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E. A. Fay

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

OCTOBER 1st, 1918.

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



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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. 10

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 fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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EDITORIAL.

The question of apiary boundaries is still a burning one, and we do not think a workable scheme for the prevention of a beekeeper coming into another man's territory has yet been brought forward. We have already admitted that it was beyond us to attempt to frame a workable proposition to submit to the Department—that is, provided it was decided to do so. If it is decided that such a step should be taken, we should expect the Department to ask how far the alleged injustice existed, because it must be something that affects the whole length and breadth of the land if you are going to secure legislation to prevent this sort of thing. Now, we are not inferring that a very great injustice has not been done recently in the Thames and Te Aroha districts, where 700 hives have been put down in different spots, some being within half a mile of existing apiaries. But the point we want to come to is this: What grounds have we for asking for legislation to prevent this happening? Is it a general practice? Does it

occur every season in every district in both Islands? Is there an emphatic demand from all parts to have the practice stopped? We are bound to say, No. We can safely say that amongst the whole of our readers there are not ten who have complained, and even if we made it five times that number we feel that it would be useless to ask the Department to take any steps in the matter, because you must remember there are something like 4,500 registered beekeepers, and you are asking for a measure that will affect all these on the grounds that a few men are put to inconvenience and loss by others encroaching on what they consider their territory.

What is a man's territory? "As far as the bees fly," says one. How far does a bee fly, then? Who says? Dr. Miller says on another question, "Have we anything more than guessing?" which will apply here very well. It is taken as a general rule that if there is plenty of honey within a radius of three miles from the apiary, the bees do not go very much

beyond it; but if not, they have been known to go extraordinary distances. The farthest we have read is thirteen miles; so where does your territory end? We ask any of those who are asking for legislation to put themselves in the place of a member of Parliament who would bring in the measure and have to answer questions of about seventy men who are more troubled with blowflies than bees. Would he have anything really solid to go on? If the beekeepers themselves in conference cannot come to anything definite, how much less an outsider making a good case? The miner's license has been quoted as an example of protection, but there is this difference: the miner is on two legs (presumably), and his plot is marked by pegs; which if it does not yield the "necessary," he throws it up. But the bee is on wings, and if his recognised territory does not yield, he goes on until he comes to some that does, whether it is on somebody else's or not does not bother him. Our opinion is that you will never be able to make a case sufficiently strong for public opinion to see there is necessity for legislation on this matter.

These remarks are not intended to convey the slightest recognition of encroaching on existing apiaries being at all fair. We have previously stated our feelings on the matter, and, although anxious to do all we possibly can to stop this sort of thing, we feel that if the beekeepers themselves will not recognise the moral law, there is very little else that can be done.

We referred last month to the shortage which exists in the North Island of white pine for making bee supplies. Apparently there is no shortage in the south, as the Alliance Box Company write us that they have larger stocks than usual, and can execute all orders in rotation; but prices are considerably higher owing to the increased charges for milling and freight. This firm also has three shipments of appliances from America, and in many cases the freight is nearly double the cost of the articles, so all supplies will be very expensive this season. Another item of interest is that £25 worth of queens were ordered from Root's, which were brought over in the cabin of a friend, the boat being met at Wellington, the queens handed to another friend on the Lyttelton boat, and met there. In spite of all these precautions and the queens never seeing the inside of a mail-bag, they all were dead when handed over at Lyttelton. Hard luck!

We learn that the gentleman who was appointed to fill Mr. F. A. Jacobsen's place has been transferred to the South Island to work the Otago and Southland districts, so we have got an extra inspector. " 'Tis an ill wind," &c., &c.

Our printers are usually very correct, and print exactly as we write, but last month there were two errors. Editorial remarks, page 129, second paragraph, "agricultural,"

profession should read "apicultural." Page 133, second paragraph, delete last three words.

If any of our readers have a December, 1915, Journal they do not particularly want, we will give a year's free subscription for it. First come, first served. Copies of October, 1914, and July, 1915, will be given in return for August, 1917, by Mr. D. Collie, Taurau, Mataura.

We must ask our friends who receive a pink slip in their Journals to send the renewal subscription early in the month, as we are having only the bare number printed, and if the sub. is not received before the 20th of the month there is a great possibility of having to miss that issue altogether. The Journal costs too much nowadays to have any quantity above actual requirements printed.

Our Roll of Honour is again added to this month, in the fact that we have to record "Died of wounds" against the name of R. N. Gidley, of Christchurch. We are very sorry indeed that our bright young friend's life has been sacrificed; he was a good fellow and keen beekeeper. Our sympathy goes to his bereaved relatives.

Just as we are going to press we learn that Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, apiary instructor for the Auckland Province, has tendered his resignation, he having been offered a more remunerative position as manager of a commercial apiary syndicate. We are very sorry indeed to lose Mr. Westbrooke's services; he is a capable, practical beekeeper, an enthusiastic officer, and a good fellow to boot. We wish him every success in his new position.

How does this read?—"Just a line to inform you that a largely attended meeting was held on Saturday last, 14th inst., when between seventy and eighty persons enrolled as members of a Club for instruction in beekeeping. Since then I have had enquiries which go to show that there will be close on one hundred members. I think you should come up some Saturday and address them on behalf of the National and Journal. I am taking them each Saturday afternoon, and giving addresses and demonstrations on seasonal work.—G. V. Westbrooke."

Here again is evidence that a scheme of education and instruction has only to be put forward, and the people are just waiting for it. We hope the Waikato Branch will keep their eyes open on this, as Mr. Westbrooke will have to give up the class when he takes up his new position, and somebody will have to continue them, and it should be taken up by the National. The Waikato Branch has some very good men, who could carry on this work splendidly.

If your letter has not appeared, it is want of space.

Honey Market.—We have received the following information from the H.P.A. for publication:—The advance against store warrants on last season's honey will be increased by 2½d. per lb. on Light Amber, A and B; 2¼d. on B grade; and 1¾d. on C grade. This is on the understanding that the clause "without recourse" operates; but if the advance by the B. and D. is with recourse, the top price will be reduced ½d., and the others in proportion. No honey has yet been shipped. Head office is to be moved to Auckland, and a depot opened there as soon as suitable premises can be secured. A permanent plant for packing is to be designed and installed without delay. A depot is to be opened in Dunedin, making pat honey the principal package for the south. Experiments are to be conducted with pats in the North. Two grades or qualities of honey are to be packed, the H.P.A., of course, the standard. The standard is to be fixed, and a number of specially prepared test tubes are to be made, and every vatful is to be brought either up or down to the standard, as may be necessary. It is proposed to alter our present tin, and get a striking one, with a better design with less expensive colourings. The final payment for 1917 honey will be distributed at once, bringing the price for A and B grade Light Amber to 8¼d.; the others in proportion.

An Apology to Mr. F. A. Jacobsen.

Sir,

I have received a letter from your solicitors bearing upon certain remarks made by me in the September issue of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal.

The remarks complained of are that I stated you wrote a certain letter after you had secured your C-2 Certificate. Your solicitors state the true fact is that this was written previously to any alteration in your status for military service; therefore I very willingly apologise for having mis-stated the case.

Re your application for service in the Flying Corps.—Your solicitors state that you are still trying to secure admission to this Corps, which your physical disability would not prevent; therefore I tender you my apology for making light of your statement to me.

Re your transfer from Class A-1 to Class C-2.—Your solicitors state this was due to the fact that at the first examination an injury to one of your feet was overlooked, which on the second examination was discovered, and held by the doctors to render you totally unfit for general military service.

Therefore, my remarks about you evading military service are not true, and I apologise for having made them.

Yours faithfully,

FRED C. BAINES,

Editor.

