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MARCH 1st, 1918.

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



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March 1, 1918.]

N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' JOURNAL.



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 3

VOL. 2

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.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1917-18.

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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.

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

Taranaki Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., H. W. Warecup, 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., E. McKnight, Domett.

All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to

FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

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EDITORIAL.

On this front page of our Journal is printed in large type National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, and in smaller type is stated the objects of the same, and the following:—"Membership is extended to any beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association on payment of a small fee." It is very evident that the greater number of our readers have never read that, or, if they have, do not think it means anything to them. This is a very serious matter, because if the National is to continue the work it set out to do, it must be strengthened by increased membership. If the industry is in the happy state that we have all that can be desired, then the National has outlived its usefulness, and can die out without anybody being any the worse.

But where is the man who will say that everything connected with the industry is quite satisfactory: that we have all we

need to build it up to the proportion it is capable of? We can point to a number of matters to-day that need immediate attention, and as the industry grows questions are bound to arise that need the very best collective opinion to bring about satisfactory results; and it is just here that the National is necessary. For instance, supposing the National did not exist, and a matter cropped up on which there was a decided difference of opinion amongst the Branches, what would the Department say if one said "this is right" and the other "this is wrong"? We should be told to first decide amongst ourselves what we want and what is best before bringing the matter forward. Therefore, the National and its annual Conference is an absolute necessity for the well-being of the industry.

It is unnecessary to enumerate the many ways in which the National has helped the industry. The simple fact that you are reading this Journal is one of them, and if you do not support the National by becoming a member of that body or one of the Branches, you are not doing your

best to help yourself to better conditions. If the National ceases to exist, then the probability is the Journal ceases also, which is not a very pleasant thought.

How, then, can we increase the membership, and bring more life and new blood amongst us? In our opinion this can best be done by the local Branches. Elsewhere we publish a letter received from the Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Club, and we had a chat with the secretary whilst we were in Christchurch recently, and we are exceedingly sorry that owing to a misunderstanding, and the fact that the President of the Canterbury Branch was away from his usual address at the time when letters were passing between these two, that these fifty or more "anxious to learn" beekeepers felt it necessary to form a Club of their own. We sincerely hope that our friends will be able to come to an amicable agreement, and there will be no divisions amongst us.

But what we want to draw attention to is the way this Club was brought into existence. First, an advertisement was put in the newspaper that a class was being formed for instruction in beekeeping by the Government Inspector, and attracted 50 people. These were given the history of the bee, &c., &c., right up to the opening of a hive and handling bees, and the different subjects dealt with as they came along. Now, what Branch has done a similar thing? And if not, why not? Is Christchurch the only place where there are people waiting to be instructed in beekeeping? We think not. Is it not possible for every Branch during the winter to run a series of classes for instruction, so that by the spring the students would be ready for actual demonstration at the hives. And in the absence of the Government Inspector as tutor, there is not a Branch that has not a number of equally qualified men to do the work.

As far as our experience goes, the local Branches hold meetings at intervals, and a Field Day once a year, and the latter usually attracts a number of visitors, who just by their presence indicate at least an interest in beekeeping, and it seems we are neglecting our opportunity by allowing the interest to be only a passing one and not permanent. The classes suggested cannot possibly increase the expenditure very much, and even if it does the Constitution of the National seems clearly that financial assistance is to be given to Branches that require it, so there is no obstacle in the matter of expenditure. We suggest this matter be discussed at the next Conference, and a line of action decided upon. All expenses attaching to the instruction should be borne by the National, and as the students would recognise the assistance given by that body they would naturally become members as soon as they possessed a hive of bees. We must have an increased membership, and we think the above suggestion, carried out all over the Dominion, would be one of the best means of bringing this about.

Evidently our suggestion re binding Journals was not wanted, as the response was only one. The offer is "off."

New Subscribers.—We shall give to every new subscriber a bonus in the shape of a dandy honey spoon, which to buy would cost 2/6. These are really a beautiful gift, and your table would look all the better for one, and if you will get four new subscribers we will make you a present of one. We have a fair quantity, but they will not last for ever, so get busy at once.

The Honey Market.—Prices are still hardening. The latest price advised is a sale at 160/- per cwt., and we hope it was a large consignment. We learn that merchants are making tempting offers to the shareholders of the H.P.A., and we would urge all those who are inclined to waver to think well over what they are doing. Our own Association is doing splendid work: progress payments are being made on last season's crop; more honey is being shipped, which will be sold at these high prices, which we all share. The beekeepers of America are all crying out for organisation, that there may be no cutting of prices. We have what they are trying to get: do not let us be foolish and wreck it by disloyalty. We know one man who will lose at least £400 on his crop just because he listened to the merchant here. The advance he would have obtained from the H.P.A. is more than he will get as a purchase price, and crops like our friend obtained do not come every year. Do not lose sight of the guaranteed price for three years after the war: anybody can offer tempting prices now. We can hardly imagine a more unmanly thing than to be disloyal to the H.P.A. to-day, and then, when prices drop to normal, to take advantage of their guarantee. There is just this difference between the merchants and the H.P.A.: the former want your honey to turn over at a profit to themselves; the latter to turn it over at a profit to our own selves. On which side is your bread buttered?

Cappings & Comb Melters.

By FRED. C. BAINES.

In the Otago Witness dated 13th February our friend Mr. J. Allan wrote the following:—

"WANTED, A CAPPING MELTER.

"Can no one give us a good capping melter? I thought when we got the Baines melter that we had just the thing; but mine is seldom used, it is so dead slow, and to apply more heat we run the risk of melting down the man who is uncapping. At last Conference Mr. Nelson, of Martinborough, sang the praises of a new melter that was to be on the market this season. However, it did not get there, much to the writer's disappointment. I notice that our North Island friends are interested in what is known as the Bartlett-Miller uncapper. I have seen some en-

gravings of this, and it seems to have some good points; but I have got very shy about buying my pigs in a poke. I want to see it working first. It seems to me that there is a really good opening here for the inventive genius of some of our beekeepers, and that the first man who comes along with a suitable machine will confer a great benefit on our industry. Mr. Benton's machine was to be capable of melting down honey in the comb by the ton, the idea being a circulation of steam through a copper coil. Mr. Nelson, who has tried it, was loud in its praises; but there the matter has ended. Now, please, somebody, get to work and give us a really good capping melter before next season."

