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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

DECEMBER 1st, 1917.

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



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



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F. A. Sage

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 42

5/- PER ANNUM.

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.

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All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to

FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is in a grievous dilemma: he is receiving indignant letters (one cancelling subscription) because articles have been submitted to him for publication and they have not appeared; therefore, we think we had better clear up any misunderstandings there may be on this matter. The reason these contributions have not been used is very simple—**there has not been sufficient space**: that's all! When we took over the Editorship the Journal was 16 pages. It has been increased to 20 pages; the October issue was 32, and November 24 pages. When sending matter to the printers, we mark the "copy" "A," "B," and "C," giving, of course, preference to matters of interest to the period of the year. What happened last month? There were three pages already set up crowded out of the 32pp. issue, and not only were these again crowded out, but not all the "A" copy inserted, so that we have all that, besides what has come in since, for the issue now being read. If our aggrieved contributors can show that space has been used for articles of less general interest than their own, then we are open to conviction. We have received many very complimentary letters on the way the Journal is being conducted, and from them we gather that satisfaction is being given to the majority.

* * *

We cannot do impossibilities, and the whole question is one of £ s. d. Owing to the increased cost of paper and the enlarged issue, we have spent in six months nearly as much as the whole of last year (that special Spring Number cost

£11 10s.), and the position is that unless we get more subscribers we shall have to curtail expenses. We have practically 500 subscribers, and if one in every five secured a new subscriber we should all benefit. We feel we have done our part to make the Journal helpful to the beginner and interesting to the experienced, and proof of this is found in the number of letters received for publication bearing upon the subjects treated, which unfortunately cannot all be used.

There is a more serious side of the question, which is that we are unable to reprint articles of vital importance to beekeepers that appear in other publications, and without these we are likely to become parochial, and perhaps behind the times.

It seems a great pity that we cannot have a 30pp. Journal, as we believe we could fill it easily, but should want 100 to 150 new subscribers to pay for it. We shall not make ends meet as we are going, and do earnestly ask our readers to do their utmost to secure new subscribers.

We learn that one of the graders was asked to examine some benzine tins that had been altered for honey exporting. He pointed out the great danger of tainting the honey by a small percentage of benzine remaining in the seams and corners, which could only be evaporated by holding the tin over a hot flame, and then washed out with strong soda and water. We dislike the whole business; it is undoubtedly a retrograde step, and one fraught with very great danger and risk. We quite expect to hear of honey being refused for export on account of taint, which will lessen the export, a thing we want particularly to avoid this year; and if, as the grader suggests, it is necessary to apply heat to thoroughly rid the tin of benzine, in many cases this will only be applied when the honey is being liquified, and as there will be no outlet for the vapour when this is being done, it must go into the honey, and if a purchaser gets a pot of tainted honey, he is going to leave New Zealand honey severely alone in future. We take it the use of these tins is absolutely compulsory on account of the shortage of tin plate, but if only on the question of cost, we unhesitatingly say it is wrong in every way. The beekeepers are going to save perhaps 30/- per ton by using these tins, and are risking losing £30 or more by the danger of tainting his honey. The graders are going to have a pretty strenuous time this season over this question, and we are afraid, there will be trouble. However, we can only impress upon those who are taking the risk to make doubly sure as to the cleanliness of their tins.

We much regret that our supply of Townsend Bee Books which we were giving to every new subscriber has become exhausted, and we cannot get a further supply. We are trying to get another equally helpful publication at a rate we can afford, and, if successful, will send as soon as they come to hand.

We beg to state that the President is not so black as he is—printed! Whilst we speak of him, we will tell you a little

story. He read in a recent issue that the Editor did not use mats, so thought he would try it; put his supers on, then got an attack of lumbago; was indoors three weeks. First opportunity went to get a cover off; found the bees had stuck the frames to the cover; so to get at them had to lift cover, frames, bees, and all! His assistant tells us it was the finest flow of language ever heard, particularly when he was sorting himself and his hive out. We chuckle immensely, and suggest a remedy—viz., daub the inside of the cover heavily with vaseline to grease the bees' feet, so they cannot grip to cluster and secrete wax; they will soon tire of 'slithering' all over the place.

We have received a number of letters commenting on "The Selling End of the Honey Business," but are publishing only one, as that is a fair sample of them all. We are also giving Mr. J. Allan's remarks on the matter as appeared in the "Otago Witness," and commend them to the earnest consideration of the H.P.A. directors and beekeepers who are not at present shareholders in that Association. It is a fair, honest, helpful criticism of the whole matter, and we are quite in accord with the suggestions given.

We appealed last month for subscriptions to be sent in. We received ten out of about 300, therefore we are again using red ink for the addresses of those who are behind, who will find the date their sub. expired in the left-hand bottom corner. There will be two Journals sent thus, and if these fail to bring the subscription, the names will be struck off the list. We must know what money we are likely to get before continuing to spend more on the Journal, and if you do not want it sent any longer, please write to that effect, which will save us the double expense of printing and postage.

Great news to New Zealand Beekeepers!—Just as we were going to press the following cable was received from the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association:—"Pay eight-pence per lb. for first grade honey when shipped." Read carefully the Honey Producers' Association advertisement inside back cover.

As the festive season will have come and gone before the next issue is sent out, we should just like to express our feelings of goodwill to all our readers, that they may spend a joyous time in this God-favoured land, amid peace and happiness. To those who are anxious of their loved ones away at the front, we trust the spirit of Christmas will overshadow them and those they love.