The State Apiary and the Sale of Untested Queens.

By FRED C. BAINES.

In the September issue of the N.Z. Farmer Mr. L. Hopkins deals at great length with this matter, and is apparently very much concerned that the Department should have decided to sell these untested queens, as he says, *inter alia*:—"I am sorry to say the Department, by introducing commercialism and gambling into the supplying of queens," &c., &c.

Is the selling of queen bees a different sort of commercialism to selling cows, pigs, poultry, &c., by the Department, friend Hopkins? I do not think so; and as regards the gambling part of the business, I am inclined to think you have been a bit out in the choice of your word. If I send for a commercial commodity that is advertised—be it a queen bee or anything else—and get in return for the cash sent the thing I ordered, there cannot be any other element than a purely business transaction.

Mr. Hopkins states that he enquired the reason why these queens were again advertised, and was told that it was the demand for early queens; and after enlarging on this he says:—"The excuse put forward which has apparently influenced the Department in departing from its proper course is sheer nonsense, and inexcusable," and finishes up his article by stating:—"When the Waerenga State Queen-rearing Apiary was dismantled, I had 80 tested queens ready for those who wanted such early queens, so what becomes of the absurd plea of 'early queens' as an excuse for sending out what the Government will not and cannot guarantee as being the best it can raise? A pure piece of bungling from beginning to end."

Friend Hopkins, I like that sort of writing; you have something to say, and you say it. I am rather given to that sort of thing myself. But I say, old chap, are you really serious about those 80 queens? The registered lists of beekeepers show something over 4,000 beekeepers and 50,000 hives, and you say to them:—"It is all right, my friends; I can supply you with early queens; I have got—80!" You are pulling (I mean agitating) our limb.

Our old friend was quite satisfied last year that the Department was selling only tested queens; but what is a tested queen, anyway? Did you read what Dr. C. C. Miller had to say on this matter in *Gleanings*, July, 1918? It is most appropriate

Unchecked by life's experience,
Impulsive youth seems void of sense;
But fleeting time with sadness brings
A clearer view of many things;
We wiser grow in winter wars,
We learn the danger of delays;
We learn the wisdom, too, be sure,
Of taking Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

to this article, and as it is from one of the most experienced men in the world, it should be of use to us here.

J. E. Crane.—I'm quite in sympathy with you and Editor Root as to the matter of breeders and tested queens, page 234. You say, "A queen can hardly be fully tested in much less than a year." Isn't that a very moderate statement? The average queen that is sold as tested is born hardly later than August. In that same year you can tell practically nothing about what her bees will do at storing, and must wait till the close of the season the following year, and at that time she will generally be a year old or more. But I think it safe to say that 9 out of 10—I'm inclined to say 99 out of every 100—queens sold as tested are less than two months old when sold. And that's all right according to the agreed definition of a tested queen, which is, "A queen whose progeny show she has mated with a drone of her own race." According to that a tested queen need be only 21 days older than an untested one. But you and I would want a good deal more than that to satisfy us with regard to a queen fully tested. Yet there may be said to be something quite definite in the word "tested," as generally used. But when we come to the term "select," we're on uncertain ground. What is a "select tested queen," anyway? Suppose a man has 100 queens that have begun to lay, and the markings of their worker progeny show that each has met a drone of her own race. How many of them may be called select, and why? If the best looking one of the lot is chosen as select, the conscience of the seller would no doubt be easy. And it would be about as satisfactory if the best of the remaining 99 should be chosen. And would he keep on selecting the best one of the lot on hand until only one was left, thus making 99 out of the hundred, or at what point would he stop and say I have no more selects? The problem is too much for me.

With due deference, Dr. Miller, I agree. So, friend Hopkins, according to this great authority, there is a greater danger of the Department losing its good name by selling tested queens than untested, because the one goes out with a certain guarantee, and the other does not; and the fact that your tested queen was mated with a drone of her race does not indicate that you have anything beyond that, in spite of you paying extra money for her. According to Dr. Miller, even a year is a moderate length of time to test a queen, and yet you were satisfied last year that tested queens under two months old should be sent out; so where is the terrible bungling in selling untested queens without any guarantee?

My own opinion is that all testing should be done in one's own apiary, and my practice has been to buy untested queens from time to time to introduce new blood, and by observation on the necessary qualities for a breeder selected my tested queen.

Therefore, I cannot see where the Department is doing wrong in selling these early queens, and I feel it is giving help to the beekeepers at a very vital time by so doing.

I will agree with you, friend Hopkins, if you will add the words "as breeders" to your statement that the State Apiary "should only send out queens as can be guaranteed to be purely mated, healthy, and of a superior strain," and this need in no wise affect the question of selling untested queens.

But you will readily concede that in the selection of these breeders you are going to have a great number of queens that do not strictly "fill the bill," albeit they are very good queens. You must provide an outlet for the disposal of these, although they cannot come under the heading of breeders; but here again you are jeopardising the good name of the Department. In fact, you must kill every queen that cannot be shown to be "purely mated, healthy, and of a superior strain" if your contention is carried out.

Dr. Miller very aptly shows the position of the "select" tested business; it has always been a puzzle to me how the "selected" part was carried out. So I will finish this article with another statement of the doctor's as it bears upon queens:—"That queens lay more eggs during the first year than in any other" is spoken of as "a well-established fact," page 336. I wonder, now, I wonder! Some have thought they laid more the second year. Have we anything more than guessing, either way?

There is a good deal of guesswork about the whole business of queens; even your guaranteed queens sometimes throw a very decided cross. Who has not had a very dark queen hatch out of a batch of light-coloured Italians, proving that the mother was not all we thought her?

After the above was written we received the following from Mr. Hopkins:—

GOVERNMENT SUPPLYING UNTESTED QUEENS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—When you and I personally discussed this matter a short time ago and found our views were entirely different, we agreed to debate the question through the Journal, and leave your readers to judge the right from the wrong. In the first place, I emphatically maintain that the Department, in raising breeding stock of any kind for distribution, should have for its first object the general improvement of the strains already under cultivation, and any departure from this rule is entirely wrong and harmful. No argument about this, that, or the other should have the slightest weight against distributing from the Government farms the very best stock for breeding purposes the officers can raise. The commercial side of the question must be considered so far that the farms should receive full value for the stock, such as would be due to a private breeder for the same. The foregoing being my irrevocable opinion, upon which I base the whole of

my argument against the Department supplying queens that cannot be guaranteed either for purity of mating or for their value in any respect, I cannot but condemn the action of those who advised such a course.

In this connection it is permissible to state that in my annual report to the Department in 1908 the following occurs:—"Waerenga Queen-rearing Apiary.—In the course of my rounds among the bees I have been struck with the want of anything like uniformity among the queens with regard to such qualities as are desirable for the breeding of first-class honey gatherers. I feel convinced that the majority of the bees of the Dominion have deteriorated owing to the want of good breeding stock. It is with the view of correcting this that I have started the apiary, from which I hope to send out queens of a much higher standard than those in use at present. The better the queens the better the bees, and it follows as a matter of course the larger crops of honey." In the price-lists of bees and queens issued from the apiary, it stated in bold letters:—"No untested queens will be sold."

I will now endeavour to reply to your argument in favour of supplying untested queens, which when reduced to bedrock is the supplying of early queens, and this I understand in conversation with one of the inspectors is the point taken up by the Department. I would ask, in the first place, is the demand for early queens so great that it should influence the Department to depart from its proper course? In any case, it seems that neither you, Sir, nor the Department could have given the matter sufficient thought before making early queens your plea. Did you not know that tested queens can be obtained much earlier than untested ones? Look at Mr. R. Stewart's 1918-19 price-list, and you will see that he supplies "tested" queens from 1st October, and "untested" not till about 20th November—seven weeks later.

