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Ed. A. Fair

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NOVEMBER 1st, 1918.

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



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 11

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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All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to
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EDITORIAL.

In the August issue we had a pamphlet inserted in the Journal drawing attention to the National Association, and appealing for a larger membership. The result so far reminds us of a picture we saw some years ago, in which was an angler and a looker-on gazing at the sportsman from a bridge just above, who asks the angler, "What luck?" "Not bad!" says the latter; "I've lost my hat, broken my rod, and haven't caught any fish; but I've got my return railway ticket!" Our luck in fishing for members is that we have not secured enough to pay the cost of printing the pamphlet, but it will not be an absolute dead loss, so we can say with our angling friend, "Not bad!"

We learn that Mr. S. C. Rhodes has been appointed officer in charge of the Queen-rearing Apiary at Tauranga at a salary of £190-220. As far as we can learn this appointment was advertised only in the

Public Service Circular, appearing therein on August 1st and 17th, applications closing on August 22nd. We do not think there is sufficient publicity given to these appointments; there is very little chance of the rank and file of beekeepers seeing the Public Service Circular, and it is a fact that the date for applications had closed before certain of the Apiaries Division knew the appointment was being advertised. We think the Journal should be the medium for advertising positions connected with the industry, as there are very few men capable of taking a Government position who are not subscribers.

By these remarks we do not in any way infer that Mr. Rhodes would not have obtained the position had greater publicity been given to the appointment. Mr. Rhodes is a young and enthusiastic beekeeper, with experience in both islands, and we have no doubt he will give a good account of himself in his new position.

In the early part of last month the apiary instructors received the pleasing information that their salaries would be

increased to the maximum (£260) from the 1st October. In June last the maximum was £220, which, owing to representation by the National, was increased to £260, and owing to further representation the inspectors received the whole increase in three months. This is very satisfactory, as it brings these salaries up to a reasonable figure, compared to what the inspectors could earn outside the Department, and there can be no doubt that the maximum will be made higher, so that these gentlemen can still look forward to advancement. We think we can reasonably claim to have been one of the chief means of bringing about this much-needed improvement; but there is no possible doubt that had it not been for the existence of the newly-formed Auckland Beekeepers' Club there would not have been the immediate improvement. These good people had had two lessons from Mr. Westbrooke, when they were informed that he would be leaving the Department owing to inadequate salary, and consequently the class would not be continued. Now, there are some pretty live members in this Club who were not going to sit still and do nothing to prevent the industry losing the services of a man like Mr. Westbrooke, so they called an indignation meeting, and invited the Press. On 23rd September the New Zealand Herald published the report of the meeting, and gave a sub-leader on the matter (both of which appear elsewhere), with the result as stated, that in the first week in October the salaries of all the inspectors were increased. Owing to this improvement we understand Mr. Westbrooke has reconsidered his resignation, and will remain in the service of the Department.

In the September issue we referred to the military distinction that had been gained by our young friend Mr. J. Sillifant, of Christchurch. Therefore, we are very grieved to learn that he has since made the supreme sacrifice, having been killed in action. We desire to express our very deep sympathy to his parents and family in their sad bereavement.

Have you noticed how the National and its Branches are showing signs of renewed life? At all the sub-branches recently formed in the Waikato, meetings for instruction are being held, field days being arranged, and there is a general air of business about them. A new Branch has been formed in the Clutha district, and we believe a further Branch will be formed in the vicinity of Ross (Westland) in the near future. Then there is the Auckland Beekeepers' Club, the members of which are all in favour of becoming a Branch, and it is only a small question of ways and means before it is an accomplished fact. This is very satisfactory, and if we can only sustain the interest the industry is going to be a power in the land, and the National its mouthpiece.

Page 157, October issue: The extract referred to by our correspondent is "The Bee and Its Efficiency," which appears on page 158.

The Honey Market.—We have been asked the following question: Is it a fact that a supplier who uses petrol tins for exporting his honey is penalised one point for so doing, even if both tins and cases are all that could be desired, beyond being second-hand tins? The answer is: Yes; the Department having decided this "in view of the unfairness that would otherwise be created in the case of a supplier who had gone to the trouble and expense of new tins in which to pack his honey for export."