That is a very interesting piece of reading to me, and I am going to have a tilt at you, friend Allan. You say my machine is dead slow, and to apply more heat is to run the risk of being melted down yourself. That question of heat is the crux of the whole matter, and I do not care what machine is invented, it will go dead slow if you do not use sufficient heat. If you bought a steam engine that to carry its load wanted a pressure of 50 lb., but to bring that pressure up entailed your getting rather warm, so you only raised the pressure to 25 lb., would you be justified in saying the engine would not carry the load the seller made out it would? Of course not! Precisely the same argument stands with regard to my melter. Apparently you are not giving the necessary heat, and then complain that the machine will not do what I said it would. I am rather glad you made these few remarks, because I can now perhaps help you and others that find the melter rather disappointing.

First, do not fill the outer reservoir with water; put only about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches; use a two-burner Perfection stove, and do not start uncapping into the machine until the water boils, because if you do the cold honey and wax falling into it will keep it from getting up the requisite heat. Do this, and I guarantee that you will not have to wait much on the accumulation of cappings. With very heavy combs and cappings I have caught it up about dinner time, but whilst having dinner the machine cleared itself, and I had an empty melter to start on. If you refer to my paper when introducing the machine at Conference, you will observe that I stated that the heat was considerable, but personally I would sooner put up with that than be falling over cappings in every part of the honey room.

These remarks are not intended to boost the machine to my benefit; it makes no monetary difference to me whether one or a hundred are sold. I get no royalty or commission, but in fairness to myself as the introducer, and the recorder of actual work the machine is capable of doing, I could not let your statement go unchallenged. This is all I will say on the machine as a capping melter, and just as a final blow will add—the machine will do its part if you will do yours and put up with the heat.

At the Field Day of the Waikato Branch, held at the State Farm at Ruakura on the 13th February, the latest in comb and capping melters were in operation, mainly for the purpose of demonstrating the handling of thick, unextractable honey. There were the Baines, Benton, and Bartlett-Miller. The Baines, although never intended for the work, was handling solid combs, but the heat was supplied by steam generated in an oil-drum outside the shed. Mr. C. Hutchinson is the originator of the idea. I saw him working, too, at his apiary, and the machines were disposing of the combs so rapidly that he was able to keep a man going at the hives all the while; but there was "some" heat, friend Allan. Mr. Hutchinson says the Baines machine will do the necessary work with steam: I really did not think it would.

Then we had the Benton going, doing really good work, but to me it seemed to have too small a heating surface; but here again, friend Allan, was more heat, so that machine is no good to you.

Now we come to the latest—the Bartlett-Miller—which handled a 10-frame box of thick dark honey in old black combs, the worst the apiary could find. Yes, it took and disposed of them in good time; but when you talk of heat, why, that necessary for mine to do good work is genial compared to the B.M.

Whew! What! For heaven's sake give me a drink of mead! The honey was running away at a temperature of 170 deg., and the perspiration running off me at about 200 deg.

I think I liked the Bartlett-Miller best of all. It has the largest amount of heated surface, meaning quicker work, but this is simply my opinion.

This, friend Allan, is the report of the melters to date, and I think you will agree that it is "pretty hot."

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

[These Comments, he 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.]

Editorial—Chief Apiarist.—This is a real live question, dealt with in a real live manner, and I believe every reader of the Journal will feel that he owes much to the Editor for the sensible and fearless manner in which he has tackled the subject and placed it before his readers. That a Chief Apiarist is needed is undoubted, and until a good live man is appointed to the position we may expect all the shortcomings that now exist, and so ably pointed out by the Editor, to continue, and other troubles to arise as our industry expands.

The Editor points out that after the resolution in favour of the appointment of a Chief Apiarist was passed at last Confer-

ence, Mr. Kirk, when waited upon, held out "little hope of such an appointment being made at present, but would support the proposal when normal conditions prevail." Why not now? At the commencement of last year the Commissioner advertised for a horticulturist, and in February last—the third year of the war—Mr. W. H. Taylor (a very excellent man) was appointed at a salary to commence with £350. This practically means a second assistant director.

Now, what are the duties of a horticulturist, seeing that we already have an assistant director, whose chief work is in connection with fruit-growing? I am not asking this question in any captious spirit, nor do I contend that such an appointment was not needed. What I want to elicit is whether the creation of this office at the present time is of more importance than that of a Chief Apiarist. If I may venture to interpret the reply of our beekeepers, it would be decidedly "No!" I am prompted by the remarks of our Editor on our "modesty" to ask, are we going to be as modest over this question as we were over the registration of apiaries, and allow ourselves to be put off from time to time for years—(remember, it was first agreed to and a resolution passed in favour of it at the 1910 Conference)—by promises, and then have to put up with a limp affair that practically leaves us where we were before, and, worst of all, allows another country to go ahead of us! If we allow the putting off of the question of appointment of a Chief Apiarist as we did registration, then we as beekeepers deserve all we get, and should be content to take a back seat. I congratulate you, Mr. Editor, upon taking up this question in such a forceful manner, and I hope you will not let it rest until the appointment is made.

Page 19—Honey Market.—The Wellington firm's offer, as detailed on page 29, should further strengthen the hands of the H.P.A., and convince those who have not yet become members that they can go further and fare worse. Comparison between the offer of the firm and the actual business now being done with the B. and D. Association is in every respect in favour of giving the latter our hearty support.

Page 22—Standard Grade of Honey.—Now, Mr. Editor, regarding your remarks on my comments re standard grade of honey, you say at the start you do not agree with me. Just so; all the better. As there is some disagreement on the matter between certain of our beekeepers and one or more graders, a free ventilation of opinions through the Journal may help us to come to some understanding that will be satisfactory to the majority. I say the majority advisedly, because human nature is such that when we are compelled to bow to the judgment of others, and we do not come out as a top notcher, the tendency is to growl and make light of the judge's knowledge. Thus, we must never expect unanimity in matters of this kind. As I understand your contention, there should be several standards. So there are in the Government schedule, but those

below the highest standard, the maximum points of which are 100, and by which the others are fixed, would in my opinion be more appropriately termed "sub-standards," or, perhaps better still, "classes."

There is an absolute necessity for accuracy in these matters, and the definition of the word "standard," as given in Webster's International, is "being affording, or according with a standard for comparison and judgment." Now, there can only be one standard of the same article in order to set the sub-standards, or classes, by, and in honey it is fixed on that which is in greatest demand and secures the highest price. With regard to the proportional allotment of points in the schedule, this is a matter of individual opinion, and the very best authority we could refer it to would be, I think, Major Norton.

Page 23—Queen Rearing.—To use a bit of Cockney slang in all good humour, ain't I glad not 'arf, to see that my friend, Mr. Ward, of "Canterbury Tales" fame, has come to realise from further experience that he was in error when at the 1912 Conference in his position of Secretary he suggested that queens ought to be reared and sold at 2/6 each. Granted that he alluded to queens from the Government Apiary, and that he meant they would cost no more than that to raise, and should be sold at that figure. But with further experience Mr. Ward apparently can now see his mistake. I maintain, as always, that tested queens raised from good stock in a conscientious manner are good value for 10/- each. Then again, the Department, supported by public revenue, should not undersell commercial queen breeders.

