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*E.A. East*



# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

MAY 1st, 1918.

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



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



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May 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. 5

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.

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All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to  
FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

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## EDITORIAL.

The Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association is fixed for June 13th and 14th, at Wellington, and we want our readers to get the date well fixed in their minds, and make all arrangements in their work so fit in that they are free to get away for the few days necessary to attend this gathering.

There are to be at least two new departures from previous Conferences, being an invitation luncheon to all visitors on the first day, and arrangements are being made with the Department of Agriculture that one evening the Government film on Beekeeping be shown, also some of the other industries. The luncheon will be by invitation of the National Association, and the Honey Producers' Association, Ltd.

We think this is a very wise move, as sociability and friendliness are the keynote of successful gatherings.

Previous to the existence of the Journal, the Annual Conference was the only

opportunity we had of airing our grievances, discussing matters of interest, hearing papers read on the many branches of our industry, appliances shown, &c., &c., and the result was always a rush towards the end to get the whole programme finished. The Journal has relieved the Conference very considerably in this respect, as in its columns the A to Z of the industry is brought forward at one time and another, with comments and discussions following.

Well, then, what need is there for a Conference? Why should one be asked to spend money and time in attending? We feel that it is necessary that the members of all the Branches should meet once a year, that matters affecting their welfare should be brought forward and discussed, so that a uniform line of action may be decided upon for the increasing of membership, and there is no doubt that some formic acid is necessary to liven up some of the Branches.

Then we want the members of the Executive that were appointed the pre-

vious year to give an account of their stewardship, and appoint even better men in their place.

The Journal, too, and the conduct of its Editor comes up for discussion, and if you have had an article censored, or delayed in publication by him, there's your chance to administer the perhaps well-deserved rebuke: he cannot use the blue pencil there!

Lastly, there is the social aspect, and if there was no business worth mentioning to be done, we would still advocate holding the Conference for this alone. For years previous to holding any position in the National, the Editor attended the gatherings, chiefly to meet those of the craft, and always enjoyed that element as much (perhaps more) than the papers that were read for the instruction of the visitors. It is pleasant to meet and have a chat to beekeepers from all parts of the country; hear their difficulties and successes, relate yours; meet the men whom you only know by name in seeing articles and correspondence signed by them. If you have never attended a Conference, just try this one, and we are quite willing to abide by the result.

We should appreciate the help of our readers who have any appliances which they find useful in their work, if they would bring them down, and, if possible, write a short paper on their uses. Should those who cannot attend the Conference have anything they think would be helpful to the fraternity, we should be glad if they would send them addressed personally to the Secretary, care N.Z. Express Co., Wellington. The National Association will pay all charges both ways. If sending, please forward particulars of package to the Secretary, and despatch the goods early in the first week in June, as the Conference starts on the 13th.

The Honey Producers' Association are holding their adjourned Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 12th, which we think is wise, as hitherto this has been held on the morning of the second day of the Conference, and as all members of the National are not shareholders, it rather split up matters. There will no doubt be a great deal to discuss at this meeting, and the whole day will allow time to have all matters well debated on, and we hope a large number of shareholders will attend.

We learn that Mr. L. Bowman, late Apiary Instructor to the Department for Canterbury, has left the service, and an advertisement appeared for a man to take his place. The salary attached to the position is £170, rising to £200 per year, which we think needs a little comment. What qualifications are necessary in the man who is appointed? We take it he must first be a successful beekeeper, because it is not much use appointing a man who cannot make a success with his own bees instruct others on how to succeed. He must be a man with a fair amount of

experience in all branches of the industry; must be able to write an article if called upon, which goes forth to all and sundry as a Government expert's opinion and advice; must be able to give from his own experience and knowledge lessons in treating disease, feeding, uniting, queen-rearing, comb-foundation making, &c., &c.; and, last of all, and the most weighty from the commercial beekeeper's point of view, be able to place honey in its proper grade—a thing that can only be learned by years of experience. Now, it occurs to us that to offer a man with these qualifications £170 per annum in this year of grace 1918 is ridiculous, as it is not the price of one and a-half tons of honey! We learn that beekeepers who were cadets two years ago are laughing at their instructors, who are content to be continually up and down the country at all times and in all weathers at a salary that they (the cadets) beat hollow. Surely any man with the qualifications necessary to fill the position advertised for that has 100 hives of bees would be foolish to exchange positions with an apiary instructor.

The inspectors were appointed and the salaries fixed previous to the regulations re grading, and we think that those regulations increased their responsibility very considerably, and the salary should have been raised accordingly. In any case, we believe the price of honey is not going back to the figure it was when these appointments were first made, and think it would be only a fair thing to the present inspectors that their salaries be raised proportionately to the increased price of honey. By that, of course, we do not mean the inflated price of to-day, but worked more on the guaranteed price given to the H.P.A., which is 60/- against the then ruling price of 37/- per cwt. Worked on that basis, the salary of the inspectors, instead of being from £175 to £200, would be about £250 to £300, and none too much for fully qualified men who are capable of filling the position.

We notice the Department is advertising for a Poultry Expert, at a salary to start at £180 per annum, which is £10 more than that offered to an apiary instructor. Surely, if it is worth £180 a year to see that a hen "scratches gravel" occasionally, and does her best to live up to her reputation of being a bird that lays eggs (which, according to our experience, is more or less only rumour), it is putting the experience necessary for an apiary instructor at a ridiculous figure to offer less than for a poultry expert. We have no doubt that experience is necessary to make keeping poultry a payable thing, but we venture to say that it would take considerably less time to learn the A to Z of the poultry business than it does to sample and grade a parcel of honey correctly, which is only one part of our expert's business.

It has been suggested that addressing the wrapper in red ink when the Journal subscription is due is not altogether satis-

factory, as many simply tear off the wrapper without noticing how the address is written. Therefore, in future we shall have a slip inserted which will indicate to the receiver that the subscription is due, and if the same is not returned that month with the amount enclosed we shall take it the Journal is no longer required.

We made two appeals in the Journal last month—one for readers to join the National or a Branch Association, and the other for just the particulars of their crops, and in neither case has the response been at all satisfactory. Regarding the former, we can only bring before the notice of the readers the aims of the National, which are for the improvement of all those engaged in the industry. We cannot force any one to join, but we do submit that if you are going to benefit by the work of that body, the least you can do is to help provide funds to carry on. Our National is something like the Farmers' Union—there are over 50,000 farmers in the Auckland Province, and only 4,000 are members of the Union. It seems to us a very poor position to take up—viz., to take all the benefits that may accrue from the efforts of a body of men who are willing to give time and money to improve an industry, and when you are appealed to for support of something considerably under 2d. per week, you pass it by. Is it any use appealing again to you?

Regarding the crop reports. When the Editor appeals for an article on any particular subject, he is met with, "I am no good at it: get somebody else," &c., &c., but in this case he simply asked you to send a post-card with just three items on it—Number of hives, increase, and crop, and not ten readers have replied. Did it ever occur to you that the Journal is run almost entirely by contributed news, and that all items sent in are for one purpose—to make the paper interesting and instructive? It is not very encouraging to the Editor to get such a poor response, particularly as the effort required is so small; but he will hold the appeal open for another month, and perhaps we shall fare better. Please note no names will be published, only a number against each record, and the particulars will be used for no other purpose.