This decision emphasises the necessity of a slight alteration in the grade note, else the package is going to put the honey in a different grade, to the supplier's loss. For instance, two suppliers, one with new and the other with petrol tins:—

	New tins. Petrol tins.	
Flavour	37	37
Colour	9	9
Condition	13	13
Grain	10	10
Aroma	6½	6½
Freedom from scum	9	9
Packing	3½	2½
	88	87
	(B Grade)	(C Grade)

Therefore, the supplier using the petrol tins is going to lose £10 or more per ton on his honey, because he lost an extra point on his tins and cases. This should not be, as the H.P.A. is buying honey, not the packages. This sort of thing could be easily avoided by having the points gained by the honey totalled by themselves and the packing points added afterwards. Thus:—

Flavour	37
Colour	9
Condition	13
Grain	10
Aroma	6½
Freedom from scum	9
	84½
Packing	3½
	88

And the grades would be:—A, 89 to 95; B, 83 to 88½; C, 75 to 82½; D, 60 to 74½ for the honey only, and on these figures the grader stamps the cases.

At present the grader must stamp the cases the grade determined by the points gained, including packing, and although we believe the H.P.A. has advanced the upper grade price in cases where the packing has put the consignment in a lower grade, the fact remains stamped on the cases, and if you attempted to explain to an English buyer that although your cases were stamped B grade the honey was really A grade, he would

not listen. He would say, quite naturally: "Look here, if the honey was A grade, it would be stamped so by the grader; but it is stamped B, and there's an end of it!" The H.P.A. honey is not sold in the open market, but honey is leaving the country outside their hands, and this is usually sold at auction. The auctioneer would give particulars of the parcel from the Government grade note—so many cases graded light amber 93 points B grade. But it is easily possible that the honey gained sufficient points to place it in A grade, and the packing is responsible for placing the honey at a lower market value, although as a matter of fact the package is quite a good one, and the honey is not a whit the worse for being so packed. Our opinion is that the grade should be determined on the points gained by the honey alone: the package should not enter into the question at all. Every beekeeper who exports honey knows the necessary package, and if he does not take the trouble to follow the regulations, then the grader should refuse to pass the consignment, and you may be sure the supplier would not have a second consignment refused.

Books received.—"Practical Queen Rearing," by Frank C. Pellett. Published by American Bee Journal, Hamilton, Illinois, U.S.A. This book is a collection of the different systems used by the most prominent queen breeders in the United States and Canada, rather than a new line of working. The various races of bees are dealt with, and the general conditions attaching to successful queen-rearing are touched upon. A useful addition to the commercial apiarist's library.

The Editor would appreciate the return of any August and September issues that are not wanted. One or two of these copies went astray in the post, and are wanted.

The Auckland Beekeepers' Club.

Attention was drawn last month to the formation of the above Club, which had been brought into existence by the efforts of Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, apiary instructor for Auckland Province. On the invitation of Mr. Westbrooke, Mr. F. C. Baines, secretary of the National; Mr. E. W. Sage, secretary of the Auckland Provincial Branch; Mr. H. W. Gilling, manager Honey Producers' Association, were present at the meeting on 12th October. There were over 100 persons present, and the class is held on the roof of the building, there being a number of hives of bees, so

that actual demonstrations at the hives can be seen and explained. Mr. Westbrooke had the previous Saturday treated one of the hives for foul-brood, and was able to show the second manipulation. It was surprising to see how the bees had done so well in the heart of a city, there being plenty of honey and pollen in the combs made from starters, and the queen had been quite busy.

The instruction that afternoon was on wiring frames, fitting with foundation, and embedding the wires; also the folding of sections, &c.

After the instruction was over, Mr. Baines spoke to the students, congratulating them on the number and enthusiasm of their class, also on the fact of having such an able man as Mr. Westbrooke for a tutor. He explained his object in addressing them was to lay before them the objects and aims of the National Association; also to bring before their notice the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal.

Mr. Sage spoke of the advantages of organisation, suggesting the Club form itself into a sub-branch of the Auckland Provincial Branch.

Mr. Gilling explained that although at present the students would not be very interested in the selling end of the business, it was satisfactory for them to know that there was no possibility of over-production in honey, or a fall in price owing to glutted markets, as the co-operative movement amongst the beekeepers was very strong, and they were thus able to regulate the supply to the demand of the local market, and export the balance at the very best prices ever offered to beekeepers.

Mr. I. Hopkins, who happened to call in, was, of course, called upon to say a few words, which were listened to very attentively.