We should just like to say one word to those who have helped us in our labours during the past few months since we have been responsible for the management of the Journal. We keenly appreciate the help that has been given and the kind words of encouragement that have come from so many friends. We have been helped considerably thereby, and heartily reciprocate the good feelings.

Now, friends all—A Happy Christmas and a New Year full of good things for you is the earnest wish of

THE EDITOR.

A NON-FOUNDATION BEE FRAME.

Having read in the Journal the trouble that confronts the beekeeper re foundation comb, we wish to try and assist the bee industry in this problem by introducing to the beekeeper the Patent Allardyce Non-foundation Bee Frame. This frame has been tested side by side with foundation frames in an apiary of 150 hives for many years, finally growing in favour. We ask the beekeepers to give this frame a little consideration. All advantages being even, we think you should be rewarded by so doing.

E. & A. ALLARDYCE, Gore.

[Whilst the above idea is not by any means new, we are publishing this, as we want to encourage anyone that has an inventive turn of mind, because by so doing we might hit on an appliance that may become a valuable asset to the industry. We think our friend has just missed the point of why we give comb foundation to the bees. The use of this ensures:— (1) Frames full of worker cells; (2) saving about 15 to 20 lbs. of honey necessary to be consumed by the bees to build comb into frames, as well as the gain by the bees being out in the fields gathering nectar instead of being clustered in the hive secreting wax. It seems to us the only district the above appliance would be of any use is one where the honey is of such inferior quality that it was unmarketable, but we do not think such places exist in New Zealand; and if so the same effect can be produced by running a ridge of wax on the under side of an ordinary top bar. However, should any of our friends care to try these frames, there is an opportunity.—Ed.]

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—DECEMBER.

[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.]

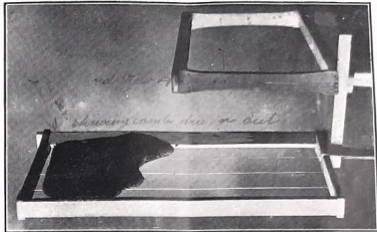
CLOVER NECTAR.

Note—I am somewhat under a disadvantage in laying out the work for the coming month in having to write the "Instructions" some 16 days or so before the month commences, in order that the Editor can send them on to the printer in good time for publishing them.

The prospects at present in the North for an early and large yield of clover nectar are very promising. The temperature is fairly high and steady at the time of writing, and if the present conditions continue there should be a good flow set in shortly. It will be remembered that I suggested in the October number that after so much rain in the early spring we only needed the right temperature during this and the next month to bring on a big flow in clover. At all events be prepared for it by having extra surplus boxes ready for use.

SWARMING.

I went into this matter very fully last month, but during the swarming season, which lasts as a rule from October to the end of January, swarms may issue from extra strong colonies when least expected. Now, it is most annoying to have colonies



THE ALLARDYCE PATENT NON-FOUNDATION BEE FRAME.

Particulars.—Regulation top bar, $\frac{7}{8}$ x $\frac{7}{8}$ in. thick; end bars, $\frac{3}{8}$ x $1\frac{3}{8}$, bored for three wires; bottom bar, $\frac{7}{8}$ x $\frac{3}{8}$. The main feature is the top bar being bevelled on the under side, requires no foundation, the bees start direct off this bevel. End bars self-spacing; saves the lives of many bees when sliding frames sideways in the hive should they by accident clash together. Frames cannot lock in hive by slipping past one another at end bars. Interchangeable with other frames; also made in half-frames. These are on the market, and can be obtained at Hardware Co., Gore, at 3/- per set of 10.

broken up by swarming during the main honey flow, when the object is to secure a maximum crop of honey, especially when one has secured all the increase needed for the season. However much we may try we cannot always prevent the nuisance of swarming, but there is just one thing we may do to mitigate the evil, and that is to return the swarm to its hive when we know from which it came.

RETURNING SWARMS.

Beginners with few colonies to look after, if they are lucky enough to discover a swarm in the air would have little difficulty in locating the mother colony. Supposing this to have been done, the swarm should be taken and hived in the usual way, as explained last month, and its hive be placed directly alongside the parent hive. If the swarm has been hived in empty combs, the store of honey carried by the bees, which usually serves them for four days, will be regurgitated into the cells next day; but if hived on foundation the greater part of the honey will be converted into wax for building out the combs.

Some time the following morning look through the parent hive and cut out **all** queen cells. Be sure that none are missed, or the object will be frustrated, then place the newly hived swarm and its hive as a top box on the parent hive and close down. If the queen is known to be getting past her prime, it is a good opportunity to supersede her. In this case, leave **one** queen cell in the parent hive, and keep the swarm and parent colony apart until the young queen has emerged and commenced to lay, then kill the old queen and unite the swarm with the parent colony at once, placing for a day or so a queen-excluder between the two lots of bees. See that the excluder is not on too long, or queen cells will be built. Beginners must realise that young queens are less inclined to swarm than those past their prime.

VENTILATION.

The effects of improper ventilation of hives in both winter and summer are bad both for the bees and beekeeper. During the hot summer months one cannot allow of too much ventilation; when bees begin to fan outside the entrance it is a sign that the interior is very hot, and that a double force of bees or more are employed inside ventilating instead of doing more profitable work. The entrance should be enlarged, and if necessary the front of the hive raised with wedges. All grass, weeds, and everything around the hives that tends to prevent a free circulation of air should be removed.

TOP OR SURPLUS HONEY BOXES.

These should be made ready and be placed in position as required, and, of course, this will depend upon the flow of nectar. It is not wise to have a lot of unoccupied space on the hive; at the same time the giving of more room should not be delayed too long. When placing a fresh top box on a hive, always put it below the other boxes and immediately above the brood chamber, as it tends in the first place to keep the latter cool, and bees work more readily downward than upward.