When the Waerenga State Queen-rearing Apiary was dismantled, I had 80 tested queens ready for those who wanted such early queens; so what becomes of the absurd plea of "early queens" as an excuse for sending out queens the Government will not and cannot guarantee as being the best it can raise?

Again, if untested queens are so urgently needed, have we not reliable queen-breeders in the persons of Mr. R. Stewart, Messrs. Hebley and Son, and Miss M. Shepherd, who supply them, without the Government entering into what is undoubtedly a gambling speculation. I do not blame private breeders for supplying them if they are wanted, but for the Department to do so is to humiliate itself in the estimation of all intelligent beekeepers. In this connection, I may quote the opinion of one of our leading beekeepers, who wrote me after reading my article on the subject published in this month's "N.Z. Farmer." He says:—"What you say is quite correct in the article re the improvement of the bees of the country; but the Department

does not appear to look at the question in the same light. I think had the Department carried out what is the desire of nearly every beekeeper of any standing and appointed a Chief Apiarist instead of going into the business of supplying untested queens, it would have shown some real desire to assist the beekeeping industry." With this I fully agree.

You speak of extra work for the person in charge and extra nuclei required for raising fully tested queens over what is necessary to raise untested ones. Again I think you have unhappily chosen your points for argument. I gather from your remarks generally that you anticipate a large trade will be done in untested queens, larger than in tested ones. Would not this, if it occurred, entail the most work for the same income? And do you not require the same number of nucleus hives for the same number of untested as for tested queens? Do not speak of the old-fashioned baby nuclei, please, as these are rapidly going out of date in first-class queen-rearing apiaries. An ordinary three-frame nucleus hive can be made about as cheaply as smaller ones, or an ordinary hive body can be partitioned into at least three nuclei.

Now, after the first reared batch of queens are tested, there would be no further waiting, as there would be others coming on in succession every day if needed; and it would be a jolly good job for the apiary if the business was such that very many hundreds of nuclei were required—the greater number the larger the income. Rather sanguine, I suspect.

Your query: "If mismated queens are not to be sold, what is to be done with them?" seems to me (without disrespect) an oddity. Why, let the Department make away with them, to be sure, not distribute them. If ever you launch out into commercial queen-breeding and you are conscientious in your dealings—which I am sure you would be (no flattery)—you would learn that culling of queens is one of the most important matters that must be strictly observed. No mercy; off goes the head of every queen that is not up to the mark. How can the Department know what it is sending out without testing? I do not blame private queen-breeders following the custom of supplying untested queens, but I maintain it is derogatory for the Department to indulge in a gambling speculation, for it is nothing else, to sell queens at about half-price on the chance of their being purely mated or of any value at all, and on such a flimsy pretext. It will be the fault of the Department in locating the Queen-rearing Apiary if the number of mis-mated queens is not very small. Mr. Stewart guarantees 95 per cent. of his queens to be purely mated. I would expect a very large percentage of queens reared at Ruakura to be mis-mated; what the district around the Tauranga Apiary is like in this respect I do not know.

As I cannot see any relationship between your illustration about killing calves and culling queens, I will leave that question alone.

Lastly, the testing for purity of mating should not on any account be the only test the queens are subjected to before being distributed by the Department. Their laying qualities at least should be tested, which would show their physical fitness as breeders; in fact, every precaution should be taken that none but those queens the Department can guarantee in every respect as worthy of cultivation should leave the apiary. No commercialism should enter into the business; but fair remuneration for time and trouble must be expected.

I must apologise for length of letter, but it was impossible to put the whole matter plainly before your readers in smaller space.—I am, &c.,

I. HOPKINS.

The Grading Schedule.

Mr. I Hopkins, in his notes and comments in the "N.Z. Farmer" on the recent Beekeepers' Conference at Wellington, has this to say:—

COLOUR IN GRADING HONEY.

I cannot understand how Mr. James Allan, or anyone else, can object to colour being one of the items in the official grading schedule for the classification of honey, when such honey is intended for a market where colour counts for so much. Having proved that grading on the lines laid down in our schedule has been of immense benefit to our industry, what advantage would there be in altering it? The honey would be just the same; if there were any cause for dissatisfaction we would soon hear about it from the other end of the transactions. Undoubtedly, other things being equal, light amber coloured honey fetches the highest price the world over, and if one is not fortunate enough to raise that class of honey, the grading schedule is not at fault.

Our grading being in the interests of our oversea trade, and that trade being confined solely with Britain, we would be doing wrong if, in classifying our honey intended for that market, we did not put in the leading class that in most demand and bringing the highest price. Turn to the advertising columns of any issue of the "British Bee Journal," where honey is required or to be sold, it is always "light" coloured honey that is mentioned—light amber. The late Mr. W. Broughton-Carr, who was the leading British beekeeper, and editor of the "Beekeepers' Record," in fixing a schedule of points for judging at shows, gave flavour, 8 points; colour, 6; consistency, or specific gravity, 6; uniformity, 3; condition, 3; aroma, 2; and get-up, 2, which was adopted. The total number of points here indicated are 30; converted into the 100 scale of our schedule (leaving out fractions), it would read thus: Flavour, 25; colour, 19; consistency, 19; uniformity, 10; condition, 10; aroma, 7; get-up, 7. Here we have colour, holding a very prominent position in the scale of points, not far below that of

flavour, and bears out my contention a short time ago that if any alteration in our own schedule were made, it should be to reduce the number of points allowed for flavour and add them to colour.

I would judge from the above that Mr. Hopkins misunderstands my position. I entirely agree that the classification should be done by colour. I think everybody does. What I object to is that, having classified the honey by colour, we should again give colour a place on the schedule. I do not think that once honey is classified by standard colours that it serves any useful purpose to take colour into further account. And I do think that so long as we can get satisfactory grading, the more simple we make our grade schedule the better. Were I in Mr. Broughton-Carr's place judging honey without any classification, I should certainly give colour as prominent a place as he does; and I feel just as sure that were Mr. Broughton-Carr in our place that, having classified by colour, he would have no further use for it.

I have neither time nor inclination to go further into this subject just now, but I have by me an article contributed to the "Otago Witness" just twelve months ago, which I enclose along with this to Editor Baines to deal with as he and the space at his disposal makes him think best. If he publishes it, I hope my clumsy humour will not hurt anybody's feelings. As for the schedule—well, I was out to hit it.

JAMES ALLAN.

THE GRADING OF HONEY FOR EXPORT.

[Otago Witness, Aug. 8, 1917.]

The writer has just received a grading note for two tons of honey graded for export, produced at Oakleigh Apiary. It was mid-season honey, the best of last season's crop; and yet, by the narrow margin of 1 point, it just missed going into C Grade. A Grade is special, B Grade is prime, and C Grade is good, whilst D Grade is fit only for manufacturing purposes. Our prime Oakleigh has got painfully near the bottom. I can, however, leave Oakleigh to look after its own reputation, and I have no wish to criticise the work of the grader. But I do feel that I must have a shot at something, so I want to turn attention to our grading system. At present we grade honey on the following schedule of points:—

Flavour	..	..	..	..	40
Colour	..	..	..	..	10
Condition	..	..	..	..	15
Grain	..	..	..	..	12
Aroma	..	..	..	..	8
Freedom from scum	..	..	..	..	10
Packing and finish	..	..	..	..	5
					—
					100

94 to 100 points is A, or special grade.
88 to 93 points is B, or prime grade.
80 to 87½ points is C, or good grade.