We regret that Mr. H. W. Gilling has found it necessary to resign the office of Vice-President of the National Association.

Owing to the big demand for honey spoons our stock ran out, and we are sorry to disappoint a number of new subscribers. We are still trying to get something to take their place, but it is very difficult; everything is in short supply, and prices are prohibitive for giving away. We are keeping the slips of all those who have not received a gift, and if at all

possible they will receive something useful. About 3,500 Journals were sent out, and the response has been very satisfactory. We think we shall have just about doubled our subscribers' list at the end of May, as compared with the same time last year.

**The Honey Market.**—The English market is still hardening, and the latest result cabled was 170/- per cwt. This represents about 1/6 per lb., and the latest returns from the B. and D. are most satisfactory, as the cable reads:—"Honey ex 'Port Melbourne' and 'Thermistocles' shipments: we are returning the following prices nett—Special grade, 16d.; prime, 15d.; lowest grade, 13½d. per lb.; market very firm." These are wonderful prices, and, provided shipping space can be procured, should mean very great prosperity to those in the industry.

Just after we had sent away the "copy" for last month's issue, we received a circular from a New Zealand firm of exporters who were offering as a straight-out purchase 1/2, 1/1, and 1/- for the three grades, they taking charge of the honey on arrival at Auckland, and the cheque to be sent within 48 hours after grading. We can say without fear of contradiction that this is a record offer, and we are not surprised that some of the beekeepers lost their heads. The thought that came to us when we received the circular was: "If the merchants can afford to pay these prices in Auckland, and by shipping to England turn over at a profit, then it is quite certain that the agents of the H.P.A. can do the same, and turn over the profit to us, which is infinitely more desirable. That they are doing this is evidenced by the latest cable, and we see no cause to go outside our own Association.

Will all members of the National kindly send their subscriptions to the Secretary immediately they read this, as he has to make up a balance sheet on the 31st May, and wants it to be a good one. Branch Secretaries, please send in every penny you have collected. The Government are subsidising our funds pound for pound, so every penny counts twopence, and we want it all for the extension of our Association. We believe a vigorous policy is to be framed, that the Branch Associations can be made more useful in educating those who are interested in the industry, and the National wants to have plenty of funds to enable it to help all expenses incurred.

Are you on your honeymoon? Come and spend it at the Conference.

Is the bee industry suitable for ladies? Come to the Conference, and see we always have a fine collection of ladies there.

Do you want a queen bee? Come to the Conference and choose one.

## Notes from a Breeding Specialist in England.

(By M. ATKINSON, Bee Farm, Fakenham, Norfolk, England.)

(Continued.)

Having realised the important part the drone would play, means had been devised to control the movements of all undesirable drones from the varied assortment of bees now assembled and arrangements made to swamp all outsiders.

Very large numbers of special drones were systematically reared by selected stocks. Scores of sheets of drone foundation found places in brood frames solely for good solid drone-breeding, while whole supers of shallow drone comb were handed over to selected queens, to be filled with the desired drones instead of honey, during June and July. They did their duty in fine shape too.

But this was not all that had to be done to ensure the desired results, and if anyone ventured to ask me of what queen-breeding chiefly consisted now, I would say "Drone breeding." And it is literally the truth, so far as we are concerned in this country, if we would have other than the Black.

However, the black drone was done "brown" now, and so remains, as far as concerns my work, the drone problem mastered.

The bees and the work of my Caucasian hybrids were now attracting attention. The hybridisation proved to be of such a character that little more was needed to extract the pure Caucasian, and thus a strain producing pure composite Caucasian drones would be secured. This was accomplished. They were carefully noted in their wintering and springing the succeeding season.

Coincidentally the Golden Italians were booming, and by the following spring prospects were promising. The Caucasian extracted queens were a remarkable batch for what their stocks accomplished. Starting late, they were wintered on three frames only, in single hives of  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch stuff front and back, doubled sides, and a by no means strong larval with any of them—a rather reckless proceeding, my locality being a bitter winter proposition.

For economy in stores, no bees I have handled ever approached them, and though anxious about them for various reasons, I could not help them out until quite early spring if they could not manage with the bare stores their three frames contained. But they did, and started to rear brood in fine style on next to nothing. I was astonished when I made my first overhaul of them to see the large quantity of brood they had. At times they certainly could not keep it warm, but evidently these bees were not hardy for nothing. Then I gave them some help; no harm to the brood ensued; they went

booming on, and for four years these queens have carried their stocks through the successive seasons, given me scores of new colonies in increase, and honey when I let them, of a quality never equalled by any bees on the place.

Last autumn the queens were removed, and for a while at least the apiary will contain no Caucasians. Their first year's work put them in the front rank of all the various races and strains of bees I had tested, and they were selected for the work now decided upon—the formation of a fine golden composite.

This golden composite work has long passed the point at which the Caucasian was required, and the absence of the latter will ease the drone work a little. The Caucasian is submerged in intermediate golden breeders, from which it can be extracted again later if desired. The choice of the golden is final for the composite, because of the ease of detecting mismanagement.

I feel constrained to add some conclusions on the evident value of the Caucasian race of bees, as a potential factor in the work of building up fine stock. Apparently few, if any, have an all-round appreciation of them, such as has been expressed by J. J. Wilder, of Georgia, U.S.A. He grants they still have some native imperfection on the point of propolis, always a trying and vexatious proceeding on the part of bees addicted to it in excess, as it is admitted Caucasian bees are.

In the course of hybridisation and extraction again of the pure Caucasian Black, this propolis fault, so far as it can be a fault, has been completely obliterated in the bees thus produced here. Not the slightest trace of it can be found at hive entrances or on floor-boards. The only points at which any propolis is done at all are frame tops and quilting—a practice common to most bees; but it is less than is normally deposited by many strains of British Blacks.

I feel sure if J. J. Wilder were to give serious attention towards securing this result by similar means, he would in, say, three seasons, remove entirely a propolis fault he has not eradicated in all the time he has had his Caucasians by ordinary selective methods.

That improvement would not be all he would gain. In the matter of honey production, he would stand to gain considerably by the cross-breeding needed, and it would be well worth the attempt.

As to quality of honey, I have reason to regard here again an advantage, judged by comparison of the composite Caucasians' honey, separately extracted, with that produced by the best of other varieties of bees on the place, all working the same grounds and at the same time.

Brace-comb building occurred in the extracting supers, but was of little account. It occurred only on frames completely filled and sealed, not otherwise. In section work, I have to record the only disappointment. A number of sections were braced to the tin dividers, and were, of course,

unsaleable. This fault I am hopeful will disappear, should I later extract these bees again from the intermediate Goldens.

As a last word on the value of the Caucasian, the important matter of wintering puts them away ahead of any other bees known for countries which must come upon adverse dry or damp conditions. The composite Caucasian, as I have observed it here, is the wintering bee par excellence for difficult conditions—i.e., moist winters of that cold, clammy penetrating variety, which chills life more fatally than crisp, dry wintering ever could. The few faults of the pure Caucasian I can only regard as superficial, and capable of being eliminated in any thoroughly systematic attempt to improve rather than condemn, merely because we do not find perfection at every point on first acquaintance.

In the details of queen-rearing here, the methods adopted are along orthodox lines, as far as conditions permit. Sometimes favourable conditions will produce cells in large numbers, and then much contriving must be done to secure them against loss before maturing.