When working for comb honey—that is, section honey—directly the bees get well to work in the first half storey, lift

this and put the second one underneath, and so on with the third and fourth if necessary, always removing the sections as soon as all the cells are capped before they become travel-stained. More attention is required as regards working room and ventilation to prevent swarming when working for comb than when working for extracted honey.

EXTRACTING.

More can be done by keeping the extractor going as soon as required in keeping down swarming than adding more top boxes. Either two or three top boxes may be required, according to the flow, and in dry weather extracting may be done when the top third of the combs are sealed without risk.

CHANGING COMBS.

If there is the least sign of disease in the apiary, combs **must not** be changed from one hive to another, as there is no surer way of spreading it, as you cannot always detect its early attack. Number the frames for each hive, and keep them to their hives.

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

[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.]

Nov. Number—Opening page—**Beeswax Famine.**—It must be fully six years or more since I first drew attention to what seemed at the time to me very clear indication that we were fast approaching a period when it might be almost impossible to secure comb foundation or the wax for making it unless beekeepers undertook to raise the latter for themselves. It will prove a most serious drawback to commercial beekeeping should we be unable to obtain sufficient comb foundation for our needs, and the prospects at present are very far from encouraging; in fact, it seems to me we shall have to face a beeswax famine in the near future.

Page 706—**Box Hives.**—That's right, Mr. Editor, go for the suppression of these all you know how, but don't put the blame of their existence at this time of day upon inspectors altogether. They are restricted in so far that they cannot bring sufficient pressure to bear on flagrant transgressors of our Apiaries Act that would have a deterrent effect upon other would-be violators without the consent of higher officials, and the consequent bother and delay of obtaining it. It may fairly be asked what is the good of a splendid Apiaries Act if, after 8½ years since it came into force, its administration is such a failure as indicated by the example you quote? Better be without the Act than its administration should have become a laughing stock for our progressive beekeepers, and an excuse for using unparliamentary language among those who have been agitating for better execution of the Act than has hitherto prevailed.

Pages 707-16—**The Honey Market.**—To my way of thinking, the discussion on this subject pro and con in the above pages is, at this present stage of our progress, one of the most beneficial eventualities that could have come about. The facts laid bare on both sides will enable those entertaining different opinions previously to come to a closer agreement on the main points. The H.P.A. directors are to be commended for demanding from the B. and D. Association a clear statement of the why and wherefore of the big difference between the returns for the honey exported by the former through the latter and the prices quoted on the markets where the honey is sold. The shareholders of the H.P.A. had in face of the big difference a right to demand an explanation to satisfy themselves whether they were being fairly dealt with or not.

The reply of the General Manager of the B. and D. seems on the whole to reasonably account for the difference and the fluctuation of prices on the Home markets. With regard to this latter few have had more experience than myself, and I can quite appreciate all he says on that matter. The most satisfactory scheme, in my opinion, if it can be done without costing too much, is to appoint a representative of the H.P.A. in England to look after its interests and report monthly by letter. The B. and D. would doubtless welcome such an arrangement, as it would remove cause for doubt and pettifogging bickerings which are likely to crop up now and again under the present conditions.

I certainly think it would be a step in the wrong direction to do as suggested—that is, to sell our honey in bulk if it would bring a little more than putting it up in retail packages. The one thing that some of us have bemoaned over the fate of our exported honey in the past was that it lost its identity with New Zealand when bought in bulk by merchants and packers at Home, and if we are going to encourage this again for the sake of an immediate small increased profit, we will be the greater losers in the long run. Do not on any account let us lose the identity of our honey now that its good name is established.

Page 722—**Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association.**—It is satisfactory to know that an Association constituting a branch of the National Association of Beekeepers has been formed in the Wairarapa. It has always been a puzzle to me that the many beekeepers in that district have been without an Association so long. However, we must fall on the old adage, which says, "Better late than never," and welcome the newcomer into the fold.

Page 707—**Mr. W. E. Barker.**—And is that a true likeness of Mr. Barker? Well, well! I shall not be afraid of him any longer. Why, he looks a kindly old gentleman, and here have I been picturing him in my mind as a crusty old erudite professor of one of the "ologies" that one dare not approach unless in a very humble manner to consult him on, say, differential calculus or some such recondite matter. He must not talk so much over our heads in future, otherwise, Mr. Editor, you must set aside a section of the Journal where Messrs. Barker and Bartlett-Miller can fight it out and blend their plasted chromosomes to their hearts' content. [Whatever are they? Looks as if you are using unparliamentary language, Mr. Critic.—Ed.]

District Reports.

TARANAKI NOTES.

The last few weeks can be summed up in one word, "Feeding."

We have had the poorest crop of dandelion honey that has been our lot for some seasons past. However, prospects are good for a good clover season. Clover is in flower, and is very plentiful, and on very warm days has yielded a light flow during the past week, being quite two weeks earlier than in normal seasons.

The weather has been very mild lately, and Taranaki-ites would be wise to prepare for an early season.

14/11/17.

H. R. PENNY.

STRAY BEES.

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

In the current issue of the Beekeepers' Journal, p. 702, there is an article by Mr. A. L. Luke which, perhaps unintentionally, casts a slur on the veracity of those writers who have tried to bring the Bay of Plenty under the notice of those beekeepers who are looking for apiary sites in unoccupied territory.

When we wrote about the good prospects in this district, we had in mind the tens of thousands of acres of dairying land surrounding the large and old-established dairy factories, and which are unoccupied by beekeepers. We did not for a moment anticipate that a beekeeper looking for a site would take to the swamps when there was a large area of clover on dry land to select from.