As is well known, honey has a great variety in colour. It can be had almost any shade from water-white to as dark as treacle. Each honey plant gives a nectar having its own peculiarities as to flavour and colour, and when the bees are working on several plants at a time, as is nearly always the case, the variety in shade is very great. It has, therefore, been found necessary to class the honey into four different classes before commencing to grade it at all. These classes are called white, light amber, amber, and dark. The first work, then, of a grader is to find the class to which the honey to be graded is to be put. Then he proceeds to grade it in accordance with the schedule given above. As an instance, the Oakleigh honey was classed light amber, and then it was graded as under: Flavour, 37½; colour, 9; condition, 13½; grain, 10½; aroma, 7; freedom from scum, 8; packing and finish, 3; and total of 88½ points, or just 1 point above C Grade. If the Dunedin produce agents would just take note of the discrepancy into which the honey has fallen, and not bother me for more supplies when I have none until next season, it would be all right. Now to work. The first thing that strikes one in connection with this schedule is the amazing number of qualities that honey has, and some that it has not got. There is flavour, colour (I suppose other than its class colour), condition, grain, and aroma, and the one it has not got—scum; and then the packing and finish. What strikes one is this: that if we could only have found four or five more qualities for it we could have automatically doctored all the samples about 1½ points for each, and thus got the honey down to manufacturing quality, and saved the expense of grading. As it is, unless a grader is going to admit that he has found perfection in some of the qualities already defined—which it is, I suppose, admitted he can never do—well, he can never have A grade. One point off each of the qualities on the schedule reduces the honey to B grade at once. The fact of the matter is that a grader may be perfectly honest in his work and yet reduce a first-class sample of clover honey to third grade—and that all because of the system on this schedule. While I give the Department credit for doing its very best in this matter, I cannot help feeling that it is amazing that, in the present condition of our market and in the urgency there is to encourage export, we have quietly drifted into a position which makes the grader a dread to even the producer of our finest clover honey.

I am not going to do all this criticism without making some suggestions. I would reduce the issues on the grade note to four in place of seven, as at present, as under:

Flavour and aroma	50
Condition and grain	30
Freedom from foreign matter	10
Packing and finish	10
—	—
	100

I have eliminated colour only, and grouped flavour and aroma and condition and grain. When the honey is classed according to colour, the advantage of having colour on the schedule is so small that it will be better to simplify by putting it out altogether. With regard to aroma, I think we can very well group this along with flavour, and probably the result will be that it neither gets nor requires any consideration. Then, as to condition, this is the one quality which comes in some measure under the beekeeper's control, and in controlling the condition he, to some little extent, affects the grain, so that here again the two qualities fit in to one another, and may be dealt with as one. That word "scum" should be eliminated from the schedule, and, instead, "foreign matter" should be the term. It is admitted that what is called scum is not scum at all, but a peculiarity in granulation that we have still to learn much about. When reliquified it is just the same as the bulk.

I make these suggestions honestly believing that they would lessen the work of the grader and enable him to give a truer estimate of the value of the honey, and not run the risk of putting honey that ranks with the very finest that can be produced into C grade. I hope the reader will forgive me for being parabolic; but, apropos of this subject, I visited the apiary and rapped at the front of a colony of Italians. An old drone came to the door. I asked for the queen. He said she was busy laying, and as the others were not very dependable I had perhaps better do my business with him. "Well," I said, "I have come about this schedule. You know in Wellington they found out that they could improve the quality of butter and cheese for export by grading, and now they want to improve honey. You remember how busy we were last January, how the honey came rolling in? Why, the scale gave one day put on 27 lbs. It was great. Well, in favour they have classed that honey as 37½, and they want it up to 40. What do you say to that?" "In the hive here, sir, we have a record of how, when Adam and Eve kept a little garden on the Euphrates, they had a colony or two of bees. There were some patches of white clover along the river, and the bees got on to that, and I can assure you the honey was 37½. We have not been able to improve it, and I am afraid we never will." "Well," I said, "what about the colour?" "It seems to me you have sorted out the colour very well. When Samson—that's the man who went for the Philistines—was down here he found a colony in an old lion's carcass. It had some fine honey in it gathered from buckwheat, but it was nearly black. Well,

All the fat people want to be lean.
All the lean people want to be fat;
It's hard to know what we all mean
Or where we all wish to be at.
But despite the dissension that holds
One decision of all will endure:
That the very best treatment for colds
Is Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

buckwheat honey is black yet; we can't alter it. I think the only thing you can do is to keep it in its right class." "The next items on the schedule are condition and grain; what about them?" "Ah! perhaps there is work for your grader there. You know that honey, when we bring it in, is very thin. We ripen it in the hive; but if you gather it before it is ripe, and if you allow it to draw moisture from the air and it begins to ferment—well, it serves you right if your grader comes down on it like a hundred of bricks. As to grain, we have none in the hive; we keep it all liquid." "Well, what about aroma?" "Aroma? What has he got that down to?" "Seven; the schedule says 8 is the right thing." "Well, sir, there is a nice apiary at Seacliff. You get the man who says it should be 8 promoted to the charge of that apiary. It is a nice district, and I am sure he will do very well there."

I wanted, as many other beekeepers have done, to find out about scum; but the old gentleman drone bowed politely and disappeared into the hive. He did not know about any such thing.

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—The Schoolmaster Abroad.—There can be no doubt that at last the National and its branches are beginning to arouse out of the dreamy sleep they have been so long indulging in. The awakening is seen in the determination to do something more than hitherto to attract new members, and so to lessen the vast number that have been standing out from the Association. The advantage of movable meetings, which I advocated some little time ago, is clearly shown in the result of the first trial of the Waikato Beekeepers' Association, the report of which appears on pages 139-40. Past experience undoubtedly shows that no progress can be made by the Associations while holding their meetings at long intervals always in the same place. The outcome of the trial should encourage other branches to do likewise.

Your suggestions re classes and judging tests are steps in the right direction, provided they are conducted on right lines, which I have no doubt they would be here in New Zealand. In remarking thus, I have in mind several holders of British beekeepers' certificates of competency as beekeepers whom I came across soon after landing in this country, when a few ques-

tions on practical beekeeping convinced me that the holders were deceived—they were at most as incompetent as a person who had never seen a hive of bees. It was not their fault; it was their misfortune that the course of instruction had not been better. I understand things have been improved of late in this respect.

I would suggest that the 'Crop Reports' would be much more useful if the district from which the reports come is stated. As they are published, it seems to me questionable whether they serve any useful purpose or not.

We differ as to the advisability of the Government trafficking in queens the Department cannot guarantee as being what is desired. I hold that it is the Department's duty in its scheme of stock-breeding (of whatever kind) for distribution to adopt as the chief project the improvement of strains. I believe this is the sole object with other animals, then why not in queens? I cannot see that you have put forward one point in favour of the stand you have taken that justifies the action of the Department.

I see, Sir, that you have not yet developed a pachydermatous hide; you are still sensitive to the cackling of those who measure everyone's actions by their own standard. I hope it will not be thought that, because I have strenuously advocated the appointment of a Chief Apiarist and advancement of salaries of our inspectors, I am after a billet; the 'screw' at present is not sufficient to tempt me to apply if advertised. I do not know, however, what I might do if the unexpected occurred, and the authorities raised the 'screw' to a sum commensurate to the work expected to be done. So look out, Mr. Editor; you may have competitors—or at least one!

August and September Numbers—Mr. Ward's Address.—I am pleased to see the Canterbury Branch of the National has made a move in the right direction, and I hope Mr. Ward's address on reasonable work in the apiary is the forerunner of many more such addresses. Mr. Ward has a very happy knack of clearly explaining the various operations in plain, homely language that the veriest novice cannot mistake.