A hearty vote of thanks to the speakers was carried with acclamation.

There appears to be every chance of this Club becoming a branch of the National, and the Editor secured seventeen new subscribers to the Journal.

BEEKEEPERS' PROTEST.

DEPARTMENTAL APATHY.

INADEQUATE PAY OF OFFICERS.

(N.Z. Herald, September 23, 1918.)

The attitude of the Government to the beekeeping industry was criticised at a meeting of the Auckland Beekeepers' Club on Saturday afternoon. The discussion centred round a statement by the acting-chairman that there was a possibility of the apiary instructor at Auckland, Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, resigning to accept a position at a higher salary outside the

Department. The Club has recently been formed, and Mr. Westbrooke is gratuitously giving members instruction once a week. There are nearly one hundred members, including professional and amateur beekeepers, and a number of returned soldiers and others who are prepared to put their capital into the industry when they have gained practical experience.

It was resolved to send a protest to the Government against the inadequate salaries paid to apiary instructors. The maximum is £260 a year, and members expressed the opinion that it was absurd of the Department to expect to retain the services of qualified men at that salary. Apiary instructors have to act also as inspectors and graders, and the success of the industry depends largely on their efficiency. As a beekeeper with far less knowledge and experience could expect to make more than the salary of an instructor, it was contended that the maximum salary should be raised in order to retain the services of qualified men at a time when beekeeping showed signs of rapid expansion. A number of returned soldiers—some of them incapacitated for harder work—have sunk sums varying up to £600 in the industry this year, and others are training themselves for it. The meeting considered the Government should be increasing the staff of instructors, instead of allowing it to become depleted by offering inadequate salaries. It was stated that there was little prospect of competent men joining the Department until the remuneration was increased.

To illustrate the lack of governmental appreciation of the importance of the industry, the following comparisons were quoted in maximum salaries in various branches of the Agricultural Department: Apiary instructors, first grade, £260; hemp graders, £300; orchard instructors, first grade, £300; fields inspectors, second grade, £300; third grade, £270.

A committee was appointed to make representations to the Government.

THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

(N.Z. Herald, September 23, 1918.)

Beekeepers are familiar with the complaint now voiced in Auckland that the salaries paid to officers of the apiary branch of the Agricultural Department are inadequate. For many years the industry has attempted to secure an improvement in this respect, but it is claimed that the salaries paid are still too low to attract or to retain the best men. If this is so, the Department is obviously doing a grave

Despite of all that cynics say,
There sometimes is a perfect day;
Cloudless and dustless calm and bright,
The day that gives us all delight;
The day that comes to compensate
For cold, grey winter days we hate;
Those drizzling days we'd ne'er endure
Had we no Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

injustice to a growing industry, and it is to be hoped the Government will give more than casual attention to the complaint. The future of the primary industries depends largely on the calibre of the officers who are entrusted with the duties of instruction and inspection, and it is intolerable that small savings should be made in this Department at the expense of efficiency while hundreds of thousands of pounds have been buried under the Southern Alps and wasted on other unprofitable South Island railways. The beekeeping industry is already of considerable dimensions. It is pre-eminently suitable for returned soldiers who, though incapacitated for more laborious work, desire an open-air life. The fact that the Auckland Beekeepers' Club has attained a membership of nearly one hundred within a week is an indication of the interest in this industry, and of the public demand, strong although often mute, for opportunity of learning rural occupations. At such a time as this the Government should be increasing the technical advisers and experts of the Agricultural Department, not risking reduction by false economy. The principal need of the Dominion is increased production, and there is, fortunately, a growing public appreciation of the importance of encouraging all who are willing to go on the land. It is satisfactory to find that the Government offers facilities for training returned soldiers in general farm work, but it is a sad commentary on departmental energy that the Auckland Returned Soldiers' Association has only now been informed of a practical measure which ought by this time to have been in extensive operation.

What It Costs Us.

AN APPRECIATION OF TWO OF OUR
HEROES.