If Mr. Luke had established his apiaries on, say, the Opotiki flats, with miles of clover fields all around him, instead of fixing down in the Rangitaiki Swamp, amid manuka, flax and swamp rushes, he would have been an optimist instead of a pessimist in our last issue. Even with all the drawbacks with which Mr. Luke is confronted, he is able to tell us in the April number, p. 587, that he secured 222½ lbs., with a record of 360 lbs. from his best hive. On page 601 he tells us he is nailing up 8,000 frames this season, which looks like preparing for an increase of over 200 hives this year. Again, on p. 645 he asks the Editor's advice about establishing a comb foundation plant. All this looks healthy, and if Mr. Luke is a good enough beekeeper to command this success among swamp plants, what would he have done out on the clover fields?

Mr. Luke also condemns the Bay of Plenty for its roads, and we will meet this statement by mentioning the fact that there are between 300 and 400 motor car owners in the Bay, and more cars are arriving almost every week.

Again comes the old complaint that mats over the bees harbour moths. There is, however, a good cure for this. When making up the fire under the boiler, use the mats for starting the fire. It is all they are good for, any way. Many years ago we read in "Notes for Beginners," "Always use two or three mats on top of the bees in winter to keep them warm,"

and we followed these instructions to the letter. As time and seasons went along, our hives increased faster than the mats, and it was soon down to two mats each, and then it was only one; still the bees seemed to do just as well. Then came a late spring overhaul, when we discovered that 22 hives had been left without any mats at all during the whole winter. Of course, the bees should have been all dead, but they are contrary things, so we discovered that these hives without mats were if anything stronger than those with mats, and for the first time we began to suspect that much foolishness is found printed in Bee Journals.—[Not in ours, Friend B.—Ed.] The following year we tried half of the apiary without mats, and found that they came out in the spring just as strong as if not stronger than those with mats. Since then we have never used mats, except when we have an odd swarm, when a mat helps to keep them in the frames until they get settled down.

After this we read that old mats full of propolis made good smoker fuel, but the bees strongly objected to the smell of burning propolis, and we gladly went back to clean old chaff sacks. The mats are good in the boiler fire, though.

The Beekeepers' Exchange.

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

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

C. R. HOLYOAKE,
Umukuri, Nelson.

WANTED TO BUY (at end of season) SMALL APIARY; not more than 50 Colonies; Waikato District preferred. Price and particulars to

F. BOOTH,
C/o Post Office,
Frankton Junction, Waikato.

MY EXPERIENCES IN BEEKEEPING.

By R. H. NELSON.

(Continued.)

It did not take me very long to discover that old Peter knew as much about bees as I did myself—viz., nothing. I knew that there was such a thing in existence as a frame hive, but knew nothing of the construction of one. In my school days my old master was a keen apiarist, and had several hives in his garden, which he used to show his pupils. All that I ever knew about them was that the hives were painted grey. I wasn't on good terms with the old gentleman. You see, he seemed determined that I should learn things that were written by some old buffer by the name of Euclid a few thousand years ago. I objected. What did I want anyhow with his silly old parallelograms? I, the champion long-distance runner of the whole school! Hadn't I swam the measured mile? Absurd! Swelled head—first attack!

But to return. In the month of March we "took" one swarm, the first one. The result was a milk-pan of beautiful honey. The remaining hive wintered all right in its old box. During the winter I got ready for the spring campaign, made two frame hives measuring about 2ft. 6in. long x 1ft. 3in. wide and about 1ft. deep, two storeys high, 17 frames across in both hive bodies. They were fearful-looking things all right! Talk about your long idea hive! As the spring advanced I poked around looking for bee trees. One I quarried out of a cabbage tree and brought home safely. I was gaining courage.

One Sunday an old chap turned up and told me there was a swarm "just landed" on a bit of scrub about a-quarter of a mile away.

"Come on, John," I said to the old Salvationist.

We went. Some of the swarm met us halfway. They were peculiar little bees, this lot, just showing a faint red band across their back.

"I'm stung!" yelled old John, and, turning tail, sprinted the 100 yards in record time, a cloud of bees following. They were savage little brutes, but I stuck it.

"Bob, there is a hive of bees up the Waihora in a black birch tree," said a gentleman who suffered from the classical name of Murphy.

"Right, ho!" said I. "We'll go and get it. Will you come?"

"Y-e-s! The bees won't sting, will they?"

"No—no fear of that," said I.

Old John was fed up—had had enough. The subsequent proceedings interested him no more.

Off we went five miles up the river-bed. I believe at that time I would have climbed the Tararua's after bees. Arrived at the spot, we found the tree, with an odd bee flying in and out. We got to work at once and felled the tree. It took some felling. The perspiration was oozing out of us, and I was dancing around in great glee, when Murphy said in an Irish whisper:

"Can you fale the shmell, Bob?"

I could. My reputation as a beeman was at stake, so I hastened to explain that the "shmell" was from the young bees hatching out. Could I feel the smell. You might have got a hold of that "shmell" by the scruff of the neck and shook it.

I have ran up against Murphy's "shmell" pretty often since then.

COMMENTS ON CORRESPONDENCE re THE B. & D. AND HONEY PRICES OBTAINED IN ENGLAND.

By W. H. TEED.