Page 24—Movable Meetings.—I have several times advocated holding Association meetings in different parts of the district over which its members reside, as I feel certain it would be very greatly to the benefit of the various Associations, and induce many to join them that from want of the advantages of becoming members being brought directly under their notice remain outside. Take, for instance, the Waikato Association: why always hold its meetings in Hamilton? True, Hamilton is in a central position, but this alone should not carry all the weight or influence. If meetings were occasionally held at Te Aroha, Waihou, Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti, &c., much more good would result. At present we scarcely know, except at the annual Field Day that there is such an Association. Congratulations to the Wairarapa.

Page 29—Growth of Crystals.—I imagine, Mr. Editor, you must think as I do—that this subject has already been thrashed out, and that no good purpose can be served by continuing the argument. I have quoted the definition of the word "growth" from the best Dictionary of the English language, and shown that it is applied by scientists alike to the expansion of inorganic and organic matter. Still, Mr. Ireland, while proposing to depend on the scientific interpretation of the word in full, is really ignoring science and placing his own limit to its meaning. I have

several scientific works in front of me in which "growth" of inorganic matter is mentioned, but will just specify two to which Mr. Ireland can refer:—Professor Haeckel's "Wonders of Life," pages 25-26, on the "Growth of Crystals," and Darwin's "Coral Reefs," Chapter IV., entitled "Growth of Coral Reefs." I was under the impression that Mr. Barker had accepted my correction.—Finis.

Page 31—**Mead and Vinegar.**—Mr. Luke will find Mr. Hopkins' recipes for making both in the last Bulletin on Bee Culture issued by the Department.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—MARCH.

[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.]

In most parts the honey flow is over, and no time should be lost in getting off the supers. Do this work as quickly as possible, taking care not to leave any pieces of comb about, or dropping honey in the apiary, as thereby robbing will be started, and when once it gets a start there is no knowing where it will end.

How to Detect Robbing.—A hive that is being robbed out shows very great activity at the entrance, bees rushing in and out, some fighting, some dead, and the robber bees will be seen wiping their mouths just previous to taking flight. Many will be seen flying in front after coming out, with their heads towards the hive, marking in their mind the exact spot where the "get-rich-quick" scheme is being practised. Should you find a case of robbing, contract the entrance to a space that only one bee at a time can get in and out; get a handful of grass and wet it thoroughly, and lay it over the entrance, so that the bees to get in must get their wings wet, which they dislike. Use a watering-can now and then to keep the grass wet. If the hive has not been badly robbed, in the evening when all is quiet shift the hive to a new location, and put in its place a hive with combs that have had honey in this year, and so fool the bees that they have robbed it out. If you took the hive away without putting one in its place, the robbers would surely try the one nearest, and perhaps renew the trouble.

Queenless Colonies.—Should you come across a hive that is queenless, yet a populous colony, send at once for an untested queen and introduce her, and thus save a colony; but if they are weak, unite them to a fairly strong colony by putting a sheet of newspaper over the queen right hive, then place your queenless hive on top, and the bees will gnaw through the paper and unite peaceably.

Foul-brood.—Should you come across any infected hive, do not tinker with it—get rid of it straight away. The first loss is the cheapest, and you can probably get a clean swarm in the spring to take its place. Maxim: Foul-brood is your biggest enemy; treat it as such.

Care of Combs.—There are two destroyers of storage combs—mice and moths. To prevent the former getting in, put a queen excluder at the top and bottom of your pile of supers. Moths are not so easily combated; a sheet of newspaper put between every super minimises the trouble, as if a moth does get into one of them, it is confined to that only. Some people speak well of a naphthaline ball put in as well. This cannot do any harm—perhaps may do good, but I have not yet tried it myself.

EDITOR.

[NOTE.—The Editor has had to put these instructions together very quickly. He was promised assistance, but it did not come along in time. We shall probably do better next month.]

Meeting of the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association.

A meeting of the above was held in Christchurch on Friday, 1st February, when the following were present:—Mr. W. E. Barker (President), Mr. H. W. Gilling (Vice-President), Messrs. Brickell, Sage, Nelson, and F. C. Baines (Secretary). An apology was received from Mr. J. Rentoul, who was, owing to pressure of work extracting, unable to be present.

The Secretary presented a rough balance sheet of the affairs of the Association, which showed a very satisfactory position. The Journal finances, too, were well on the right side, and, provided the subscription list increases as it has done in the last few months, it is estimated to pay its way this year. It was decided to continue giving a bonus to new subscribers, and the Secretary was instructed to procure either a book or something useful.

The Secretary pointed out that apparently there was a danger of the National Association losing its existence through lack of support by the beekeepers. Subscriptions are not coming in, and the membership is not increasing. He was instructed to make an effort to remedy this by a public appeal in the Journal.

The Secretary reported that he had received the full amount of the Government subsidy—viz., £100, from the Department of Agriculture, and as we had secured only £208 7s. 3d. out of the £300 the Government were willing to donate, he was instructed to approach the Department to see if the balance could be lifted this year provided we raised the equivalent amount.

The meeting then adjourned till the afternoon for the discussion on Grading, and the following gentlemen were invited to be present:—Mr. T. W. Kirk and the three graders of the Department, the directors of the H.P.A., and Mr. W. B. Bray. This question was thoroughly debated on, and the following resolution was passed:—

“That after full discussion on the grading of honey as at present carried out, this meeting of beekeepers, consisting of the President and Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association, Mr T. W. Kirk and the graders of the Department, and the directors of the H.P.A., are of the opinion that no commercial advantage would be gained by a change.”
Mr. Kirk and his officers then withdrew. On the question of a Chief Apiarist, the following was passed:—

“That the Minister be approached with a recommendation that a Chief Apiarist be appointed at the very earliest opportunity.”

If possible, arrangements will be made with the Department for a motion picture of bee-keeping to be shown, with perhaps other branches of agriculture.

The Secretary was instructed to ask prominent beekeepers for their assistance by contributing papers of interest at the Conference. Papers have been promised on Beeswax Rendering and Advertising.

Annual Field Day.

CANTERBURY BRANCH.

The annual Field Day of the above was held at the apiary of Mr. Ambrose Johnson, St. Martins, Christchurch, on Saturday, February 2nd, the date having been altered from the 9th to allow the President and Executive of the National Association to be present. The visitors included Mr. T. W. Kirk, Director Horticultural Division, and the apiary inspectors.