He was a man of intense vitality, born to attain the top of the ladder of life in whatever station he was placed: his coal-black eyes made many quail as they looked into their depths; one that perhaps by some would have been called a fanatic in Christianity. Often has he said to me: "Nothing would induce me to shoot my fellow-men." So great was my surprise when I heard he had enlisted. Many a Bosche since then has toasted his bacon in hell (or whatever is the name of the place reserved in the next world for bad Germans) on Jack's introduction. For once he saw the true iniquity of the German nation he went straight for the mark. First we hear of him winning a first in rifle shooting; then that he had received the D.C.M. and was promoted to Lance-corporal J. Sillifant; and now that he has

won that, to him, highest of all distinctions in the Roll of Honour—Eternal Life.

Of friend Gidley I knew not so much. We met at several field days. I heard of him often as a successful apiarist. Well I remember a dusty ride in a motor trolley to Little River. He was the soul of the party, and kept us all in good spirits with his whimsicalities. He was one of those whom, if duty called to spit his German, I can well imagine saying: "Friend, thee ist not wanted here."

Grieve not, ye who are left behind as they who have no hope, for as surely as Jesus Christ came on this earth and rose again to bring to us a higher humanity, so surely shall those who are called to make the supreme sacrifice in this war of outraged humanity return with Him.

W. E. BARKER.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS—NOV.

[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.]

During this month all strong hives may be expected to swarm if no steps have been taken to prevent them, and where this has been done, if the queens are very prolific, a swarm may issue.

The chief way to check swarming is to allow the bees plenty of room for storing, and the queen plenty of room for egg-laying. But often in spite of all precautions, the bees will flout you by coming out into the air; so we will presume a swarm has issued and we want to hive it. You will, of course, have everything ready for this—the hive fitted with frames of foundation, good bottom-board and cover.

Should you be in the apiary when the swarm issues, they can be prevented from clustering too high by throwing a fine spray of water from an ordinary spraying pump over the flying bees, not amongst them, so that it drops like rain. In a few minutes they will be settled, most likely on a branch of a tree, and it is advisable to take them as soon as the cluster is formed, and only few bees on the wing. Get a fair-sized box, or, what is better still, the half of a Japanese hamper, such as are so much used by ladies when travelling. Hold this well under the cluster, give the branch a sharp, vigorous shake, and you will dislodge them all. Have your hive ready in a shady spot, with the entrance wide open, and a sack spread out in front, on which dump the bees, and they will immediately run in and take

possession. As soon as they are settled down they can be placed in their permanent location.

Sometimes it happens that no sower have you reckoned your job is done than out they all come again, clustering in the same spot, this sort of thing happening two or three times. Get a queen excluder, place it on slats about 1/2-inch thick on the bottom board so that the bees can get through it. Take out four or five frames from the hive; take your swarm again, and dump them INTO the hive, replacing cover. The queen, not being able to get out, compels the bees to remain. The excluder may be left on for two or three days, after which time there will be no danger of the queen leaving.

Another way of holding the swarm is to place a frame of brood chiefly in larval form in the centre of the new hive, which gives the bees something to occupy their mind instead of coming out into the air.

The swarm contains the old queen, most of the old bees, and a few drones, leaving in the old hive mostly young bees, with queen cells to hatch out to carry on the work of the hive.

To prevent after-swarms or casts, it will be necessary to cut out every queen cell except one, and that to be the best-looking, long and fat. When the queen from this hatches she will recognise she is the only queen in the hive, and will in most cases be mated and laying within ten days or a fortnight.

Widen the entrances to the fullest extent, and do not let the bees become cramped for room. When the first super has four or five combs of honey that is being capped over by the bees, put on another.

F. C. B.

Sweet Clover.

We have received a number of enquiries on how to grow this plant, and we have taken the following from the booklet "Sweet Clover and Its Utility," published by F. H. Brunning Propy. Ltd., Elizabeth street, Melbourne:—

Soil Preparation.—The necessary conditions for obtaining a good stand of sweet clover are somewhat exacting, and for this reason many failures have been experienced in the past. It must not be assumed, however, because sweet clover will grow luxuriantly in many waste places and on uncultivated land, a stand may be obtained by planting any time of the year, in any manner, and under any conditions. The same care must be used in the preparation of the seed-bed, the selection of the seed, and the actual sowing if success is to be expected, as is necessary with lucerne. Sweet clover requires a well settled and firm seed-bed, with just sufficient loose soil

on the surface to permit the seed to be well covered. When the seed is sown in the spring after a winter crop of grain, the seed-bed is usually in good condition. The soil requires to be worked into a fine condition and firmed as much as possible, and it is a good practice to roll the ground with a corrugated roller after sowing. Better stands are usually obtained by seeding on fields that have been disc-harrowed than on those that have been ploughed. This operation should be done several months before sowing the seed, and the ground then worked at intervals with soil packers or harrows. Spring-tooth cultivation or disc-harrowing is much preferable to ploughing just previous to seeding.

