean Commercial Beeswax. No Discount, no Commission, or 1/10 in Trade at Country Stations, any part of the Dominion.*

**WE PAY FREIGHT.**

*Send for Address Tag and forwarding instructions.*

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BOX 572, DUNEDIN.

**WANTED—1 New or Second-hand No. 17 B.R. Extractor. State Price and Particulars to above address.**

# New Zealand Co-operative

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# Honey Producers' Assoc.,

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Note:—

### LOCAL MARKET IMPROVEMENT.

TAKE 2lb. TINS.

1913—2lb. Tins—8/- to 10/- per doz.

1914— „ 10/- per doz.

1915— „ 10/11 „

1916— „ 13/6 „

1917— „ 15/- „

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PRICES STILL WELL ON THE UP GRADE.

# BEEKEEPING IS PROFITABLE

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## Alliance Hives & Supplies.

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They are built as near perfection as Machines and Skill can make them.

The Honey Flow will commence in a few weeks.

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Honey is so valuable no one can afford to miss any of the flow.

Order your requirements direct or through our distributing Agents.

We have enquiries for Honey for shipment to Canada, and the British Markets are practically unlimited, therefore increase your Apiaries with ALLIANCE GOODS and secure some of the golden harvest.

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LIMITED,

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Distributing Agents in all parts of the Dominion.

Write us for information on any phase of Bee Culture or on the Marketing Conditions for Honey.