Page 139-40—Waikato Beekeepers' Association.—It is gratifying to note that the result of the first experiment in what we may term the Association's peripatetic meetings was practically such an unqualified success. A large attendance at the several meetings for the first time was not to be expected; but new ground has been broken, and the fact that sub-branches at Te Kuiti and Te Aroha were formed, with the prospect of others being started, is a clear demonstration of what can be done by coming directly in contact with those we wish to gather into the co-operation fold. What about the traveller joke, Mr. Ward?

Page 140—**Traveller.**—Well, Mr. Ward, if what I said on this matter is really a joke, I am certainly unconscious of it, and yet I am not aware of any Scotch blood in my make-up. However, I am glad you enjoyed it. "What are we to do with Mr. Gilling?" you ask. Why, keep him where he is, to be sure; you could not get a better man; and if he can do the travelling, well and good. Both the National and the H.P.A. are complaining about so many beekeepers keeping out of the co-operative movement, and I suggest personal visitation as the surest way of roping them in. Mr. Barker's experience is a case in point. I did not suggest who should travel. I am aware the H.P.A. "is not a benevolent institution," which prompts me to ask if the National comes under the Charitable Aid scheme. Do you see this joke?

Page 141—**Bee-sting Poison.**—I was certainly not aware of being "much disturbed" over "Uomo Selvatico's" correction, as he remarks. I did not see anything to be disturbed about. I have no "pet" conviction (as he is pleased to term it) on the matter, and if my conclusion, founded upon experience, and which coincides with that of others, is proved to be incorrect, it would be rashness on my part not to repair the error. "Uomo Selvatico" admits the possibility in all cases of some of the poison entering "into the general circulation at once," so that by his own showing my statement is not entirely incorrect after all. It then apparently resolves itself into a question of the quantity of poison passing the obstruction into the circulation, or getting there before the barricade is set up, as to the severity of the effects upon the individual. That being the case, who can say how much or how little of the poison has entered the "circulation at once" in any particular instance? Although I did not say the whole of the poison entered the circulation at once, I cannot complain, owing to the assertion not being qualified in any way that "Uomo Selvatico" has put that construction upon it. Accepting it as the correct interpretation and that it is an error, then it is one of degree, not of fact.

Dadant, in his book recently published, has this to say, page 39: "The poison of the bee diffuses itself in the blood promptly."

I have nothing to say in reply to the second paragraph of "Uomo Selvatico's" letter, as the allusions contained in it are quite out of place, undignified and unexpected in a friendly discussion with a gentleman of one of the higher professions. Adieu!

Page 142—**Aptary Boundaries.**—I wish with all my heart that something could in all fairness be done to prevent such hardship as Mr. R. Whiting is labouring under. It is certainly very galling after one has done his best to clear and clean his district from box hives and disease to have

someone step in and while reaping the benefit of one's labour to do one an irreparable injury. While sympathising with our friend, I really cannot see, except on Crown lands, how anyone can be restricted from setting up an apiary on any land owned or leased by the apiarist. There is a moral and legal side to the question: the former is between man and man, and can only be settled between them; but the latter is between the individual and the State. The State, I presume, would say that one man's bees would have as much right to roam over the land as another's, and that there could be no legal claim of priority of rights over any district composed of private properties. The rents of all bee-farm sites (Crown lands) in Victoria have been increased from 1/- to 10/- since 1st July last.

[We should have added to your comments last month, Mr. "Critic," that Mr. A. V. Davis had been a subscriber for two months. We apologise for the omission.—Ed.]

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—OCTOBER

[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 the northern parts of the North Island it is quite possible that preparations for swarming will be found in the strongest hives, which is probably brought about by the queen becoming cramped for room. This should be remedied by placing an extra super of combs on the brood chamber, and if you take the two outer combs from this, putting these in the upper super in the centre, replacing them with empty combs placed about the third from either side in the brood chamber, you will give a check to swarming.

Another way to check this is to take a frame or two of sealed brood from your strongest hives, giving one frame to each of the weaker ones, and thus be equalising your hives for the honey flow. But you must not give any hive more brood than there are bees to cover it, else it would only become chilled, and die.

Keep a sharp look-out on the stores should a bad spell of weather come along, as now the hives are becoming strong the stores rapidly decrease. Feed if necessary with a syrup, two of water to one of sugar, fed warm in the evening.

F. C. B.

The big red lamp of Chemist Kent. Shone out along the rain-soaked street; While all within glowed warm and bright. In contrast to the pale sweet night. The customers were frequent, too. Kent still a steady trade could do; For wise was he and made that sure. By pushing Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

District Reports.

WAIKATO.

The organisation campaign undertaken last month by the officials of this Branch appears to have stirred up considerable interest in the outlying districts, and which we hope will continue to stir until all interested have been drawn under the wing of the National Association.

A general meeting will be held at Hamilton in the Public Bath Rooms, on Thursday, 10th October, at 10.30 a.m. The Committee will meet a little prior to the appointed time.

A meeting of the Te Aroha Sub-Branch was held on 31st August at Te Aroha, when a member was recommended for appointment as local inspector for the district.

The unfortunate position that has arisen in regard to apiary boundaries in that district has not at this date been settled; but we hope those that are most interested will be reasonable, and respect each other's interests, and thereby establish a precedent for all time.

A meeting was held by the Papakura Sub-branch on 6th September, and a good attendance resulted. Mr. N. P. Millett was appointed secretary, and several new members enrolled, while others have promised to become such. Another meeting is to take place early next month.

The Te Kuiti Sub-branch held a meeting on September 4th, and now this Sub-branch has quite a lengthy list of members. It was decided to hold a meeting on the first Wednesday evening of each month.

As regards the Rotorua district, nothing further has come to hand, so we take it they have not had a further meeting to date.

Remember the meeting, Hamilton, 10th October.

E. W. SAGE,
Hon. Secretary.

"CANTERBURY TALES."

By E. G. WARD.

In the March issue of the Journal I advised anyone who contemplated starting beekeeping to locate his apiary well away from a public road. I should like once more to offer the same advice, so that the same trouble I am being put to can be avoided by others. Readers will probably remember that I am in charge of Mr. Gidley's bees while he is on active service, and that there was an agitation started by some Lakeside residents to have them removed, on account of their fear of being stung when passing the apiary. I enlisted the goodwill of Mr. G. H. Barnett, of Leeston, and asked him to use his influence with the Ellesmere County Council, so that the bees might remain till Mr. Gidley's return. I pointed out the injustice and the expense it would entail, and Mr. Barnett took considerable trouble in trying to get the matter smoothed over. The matter has been before the Council several times, and the latest on record is

that Mr. Gidley's lawyer has been notified that they will allow the bees to remain on the reserve, but that they must be shifted further back some few chains from the road. There has been a good deal of newspaper correspondence on the matter, and feeling is strongly against the Council's attitude. Two gentlemen have written offering to pay the legal expenses if the matter is taken into court. Anyone knowing the habits of bees will clearly see that if they are moved only a few chains there is likely to be a considerable loss of bees. If the whole apiary of over 100 hives and a substantial corrugated iron honey-house has to be moved two or three miles, it will be expensive, and up to the present I have no idea where to get another location for them. In a letter I wrote explaining the situation, which was published in the "Lyttelton Times" on August 19th, I appealed for a suitable site from some patriotic person in the district, but up till the present no one has come forward. The root of the whole trouble, of course, is the fact that the average person is ignorant of the habits of bees, and is mortally afraid of a bee-sting. So far as I know, such a fearful calamity has not occurred as yet, but of course it is no use saying so, because the majority of people imagine that bees exist for the sole purpose of stinging peaceably disposed citizens (and country folks too), and that it is all very well for the beekeeper to say, "Let a bee be and it will let you be," because "the bees know him!"