Autumn ploughed ground ordinarily makes an ideal seed-bed for spring sowing. A paddock that has previously been used for a crop such as maize, millet, or sorghum is usually put in sufficiently good condition for sweet clover by discing, and success has been attained by merely broadcasting seed on sandy soil and scratching with a harrow.

Such a seed-bed would be satisfactory if the seed could be sufficiently covered to ensure plenty of moisture; but it must be remembered that young sweet clover plants are not drought-resistant, and that every precaution should be taken in seasons of drought or on land which drought affects badly to so prepare the seed-bed that the largest quantity of moisture will be conserved, and plants given an opportunity of thoroughly establishing themselves, when drought will not affect them. When sweet clover is to be seeded in the autumn on grain stubble, the ground should be disc harrowed and worked into good condition as soon as the grain can be removed. It is essential that the ground is always rolled after seeding.

Method of Liming the Ground.—If caustic lime is used, it must be slaked before being applied to the soil, or it will burn out the vegetable matter with which it comes in contact. The best method is to distribute it in heaps upon the ground, mixed with a little earth, and allow it to slake by the action of the air before spreading it on the soil. Plough the soil a couple of months before sowing, and place the lime on it in heaps. When it has slaked, spread it with a shovel, and mix it with the surface soil with disc cultivators or harrows, continuing the cultivation at intervals until the time of seeding. Lime should never be ploughed in, but merely worked into the surface. Finely ground limestone rock in the form of carbonate is also suitable, and may be distributed immediately before seeding. It must be remembered that all lime has to become converted into carbonate in the soil before it will do its work.

I could not do without the Journal now. If sub. has been raised please let me know, and I will send with pleasure.—P. S., Temuka.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

Since my last "tales" were told I have visited Mr. Gidley's and my own apiaries, and found that on the whole the bees have wintered well. On account of a more severe winter than usual, more stores have been used, but losses are about the average. I see some of the American beekeepers claim they can winter without the loss of a colony. Good beekeeping that!

Mr. McKnight, of Cheviot, tells me he had two queenless and one weak colony. He made the three into one, and now has them all uniformly strong. Good management that!

Readers will remember I referred last month to the possibility of my having to move Mr. Gidley's bees. I hope it will be an accomplished fact before this appears in print, and hereby hangs a "tale." I found that during my absence, after closing down in the autumn, that a number of horses had been turned into the apiary; hives had been bumped nearly off the floor boards, lids had been knocked off, alighting boards scattered about, and a general appearance of disorder. All this in spite of the fact that Gidley had put up a good barbed wire fence to keep stock out and protect his property. I had firmly stapled every lid on, and put a barricade at the entrance to the apiary, but this had been removed, and in consequence we have lost fourteen good colonies. The mice have got in and spoiled a lot of the combs, and the other bees have had a "bean feast" in cleaning them up. When I saw the state of affairs, I at once decided to remove the apiary, and have obtained permission to put them along with my own, where they will remain till the estate is wound up. The expense of moving and loss of probable crop will be considerable, but I shall have the satisfaction of knowing that they are in a safe place. Pretty shabby treatment of a man who has given his life for his country.

In the September issue of the Journal in the report of the "Experimental Work at Ruakura Apiary," it is mentioned that the usual practice in laying out an apiary is to place the hives 6 ft. apart and 30 ft. between the rows. My friend Gidley laid his first apiary out on this plan. Circumstances and the desire to save shoe leather and my poor legs determined me to keep my hives very much closer. My present apiary is laid out in four rows about 4 ft. 6 in. apart, and the hives vary from 9 in. to 2 ft. apart, chiefly to suit the unevenness of the ground. I discussed the pros and cons with my friend, and could not find that there was any advantage to be gained in having the apiary spread over so much ground, and I do not find my bees mix any more than his did. Two years ago I went to some little trouble in finding out how much honey was gathered by each

row, and I found that the average of each row was much the same, except in one row, which contained four or five of my best colonies. This row was the third from the front. There were from twenty-one to twenty-three hives in each row, and I did not find any signs of the outside colonies gaining in strength at the expense of the centre ones. I shall continue on these lines for the present.