BEEKEEPERS AND FRIENDS AT THE CANTERBURY FIELD DAY.

The discussion on local inspectors resulted in the following resolution:—

“That the Department be urged the necessity and desirability of appointing more local inspectors, particularly in the South Island.”

The Registration of Apiaries.—It was thought desirable to let this stand as it is until it is thoroughly known by all those who keep bees the necessity of registering.

As an auditor was not appointed at the last Conference, Mr. A. C. Askew was appointed subject to his consent.

The date of the Conference was fixed for THURSDAY and FRIDAY, June 13th and 14th, the H.P.A. being requested to hold their annual meeting on the 12th.

It was decided to have an invitation luncheon on Thursday, 13th June, to which all visitors to the Conference would be invited, and it is proposed to invite the Minister and perhaps the Governor-General.

Mr. A. Johnson gave an address of welcome to the visitors, hoping they would have an enjoyable and instructive day.

Mr. H. Johnson (President) also addressed the gathering.

Mr. Kirk gave an outline of the work the Department was doing, stating that they were very heavily handicapped by the shortage of staff.

Addresses were given by Messrs. Barclay, Gilling, Nelson, Jacobsen, Ireland, Sillifant and Baines, and Mr. Gill, the secretary of the newly formed Amateur Beekeepers' Club.

During the afternoon samples of honey were submitted for those who wished to try their skill in judging honey, and nine persons entered.

Mr. Westbrooke, apiary instructor for Auckland, gave a demonstration at a hive, which attracted a large number of people. The bees themselves contributed to the day's enjoyment, as one hive cast a good

swarm, which was taken by Mr. A. Johnson.

The photograph was then taken, which we reproduce, and after votes of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, and all those who had assisted to make the day so successful, the meeting dispersed.

Local Inspectors' Conference.

A conference of local inspectors of the Auckland Province was held at Hamilton on Tuesday, 12th February, Mr. Campbell, Assistant Director of Horticulture, presiding. There were present: Messrs. Earp, Jacobsen, Westbrooke (Government instructors), Messrs. Cassrells, Davies, Housler, Millett, H. W. Earp, Schmidt, Waite, Black, Sage, Baines, local inspectors. An apology was received from Mr. Luke.

Mr. Campbell addressed those present, stating the object of the conference was to discuss the work of all the inspectors to the end that all should agree on a uniform line of action in carrying on the work, particularly in advising treatment of disease, &c., and to devise the best means of securing registration of all beekeepers. He gave the local inspectors the thanks and appreciation of the Department of the work they were doing, and it was by their co-operation the industry could be bettered to the benefit of all concerned.

Mr. Westbrooke then gave some suggestions to the newly appointed men, and discussion followed on the best method of carrying on the work.

It was decided that it would be of benefit if the local inspectors were supplied with the names and addresses of all those who had registered in the inspector's particular district, and this would be done.

It was decided that box-hive men be made an example of in the Magistrate's Court; owners of foul-brood hives to be warned to treat at once or take the consequences; to make known the necessity of registration, and the penalty for failing to do so.

Altogether a most useful time was spent, and after a vote of thanks to Mr. Campbell the conference ended.

District Reports.

"CANTERBURY TALES."

By E. G. WARD.

By the time these "tales" appear the season will have ended as far as surplus honey is concerned, and, as I hinted last month, we are not going to get anything like the crop we had hoped for.

The weather has improved, and there have been a few nice showers, but the flowers are going off. If the weather were to have now had come six weeks or two months ago, it would probably have

doubled our crop. I should imagine the returns will be from one-half to two-thirds a normal crop. We can now hope for better luck next season.

I do not know if much honey has been sent forward for grading yet, but have sent a small lot myself. When putting on the lids of the cases, instead of nailing the strapping on the outside, I put it underneath, and slip the end down between the side of the case and the tin. By adopting this plan there will be less trouble when the lids are removed to grade the honey, and when the cases are finally nailed they will have a neater finish, as when the strapping is nailed on the outside it gets badly buckled when the lids are removed. The idea is approved of by Mr. Gilling, and he has asked me to pass it on.

I am unable to give any report of the Field Day of the Canterbury Branch of the National, but hope someone else will have sent in a report. I had looked forward with pleasure to meet old friends, and was keenly disappointed at being unable to attend. I had laid my plans for a later date, but was obliged to attend the honey grading inquiry. If I had remained in town to attend Field Day, I should have had to dig 15 cwt. of granulated honey out of the tank with a spade. As it was, I just managed to escape the catastrophe.

I should like once more to call attention to the appeal for honey for the boys at the front which the Canterbury Branch made some time ago. No donation is too large, and also none is too small. I am sure our secretary (Miss Mackay) will gladly furnish any particulars in regard to forwarding.

I see our worthy Editor has not altered his opinion in regard to petrol tins. It is all very well to say that a cargo of tin plate will be here "about" a certain date, but no doubt many had extracted at least a part of their crop before January 16th, and if they had not got their tins on hand they would probably have had some good physical exercise in the use of a spade if they had waited while tins were made and forwarded. There is no doubt the shortage of tin-plate is serious, and the petrol tin to my mind has saved the situation for the beekeeper. I learned only a day or two ago that if it had not been for the despised petrol tin one Christchurch concern would have probably had to "shut up shop."

If any readers of the Journal contemplate going in for beekeeping on a commercial scale, I take the liberty of advising him to secure a location well away from a public road. Complaints have appeared in a local paper that Mr. Gidley's bees have become a nuisance, and notice has been given to abate it. The swarming trait seems to have shown itself pretty strongly this season at this apiary, and a good many swarms have clustered on the gorse hedge which divides the apiary from the road. Moving bees is no joke at any time, and it looks as if there is a treat in store for "yours truly" unless by some

good chance our friend returns in time to do it himself. I wonder how the comb would face the enemy if he can't chance a bee sting or two!

Up till the present season I have done my extracting with a two-frame machine, but have geared two two-frame machines together for this season's work by means of a pulley on each extractor shaft and a belt to connect them. The idea works to perfection. I have not used a four-frame machine, but do not think it can be any harder to turn the two machines geared together than a single four-frame machine. I have much pleasure in passing the idea along.

TARANAKI.

The season will probably be an average one, surplus averages varying from 90 lb. to 30 lb. per colony.

The last month has been ideal weather, and except that the latter part of January was rather dry, the flow would have been very heavy and the crops better.

Localities that received the most rain will, generally speaking, receive the biggest cheque from the H.P.A.

The weather has been ideal for queen-rearing, and owing to the nice rain last week thistles and boxthorn will most likely yield well into March.