Sudden and considerable change in temperature is a common experience here in North Norfolk, where we are but a few miles from the North Sea. A batch of 37 cells in one hive, killed in a night in June by a sudden fall of temperature, is a bad loss, while the mishap may reach treble the number for one night's total kill.

The remedy for that is the incubator. It takes care now of all maturing cells until we reach settled conditions outside, which may be well into June.

And what are incubated queens liked? Generally speaking, away ahead of any hive incubated virgins, if proper care is exercised and no makeshift fit-up is pressed into service. It relieves all anxiety, saves the work of bees incubating large numbers of cells, and ensures better attention to cells in progress. Examinations of maturing batches are more rapid, and carried out without the presence of clustering bees and open hives, and there is no danger of chill from unfavourable outdoor conditions, recognising the fact that the different stages in queen-rearing proceed independent of what the weather may be, and they cannot therefore be neglected.

Some beemen object to artificial incubation, just as some other people object to heaven, but if a queen-broeder's location happens to be an incubator in itself, he may have some reason. If it isn't, he may have to think a bit and divorce fancy.

Baby nuclei are seldom satisfactory here. Bad weather, intermittent honey flows, and the general disturbance resulting among large stocks makes nuclei of three or four frames a better and quicker method. A few baby nuclei are in use of three small combs each, that number being found more satisfactory than two combs. The queens and bees appear more content when they can appropriate both sides of a central comb for brood purposes. In favourable circumstances the three-frame babies progress well, but we cannot rely upon conditions generally.

A doubled "baby" of six frames, in two tiers, will winter well, even on this severe stand, if the "baby" is placed inside a full-sized empty hive.

Cell-cups are bored and cut in the workshop, and waxed all at one time, when the season begins. They are never used a second time until cleaned out to the wood and re-waxed. It is quickly done, in every respect equal to a newly made cup, and better than any rejuvenated old one. My practice is to allow the unsized jelly to dry up firm, then insert the regular boring bit, which cleans the cup of everything down to the original wood again. If natural conditions favour generous feeding of the breeding queen's larva, no pruning of the cups is done.

Fertilisation of the virgins varies from six days after emerging onwards. Tests have recorded forty days, when prolonged adverse weather intervenes, but there is no glory in the life of a queen fertilised so late. The rule is, after eighteen days without egg-laying in evidence, to replace queens.

American queen-breeders have had a good deal to say in "Gleanings" for November and December, 1917, of their difficulties in queen yards from abnormal weather conditions during the whole of their 1917 season. Their difficulties may have helped them to realise the queen-rearing paradise they usually enjoy, compared to others less favourably situated. We feel grateful if we can experience once or twice in a season eight or ten successive days of consistently fine mating weather. We need vigorous queens indeed to meet our conditions, and exactly the same applies to the workers if we would produce satisfactory crop reports. It is these conditions, coupled with the "Isle of Wight" disease, which constitute the rocks on which foreign races of bees are broken in England, and the chief arguments on which composite bee-breeding here are founded. I am convinced that the final results of the composite work undertaken will fill the bill handsomely. And probably no such complicated problem has been forced upon the bee industry of any other country in the world.

In addition to the various races of bees already enumerated, Yellow Carniolan bees were investigated, also Dutch, pure and hybridised by Italian drones. For various reasons none of these could be accepted. The Dutch bee proved to be as great swarmer as any Carniolans, and if any interference of their programme was attempted, they proved first-class loafers.

(To be continued.)

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Remedy for Bee Stings.—Hot water, promptly applied, is said to be an excellent remedy for the pain and swelling of bee stings. Iodine, painted on at once, is also said to be effectual. The theory is that, being an organic poison, the molecules are decomposed by the heat and thus prevented from spreading, iodine having the same effect. When the poison has spread to any extent, the heat cannot follow up.—"Western Honey Bee."

## 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.]

**Editorial, page 50—Local Inspectors.**—The system of appointing local inspectors has not yet had a sufficiently lengthy trial to definitely decide whether it will prove a permanent success or not. I must confess to having had doubts as to it working smoothly if, for instance, a person was appointed to inspect apiaries located in his own district. It can be readily imagined that serious discord might be created between neighbouring beekeepers if one had to report adversely upon the condition of the other's apiary. And, again, personal friendship or bias in an opposite direction may influence local inspectors in their decisions and reports of the apiaries of those they know. It is of no use to say this suggests dishonesty: we have to accept human nature as we find it, and guard against known weaknesses. My own idea is that such additional inspectors' districts should be away from their own—say, for instance, not nearer than six miles from any one of their own apiaries. Time, however, will alone prove whether the present system is all that is desired.

**Page 52—Honey Market.**—The demand for honey for export is still on the increase, and in consequence market quotations are rising in a most remarkable manner. A circular is being distributed by one firm making a very big bid for the export trade, and offering much higher prices than you have quoted, Mr. Editor; but no doubt the B. and D. Association will endeavour to meet the competition. If it cannot, I am afraid some of its trade will be diverted.

**Pages 52-3—Queen-Breeding.**—I like the tone of Mr. M. Atkinson's article. There is a ring about it that sounds true to the subject. I shall await, as the Editor wishes, until it is finished before commenting upon it.

**Page 57—Mr. Ward on Queen-Rearing.**—First of all, I am sorry I made the mistake of crediting you with advocating 2/6 instead of 3/6 as the price of queens at the Conference, and pleased you are, after further experience, satisfied 10/- is a fair price for a well-bred tested queen. I am with you regarding the condemnation of the swarm box plan of starting queen cells. If one hopes to raise first-class queens, one must have abundance of nurse bees in the hive where queen cells are being raised, and these you cannot have by the box method. I never found queens raised on that plan any real good—they run out very quickly. With regard to introducing

queens, it has been my experience that, provided the conditions of weather and flow of nectar are suitable, success may be almost certain by any of the several known methods, such as cage, smoke, honey, emerging-brood comb, and Simmins' fast-feeding method. The difficulty, however, especially with amateurs, and through which most of the failures occur, is in gauging the conditions. When queen rearing on a large scale, I have successfully run in as many as thirty virgin queens at the time through the entrances of three and four-frame nucleus hives, with a puff of smoke before and after running them in, and just as quickly as I could move from one hive to the other, probably in less than five minutes, my assistant going ahead of me with one smoker, and I following with the queens and another smoker. And this within one hour after the laying queens had been removed. I merely mention this to show how readily queens can be introduced when conditions are favourable, but it takes considerable time to acquire that knowledge; but whenever I wished to be certain of success I invariably adopted the cage method which, if properly followed, is the safest of any.

**Page 58—Beekeeping as a Side-line.**—That "side-line" business in beekeeping mentioned by Mr. Ward is in 19 cases out of 20, a decided drawback to commercial beekeeping. Thirty or more years ago, before the industry was fairly developed, it was perhaps good policy to have something else, such as poultry farming, fruit-growing, or light farming to help one out. It is, however, quite a different matter now that commercial beekeeping is a fully developed industry, which demands one's close attention to produce a first-class honey in either of the recognised grades. We have long since reached the specialist's stage, when none but those who are prepared to take up beekeeping as their sole business should be encouraged. My experience of side-liners has been that the bees have been of secondary consideration, more or less neglected, and the honey obtained generally sold to the nearest stores or to commercial travellers by barter at an exchange value a long way below the market value. They never join an Association, and their apiaries are often a hot-bed of disease. We should make it a rule never to encourage side-liners, although in the case of orchardists, they must have bees in or near their orchards for cross-pollination purposes.