The Canterbury Branch of the National met on October 12th. A paper was contributed by Mr. Ambrose Johnstone entitled "More Beekeepers Wanted." Surprise was expressed by the writer that more people did not engage in beekeeping for a living in Canterbury, as there were large tracts of country as yet untouched and enormous quantities of honey of the finest quality going to waste for the want of bees to gather it. Mr. Johnstone is one of the oldest beekeepers in Canterbury, and there is only one fault I have to find, and that is that he did not qualify his remarks by pointing out that the atmospheric conditions are not sufficiently reliable on the plains to warrant launching out solely in beekeeping. Mr. W. A. Silliant went fully into the subject in his criticism, and gave the result of his 25 years' experience. He earnestly advised anyone who thought of taking up beekeeping to combine either dairying, fruit or poultry farming with it, so that a man would have more than one "string to his bow" if the honey crop failed.

I am hoping to be able to have a demonstration day at my apiary some time in the month of January. Mr. Earp and I have discussed the subject, and he has promised to do his best to attend. No doubt we can mutually arrange matters to suit. I have invited the members, and hope to be able to get some of the dwellers of Lakeside and surrounding districts to attend. Miss Mackay, Mr. Earp and myself will confer, and in the meantime I would like anyone interested to "make a note of," in the words of Captain Cuttle. It would give me the greatest pleasure to see a "bumper house."

Mr. "Critic," you say in your note on "Traveller": "If Mr. Gilling can do the travelling, well and good." You did not suggest who should do the travelling. Well, that was the part of the joke I enjoyed. The tone of your previous note seemed to infer that someone else should do it. Now, if you mean that there is no better man than Mr. Gilling to do the personal visiting and explain the aims and objects of the H.P.A., I am with you, and can heartily say, "Them's my sentiments tew!" Your joke where you ask if the National comes under the Charitable Aid scheme is perfectly obvious. That's a "Roland for an Oliver," eh! I think, as humorists, we can say, "honours divided." Let's kiss and be friends.

I received a letter from a friend who lives less than 100 miles from Blenheim, in which he tells me of a beekeeper in

those parts who is "skiting" because he managed to get rid of a ton of honey through a merchant, and realised £200 per ton. Of course, sensible people will not be influenced against the H.P.A., but there are numerous cases where outsiders are "reaping where they have not sown," and it behoves everyone to boost the H.P.A. for all he is worth. No doubt Mr. Gilling will "sit up and take notice." Nothing like "personal visitation"—eh, Mr. "Critic"—to counteract this kind of thing.

Branch Reports.

WAIRARAPA.

A meeting of the Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association convened on the 25th September at Eketahuna, was attended by a good gathering, and resulted in the securing of six new members. The practice of holding quarterly meetings in the different centres of the district has proved very successful, and shall be continued. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Masterton.

Mr. Hare, President of the Eketahuna Farmers' Union, welcomed the members of the Association. He spoke of the value of beekeeping to increase the wealth of the Dominion, not only on account of the production of honey, but because of the value of the bee as a fertiliser.

Mr. R. H. Nelson, President of the Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association, spoke at length on the value of co-operation, the aims and objects of the Association, and the elimination of disease.

Mr. Jacobsen explained the operation of the H.P.A., and thoroughly explained the grading system adopted by the Government. He also dealt with the methods of packing for export, giving sound advice in this direction, and advocated all beekeepers subscribing to the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal.

Discussion followed on many phases of bee-culture, including frames, queen-excluders, hives and appliances generally. Queen introduction was also discussed.

Mr. Nelson held the meeting for an hour by his eloquence, which was much appreciated.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered the President of the Farmers' Union (Mr. Hare), who gave the use of the room and entertained the members at afternoon tea.

A vote of thanks was also tendered the Press.

Y. H. BENTON,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Congratulate you on the improvement of the Journal.—J. S. C., Dargaville.

BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION FORMED AT GREENFIELD.

A meeting was held at Greenfield on the 12th September for the purpose of starting a Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association in the district. Some eighteen persons interested in bee-culture attended, and on Mr. H. N. Goodman being voted to the chair, it was unanimously resolved to form a branch to be called the Clutha Valley Beekeepers' Association.