I suppose you have all heard about the beekeeper that a Manawatu paper says has a crop of 30 tons, and has sold it for £100 a ton! I asked a leading beeman if he could "place" him. "Does not exist!" was the reply. So-and-so did get 30 tons a few years ago, and would have liked to have sold it for £100 per ton.

H. R. PENNY,
Okaiawa.

18/2/18.

The Beekeeper's Paradise.

By D. KELLY.

I thoroughly endorse Mr. Luke's criticism in the October issue re the above, as it was owing to reports very much the same as he refers to which decided me in locating here, and I feel that I should be doing an injustice to prospective beekeepers in allowing those articles to go unchallenged. Before going to the war I had been dabbling with bees more for experience than anything else, and on my return decided on taking them up as a business. Struck by the glowing accounts, I came to Whakatane and established an apiary. The honey came in—yes, poured in, but when it came to extracting, the honey seemed glued to those cells, not an ounce extracting, with the result that all my splendid combs became a smashed up mess.

At the end of the season I removed the apiary to its present site, 20 miles from Mr. Luke, where there are hundreds of acres of white and alsike clover in bloom within easy reach of the bees. Imagine my disgust on meeting with the same results as last year, not one comb in ten

extracting, which leads me to believe that clover does not yield nectar in any quantity on low, swampy country.

The above is written without any selfish motives, but more to keep others, if possible, from making the same mistakes as myself. The Paradise and Garden of Eden as it is called has forced me to quit at a heavy financial loss. My site, one of the best in the district, is open to anyone who may care to take it on, together with the thick honey. But be careful, for there are others who have started here, and met with no better results than myself. So by way of conclusion I say to those who are in a district where the honey will extract—stick to it, although the yield per colony may fall below ours.

Te Teko, Bay of Plenty.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I feel sure that you will be more than a little interested in the doings of a small section of the community here in Christchurch, who have banded themselves together under the name of the "Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Club," and I propose to trespass upon your valuable space to give you an account of our doings and our aims and aspirations in this our most interesting pastime; also to correct a wrong impression which I hear is likely to be gained from an article appearing in the January Journal.

During September last the following advertisement appeared in the local papers:—"Mr. L. Bowman, Government apiary instructor, Christchurch, is forming a class for instruction in bee-keeping; no fees; all interested to attend," and I, with about 50 others, attended. That we were mostly raw recruits was apparent, but of this later.

Most of us had never seen the inner workings of a modern hive before, and the very name bee was a synonym of terror. The majority were without veils, of course, and were fairly comfortable during the first part of the meeting.

Mr. Bowman, in the most simple language, opened up his subject. He gave us a short sketch, starting with the art in ancient times, and led us through the period of change from the old skep to the modern bar-frame hive.

Early in October Mr. Bowman gave the second of his series of lectures to a still larger gathering. After a brief summary of the previous meeting, Mr. Bowman again took up his theme. He explained to us the condition a healthy stock should be in at this time of the year (October); gave us a demonstration of contracting and uniting, and explained the need and method of spring stimulative feeding. Also under his instructions we were given the opportunity of manipulating the hive ourselves. Then we were treated to some good advice on the buying of swarms and

stocks, and also taught how to handle swarms. Disease was touched on, and how to treat same by the McEvoy method.

It was during this meeting that I conceived the idea of starting an Amateur Club, and at the close of the lecture I introduced the idea to the gathering. Mr. Bowman pointed out to us that there was already one Beekeepers' Association in Canterbury, and introduced to us Mr. Johnson, who, it appeared, was the President of the C.B.K.A., and Mr. Johnson addressed us for a few minutes on the advisability of joining his Association. After some little discussion, it was decided to wait and give this Association an opportunity to call a meeting, which we would attend and see what could be done in the matter. A fortnight elapsed, and hearing nothing further from Mr. Johnson, I took it upon myself to convene a meeting, and with this object in view I inserted an advertisement in the local papers, inviting all interested in beekeeping to attend. The night of the meeting arrived, and some forty ladies and gentlemen were present, and the upshot of the matter was that it was unanimously decided to form such a Club, and before the close of the meeting the Amateur Beekeepers' Club was an accomplished fact.

On the 3rd November we again had the pleasure of our lecture from Mr. Bowman. The number still showed an increase on the previous gathering, and nearly everyone present was a member of the new Club. Mr. Bowman dealt at length on seasonable work, and treated us to a wonderfully interesting paper on queen-rearing, and also answered all questions relating to our difficulties.

December 16th was fixed for our first Field Day, and all arrangements were made to visit an apiary some 16 miles from Christchurch, at which place Mr. Bowman intended teaching us from actual specimens the fascinating art of queen-rearing, mating, and introducing. Unfortunately, the weather proved unpropitious, and the meeting had to be abandoned.

January 5th again saw another large gathering of the Club.

January 12th was set aside for our abandoned Field Day of December 16th. Again rain spoilt things, and we could not go.

The whole of our outside lectures have taken place at Mr. Russell's apiary, Burwood, and the Club are indeed grateful to him for his kindness.

In conclusion, I should like to pay a tribute to Mr. Bowman. By his kindly interest in our efforts he has endeared himself to all of us. His patience seems unlimited; he is a teacher blessed with the happy knack of being able to impart his knowledge to others; our Club, owing to him, is progressing wonderfully; our members are growing in numbers and enthusiasm, and we owe and all trust that his services in his official capacity will be available to the Club in the near future. During the last few months I have naturally come into contact with many of the older beekeepers, and in not a single instance have I heard anything but eulogies for his kindness to real seekers after knowledge and apprecia-

tion of his masterly treatment of matters connected with the apiary.

This, my dear Sir, is a true account of the formation, aspirations, and doings of the Amateur Bee Club, and I trust its perusal will correct any misunderstanding you, together with a section of your readers, may at present be labouring under. I am, &c.,

PERCY GILL,
Secretary.

75 Lichfield St., Christchurch.

January 14th, 1918.

[We have had to abbreviate the above report.—Ed.]

CHIEF APIARIST.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am pleased to see that you have opened the way in your Journal to bring about general and decided support to the resolution passed at the last Conference in favour of the appointment of a Chief Apiarist. You have stated the case so clearly and forcibly that I think you will bring home to those who may not have given the subject the thought it deserves the absolute necessity of appointing such an officer. Commercial beekeeping in New Zealand has now become an important industry, with a prosperous future assured, providing it is conducted in a proper manner, and it will undoubtedly pay the State to see that it is so conducted, and this cannot be done unless there is an efficient Chief Apiarist placed in control under the Director of the Division.