Since the above was written I have received a wire containing the sad news that my friend Robert Northleigh Gidley had died of wounds on 2nd September. Alas! poor Bob! I knew him: "he was a fellow of infinite jest." I have lost a true friend, and shall miss him sadly.

I have not visited my apiary yet, but expect to wend my way there in a week or ten days' time.

The weather is getting more spring-like, and fruit bloom is coming on apace. It is quite a treat to hear the hum of the bees round about my home, and I am itching to be among them once more.

If anyone wants an early flowering shrub which is suitable for bee forage, by all means let him plant *Prunus Pissardi*. It is a picture every spring in Christchurch, and the earliest flowering shrub I know of, and the bees fairly revel on it. I do not know how it is propagated, but any horticulturist would supply the information.

Mr. Rentoul tells me that the first honey of the season in the Cheviot district began to come in early in the month, and Mr. McKnight says his bees were bringing in pollen from gorse, he thought, at least a fortnight earlier.

I received a kindly critical letter from Mr. P. Martin, Nelson. He referred to my article, "Facts about Frames," and described his method of wiring, which he thought was somewhat quicker and stronger than the usual three or four horizontal wires usually adopted. I think a similar method was described in "Gleanings"

within the last year, but as I have not yet tried it, I do not know if there is any advantage. In his method of wiring there are two horizontal wires and two diagonal, which are passed round nails bent with round-nosed pliers to form a hook after being driven through the end bars of the frame. He also asks, "Why groove the top bar to receive the foundation?" "Why not put the foundation in contact with the top bar and wax it there, minus the groove?"—Well, my reason for grooving is that I think there is a saving of time in the long run, because it takes but a fraction of time to run a groove with a circular saw, and a good deal of time can be wasted in fitting the top bar and edge of the foundation if either are uneven. However, after all said and done, everyone has my gracious permission to adopt whichever method he chooses, and good luck to him. Mr. Martin also says his bees appear to be getting considerable honey as well as pollen from gorse. Now who can say positively and give the evidence that gorse yields honey? I can only say my own experience is opposed to this view. I have not seen half a dozen bees on gorse in the whole of my beekeeping experience, and where bees are concerned I do not go about with my eyes shut. If gorse were to yield honey in my locality, I ought to be able to start extracting in November, for there are miles of hedges of it, but nary a drop of honey or I'm a Dutchman.

In the last issue of "Gleanings" the following paragraph appears:—"We have been properly enured this season by the middleman. He got the oyster and we got the shells. I do not mean myself particularly, but practically the whole fraternity was taken down.—Major Shallard, New South Wales, Australia."—Now, I want to ask those beekeepers who are not shareholders in the H.P.A. whether the above is not a splendid text for a sermon on co-operation? Where should we be were it not for the H.P.A.? Answer: In the same boat as Major Shallard and his fellow oyster-fishers. Surely the lesson is plain—join the H.P.A. and be your own middleman.

I have learned recently that there is a possibility that some members of the Christchurch Amateur Bee Club are likely to join in with the Canterbury Branch of the National. It appears that their Constitution provides that the Club is purely an amateur one, and as soon as a member sells honey his status as an amateur is gone, and he is presented with his walking ticket. Well, they will be welcome, I am sure, and we shall be able to say, "All's well that ends well."

I see that the packing department of the Red Cross Society in Christchurch have despatched sixty-nine cases of honey, valued at £386, to the New Zealand Red Cross at Southampton. It is pleasing to know that our boys are remembered by honey producers, and I take the liberty of reminding readers that honey is greatly appreciated by the soldiers. Let us all save some for them. They are risking their all for us.

Answers to Correspondents.

Otago.—(1) You will find the instructions for converting the Baines melter to use with steam in an article in the May, 1918, issue, written by Mr. C. S. Hutchinson, who backs it against all other similar appliances. (2) My own method is when the brood chamber becomes at all crowded to lift the two outside combs which usually contain only honey into the super, putting two empty combs in the brood chamber, usually about the third combs from either side. The queen very often uses some of the combs in the first super, but not always, and if there is brood there when extracting time comes, these are left on until the flow is over and the brood hatched out. Excluders are excellent for avoiding this, but whether there are not compensating disadvantages is a point not settled. Try a given number, with and without excluders, and let me know the result.

E. P. (Christchurch).—Write Mr. A. B. Trythall, Government Farm, Ruakura.

A. A. D. (Spotswood).—Cannot give you information re lacquer. Boiled linseed oil applied with a rag is all that is necessary. Thanks for kind remarks.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

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H. BRYANS,
Kopuaranga, Masterton.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Since writing my last letter about apiary boundaries and the need for legislation that will protect the beekeeper from ignorant men and from unprincipled sharks, there has come to my notice the most glaring and aggravating case of overlapping that one could imagine. A neighbour beekeeper of mine, who devotes the whole of his time to our profession and who is a credit to it, woke up one morning to find that a man (?) had placed three apiaries on top of him. One is about three-quarters of a mile (as the bee flies) from his home yard on the one side; another is about one mile from him on the other side; while another has been placed within half a mile of his only out-apiary. Now, Sir, this illustrates the one weak spot in our industry, and emphasises the imperative need for legislation to rectify it. I notice that Conference again waived the matter as being too difficult to tackle; but, Sir, to use and add to your own very apt analogy, what would have happened if Britain had said that German aggression was too difficult a matter to ston? The injustice of it all should be an incentive to us to deal with the problem, however difficult. But, Sir, the reforms which I (and others too, it seems) are advocating are not so difficult to apply as Conference fears—that is, if they are understood. To put the matter concisely, first let us put it negatively:—

1. We do not wish to bar people other than commercial beekeepers from keeping a few colonies for their own use.

2. We do not wish to occupy ground (dog-in-manger fashion) which we do not intend to fully exploit.

3. We do not desire to monopolise a greater area than is necessary to yield a comfortable living and keep a man employed.

Now for the positive side:—

1. We do claim that if a man ventures into a certain locality, and finds it worth while to build a home and establish an up-to-date apiary and plant, he should be encouraged and protected by the State, because he is bringing revenue to the State, and because he is harvesting wealth which would otherwise be absolutely lost.

2. We claim that the stupid practice of overlapping occasions twice the work and expense for the same "yield," which means a loss both to the individual and the State, when so much area is as yet unexploited.

3. We think that as this is such a vital matter to all established men and to returned soldiers and all others who desire to enter the profession, our National Beekeepers' Association should endeavour first of all to arrive at what it considers a fair radius for an apiary, and then use what powers it has to secure its members against the intrusion of ignorant or designing men.

Perhaps, Mr. Editor, it might be said our Association has no such powers; but I would suggest that a few old axioms could be kept in the Journal as a guide to the beginner. I admit, however, that the wilfully covetous present a tougher problem, but I see nothing in the foregoing principles which would prevent us working a scheme of Beekeepers' Rights, much on the same lines as miners' rights operate. A miner has the right to dig for gold on property which another man owns and farms; but if the miner fails to work his claim the State no longer protects him, and he thereby forfeits his rights. The same could apply to beekeeping; if a man does not stock his area reasonably, or show plainly his intention of doing so, he should forfeit his rights, except under abnormal circumstances, such as "away at the front," in which case he deserves protection. On the other hand, a man who does stock his area should enjoy the same protection as the miner.