It appears to me that those who are dissatisfied with what the B. and D. are doing are remarkably like the dog in the fable who, in crossing a stream with a piece of meat in his mouth, dropped it in order to grasp at its reflection in the water. How is it we never before heard of these gentlemen who are anxious to do so much better for us than the B. and D. are doing, but who are simply trying to borrow for the time

being their reflected light? They were certainly there as produce agents, to whom, had we thought fit, we could have consigned our honey. They would have charged a certain commission, the brokers another commission, and the now so-called "packers," who are without doubt one and the same as the large wholesale houses, not only want a commission, but over and above, a good profit. It is quite evident these gentlemen want to "bust up" the B. and D.'s honey business and bring things back to what they originally were. This is the whole thing in a nutshell, and I am surprised that such men as Mr. Cottrell should be led away by such specious arguments.

It is all very well to say the B. and D. did not get the prices quoted. Why? In the lengthy correspondence that has been published this fact may be lost sight of—viz., that there was no New Zealand honey, on account of shortness of supplies, to be disposed of at the time these prices were being obtained, and, as Major Norton has pointed out, "had the honey been here, there would have been no room for these excessive prices."

It is to be hoped we have heard the last of these carping criticisms, especially from those gentlemen who say they are too busy to attend beekeepers' meetings, and therefore do not bring forward their views for discussion, when the bottom would soon be knocked out of them.

The 200/- quoted for English honey is accounted for by the fact that it is extremely scarce on account of the ravages caused by the "Isle of Wight" disease, which has denuded whole districts of bees. There are some people in England who will not eat "foreign" honey, and, having a long purse, do not object to the price, which does not depend on or is regulated by the other prices quoted. All imported honey is classed as "foreign."

[Extract from letter received from Major Norton. Dated 22nd August, 1917.]

"I can assure you I have read with very considerable interest in the various papers that have been sent me the proceedings of the recent Beekeepers' Conference in Wellington, and am exceedingly pleased to note that some of the gentlemen had some home truths put before them. It is most unfortunate that, evidently through the action of your officials, this Association was kept short of supplies last year, and it is also again unfortunate that owing to the lack of the necessary tonnage we should again be short this year. We have, I am sure you will admit, made a wonderful success of the New Zealand honey in this country, despite the tremendous odds that have been against us. I am quite prepared to hear that certain gentlemen in your Dominion will have something to say because we are not returning as high a price for the honey as they will see has been obtained for honey in this country during the past few months. These same gentlemen seem to entirely lose sight of the fact that it is the lack of supplies to a very large extent that accounts for the abnormal prices that have obtained. Necessarily if the honey had been here there would have been no room for these excessive prices. Then again, as you suggested as regards your local market, some of your producers cannot or will not recognise that it is the export trade that makes your local prices so good: do

away with your export trade, have the whole of your surplus honey thrown on the local market, then where would your prices be? I am just wondering what some of the gentlemen who sold their honey to merchants in Wellington at 5½d. per lb. will be thinking when they know of our returns for the 'Zealandic' honey. No doubt they will, metaphorically speaking, 'kick themselves,' and good enough for them.

“(Signed) A. E. M. NORTON.”

THE SELLING END OF THE HONEY BUSINESS.

(By J. ALLAN, in the “Otago Witness.”)

Under this heading Mr. F. C. Baines contributes an article to the “New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.” In it he publishes correspondence of a very interesting nature concerning English prices for honey and the work of the H.P.A. The point of conflict in this correspondence is between a promise of immediate benefit from an English broker showing greater results than have yet been reached by the H.P.A., and the H.P.A. plea for looking to the future and establishing a market through the Bristol and Dominion Co. by establishing confidence in it by the retail trade in England. We are altogether in sympathy with the H.P.A. in the matter. There is absolutely no reason to doubt the work of the B. and D. Their books are open to our auditors if we wish, and it would certainly be suicidal to go back on the work that has been done. Whilst the other side can certainly make a good showing, owing chiefly to war conditions, there is no reason to doubt that they resent the fact that we in the Dominion are using other channels than theirs, and that they would probably be ready to make considerable sacrifice in order to break down the present arrangement. While this is so, and while it would be folly to listen to the English broker for a moment, there is certainly room to discuss very fully the work of both the H.P.A. and the B. and D. Co. The H.P.A. claims to have made good, because of the rise that has taken place in prices during the last three years; but does anyone believe that? We all know that war conditions would have produced the present position if no H.P.A. had existed, so that the claim is altogether a foolish one. Still, we also know that they were on the right track, and no one doubts that under normal conditions and with fair average crops they would have been able to show a good record. What we fear is that the desire to carry on as if no abnormal conditions existed has hindered them from rising to the occasion, and prevented them from making the progress that otherwise they should. It may be asked, What do we suggest? This: that the advance made should be equal to the bulk value on the local market. To show that this is not done we may say that on our 1915-1916 crop we received with others 4 1-7d. per lb. advance on shipment; but the grader had turned down ten cases on account of leakage, and this, sold by a produce agent, realised 5½d. on the local market. The H.P.A. may say, “Yes; but our 4 1-7d. per lb. was only an advance, and probably when you get the final payment it will more than satisfy.” Well, just there is my second complaint. The value of that final payment is considerably discounted by the fact

that we have to wait two years for it. Why this delay should take place it is difficult to say, but it seems most unreasonable. Dairy companies can finish their season in June, and for the most part distribute the final bonus by the September following. Why should the Honey Co-operative have to wait two years? It would be unreasonable to expect results as quick as is the case with Dairy Companies, but it is just as unreasonable to ask their shareholders to wait two years. Our two points of complaint, then, are that the advance is not more in sympathy with bulk values in the local market, and dilatoriness in making the final, or, at all events, a progress payment. It is difficult to criticise the work of the B. and D. Co., but we cannot help feeling that, while in all probability they are doing the work at the other end in an exemplary way, they fail to realise fully the difficulties that lie in the way of the H.P.A. in the Dominion. Had the H.P.A. been in existence for some years before the beginning of the present abnormal market conditions, and been able to establish confidence amongst the beekeepers and to prove themselves a necessity, they could probably have acted more independently now; but that is not their position. Probably only a small proportion of the beekeepers are actual shareholders, and if the others are to be made such, then there must be sufficient inducement to draw them in. To do that we should say that the B. and D. must be able to some extent to forecast and to feel the pulse of the English market, and to keep the H.P.A. in touch also.