Let us for a moment consider the matter from a £ s. d. point of view. The State as a whole is the gainer on every pound of honey raised. Now, according to official figures, the value of the annual output of honey before the great rise was estimated at about £60,000; it must be considerably over that now—say, £75,000. Allow 5 per cent. on this, and we have £3,750, which the State could well afford for expenses in controlling the business. What are the State's expenses at the present time? Four inspectors—salary, say, £800; travelling expenses, say, another £800; clerical work, stationery, office rent and sundries, £400; total, £2,000. I think this sum would cover, or more than cover, the present expenses. At this estimate the State could well afford another £500 for a Chief Apiarist salary and expenses, and then make a good profit.

I had given this matter much thought long before I brought it forward in the May issue of the "Farmer," and suggested it as a subject for consideration by the Conference to be held the following month, which suggestion, I am sorry to say, was appropriated without acknowledgment by your former Editor. I hope now you have shown what advantages would accrue from such an appointment, that you will not let the matter drop out of sight; and I would suggest for your consideration, and comment that before such an officer is appointed he should be approved by the National Association.—I am, &c.,

I. HOPKINS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—“Cave Canem” makes use of my name in his letter in your January number. He says:—“Now I must be careful of I will have Mr. Allan at me. He has a great contempt for the mere theorist, except when it comes to honey-boxes.” I have “served my time” to the honey-box for ten years; surely, Mr. Editor, that entitles me to be considered something more than a “mere theorist” in that particular line; if not, what does? I understand from Mr. Gilling that without trial Major Norton has turned down the box as an export package. He will have none of it. No reasons are given, so I take it it is a fair inference that prejudice is one of them. In these days, when honey is going up by leaps and bounds, it is hardly worth fighting about a fraction of a penny per lb. in the package, so the H.P.A. can just go on paying for its tins. My experience leads me to a very decided preference for a nice white pine box to a petrol tin at all events, and if shipped in cool storage and landed at the other end firm and clean, I think Major Norton might possibly prefer it, too. It would not have done any harm to give it a trial anyhow.—I am, &c.,

JAMES ALLAN.

[You are hardly fair to Major Norton, friend Allan, in imputing prejudice on the honey-box question. We saw the B. and D. recently in Wellington, and the reason the proposal was turned down is this: Consignees are never advised now when a ship arrives; in one case the honey had been lying in the shed over a month. Then, as it has to be railed to Bristol, and the railways are under control of the Government, and all stuff for the forces takes precedence, ordinary goods are often side-tracked at various stations en route, where they may be held up for days, with only a tarpaulin over the truck, and sometimes not that. Therefore, it is easy to see that it would be rather foolish to risk even half a ton of honey put up as you suggested. We wrote Major Norton on this point last November, suggesting that he tried a small quantity by cutting open the tin, the same as grocers do here. We will give his reply when it arrives.—Ed.]

Sir,—As the honey season is now approaching, we should like to renew our request of last year that you consider the possibility of donating some of your crop for the use of sick and wounded men in hospital over-seas. We hear on all sides that honey is much appreciated, and we feel that, owing to the shortage of food at the present time in the United Kingdom, such a gift would be more than ever acceptable.

Any contributions are welcome, no matter how small, and will be gladly received at the Red Cross Hospital Comforts Dept., 223 Manchester Street, Christchurch.

Hoping to hear that you will be able to help us,—I am, &c.,

F. BOYLE,
President.

Christchurch, Dec. 11th, 1917.

LATHAM METHOD OF QUEEN-REAR-ING.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Has anyone else tried this method? Mr. Ward (page 23) is certainly to be commended for his perseverance, but why did he leave those two frames of brood, though fully capped, in the queenless colony? and would it not have been better had another colony been chosen for the second batch of cells? We had one colony which cleaned out all the eggs, so selected another, with the happy result of 64 good cells started out of 84 cell cups. Unfortunately eight cups fell off the bar. These had been waxed on, as we were short of those with pins. Of the 64 cells, 59 exceptionally fine queens emerged. Three of these returned into the cell and smothered, two disappeared, and five were lost on their flight, thus leaving us in due time with 49 laying queens, all of whom have given a very good account of themselves this season.

It may be of interest to readers to hear that in this instance we used no Royal jelly whatever; we merely took up with the grub as much of the milky substance as possible and deposited in the cups.—We are, &c.,

BERNARD & BARNES,

Drury.

* * * * *
(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re grading, I am afraid you have fallen into error in your remarks respecting colour in this month's Journal. Colour is a class, not a grade. The points allowed to colour in a grade note do not refer to the different shades between white and dark amber, but as to whether the honey is clear, cloudy or maybe turbid. A dark amber is open to receive as many points as a white; it all depends upon its brightness. The graders liquify a small quantity to ascertain this.

You are also in error in your assertion re Major Norton that he does not go beyond the three issues of flavour, condition and aroma. When he first came over here he laid great stress that the honey we sent him should be light amber in preference to any other, and you will notice in the advances made by the B. and D. the most is paid for A and B grade light amber. It is open to question whether he takes much notice at all of aroma, for when honey has been reliquified most of this has been lost.—I am, &c.,

W. HOOPER TEED.

* * * * *
(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Will you oblige by informing me as to the best method of saving combs from being destroyed by the moths. Judging from my own experience, this must be the cause of much waste of beeswax.

In your December number a correspondent enquires for a scheme for keeping the grass down. I keep my hives clear by keeping a few guinea-pigs enclosed in a wire-netting cage. The cage is made so that it can be placed round the hive.

They make a clean job of it. The cage is required to protect them from cats or dogs.—I am, &c.,

W. J. KIRK.

Levin, 19th January, 1918.

[Put a sheet of newspaper between each box when storing away. Moths dislike printer's ink, and should they get into one box, the paper confines them.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have been trying out a plan of breeding queens for re-queening purposes in nuclei consisting of three half-frames, one or two containing brood. It appeared to me that there would be some advantage in this, as I could form several nuclei without weakening a colony to any great extent. I have reared seventy-five queens in this way, which have proved all right this season. Of course, I had some failures, about ten, I think.

As I was returning from Ruakura State Apiary, a gentleman informed me that they found it almost impossible to grow broad beans profitably owing to bumble bees destroying the blossoms. Now, though not much interested in bumble bees, the fact of their being bees made me think I would like to hear more about this complaint—whether just or otherwise.—I am, &c.,

M. P. MILLETT.

Ardmore, 15th February, 1918.

[Yes, bumble bees do damage the blossom of broad beans.—Ed.]

Beekeepers' Exchange.

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

FOR SALE (at conclusion of Season), BEES IN ANY QUANTITY; railed to any station; safe arrival guaranteed; free from foul-brood; with young queens.