It seems to me that without such legislation the beekeeping industry will never be quite satisfactory, and, further, the selling of apiary sites to returned soldiers or anyone else is simply a farce.—I am, &c.,

CHAS. F. HORN,

Te Aroha, 14/8/18.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In the August Journal Mr. Hallett asks for information re the successful growing of sweet clover. I imported 20 lb. of yellow and white clover from Dadant's, America, after reading glowing reports in *Gleanings* recommending it as a great honey-producing plant. The ground, which was of a stiff clay sub-soil, was well limed before sowing. The first season it flowered profusely, and was covered with bees. I have had no experience with it on roadsides, but noticed a

very rank growth of it on the reclamation works in Lyttelton some years ago, and presumed it was brought from America on some of the sailing vessels. I think it would grow well in river-beds, as the soil is naturally sweet and free from acids, which is the ideal conditions for clovers.

I was hoping to try a few long idea hives this season, and would then give my experience of them.—I am, &c.,

W. WATSON.

Geraldine, 9/8/18.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—That banquet 'misty,' 'fuddled' No. It was a tragedy—a comedy—a revelation: A tragedy as depicted upon some few responsible faces; a comedy, from the official table down to the cook's domain; a revelation (softly) of the attitude of mind in the home life of each individual when dinner is late. That photograph taken by the camera was unreal; the true one is engraved upon the minds of those whose eyes were open to other things besides eating and drinking. We would not have missed that luncheon for anything. Next Conference we hope to see the other side—"How beekeepers behave when dinner is ready." "But Mr. Kirk kept on smiling."—I am, &c.,

NEBAT.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Would you kindly hand this letter on to the Government. The cause of this social unrest and demand for higher wages seems to me to be that we eat too much, and not according to our salary. We were all disappointed that the Department did not grant us our request for a Chief Apiarist, and I would suggest that in appointing such officers in the future they affix thereto a dietary schedule suitable to the same, something after this style:—Hoads of Departments, Presidents, &c., beef (first cut), all delicacies in season, champagne or claret, cigars, &c.; Editors and such like, sandwiches, brandy or bovril, tripe and onions on Sunday, or fish diet; coal-miners, bread, cheese, navy-cut tobacco, beer; Sunday, beef or mutton (second cut), dog fish or shark when procurable. Inspectors, bread and dripping, Adam's ale, cheese occasionally, and honey when donated by beekeepers; Sunday, bacon and eggs (when they can get them). I am, &c.,

ONE OF THEM.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—About two years ago we made some hives from benzine and kerosene cases, following the instructions (to a certain extent) given in Bulletin. The result was we had various sizes; a super would be half an inch more or less than lower storey, forming a ledge that caught the rain; frames in some would be touching the bottom-board, leaving no bee space below. There were also other faults, all caused by my omission to notice that the cases vary in size. As a warning to other amateurs, let me say that I have found by experience that the original kerosene and benzine cases vary in length, breadth,

depth, and also thickness of timber. We are making some hives now on the same lines, but take the precaution to measure every piece of timber used, then pack or saw as required, endeavouring to get a uniform outside measurement of the bodies, the measurement being 20 1/4 in. x 16 in. We have found the plan for taking original cases to pieces, described in Journal (April number, page 50), a good one; it reduces the splitting and damaging to a minimum.—I am, &c.,

D. C.

Wainuku, 1/8/18.

A SPECTATOR'S VIEW.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—New Zealand has the finest bee diseases Legislative powers there are, and the rottenest administration of them on earth. Scant administration is the foul-brood of Legislative powers. Cut your pride if it stinks. British Columbia has the rottenest foul-brood law on earth, and the finest administration of it known. Queer, isn't it, how the infinite variety of the British character invites the acceptance of extremes. Recruits ever welcome to share the sheltering wings!—I am, &c.,

M. ATKINSON.

Fakenham, England.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—As I have been ordered to camp with the October draft, I am obliged to ask you to discontinue sending the Journal when the current subscription expires. Meanwhile still continue sending it to the old address. Please also cancel my membership of the National Beekeepers' Association. Thanking you for all the help I have received from your bright and instructive paper, and wishing you every success in the future,—I am, &c.,

A. W. WESTNEY.

Mangere, Auckland, 14/8/18.

[We are sorry to lose you, friend Westney, and trust you will come through all right, and be amongst us again.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The extract which I enclose herewith is taken from an article entitled "Beekeeping and the War," which appeared in a recent issue of "The Scientific Monthly" (New York). The article comes from the pen of Dr. E. F. Phillips, of the U.S.A. Bureau of Entomology, and although not written for bee specialists, it is worthy of their consideration.—I am, &c.,

M. CABLE.

I would also like to congratulate you on the great improvement of the Journal since under your control.—W. B. W., Maxwelltown.

I have just received a label from one of my 2-lb. honey tins. The label was removed from the tin of honey by a friend in the front line in France. I am informed that honey sent in 2-lb. tins arrives in first-class condition, and is greatly appreciated.—M. P. Millett.

WAITING.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In an article on "Commercial Bee-Farming" in the N.Z. Farmer, 1918, page 233, the Association's quotations for honey are given as

First grade, £150 per ton.

Second grade, £135 per ton.

Third grade, £125 per ton.

(The writer of this article even goes so far as to mention that some beekeepers may raise their output to 30 tons per 100 hives!)

I read a piece of poetry some years ago now in a Yankee newspaper, which ran—

"Sometimes the feeling strikes me

To get out among the trees,

Say good-bye to work, and

How-di-do to all the bees;

And wander down the country lanes,

And watch the roses grow;

And let my mind trail down the track

That leads to long ago."

Now, what greater pleasure, these busy spring days, than to take a few minutes' leisure under the trees—the weeping willow trees—and hear the merry old hum—"indications of activity." Why, yes! Back to work you go, think of the roses growing, and all the hoped-for prosperity which is going to keep the little home going. The verse ends:—

"It's pleasure, yes, it's pleasure,

Until something whispers low,

'What yer goin' to do, old feller,

When yer hair's as white as snow?'"

Why, the answer is—Still keep looking for the long-anticipated bonus from the H.P.A!

—I am, &c.,

HUGH C. JONES,

Pirongia.

6th September, 1918.

[You're a wag, Hugh!—Ed.]

We received the following copy of letter addressed to the Department:—

[Copy.]

Edmond J. Berry, wholesale dealer in maple and honey.

219 8th Avenue N. East,

Calgary, Alta,

Canada,

15th June, 1918.

Minister in Charge,

Department of Agriculture & Commerce,

Wellington.

Dear Sir,

Will you please put me in touch with a reliable honey producer? I am open to buy first-class quality white clover extracted honey in carload lots (12 tons), providing price is right. I want only the finest quality. Kindly mail samples about 1 lb.; quote best cash price and terms (no charge for containers) f.o.b. steamer at port in New Zealand, these steamers calling at Vancouver, B.C., or near by American port. State kind package honey is put up in, quantity you can furnish. Honey to be guaranteed pure, and equal to sample, and net weight to hold good. Can you advise insurance rates? Awaiting reply,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) EDMOND J. BERRY.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re Benton capping and comb honey reducer. Does this melter darken the honey at all or affect the flavour? I should also like to know does Mr. Benton cut the combs down to the foundation with an ordinary uncapping knife? The system he uses for clarifying honey may work in most localities, but not in this district, as the honey is so thick that particles of wax will—shall I say stick to the honey? It is very gratifying to know one takes no chances when buying the Benton capping and comb reducer, for if it does not give satisfaction he will refund the money. Evidently Mr. Benton is a business man and knows well that his patent is something worthy of its name. Some eighteen months back I noticed an advertisement in a farm paper advertising a capping melter as the only good one on the market, etc.; cash with order. I wrote the manufacturer, asking him if he would forward me his melter on the following conditions:—"If your melter is as good as it is advertised, I will forward you cheque within fourteen days of receiving same, and would pay all freights and expenses one way only if not satisfactory, and guarantee to send it back in good order." The reply promptly came back:—"I regret that the demand is so great that I can scarcely supply those ordered cash with order." Needless to say, I never ordered one.