**Pages 60-61—The B. and D. at Bristol.**—The letter from Mr. T. H. Pearson describing his visit to the office and works of the B. and D. at Bristol has come at an opportune time, and should encourage those of us who are dealing with that Association. We must remember that in the B. and D. Association we have a permanent and reliable agency for the disposal of our honey under a "New Zealand Brand," which I have always considered the object to aim for. Other buying firms that have sprung up lately, and since the great demand for our honey has been created in



consequence of that brand, which is a guarantee of quality, are buying in bulk for wholesale houses, whereby it probably reaches packers and blenders, and so loses its identity with New Zealand. We should not forget this.

**Page 62—Prices of Comb-foundation and Beeswax.**—The note from the Alliance Box Company re the above should give us furiously to think. Without being an alarmist, I have several times during the past five or six years considered it my duty to give warning of the coming shortage of beeswax. It is a subject I have given special attention to, and therefore probably understand the matter better than the majority of our beekeepers. The war has undoubtedly brought about a crisis earlier than would otherwise have been the case. All supplies of wax from Russia and England have been cut off. Russia's annual supply before the war was 16,000 tons, and what little may be produced now is prohibited from exportation, and the same applies to England, which recently regained her old position as the centre of distribution of the world's commercial beeswax. So with these two sources cut off, I see nothing but a partial famine in beeswax in the near future. It behoves the "National" to take this matter up and impress upon beekeepers not to sell one ounce except for the purpose of making up into comb-foundation.

**Ibid—Grades of Honey.**—I would like to persuade Mr. T. Stewart that our present method of grading is as near perfect as it is humanly possible to have it; at least, that is more than my own opinion. I am afraid if Mr. Stewart's suggestions were adopted, grading would be worse to solve correctly than the most intricate Chinese puzzle. It matters not from what source honey is gathered, the only thing that does matter is its grade from the market point of view.

**Page 63—Carniolans.**—Mr. W. C. Brown's description and estimate of the value of Carniolan bees are, I consider, pretty accurate—that is, they conform to those of the majority of beekeepers who have cultivated them. Mr. Brown expresses himself as puzzled over the fact that they soon become absorbed in blacks, or, in other words, they soon lose their greyness, which is considered the distinguishing colour of the pure Carniolans. I think the explanation is this:—Carniolans are undoubtedly a composite race, or variety, composed in some measure of Italian and black blood, and as has been proved over and over again black blood is the most persistent—it forces itself to the front where the conditions give the least opportunity. I have had pure-bred Carniolans showing grey, yellow, and black marks. After all, the Italians are hard to beat.

How to be happy tho' married! Come to the Conference and leave the wife to look after the bees.

Are you a Socialist? Come to the Conference and learn wisdom.

## Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—MAY.

[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.]

I said last month we would spend a little time together and see if we could not profitably employ the "off" season in making a few things, and having been asked by a subscriber on how to make a wax-press, this will serve very well for our first lesson.

Just here I want to state that if you can afford the outlay, it is better to buy all your appliances from the regular supply dealers, but if you do not possess the ready cash, or do not want to spend more than you really need, then I think I can help you.

At this time of the year, when we have the bees in order for the winter and all appliances put away, we shall have an accumulation of wax of all sorts, broken pieces of comb, scrapings of covers and bottom-boards, and perhaps combs from foun-broody hives, and we want to render the wax into marketable form, and to do this we need a wax-press, so we will make one.

The first thing is to make the box, and we shall want four ends of benzine cases, the stoutest you can get. "Big Tree" cases are just the thing. These are 14½ x 9½ x ¾ in., and as our box is to be square, two will have to be cut to measure 12¾ x 9½, and when the 14½ in. boards are nailed on to these the box will be 12¾ square inside measurement. Use 2½ in. nails for putting this together, then get four pieces of galvanised or any flat iron, 9½ x 4, and reinforce the corners with them, which will prevent your box bursting when heavy pressure is applied.

Now we shall want some timber from the homely kerosene case, which is ¾ in. thick, and from it cut a great number of slats ¾ in. wide, sufficient to go all round the inside of our box vertically with a ¾ in. space between each slat, these also to be nailed at the bottom of the box.

The next thing is the follower, and as this takes all the pressure from the screw it needs to be pretty strong, and is made so by putting the grain of two boards at right angles. We shall want three ends of benzine cases to make this. The inside measurement has by nailing the slats on decreased to 12 inches, and as we want the follower to work freely we will cut the measurement of this down to 11¼ inches, which will allow ½ in. all round. The width of the benzine case end is 9½, so we shall want two pieces of 2½ in. to make the 11¼ inches. Be sure and nail these together, so that you have a solid piece of timber 1¾ in. thick, and the grain

of one board running at right angles to the other. On one side nail your  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. slats in the same manner as you did on the inside of the box, and on the other side nail two pieces of 3 x 2 x 9 about 6 inches apart. This completes the box and follower, and we now want a tray to fit it in. We shall want a piece of flat galvanised iron for this, but if you cannot get it and you are handy with the soldering iron, you can make this out of the sides of benzine or kerosene tins by cutting down the seams and top and bottom, which will give you

slum-gum did not render sufficient wax to pay for the firewood, so I am content to believe this press will do as much as any press of the same style.

This is known as the unheated press, and before using should be thoroughly heated by pouring boiling water over the parts that will come in contact with the heated wax so as to prevent cooling, and thus spoil good work; but if emptied and re-filled immediately it will be sufficiently hot.

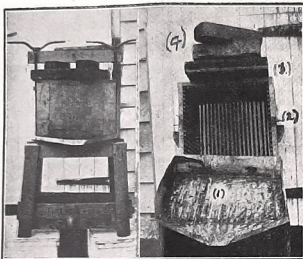


FIG. 1.

Fig. 1.—Wax Press, with follower resting on top of box.

FIG. 2.

Fig. 2.—(1) Tray.

(2) Box.

(3) Follower.

(4) Blocks for pressure from cross arm.

sheets about 13 x 18 inches. Our tray is wanted 15 inches square, with about an inch wall on three sides and a lipped outlet on the fourth.

Our next requirement is a stand for the box, and is just a rough stool 18 inches high made of 3 x 2 timber, the table being sufficiently wide for the tray to rest on.

For the pressure, I use two rods 24 in. long,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide tapped 10 inches, and a piece of 3 x 3 for the cross arm and for the rods to go through underneath the stool. One can get a good pressure with an ordinary carpenter's bench screw, and if this is employed a framework of 4 x 4 must be made to take it; but I found the follower would not go down squarely with this; as soon as heavy pressure was applied, one side would be higher than the other. With the style of the one photographed very heavy even pressure can be secured. This is the only wax-press I have used, and the iron-work cost me 6/-. I have found the second pressure of the

Should any of our readers care to try their hand at making one, and are not quite sure of any point, if they will write me I will help them.

We're here for business!

F. C. B.

A prominent beekeeper who lives not a hundred miles from Cheviot is also guilty of being a chemist, and we are told the following story:—A gift of a member of Parliament who is gifted with ready wit went into his shop and asked for a simple remedy usually procurable. The chemist did not happen to keep it, and said haughtily, "I am a chemist pure and simple, madam, and do not stock this." "You may be pure," retorted the lady; "you are certainly simple," and with this Parthian shot she retired.