PENNY BROS.,
Okaiawa.

Waikato Beekeepers' Third Annual Field Day.

A GRATIFYING SUCCESS.

(Reprinted from the Waikato Times.)

The third annual Field Day of the Waikato Beekeepers' Association, held at the Ruakura Farm of Instruction recently, was an unqualified success. Over 200 people were present from all parts of the Province, and the weather being beautifully fine and the surroundings ideal, a very ple-

asant time was spent. It was also a decidedly instructive day. To many people the gathering was an eye-opener. They had hardly realised that so much interest was taken in beekeeping, or that the industry had grown to such proportions.

The Waikato Beekeepers' Association is growing rapidly, having doubled its membership during the past two years. At the depot at Claudelands fifty tons of honey have been handled for the season, half of this being first grade, and most of the rest of medium quality. The past season has been an average one as regards output. As showing the advance made, it may be stated that the honey handled three years ago was valued at £8,000; last year it was £17,000; and this year it is expected to reach £27,000. Increased prices are now being obtained, and the prospects are exceedingly bright. When beekeepers as a whole fully realise the value of organisation, the industry will go ahead by leaps and bounds.

Ladies Deeply Interested.

An interesting syllabus of lectures and demonstrations had been drawn up, and that those present had a deep interest in the proceedings was evidenced by the keen attention displayed. A particular feature was the interest shown by the ladies. Evidently many of the fair sex in the Waikato are taking up beekeeping as something more than a pastime, and are fully alive to its commercial possibilities.

An observation hive attracted much attention during the day. Here the bees could be seen going about their business very busily—an object lesson to the on-looker, by the way.

The gold medal and diploma awarded the Waikato Beekeepers' Association at the Panama Exposition were also on exhibition.

Among those present was Mr. I. Hopkins, of Epsom, who is looked upon as the father of the industry in New Zealand. Mr. Hopkins expressed himself as immensely pleased with the evidence of increased interest, and stated that he has a thorough belief in the future of the industry.

Cordial Welcome.

Mr. A. W. Green, manager of the Farm, extended a cordial welcome to Ruakura, and expressed the hope that the meeting would do much to further the industry and create a greater interest individually among those directly engaged in this work. He was sure that all the visitors came with the one intent—that of gaining as much information as possible that will assist them in their daily work. Every endeavour was being made by officers of his Department, the worthy President of the Beekeepers' Association (Mr. Hutchinson), and several local beekeepers to make the Field Day a day of instruction to the fullest extent. Mr. Green apologised for the absence of Messrs. Pope (Secretary of Agriculture), Brown (Director of the Fields Division), and Mr. Kirk (Director of the Horticultural Division). He stated that it was very encouraging to see the necessary number of cadets entering into the bee industry,

there being six ladies and six men receiving instruction at the apiary, three of the men being returned soldiers. Two other returned soldiers had completed the course.

Mr. Campbell, Assistant Director of the Horticultural Division, also welcomed the visitors. He said the Horticultural Division was particularly interested in beekeeping, and the work being done at Ruakura was of direct benefit to the beekeeping industry. Substantial progress was being made in the industry despite the strenuous times through which we are passing. The past season had been a good one, and the honey crop up to the average. The shortage of shipping, of course, affected the industry somewhat, but a recent cablegram had announced that the satisfactory price of £150 per ton had been given. During the past year an important step had been taken at the request of the Association—the registration of apiaries. The number so far registered was 4,391, representing 50,523 colonies of bees. The figures for the Auckland Province was 1,057, representing 12,398 colonies. There were a large number still unregistered, and this unsatisfactory state of affairs should be remedied. The work done by the local apiary inspectors was entirely voluntary, and had proved of immense assistance. He hoped those present would have a pleasant and instructive day.

Robber Bees.

Mr. Westbrooke, the local inspector, in welcoming the visitors, mentioned that the hives at the Farm could not be opened up that day. Owing to the dearth of honey flow the bees would rob any open hive. He outlined the work being done by way of experiment at the Farm, and stated that during the past four years they had not been able to discover any foul-brood at the apiary. This was very satisfactory, and he hoped that beekeepers would do their best to keep their hives free of this disease and prevent infection.

Mr. Hutchinson, President of the Waikato Beekeepers' Association, considered there should be a board of experts to consult with the Government as to what experiments are required. It was high time they turned their attention to the breeding of utility bees. They also wanted standardised frames. The straining of thick honey was a difficult problem in the Auckland Province, and they needed a factory for this. Dark honey was almost as valuable as white clover honey if properly dealt with. Mr. Hutchinson outlined several other matters by which the beekeepers would benefit.

Mr. Brickell, director of the Honey Producers' Association, spoke of the work being done by the Association. Already a progress payment of £1,740 had been received for the 1917 honey, and there were other payments to be made, which would bring the total up to within a fraction of 7d. per lb. In addition, some of the 1917 honey had not yet reached the market, owing to delayed shipping, and would receive the 1918 price. The returns were

very satisfactory and the prospects bright. Advice had been received that a small shipment sold at £160 per ton.

Mr. Baines, Editor of the Beekeepers' Journal, thought the large attendance showed the interest being taken in the industry. He advised members of the Association to subscribe to the Journal, and thus keep in touch with every move made in the Dominion. These are the days of co-operation and organisation, and beekeepers should realise this. The Association was doing good work. They were now battling for a Chief Apiarist, the appointment of whom was very necessary for the advancement of the industry. Mr. Baines mentioned that the Association had received a guarantee of more than pre-war prices for three years after the war.

The Programme.

During the day the following interesting programme was gone through:—"Elementary Instruction in Handling Bees," by Mr. Trythall and the apiary cadets; "An Ideal Brood Chamber," Mr. J. S. Coiteler; "General Outline of Work at the State Apiary," Mr. Trythall; "Preparing Honey for Export," Mr. E. A. Earp, apiary instructor, Dunedin; "Demonstration of Foundation Making," officers of the Department; "Demonstration of Steam Knife and Capping Melters"; "An Effective Method of Dealing with Foul-brood Combs," Mr. C. S. Hutchinson; "Swarming and Its Control," Mr. P. A. Jacobsen, apiary instructor, Wellington; "Judging by Grading," apiary instructors; demonstrations by Mr. Miller.

The theoretical explanations and practical demonstrations proved to be of intense interest. Questions were freely asked and answered, and much profitable information obtained.

Parliamentary Visitors.

Messrs. J. A. Young and R. F. Bollard visited the Farm during the afternoon.