While we write thus we feel sure that if beekeepers want to conserve their own interest it can be done, only by identifying themselves with the H.P.A. We have a unique opportunity to make co-operation a success, and if we fail to profit by it then it may be a long time before we can again tackle it with any hope of success. They say that experience is a good teacher, and probably the experience of the past three years will do much to make the work of the H.P.A. more successful in the future, and to enable it to do better work. Nothing would please the writer better than to find that a really good year enabled the H.P.A. to flood Major Norton with Dominion honey, and give him the opportunity he pleads for on the English market.

November, 17th, 1917.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Mr. Cotterell notified in the Journal some time back that he would give to the beekeepers (the ordinary common or garden lot, you know) a scheme for keeping the grass down: haven't seen it yet. The Journal is A1; the only trouble is that when it arrives, down go tools till most of it is read through. Yesterday it came in the midst of a bumper wash (clothes!) I am glad to see that one man mentions his back and backache three times in as many lines, and yet I have seen it (beekeeping) written up as "nice easy work for delicate women!" Another man mentions stings.

"Stings! What's a sting? Just a little thing,

But ping, ping, ping, when they sting, sting, sting!"

I am, etc.,

HELEN HUNT.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I was in Auckland recently making enquiries re the sale of honey mead and honey vinegar, and to my disappointment could hear of nothing encouraging on the matter. It appears to me that this part of the industry has been entirely forgotten. From the wringings and washings of combs and utensils I have made 30 gallons of vinegar and 10 gallons of mead. The materials for making this I should have buried otherwise, as I had bought some hives that had foul-brood. I have enquired of three other beekeepers what they did with their offal, and they said they threw it away or let it go in the copper with the wax. I think if all the beekeepers were to work up this part of the industry, a market would soon be found. Only a small percentage of the public have heard of either product, and I doubt if 1 in 1,000 ever tasted a good sample. I should like your personal opinion and that of others on the matter.—I am, &c.,

C. KENDRICK, Papatoetoe.

[There is no doubt that we beekeepers as a body do not take the trouble to turn these bye-products out in very large quantities, particularly vinegar. The making entails very little work, and the materials are as a rule thrown away. I know of only one man who regularly makes and sells vinegar—Mr. Ireland, of Canterbury—who told me he could sell more than he makes. I confess I could have made about 100 gallons recently with a lot of old honey from box hives that I cleared out from neighbours. Perhaps Mr. Ireland will tell us something about how he works.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I see by the October Journal that Mr. Gilling is open to receive suggestions re field days and meetings to talk over H.P.A. matters, beginning in Otago and Southland. I have been thinking about this, and feel that perhaps some people will be passed by and still sell their honey to the nearest grocer. In this day of appeals, what would you think, Mr. Editor, of one from the H.P.A. placed in the Journal for 500 or more tons for this year. Major Norton, Mr. Gilling says, knows how to sell honey, and as yet we have only sent a minimum amount. Cannot we this year give him the maximum and so show that we mean business. I feel sure that unless the H.P.A. is quick, there will be honey sold, especially around the bays of Banks Peninsula, to others, the same as what happened in Southland last year. So I will leave this suggestion with you, Mr. Editor. Get all the readers of the Journal to work on this appeal scheme, and see what will happen.—I am, &c.

C. A. POPE.

Sydenham, October 16th, 1917.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am in the — Reinforcement, which perhaps you already know, and on calling at — a few days ago, I noticed some honey in the shop windows there put up in 1-lb. glass screw-top jars. I thought I would just buy a jar to see what they were charging and to try the quality, which I did. The price was 2/3 for the 1-lb. jar, and as for quality—well, it is hard to explain what it was like. It was in liquid form, but

looked as if it would soon granulate. It would be a medium coloured amber, I should think, when it was granulated. The flavour was not strong, but altogether different to any I have yet tasted. I thought it was a fair quality, but should not be worth so much as our clover or light amber honey. It was only labelled Pure Honey, and did not have the producer's name printed on the label. I thought it might interest the beekeepers of New Zealand to know what honey was selling at in ——. I'll just mention also that in the —— there is an advertisement for honey in any quantity packed in any package. Any news I pick up concerning bees which I think will be of interest to N.Z. beekeepers I will send along. I had no chance to visit beekeepers in —— or ——. I am, &c.,

At Sea, July 18th, 1917.

Priv. P. B. HOLMES.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re "Insurance of Bees." The following may be of considerable interest to some of our New Zealand friends:—"In Switzerland there is a branch of agricultural insurance, that of bees against foul-brood. This insurance is carried out by two Swiss Apicultural Societies, its aim being the indemnification of its members against loss caused by this disease. It gives them the right to gratuitous treatment of their hives, either affected or suspected, to needful help for disinfection, and, thirdly, to an indemnity of 75 per cent. on the value of destroyed hives. In 1911, in German Switzerland alone, of 25,000 beekeepers, 7,532 were insured, and of about 180,000 hives, 105,170 were insured. By an order of the Federal Council of 3rd December, 1909, foul-brood was included in the law dealing with cattle diseases. The Federation also attends to the care of affected hives and of insurance. In the three cantons of Fribourg, Vaud, and Neuchatel insurance of bees is compulsory."—I am, &c.,

F. A. JACOBSEN,

Palmerston North.