An old comb wrapped in several sheets of newspaper makes an excellent "division board" for nuclei or to reduce the size of a brood nest.—Western Honey Bee.

## District Reports.

### "CANTERBURY TALES."

By E. G. WARD.

By the time these "Tales" appear no doubt the bees will be all "tucked in" for winter. At the time of writing I still have some work to do, and can say I have never put the finishing touches on with more satisfaction. I found the brood boxes "chock a block" with stores—so much so, that I have in most cases taken from one to three combs and extracted them. In a good many cases there was hardly a vacant cell. Some may say you cannot leave too much for winter, but I have never found the bees short of stores yet, and have never left more, so shall not worry.

I found, when extracting, a good deal of honey in the hives which had granulated. This was evidently left over from last winter, and gave a good deal of trouble in extracting, but was no doubt helpful in accelerating the granulation of this season's crop.

The orthodox teaching is that if there are plenty of stores in the hives breeding will start earlier and colonies build up quicker than those which are short. It does not tally with my experience. I find that if honey and pollen start to come in early, breeding will start early, but not otherwise. The value of sealed stores is seen if a bad spell of weather sets in after a lot of brood has been reared. I believe in plenty of room for the queen to deposit eggs, and if there is too much honey in the hives there is no chance of the colony building up early unless it is extracted early, and spring extracting is inconvenient, to say the least of it.

I am writing these "Tales" while on a visit to Timaru. While here I visited the grading store, and am pleased to testify to the cleanliness and order to be seen. There are over 20 tons of honey on hand, and Mr. Earp had started grading.

In last month's "Tales" I gave my experience of the honey method of queen introduction. Some may think the fault was mine, but I have had a letter from Mr. McKnight lately, in which he says that he had successfully introduced over 300 queens by the method up to 16th December. On that date he introduced 30, and lost every one. Since then he has introduced 20 more, and lost 19 out of the 20, and does not think the other one a success. What of this, ye wise men and bee-masters? Methinks that Abraham Lincoln's oft-quoted words may be modified to suit the bees. "You may fool some of the bees all the time and all of the bees some of the time, but you can't fool

all of the bees all of the time." I think it was Holterman who said, "Oh, for a safe method of queen introduction!" Amen, say I.

Provided no names are published, I see no objections to complying with the Editor's request for particulars of crop. I have noticed a reluctance on the part of some to give away their affairs, and think it wise to omit anything which would tend to attract others to a district which might furnish a good living for those established, but would not support more. There are many who do not have any respect for the written or unwritten law relating to the rights of others. Hence the necessity for such a proviso.

I do not agree with "Critic" that the formation of an amateur bee club is a reflection on the Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Invitations to attend meetings have been advertised, and both the President and Secretary have tried to induce the members to fall in with us, but without success. Anyone interested in the industry is always welcome, and new blood is what we want. I hope the few remarks I made last month will bear good fruit, and would once more point out that our interests are identical.

### WAIKATO.

The Waikato Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association will hold their annual meeting in the Public Bath rooms, Hamilton, on Thursday, June 6th, at 10.30 a.m. sharp.

**Business:** Receive annual report and balance sheet; appoint delegate to 1918 Conference; discuss proposed organisation scheme; election of officers for ensuing year, and general.

Members living at a distance from Hamilton are particularly requested to attend this meeting, as the discussion upon the organisation scheme is mainly for their benefit, and they can vote accordingly. All intending members are cordially invited.

E. W. SAGE,  
Hon. Secretary.

### WAIRARAPA.

The third meeting of the Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association was held in the Foresters' Hall, Pahiatua, on March 20th, 1918. In the absence of the President, Mr. R. H. Nelson, Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, Vice-President, presided. The meeting very much regretted the absence of its President. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Jacobsen then read the constitution of the National for the benefit of those present, and at the request of Mr. Russell also read the rules of the Wairarapa Association. Mr. F. Parkes proposed that as we were nearing the end of our financial year,

beekeepers joining up now be placed on the books as financial members until 31st May, 1919. Seconded by Mr. C. Benton and carried. Four new members were then proposed and approved.

The Secretary then outlined a scheme of education for beginners, and suggested that the notes written for beginners in the Journal of Agriculture be re-written and put in book form for distribution among beginners joining the Association, and that a Field Day be held every quarter, with the idea of educating beginners in modern methods of apiculture. The field days to be held in different parts of the district. This was thought an excellent idea, and it was proposed by Mr. Russell, and seconded by Mr. Scott, that 100 copies be printed in book form of the notes in twelve months issue of the Journal of Agriculture, subject to the approval of the Executive of the National. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. Russell proposed that members collect and send in the names and addresses of beekeepers in their respective vicinity to the Secretary. This was seconded by Mr. Scott and carried.

A general discussion then followed.

Mr. Russell gave an address on "Swarm Control," outlining Mr. R. H. Nelson's method. This was thought by the Chairman to be a method very adaptable to Southern Wairarapa, where the colonies were, he believed, stronger than in any other part of the Dominion.

Mr. Jacobsen spoke at some length on swarm control, laying stress on the necessity of having young Italian queens and plenty of ventilation.

A discussion on local inspection followed.

Mr. Jacobsen, on behalf of the Department, thanked Mr. F. Parkes for the valuable work he had done in the Pabiatua district.

Dampness in hives, kind of roofs to use, drawing foundation, and foul-brood was then discussed at length, and the meeting closed by according the Chairman and the Press representative a hearty vote of thanks.

Y. H. BENTON,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

[The matter of having the articles on Beekeeping reprinted from the Journal of Agriculture and put in book form to be given to all new members has been referred back to the Wairarapa Branch, asking them to bring forward a motion to this effect at Conference. If the idea is carried out, all Branches would be entitled to a supply, and we shall want the most helpful matter used, and we should prefer it being compiled by an appointed member of the National, as it will go out as issued by the Association.—Ed.]

## Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice "Critic" takes exception to my statement regarding "Colour" in grade notes. I think, however, a little reflection will convince him that what I say is correct. If he is still then unconvinced, I would suggest his writing to the Horticultural Division, and they will no doubt confirm what I have written. It is quite evident that the item "Colour" in the grade notes cannot refer to different shades of colour, which in themselves constitute classes. To use the same words to denote two different things is certainly misleading, and a great number of beekeepers with whom I have come in contact have been perplexed in the same way as "Critic."

My own opinion is that by using the word "Brightness" instead of "Colour" in this item on the grade notes, this difficulty would disappear.—I am, &c.,

W. HOOPER TEED.

[According to the evidence given by the graders at the recent enquiry at Christchurch, the points for "colour" are given on the uniformity of the consignment. If your parcel contains two or three different shades of light amber, it would get less than a parcel all the same shade. "Brightness" did not seem to affect the issue at all.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—My 12 stone of weight is a bit of a nuisance sometimes, especially when my No. 8's get on to other folk's toes. Well, now, about those melters! Of course, it is heat that is wanted. I believe I knew that before; but my Primus and blue flame lamps combined did not appear to be able to produce the requisite amount, and yet they produced sufficient in our hot extracting room. So I did not care to allow my girls to get too much of it. Neither they nor I can stand a 200 deg. temperature, nor do we want our honey up to 170 deg. When you mentioned Mr. Hutchinson as running your machine, my pulse quickened at once. I thought, "Here is brains on the job," and I was not disappointed. I believe the solution is in a steam boiler, but I cannot help thinking that it would be economy to connect up those pipes and have the steam circulating, with a passage out for what condensed. Friend Gibb is working on somewhat similar lines, and I believe that it is along these lines that success will be accomplished. All I have to say is, "Please hurry up!"