So, Mr. "Critic," you, like some other writers, give that patent hive man a bad spin. Now, I am pretty thick-headed. I fail to see the difference between patenting a hive, or, say, a capping melter, or many of the patent things in connection with the bee business.—I am, &c.,

A. L. LUKE.

Awakou, 17/8/18.

P.S.—The season will be at least two weeks later this year, owing probably to the exceptionally heavy frosts experienced during the winter in this locality.

The Bee and Its Efficiency.

In a year of prosperity a colony of bees consumes for its own use a great amount of honey, the amount having been variously calculated at 200 lbs. to 600 lbs. The lower estimates doubtless obtain only for weak colonies, and the average amount may be placed conservatively at 400 pounds. While the bees are gathering this for their own use, they are perhaps providing 50 lbs. additional, which the beekeepers may take, making the estimated total gathering of the colony 450 lbs. An apiary of 100 colonies will frequently on this estimate gather 22½ tons of honey in a season. This comes from a territory included within a radius of about two miles. While the beekeeper harvests only a meagre 2½ tons, the total of 22½ tons has been produced by the nectar-producing plants in that area. This, it should be remembered, is

sugar produced in a region where most persons would not recognise the presence of any sugar production. To assure the sceptical reader, it may be stated that there are often apiaries where the average yield of surplus honey is over 200 lbs., this being the honey which the beekeeper takes for his own use. Yields of 600 lbs. to the colony have even been recorded for unusual circumstances. It is conservative to state that there is produced every year in nectar-producing flowers of the United States more sugar than is consumed by the American people. Obviously, since the bees consume so much, only a small part of this vast wealth can be conserved for human food. The honey bee, so often compelled to serve as an example of industry, does not appear as an efficient collector of human food when its necessary consumption is recalled. However, any agency for the conservation of this vast sugar supply must be one which is ever on the alert, since the nectar is so soon lost after it is produced. No agency other than the honey bee has yet been found which will save any of it for the use of man. The honey bee is still, after years of human care, in no sense a domestic animal. Its reaction to the external stimuli are, so far as known, what they were when cave-men first robbed them of their honey. Man has by selection in breeding changed the colour of the abdominal bands in certain strains of Italian bees, and he has selected those which are less inclined to sting; but no progress has been made in any fundamental changes of bee nature. The successful beekeeper

is, therefore, of necessity a student of bee behaviour, so that he may adopt the activities of the bee to his ends. He has learned that by providing the proper conditions he may not only increase the gathering power of the bees, but also have a large part of the honey stored in such shape that he may take it. He has also learned that by attention he may reduce swarming, thus preventing the bees wasting their energies in making more colonies when he desires honey rather than more bees.

Bee behaviour is a complex subject, and one of impelling interest if properly presented; but it is so far from the type of study necessary for other branches of agriculture that an insufficient number of people have taken up the work with sufficient thoroughness.

No effort need be made to induce more people to keep bees; rather an effort might be made to induce half or more of the present bee owners to sell their bees to good beekeepers in order that the bees might be enabled to produce a crop with the proper care.

"I've been stung by one of your confounded bees! I demand repatriation!"
"Certainly, old man. You just show me which bee it was, and I'll punish the horrid thing severely."—Australasian Bee Journal.

I would like to say how much I admire the way in which you have conducted the Journal, which I know has been of benefit to everyone. I always look forward with pleasure to its arrival every month.—
J. H. H. Herotiu.

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.	MURDO MCKENZIE, Dunrobin. Killed in action.
L. D. CARTER late of Springfield. Invalided home.	W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.
E. A. DENNIS, Glenroy.	JAMES IRVING, Albury.
W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs. Invalided home.	R. M. HAMILTON, Ettrick.
S. R. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed in action.	A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.
R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch. Died of wounds.	JAS. MARSHALL, Maungatua.
J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch. Awarded D.C.M.	C. BEAVAN, Waibao Downs
F. L. HOLMES, Phrongia.	D. CRAWFORD, Watkoikoi. Killed in action.
T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.	R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged: re-volunteered.
R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.	S. G. HERBERT, Ruawai.
R. S. HUTCHINSON, Hamilton.	F. W. LUNT, Addington.
J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.	J. MORGAN, Dannevirke. Killed in action.
G. R. WILLIS Pukekohe.	H. SQUIRES, Hawera.
A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Christchurch.	ALEX. MAITLAND, Otari. Killed in action.
A. CURTIS, Porowhita.	A. R. BATES, Kaponga.
W. G. DONALD, Brookside.	C. E. QUATRE, Russell's Flat.
E. N. HONORE, Otakeho.	G. HARRISON, Waipahi.
J. JEFFERY, Opoitiki. Died in Egypt.	H. W. McCALL, Wallace town. Killed in action.
R. B. ARMSTRONG, Opoitiki.	F. I. SHAW, Domett. Killed in action.
G. ROGERS, Opoitiki.	D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North.
C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action.	E. CLARK, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded.
P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action.	M. J. DORBING, Moerinsville.
G. NAPIER, Alfredton.	H. R. PENNY, Okajawa.
N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton. Killed in action.	C. L. GRANT, Rockville.
W. J. JORDAN, Ngauruwhaka.	C. L. GRANT, Dannevirke.
G. SQUIRES, Fairview.	BEST BROS., Dannevirke. Invalided home.
	E. OMUNDSON, Dannevirke. Reported missing.
	E. PALLANT, Dannevirke.
	R. G. EAGLE, Gordonton

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No. 1 Custom St. West, Auckland.

Owing to the impossibility of shipping any HONEY from New Zealand at the present time, it has been necessary for us to suspend our buying operations meantime. Owing to the absence of shipping facilities we cannot export, and consequently cannot buy for export, but as soon as it is possible to obtain shipment, we shall be Buyers on the above terms.

New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Assoc., LTD., HAWERA.

Record Payments for Honey.

We are now bringing payments for 1917 honey up to the following prices:

Light Amber	-	-	8 1-3d.	per lb.
Medium Amber	-	-	7 7-24d.	"
D.A. & C. Grade	-	-	6 1-4d.	"

We are also making a further payment on 1918 honey, bringing the payment to date as follows:

Light Amber	-	-	8d.	per lb.
Medium Amber	-	-	7d.	"
D.A. & C. Grade	-	-	6d.	"

Join now and share the benefits of Co-operation. Our shares are becoming more valuable every day.

Share Application Forms can be obtained on application.

H. W. GILLING,
Manager.

BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLIES

A Large Stock of the well known
ALLIANCE HIVES & SUPPLIES
 is ready for distribution.

The Price of Honey being high, and fixed high, it
 will pay you handsomely to increase your Apiaries
 this Season.

Send your Orders direct, or to
 our Agents without delay.

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD.

P.O. BOX 572

DUNEDIN

(AGENTS EVERYWHERE).

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of

ITALIAN QUEENS.

PRICES—

	1	2	3	4	5
Untested	7/-	12/6	18/-	23/-	27/6
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
Tested	12/-	21/-	28/6	37/6	45/-
Select Tested .. .	15/-	28/-			
Breeders .. .	25/-				

Queens guaranteed free from all disease, and bred from Pure Stock, which have
 been selected for hardiness, disease-resisting, good working and non-swarming qualities.

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

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

P.O. Order Office, Tapanui.

Tested Queens for delivery from October 1st; Untested from about November
 20th to the end of March, 1919.

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

POSTAL ADDRESS:

R. STEWART,

CROOKSTON, OTAGO.