Apiary Instructor.

THE HARVESTING OF BEESWAX.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I quite agree with your advice re saving every scrap of comb to convert into commercial wax, and that there is no handier method for doing this than through a properly constructed Solar wax extractor. It is astonishing the amount of odd pieces of comb from scrapings of frames, burr-combs and broken pieces that are wasted if there is not the wherewithal at hand to deal with them at once. They are not worth putting aside each time to accumulate to put through a press, but if they can be at once thrown into a Solar extractor so much is saved as profit. To say that a Solar extractor is useful only to melt up new combs, and that all the wax from old combs cannot be extracted, as Root says in his last "A B C," is all bunkum, as I have proved. Old combs laying on their flat on black iron in a Solar under double glass, exposed for some time to a temperature considerably above boiling point, will not have much if any wax left in the slungum. Some of the latter I have taken out of the Solar I have described in my manual would not serve as fire lighters when tried for that purpose.—I am, etc.,

I. HOPKINS.

EXHIBIT OF HONEY AT AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—At various times we have been told it is the duty of the National Executive to prepare an exhibit of honey and send it round to our principal Agricultural Shows. It is stated that this is the very best and cheapest form of advertising and of bringing our product before the general public. "It is inconceivable why such an opportunity has not been taken long before this by the National," is the latest contribution to the subject by "Critic" (p. 720).

With all due deference to "Critic" and other writers, I submit that an exhibit as is suggested would have little or no advertising value. The essential value of an advertisement is that it makes sales, and in order to do this it must attract attention, create a desire for the thing advertised, and make that desire so strong that the desire becomes action, and a sale is effected. An advertisement should also indicate in what form and where the article advertised can be purchased. By its very nature any display the Association could arrange would lack the main characteristics of an ideal advertisement.

When prospective purchasers go to purchase honey from some near-by store they would find it in an entirely different form to the display, if they find it at all. Manufacturers and packers first make sure that their stuff is on sale in the form advertised, and then commence their advertising campaign. We cannot do better than follow their plans and methods.

I have no hesitation in saying that any money spent by the National Association in Agricultural Show displays would be 90 per cent. waste. There are scores of ways in which effective advertising can be undertaken. At present there is no need to advertise at all, as the supply is not equal to the demand.—I am, etc.,

R. W. BRICKELL.

Dunedin, 2/11/17.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Congratulations on your Editorial appointment. I trust it will be a pleasant pathway for you. I enclose P.O. (6/-) for 1917-18 subs. and postage. I should think it would be a calamity to co-operative effort and to the whole apicultural outlook in New Zealand if the Journal had to stop publication. It is not great in volume, but it is of sound practical value to the craft. I would miss the perusal of its pages here. To a keen apiarist in New Zealand its absence would be regrettable indeed. Apparently propaganda (with the butt end) is needed to get many N.Z. beemen to look further than the end of their own hive stands.

I hope you will succeed in your appeal for support. True, the Journal has not the volume or pretensions of "Gleanings," which is about the same price, but that is not the point: it is the invaluable link in industrial efficiency in your honey production and general welfare of bees, beekeeping and beekeepers too.

We have had a good season for 1917, after an unusually late start, and the results must be well over the average for England. There is a heavy demand for bees and honey, and prices are very good. Sugar is non-existent for bees, but some-

how there are oceans of it for "lollipops," and it is a great mistake. Beemen are not likely to cut down wintering stores to normal, and have their bees dead from starvation in the spring. The result is honey will be withdrawn from the people. Beekeepers are not taking chances.—I am, &c.

M. ATKINSON.

Bee Farm, Fakenham, Norfolk, England. 21/8/17.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—It will interest every beekeeper to know that Major Norton has returned us as follows for our first shipment of honey from Auckland:—

Light Amber, A and B grade	£90 per ton
Medium & Dark Amber, A & B grade ..	£75 per ton
C grade, all colours	£60 per ton

Major Norton says:—"We could have realised a little more for some of the 'Zealandic' shipment had we cared to sell in bulk, but in the interests of the N.Z.H.P.A. we considered it better to keep faith with our own customers who supported us in the past, and who will undoubtedly support us in the future. Our friends must realise that these inflated prices are not going to last for ever, and we consider it would be the falsest of false policies to take too great advantage of the present position and leave our old and tried friends in the lurch at this juncture, particularly when after all the N.Z.H.P.A. are getting such excellent prices. Quite likely there are merchants who will guarantee our friends up to 100/- at the moment, but will they guarantee our friends, say, two years hence? This is the question they want to look at."

In view of the above excellent returns, we would fain ship heavily to Bristol. Shipping, however, is very difficult, and we must also keep faith to a reasonable extent with our clients here. An advance on our previous prices is, however, necessary, and these have been fixed for the coming season as follows:—

2 lb. tins, 21/- per doz., less 2½% cash discount.
2 lb. pots, 21/-
1 lb. pots, 11/6
1 lb. pats, 11/6
½-lb. pats, 5/6

These prices bear a further 10% discount to wholesale houses.

We purpose opening a packing depot in Dunedin for the coming season, and sincerely trust that Otago and Southland beekeepers, whom we are assured are "shrewd and long-sighted" men, will realise that this is their chance to establish firmly the co-operative movement in their midst.