Now, that footnote of yours to my honey box letter. In your concluding sentence you say: "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." It is evident from this that you want Major Norton to try cutting up. I have never suggested that at all. I have stated that if such were required the dimensions of the box would suit; but what I am after now is to get the box tried as an export package instead of tin, the honey being simply run in and allowed to granulate, and then sent under similar cool storage to fruit and cheese. I do not believe that the conditions you suggest of lying a month in store and then travelling a slow train journey would have the slightest effect on it. Down at Wyndham I have at present 185 64lb. boxes now waiting to granulate. This is at the disposal of the H.P.A., and I believe is all sold at list prices to be delivered when cut up. This could be done in England just as well as here, but whether that is done or not, I maintain that for a food such as honey we want better treatment than it gets at present, and the white pine box and cool storage appeal to me as the sensible way to get it.—I am, &c.,

JAMES ALLAN.

#### BENZINE TINS AS HONEY CONTAINERS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Having just returned from Auckland, it would be interesting perhaps for readers to hear some information regarding prospects of getting tins for next season's crop, provided the war does not come to an end very soon. It is practically nil at present. Mr. Harvey states that tin is unprocurable, and is just about to leave for America to get plant for making the paper package.

The Sugar Company are and have been buying benzine tins for months at 1/1 for two tins and case, and having them converted and shipped to Sydney for syrup. They have cleaned Auckland up of them, and are now just about to offer a higher price. Under these conditions, I think it would be very poor policy on our part to try and get them barred. Under normal conditions I would certainly be down on them, but for the past and next season I believe they will be our salvation.

Binding for cases is almost as bad. A small quantity of strapping is offering at exorbitant prices. Wire is practically unprocurable. I got 1 cwt. at 60/- from the National Dairy Association as a favour after trying all hardware merchants.—I am, &c.,

A. H. DAVIES.

#### CAPPING MELTERS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In reply to a statement as to how slow Baines melters are, we have tried these with lamps and boiling water, also steam. The lamps make the house very

hot and disagreeable, but we find with steam this is done away with. If the bottom and sides of Baines melters are insulated with asbestos or other suitable material so as to prevent the heat from radiating out into the room, there is very little heat. Of course, the cappings help to prevent the heat rising from the working face of the machine.

With a suitable small boiler to generate the steam, we intend to lead one jet of steam into the Baines melter, using 1/4-inch gas piping, making the connections with a piece of garden rubber hose, also getting the steam for honey knife from the same source, and using the ordinary flexible gas tube as used on a gas-iron, gas-pipe connections passing through the wall of building, with gas tap inside, which will give control of the amount of steam through the honey knife.

The way we connected the steam, or let the steam into melter, was by soldering a piece of 1/4-inch gas-pipe (about 2 1/2 inches long) into a hole in middle of the side next to wall of building, the exhaust at bottom of machine near spout, wall side of machine; cool exhaust through wall by boring hole, using rubber tube to carry steam to outside of building. Plug hole for filling machine with water to prevent steam escaping into room. Raise up back end of machine about two inches. This will prevent the honey getting overheated. Of course, there is a limit to raising the end. If you raise too much, the machine will not melt all the wax in the cappings before the honey runs out of spout.

We have given Baines' machine a real good trial under steam, and, given a good jet of steam, no man can block this machine by uncapping into it; in fact, you can fill machine with cappings, turn steam cock on, and empty machine; turn off steam, and when filled turn on again.—I am, &c.,

C. S. HUTCHINSON.

#### RE BAINES' UNCAPPING MELTER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—This is one of the indispensable appliances in our extracting outfit, but we do not uncapp over it. The uncapping is done over a large home-made box on legs, fitted with tin bottom and coarse wire strainer, the frames being put into the Baines melter after uncapping while waiting for the extractor. Knives are heated in a tin on a Primus stove turned low. A good day's extracting will fill our large strainer box. It is left draining till next morning. When the Primus is put under the Baines' melter, and the end tilted up so the honey will run off quickly. The cappings are ladled in a couple of inches thick at a time, and a cloth laid over to preserve heat. This is repeated as fast as cappings melt, at the same time preparing for the day's work and tidying up the extracting house. By the time all

is ready for taking off more honey, the strainer box is empty. The Baines' melter has done its work, and the little honey coming from the wax is not very much darker than the other. Where time is precious the Baines' melter is just the thing!—I am, &c.,

M. SHEPHERD.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—A proposal for the Journal: A clear regular market report, as all other industries have, as to the ruling prices of honey, wax, and bees, especially about the latter: it is interesting to know what prices are realised at different sales.—I am, &c.,

SUBSCRIBER.

Mangatera, 26th March, 1918.

[We do our best in this matter by publishing the report issued by the Department giving the prices ruling for honey and wax. Regarding the price of bees, it is impossible to give anything definite, as very little buying and selling is done.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—There is a matter of great importance to the beekeeper which I would like to see thoroughly discussed in our Journal. I refer to the vexed question of "Bee Farm Boundaries." As far as my enquiry has gone, it seems quite evident there is great diversity of opinion on this point, and I feel that in the interests of every beekeeper we should endeavour to arrive at a definite understanding in the matter. Indeed, I think that we should move to have such legislative measures enacted as will secure the individual beekeeper against the inroads of other men who are either wilfully covetous or woefully ignorant. Tarlton Rayment, in his book, "Money in Bees in Australasia," considers that each apiary should have a radius of two miles—that is, four miles between each apiary or beekeeper. This I consider would be a fair basis to adopt in my district, but there may be other districts that would require a radius of three miles.

But, Mr. Editor, some think that they would be doing a fair thing if they placed an apiary within one mile of another beekeeper. No one has been so unkind or so foolish to do that in my immediate district, but it has been done in other parts of the district; therefore, I would like to see a discussion on the subject, for it is one that a great many need educating up to. No doubt some of the older men in the business have brushed up against this difficulty, and by this time should have a few suggestions to make which will be educative to all, and perhaps will eventuate in giving us such laws as will safeguard the man who is keen enough to work up a big up-to-date apiary and plant. We have good

apiary legislation as far as it goes, but there is ample room for improvement, I think. But what do you and the other fellows think?—I am, &c.,

CHAS. F. HORN.

Eastport Road, Waihou, 15/4/18.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I note on page 60 Mr. L. Glenny, in replying to Mr. D. Kelly's letter, gives advice to him and others. Well, I am one of the others, and I must say I do not think Mr. Glenny really knows what thick, unextractable honey is like, for he states, "Try again," and surely his advice is simple—just give the bees plenty of ventilation and spare super room and keep the extractor going, and do not allow the frames to get more than a little capping on. I suppose the honey will then bustle clean out of the cells. Thanks for the information, but it is absolutely useless in this locality. With the ripe honey we have got a chance of extracting some of it, but with the green honey we have not got a possible hope. Year after year we have tried it, but always had to put it back in the hives.