Mr. Young, on behalf of the Waikato, extended a hearty welcome to the visitors. He was very pleased to see such a large attendance, which showed the interest being taken in the Association and the work at the Farm. They were engaged in a primary industry, and one, therefore, essential to the country. It was necessary to obtain the best knowledge, and to learn to apply that knowledge. The best results were obtained by co-operation. They had gathered that day to exchange ideas, and doubtless they would learn much. They must do their best for the Association, and, as a natural sequence, for the Dominion. He was sure it would prove an instructive day. A big economic burden had been laid upon the country by the war, and they must lighten this by producing more. We could not win the war unless we did our best. The nation which could hold out the longest would win the war. Everyone must do their part—put the utmost into their work and increase production. He wished the Association every success, and hoped they would have a pleasant and instructive day.

Mr. Bollard said every year the attendance at the Field Day grew larger, which was very gratifying. The product of the bees was wanted. Shipping was short, but the people of New Zealand would benefit by the increased production. Things at the war were looking brighter, and he was satisfied we were on the winning side. The Allies had done wonderfully well, and were going to do better. They were all proud of the exploits of their boys. He believed that the back of the war would be broken in the coming great clash, and that our boys will be back again before very long. It gave him great pleasure to be present.

Farm Officials Thanked.

A dainty afternoon tea was provided, after which the group was photographed.

Mr. Hutchinson then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Green and the other officials. Mr. Green had done more than was required, and their best thanks were due to him.

The vote was heartily carried, with three cheers and the singing of "They are Jolly Good Fellows."

Mr. Green expressed the sincere thanks of himself and the officers of the Department. It had been a pleasure to him to do what he could. Much of the success was due to Mr. Trythall, in charge of the section, who was a very capable officer. The hopes of the morning had been fully realised, and the day had proved to be worthy of being termed a Field Day.

Mr. Campbell supported Mr. Green. It had been a pleasant and instructive day for all who had attended, the lectures and demonstrations being of great value. The Department was particularly interested in the industry, and was doing its best to encourage practical work.

The gathering then dispersed, thus bringing to a close one of the most successful reunions ever held in the district. The Field Day should result in a decided filip being given to the important honey industry, which has wonderful potentialities.

Getting Queen Cells Started.

An easy way is to take away the queen with two or three frames of brood and adhering bees from a strong colony having one's best queen, leaving the bees to start cells anywhere they like. The trouble is that they will like to start them in a number of frames instead of in one particular frame, and will be pretty sure to have some of them started on opposite sides of the same comb, so that they will interfere with one another in the cutting out.

To avoid these troubles Dr. Miller decided to try having cells built on a comb lying horizontally. A good deal was said about this plan a few years ago, but for some reason it does not seem to have gone into general use, possibly because appearing too troublesome. As we have used it, however, last year and this, it is very little trouble, and as some of the sisters may want to try it, it may be well to tell in detail just how it is done "in this locality."

The machinery necessary is a shallow super to contain the one comb lying flat, and a rack to support the comb. The super is the width of the hive, three inches deep, and the inside length is a little more, say one-quarter inch more, than the length of the top bar of a brood-comb. The rack is a sort of ladder having two side pieces 14 inches by $1\frac{1}{4}$ by $\frac{3}{8}$, and three rungs $9 \times 1 \times \frac{3}{8}$. The long or side pieces are nailed upon the ends of the rungs, one rung being in the centre and each of the others four inches distant from the central one. When in use this ladder is to be laid upon the top bars of the frames in the brood chamber, and the edges of the rungs come flush with the edges of the side pieces on top, leaving one-quarter inch space below between top bars and rungs. That is so that the rungs will not be glued to the top bars. Let it be especially noted that all these measurements are more or less by guess, and it is possible, indeed probable, that some of them might be changed to advantage.

Having the shallow super and the rack ready, we are now ready to go to work. We fill a hive with combs entirely empty, or they may contain some honey, or even sealed brood, but no unsealed brood. On the whole, it is perhaps better not to have any brood at all. Over this hive is placed our shallow super, and in the super is placed the rack, being sure that the rack is right side up, so that there is a space between the rungs of the rack and the top bars. On the rack is placed a frame of brood taken from the colony that has the best queen, this frame being one that contains the largest proportion of brood just hatched from the egg. If there is any difference in the two sides, let the best side be down. Call this hive A. Set it in place of B, which may be any strong colony, and set B on a new stand. Brush into A all the bees from three of B's brood-combs, of course taking care not to get the queen. Then cover up B and leave it for ten days, when the cells will be ready to cut.

You will now find your advantage in the fact that instead of having to handle and examine all the combs of a colony, you have to do with only one comb. Moreover the cells are on only one side, standing straight out from the face of the comb, and with the small blade of a pocket-knife you can cut out a cell and leave a hole only a third as large as when the cell is built on a comb hanging in its usual position. It is claimed that you get more cells in this way, which may be true.

Someone may say, "But you have said nothing about preparing the comb by scraping to the bottom alternate rows of cells, as has always been directed." No, we do nothing of the kind, simply using the comb as it is. We are not convinced that the other way is any better. At any rate we get good results, and are saved the extra bother.—Miss Emma M. Wilson, in American Bee Journal.

[The Editor's footnote to this article is unavoidably left out owing to pressure on our space.]

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.	N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton.
L. D. CARTER, late of Springfield. Invalided home.	W. J. JORDAN, Ngaruawahia.
E. A. DENNIS, Gleuroy.	G. SQUIRES, Fairview.
W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs.	MURDO MCKENZIE, Dunrobin.
S. R. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed in action.	W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.
R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch.	JAMES IRVING, Albury.
J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch.	R. M. HAMILTON, Ettrick.
P. E. HOLMES, Pirongia.	A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.
T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.	JAS. MARSHALL, Maungatua.
R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.	A. BEVAN, Waikau Downs.
J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.	D. CRAWFORD, Waikokoi. Killed in action.
G. R. WILLIS, Pukekohe.	R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-volunteered.
A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Christchurch.	S. G. HERBERT, Ruawai.
A. CURTIS, Porowhita.	F. W. LUNT, Addington.
W. G. DONALD, Brookside.	J. MORGAN, Dunmerikie.
E. N. HONORE, Otakeko.	H. SQUIRES, Hawera.
E. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt.	ALEX. MAITLAND, Orairi. Killed in action.
J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki.	A. R. BATES, Kaponga.
G. ROGERS, Opotiki.	C. E. QUAIFFE, Russell's Flat.
C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action.	G. HARRISON, Waipahi.
P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action.	H. W. McCALL, Wallace town. Killed in action.
G. NAPIER, Alfredton.	G. I. SHAW, Dunnet.
	D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North.
	E. CLARK, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded.
	M. J. DOBBING, Morrinsville.

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