1918 Advances.—In the matter of advances we are in the same position as the Dairy companies. Although the price fixed for cheese will enable the Dairy Companies to pay 1/9 per lb. butter-fat, sooner or later, owing to the difficulty of shipping and the consequent low advances the Companies are receiving, they can only pay the suppliers an advance of 1/- per lb.

£90 per ton, the price returned by the B. and D. for light amber, nets us 8½d. per lb., freight and all charges paid, but their advance f.o.b. is only 6d., and their advance in store only 5d. On medium they are returning £75, but advance only £51 4s., and only £40 4s. in store.

While we have been reasonably successful in obtaining shipping space, we have no guarantees for the future, and, like the Dairy Companies, can only advance on the lower figures.

We are expecting to handle much larger quantities of honey this year, and if our expectations are realised, and we place a reasonable quantity on the local market at the prices fixed for the different retail packages, our advance would be correspondingly increased.

We question very much if beekeepers in any part of the world have ever had within their reach such a golden opportunity as the beekeepers of New Zealand now have. The loyal whole-hearted support of the beekeepers for two more good seasons would capitalise the H.P.A., and make it an even greater benefit than it has already proved, and we are even now the envy of our Australian and some of our American cousins.

Personally I have no axe to grind: it has cost myself and a few others no small amount of time and money to bring the Company to its present satisfactory state; but I do want to impress upon the beekeepers, now more than ever, that the present is the opportunity of a lifetime for them—I am, &c.,

H. W. GILLING,

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

Hawera, November 22nd, 1917.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

"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

B. G. EDWARDS, late of Geraldine Invalided home.	P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed.
L. D. CARTER, late of Springfield. Invalided home.	G. NAPIER, Alfredton.
E. A. DENNIS, Glenroy.	N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton.
W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs.	W. J. JORDAN, Ngauruwahia.
H. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed.	G. SQUIRES, Fairview.
W. B. BAY, Banks Peninsula.	MURDO MCKENZIE, Dunrobin.
R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch.	W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.
J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch.	JAMES IRVING, Albany.
P. B. HOLMES, Pirongia.	R. M. HAMILTON, Ettrick.
T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.	A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.
R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.	JAS. MARSHALL, Maungatua.
J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.	A. BEVAN, Waikau Downs.
G. R. WILLIS, Pukekohe.	D. CRAWFORD, Waikaukot.
A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Chch.	H. McCALL, Waikaukot.
A. CURTIS, Porowhita.	R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers.
W. G. DONALD, Brookside.	Discharged: re-volunteered.
E. N. HONORE, Otakeho.	S. G. HERBERT, Rnawai.
E. JEFFERY, Opatiki. Died in Egypt.	G. HARRISON, Waipahi.
J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opatiki.	F. W. LUNT, Addington.
G. ROGERS, Opatiki.	C. G. QUAIPE, Russell's Fla'.
C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed.	G. T. SLAW, Domett.
	H. W. McCALL, Waikaukot.
	A. R. BATES, Kaponga.

The Waikato Branch of the National have decided to hold their annual Field Day in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture at the Ruakura Experimental Apiary on February 13th, 1918.

"Critic" states:—"The Orchard Act provides for the registration and the record of crops amongst commercial orchardists." This is quite so, but the small orchard registers only every three years.

Mr. Dan J. Sculley, of Queensland, Australia, writes:—"I congratulate the beekeepers of New Zealand for the splendid manner in which they organise and co-operate; it is a lesson to other countries. We have an Association, also a Bee Journal, and are now forming a Co-operative Company."

New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Assoc.,

LTD.,

HAWERA.

*OUR AGENTS—THE BRISTOL and
DOMINION PRODUCERS ASSCN.,
Under Date NOV. 25TH, CABLED
TO THEIR WELLINGTON OFFICE*

**“PAY EIGHT-PENCE PER LB.
FOR FIRST-GRADE HONEY
WHEN SHIPPED.”**

Join Us and Share this Price!

*FULL PARTICULARS and SHARE
APPLICATION FORMS from*

H. W. Gilling,

*Managing Director N.Z. Co.-op. H.P.A.,
BOX 104, HAWERA.*

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-swarming 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.

OFFER OPEN TILL DECEMBER 15th ONLY.

Send for Address Tag and forwarding instructions.

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD.,
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 Honey Producers' Assoc., LTD., HAWERA.

Comparisons are odious !!

*Queensland Apicultural Journal, Oct., 1917.
Market Report:—*

Honey demand poor, quality uniform, prices from 3d. to 3½d. per lb.

Marginal Note on above.—When sales are made by commission merchants—commission, freight, cartage, and probably storage will be deducted from the amount.

What does the Queensland Beekeeper get without Co-operation ?

What do the N.Z. Beekeepers get through Co-operation ?

Demand always good and prices—

Our lowest ADVANCES this season were 4½d and 4d delivered grading store.

Our FIRST PROGRESS PAYMENT has increased these to 4½d, 4d, 5d.

FURTHER PAYMENTS SURE TO FOLLOW.

Will you help us to still better results or would you be satisfied with Queensland conditions ?

BEEKEEPING IS PROFITABLE

WITH

Alliance Hives & Supplies.



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

The Honey Flow will commence in a few weeks.

Are you ready for it?

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

Order your requirements direct or through our distributing Agents.

Honey Extractors, Pumps, Knives, Lea Steam Heated Knives, Baines' Capping Melters, &c.

Converted Lacquered Petrol Cans guaranteed clean and complying with Government regulations.

ALLIANCE BOX CO.,

LIMITED,

P.O. BOX 572 - DUNEDIN

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.