Yes, Mr. Editor, it is a good idea sending a sample of the Journal to every registered beekeeper, and no doubt every beekeeper in the Dominion who takes the Journal would know the value of his honey. Only last week I saw two good samples of honey from Opotiki, which had been purchased at 6d. per lb., and was told that one beekeeper had 5 or 6 cwt. for the same price. Surely some of the Opotiki beekeepers must be asleep.—I am, &c.,

A. L. LUKE.

April 15th, 1918.

AN IDEAL BROOD CHAMBER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have read Mr. Cotterell's paper (page 55), and have come to the conclusion that the system outlined would give no better results than one which entailed considerably less manipulation. Besides that, it would greatly restrict the number of colonies that one man could manage. He says: "In any hive manipulations it is advisable that frames and hive bodies be of standard size, so that interchanges can be readily made." That is a good axiom, but he goes on to explain that he uses a half super over or under the brood chamber, as well as two kinds of full-depth frames in the latter, which have to be spread out at one time alternately, and later on gathered together. Surely by this method he doubles and trebles his work of manipulation.

He says also that during spring and winter we are subject to sudden changes of temperature in this climate. I should say "during spring and summer," and add that the nights are cold, and for that

reason I do not favour any plan, whether Mr. Demaree's or Mr. Alexander's or Mr. Anybody Else's, of busting up the brood nest by playing hide-and-seek with the brood. The real secret of swarm control lies more in young queens (not reared from stray swarming cells, but reared by selection from non-swarmers), and sufficient storage room. Ventilation is an item also, but not so vital. Hanging out shows it wants looking to. A good deal of manipulation can be saved to use in caring for more bees. I think the tendency to over-manipulation, as evidenced in present-day bee literature, is a real drawback to more extensive operations by individual beekeepers. Perhaps it is because I am not bubbling over with energy that I consider too much manipulation is unnecessary.

Not only do we need to keep more bees, but we want better bees. Queen-breeding and queen-rearing should go together in every properly managed apiary. I have used the Swarthmore system of rearing extensively, and next month I will tell Mr. Ward how to overcome his difficulty.

W. B. BRAY.

## Answers to Correspondents.

S. A. (Coromandel), C. H. (Wakefield).—Many thanks for Journals.

J. E. Y., Christchurch.—We hope matters will improve now that you are to have a new man in your district.

## Honey Crop Prospects.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the Apiary Instructors the following report concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Large quantities of honey are now arriving at the grading store, and as this will all be for export, the local markets will be necessarily bare. Prices have advanced considerably since last report. Merchants are offering 1/2 for special, 1/1 for prime, and 1/- for good, irrespective of colour. In the Waikato and Thames Valley the average per colony is well up to 150 lbs.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—The honey crop prospects ending March 31st have, on the whole, proved satisfactory. The crops, however,

have been varied and patchy, but prices have been so good that any deficiency will be more than made up. Local sales are at the rate of 1/- per lb., plus the cost of the package. Beeswax, 2/- per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Dunedin.—The season has varied considerably throughout southern districts. Taken altogether the crop is a normal one, and the quality up to standard. Owing to the scarcity of extractors, extracting is not quite finished in some districts, but the bulk of the honey has been dealt with. Sections are coming in freely, whilst bulk honey is in short supply for local wants, due, no doubt, to the greater portion of the crop being exported. Prices are firm. Bulk is quoted at 9d.; sections, 7/6 to 9/-; pat honey, none offering. Beeswax is scarce, and is realising up to 1/9 per lb.—E. A. Earp.

## Beekeepers' Exchange.

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

We shall be pleased to hear from Beekeepers who have BEESWAX TO DISPOSE OF (large or small lots). State quantity and price.

BARRETT & BRAY,  
Barrys Bay.

WANTED TO BUY, Second-hand 6 or 8-Frame POWER EXTRACTOR, 1 Comb Foundation Mill, Smooth and Embossed Rollers. Apply, stating price, to

R. WHITING,  
Springdale, Waitoa.

WANTED.—POSITION Open for Youth wanting to learn Beekeeping; large commercial apiary; previous experience not necessary; must be energetic, and of good character. Apply to

E. W. SAGE,  
Ohaupo, Waikato.

WANTED, a Few COLONIES OF BEES (cheap); Waikato district preferred.

W. A. KEECH & SON,  
Ngaruawahia.

## Artificial Comb.

MacDonald Artificial Comb Co.,  
Box 704, San Bernardino, Cal.,  
Jan. 6, 1918.

Editor Western Honey Bee.

I am glad to say that we are moving along in fine shape. Company formed and ready for business.

Capital stock, 75,000 dollars; shares, 1 dollar, par value; only 5,000 shares to be sold; the rest is reserved for future use. Factory at Uplands, Cal.

Will put on the market two artificial combs—one of aluminium, which will weigh 4 ounces, ready for the wooden frame, L. size. This is the last word in artificial combs, and will overcome any criticisms as to cold and heat; strong and light.

Second, a nickel-plated comb which will weigh 8 ounces, and is a very good comb. It will answer all requirements.

Will start advertising in your February issues, and state therein when delivery will be made, and the price of the combs in lots of 1, 10, 100, and up.

The bees in the new observation hive, loaned to me by the Bee, are going ahead in fine shape. The bees have never disappointed me in any experiment that I have put them to with the artificial honey comb.

MacDonald Artificial Honey Comb Co.,  
Geo. M. MacDonald,  
President.

### THE ARTIFICIAL COMB.

Progress is being made in preparing for its manufacture. The corporation has been completed, two members being heads of departments in the U.S. Steel Corporation. Arrangements have been completed for a factory building at Upland, and ten tons of steel and aluminium ordered. It is hoped to begin the manufacture of combs on a commercial scale early in March.

Aluminium seems to be giving the best results in present experiments, and an exhibit of bees working and breeding in these combs is being prepared for the coming Orange Show in San Bernardino.

Owing to the extreme accuracy required in adjustment, many unexpected difficulties have arisen in constructing machines. A variation of two one-thousandths of an inch in a circumference of 34 inches cost 300 dollars to remedy. Each frame requires

126 feet of material two one-thousandths of an inch in thickness.

—Western Honey Bee.

[The above appliance has been talked about for a number of years, and is now apparently to be put on the market. We take it these metal combs will have to be given a coating of wax before the bees get them. To our thinking it is "agenatur," and we do not anticipate a revolution in the industry by their use.—Ed.]

## Russian Beeswax.

A typical Russian requirement is beeswax for church candles. During the process of worship most devotees light small candles before the ikons, and even the large cathedrals are lighted entirely by these and larger candles. The candles to be used for this purpose are bought at the entrance of the church, and must be pure beeswax, with no admixture of tallow or of animal or of vegetable fats. The value of beeswax imported into Russia has been steadily rising, and before the war amounted to over 3,000,000 dollars, almost all from Germany, though that country collected the wax from India and other tropical countries.

—Western Honey Bee.

Sprinkle the frames of the colony you are about to "shake" for foul-brood with sugar syrup scented with peppermint. It is a great help, as the bees will fill their honey-sacs with the syrup instead of the infected honey in the combs, and carry less of the infection with them.

—Western Honey Bee.

A New Jersey man is accused by his neighbours of keeping a species of bees that, instead of honestly making honey from flower and clover bloom, thievishly plunder the hives of all the working bees in the neighbourhood. It is asserted that this man, although he has not kept an honest bee in seven years, regularly sells more honey than any other beeman in the Delaware Valley.

The Ruakura Apiary is going strong this new season, and everything is in very good trim. The scheme of queen-rearing is proceeding satisfactorily, and Italian queens are announced for sale. Another of the new activities is the making of comb-foundation on the premises. Eight cadets are being trained at the apiary this season, of whom four are women.—Journal of Agriculture.



## 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.

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| <p><b>B. G. EDWARDS</b>, late of Geraldine. Invalided home.</p> <p><b>L. D. CARTER</b>, late of Springfield. Invalided home.</p> <p><b>E. A. DENNIS</b>, Glenroy.</p> <p><b>W. A. HAWKE</b>, Whitecliffs.</p> <p><b>S. R. SMITH</b>, Woodbury. Killed in action.</p> <p><b>R. N. GIDLEY</b>, Christchurch.</p> <p><b>J. SILLIFANT</b>, Christchurch.</p> <p><b>P. B. HOLMES</b>, Piroonga.</p> <p><b>T. H. PEARSON</b>, Claudelands.</p> <p><b>R. E. HARRIS</b>, Te Kowhai. Wounded.</p> <p><b>R. S. HUTCHINSON</b>, Hamilton.</p> <p><b>J. P. IRELAND</b>, Te Kowhai.</p> <p><b>G. R. WILLIS</b>, Pukekohe.</p> <p><b>A. BECKROYD</b>, St. Albans, Christchurch.</p> <p><b>A. CURTIS</b>, Porowhita.</p> <p><b>W. G. DONALD</b>, Brookside.</p> <p><b>E. N. HONORE</b>, Otakeho.</p> <p><b>E. JEFFERY</b>, Opotiki. Died in Egypt.</p> <p><b>J. B. ARMSTRONG</b>, Opotiki.</p> <p><b>G. ROGERS</b>, Opotiki.</p> <p><b>C. BICKNELL</b>, Greytown. Killed in action.</p> <p><b>P. OTOWAY</b>, Featherston. Killed in action.</p> <p><b>G. NAPIER</b>, Alfredton.</p> | <p><b>N. C. NAPIER</b>, Alfredton.</p> <p><b>W. J. JORDAN</b>, Ngaraawahia.</p> <p><b>G. SQUIRES</b>, Fairview.</p> <p><b>MURDO MCKENZIE</b>, Dunrobin.</p> <p><b>W. H. BLACKIE</b>, Ryal Bush.</p> <p><b>JAMES IRVING</b>, Albury.</p> <p><b>R. M. HAMILTON</b>, Etrick.</p> <p><b>A. E. CURRIE</b>, Manungata.</p> <p><b>JAS. MARSHALL</b>, Manungata.</p> <p><b>A. BEVAN</b>, Washau Down.</p> <p><b>D. CRAWFORD</b>, Waikokoi. Killed in action.</p> <p><b>R. S. SUTHERLAND</b>, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-volunteered.</p> <p><b>S. G. HERBERT</b>, Ruawai.</p> <p><b>P. W. LUNT</b>, Addington.</p> <p><b>J. MORGAN</b>, Dannevirke.</p> <p><b>H. SQUIRES</b>, Hawera.</p> <p><b>ALEX. MAITLAND</b>, Orari. Killed in action.</p> <p><b>A. R. BATES</b>, Kaponga.</p> <p><b>C. E. QUAIFFE</b>, Russell's Flat.</p> <p><b>G. HARRISON</b>, Waipahi.</p> <p><b>H. W. McCALL</b>, Waiaacetown. Killed in action.</p> <p><b>G. I. SHAW</b>, Domett.</p> <p><b>D. McCULLOCH</b>, Havelock North.</p> <p><b>B. CLARK</b>, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded.</p> <p><b>M. J. DOBBING</b>, Morrissville.</p> |
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## H.P.A. Shareholders! Attention!

THE ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING will be held in Wellington on 12th June next, and Shareholders who wish to have a voice in the meeting, though unable to attend, must send in their proxy forms to the Hawera Office a week beforehand.

There will be an election for two Directors, and in offering my services as a Director, I would draw the attention of Shareholders to the fact that the contract with the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association is maintained from year to year. There is an attempt being made by outsiders to separate us from the contract by tempting offers. These offers, however, are merely temporary, and give no promise for the future, and the past has proved that the B. and D. have always realised more for us in the end than private firms have offered. I could have sold for 6d. last year when our Company was paying 5½d., but had I taken it I would now be repenting. In New South Wales the beekeepers have no Co-operative Selling Concern, and their best honey is quoted at 4½d. to 4½d. in Sydney, while merchants can offer that honey in Wellington at 7½d. under bond—that is, the buyer pays customs duty (2d. per lb.).

The contract has given us splendid results, and if we wish to retain the goodwill of the B. and D. people, we must not be content with supplying the minimum, but we must build up what is an assured future by greatly increasing our export.

Unfortunately, there is a tendency among some of the Directors and Shareholders to pander to the local market at the expense of the contract, and even to entertain outside offers. So far, we are only very small fry compared to other honey-producing countries, and we must hold what we have got—that is, an outlet on the world's market at a payable price. If we dilly-dally too long, we may lose it. I had rather be opposing other Directors whom I believe to be lukewarm, but, if elected, I will take it that Shareholders realise the importance of building up a sound export trade for the years to come, and I will do my best to impress that view on the Board of Directors.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

**W. B. BRAY, Barry's Bay**

# Honey for Export

We are Buyers of  
Honey Packed for Export  
at Highest Prices.

Special Grade	-	-	1/2d. per lb.
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# New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Assoc., LTD.,

**A CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY FORMED FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF MARKETING HONEY  
AT HOME AND ABROAD.**

As a direct result of our organisation honey has increased in value four times during the last four years, the latest returns being  $1/4$ ,  $1/3$ , and  $1/1\frac{1}{2}$  per lb. nett in New Zealand.

The Australian Beekeepers are getting little or no advance on pre-war prices owing to their lack of organisation.

The best news we have, however, is that the net price to supplier shareholders is absolutely guaranteed for three years after the War at £60 per ton nett f.o.b. as against the guarantee of £37 per ton pre-war prices.

The immediate return from private firms will be much higher than our first advance. Our final payments, however, will be higher than that from other sources. Our payments to 1917 suppliers was 2d. higher than the best price paid by private firms.

Remember we have a splendid selling organisation in Great Britain which returns not only the very highest price now obtainable on the market but will handle and guarantee a permanent export market without which the industry cannot progress.

All the profits on the honey we handle is distributed amongst the suppliers as is done in the case of Dairy Companies.

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*H. W. Gilling, Chairman of Directors,  
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A stock has arrived. Early Application necessary.

2 lb Pots	-	29/-	per 100.
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The enormous prices now being obtained for Honey and the guarantee of £60 per ton for three years after the War is over makes bee-keeping one of the most profitable of agricultural pursuits.

You cannot do better than increase your production to the utmost limit of your capacity to handle the bees.

Do not wait till you want to use your hives and supplies before you order them. Remember that shipping space is difficult to obtain, and if you wait till September or later supplies may not arrive on time. You cannot afford to let your bees wait a day on delayed shipments. Decide now to increase your apiary and order your requirements without delay.

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