The Chairman stated that he had been approached on the matter about a year ago, and as he had since been promised general support from beekeepers in the district he decided to call a meeting. It was gratifying to be able to make a start. The need of a local Association had long been felt, as there was a general desire for more information on bee-culture. He hoped the Association would prosper, but this would depend largely on the interest displayed by members.

Mr. E. A. Earp (apary instructor for the South Island) and Mr. E. P. Brogan (apary inspector for the district) were present.

At the invitation of the meeting Mr. E. A. Earp addressed those present. He gave a general outline of the worth of a local Branch. The local Associations were the arteries which fed and strengthened the National Association, which had been formed for the purpose of watching and advancing the interests of beekeepers in the Dominion. After touching on the growth of the National and the assistance it has been to the industry, the importance of grading honey for export, also the amount of good done by pollination by the bees, Mr. Earp made a strong appeal to the farmers to assist the beekeepers by allowing them sites on their farms. Should the Clutha Valley beekeepers decide to hold a field day, the Horticultural Division would give them all the assistance they required in order to make it a success.

A number of questions were asked Mr. Earp at the close of his address.

It was then decided by the meeting to leave the matter of calling a committee meeting in the hands of the Chairman, the meeting to be arranged for at an early date.

A vote of thanks to Mr. H. N. Goodman, who acted as Chairman, and to the officers of the Department for their attendance brought to a close a very successful gathering.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of this Branch was held in the Public Bath rooms, Hamilton, on 10th October, when a large attendance of beekeepers resulted. The usual preliminaries having been completed, the following important resolutions were passed:—

That we endeavour to have the Act so amended that no person can remove bees from one locality to another without the written certificate of health from an inspector.

That our next annual field day be held on the first Wednesday in February next, and the following were appointed a committee of management:—Messrs. Hutchingson, Westbrooke, Davies, Trythall, and Sage.

That the Government be asked to devise ways and means of limiting boundaries, so as to prevent overlapping of beekeepers' territory, and would suggest that the Act be so amended to the effect that "No bees shall be removed from one locality to another unless the position in which it is proposed to place them is certified by the Government inspector suitable for the purpose.

That this meeting recommends that the National Executive appoints a committee to be named a "Mechanical Devices Committee," the work of such committee to be to encourage the introduction of mechanical devices for the treatment of honey and wax in any manner they might think fit—in such ways, as for instance, to persuade the Government to offer prizes for the invention of suitable machines, in much the same way as has been done regarding flax-beaters.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Secretary emphasised the need for the appointment of a capable organiser for the industry in this Province, and announced his intention of resigning from the position of secretary at the end of the present financial year in order that the person appointed could occupy the dual position.

At a meeting held in Papakura on the 5th October, Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed Chairman and Mr. M. P. Millett hon. secretary. A motion naming the sub-branch "The Lower Waikato Branch" was carried, together with a resolution that all possible steps be taken to retain the services of Mr. Westbrooke.

It was also proposed that a class of instruction for beginners be formed, demonstrative lectures to be given fortnightly by competent members.

A meeting held at Rotorua on 25th September resulted in a sub-branch being formed there. Mr. J. Banks was voted President, Mr. H. Hardcastle Vice-President, and Mr. F. E. Stewart hon. secretary. We congratulate the above members upon the success which has been attained through their efforts, and trust that the formation of the Branch will stimulate an ever-increasing interest in this important industry.

Crude were the drugs and clinic ways
In what were called "the good old days,"
For science then was at its birth,
And what it taught was little worth.
They knew no anesthetics then,
Nor means of storing oxygen;
And what was just as sad, be sure,
They had no Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

No news of meetings has reached us from either Te Aroha or Te Kuiti since last month, but the lately formed Auckland Beekeepers' Club was approached with the view to their joining in with this Branch, and we have the assurance of their President (Mr. R. Way) that the invitation will be seriously considered at the next meeting of the Committee, and if possible our suggestion will be accepted.

E. W. SAGE, Hon. Sec.

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.]

October Number—Editorials.—With your remarks on the matter of apiary boundaries I am in accord; but I would go further than you, and ask what greater right—if such could be defined—can there be to the bee forage growing on a person's property than that of the owner thereof? Yet some seem to think the owner should have no right to the nectar secreted on his property, though he may own 1,000 acres or more of clover pastures, if a person alongside owning one acre or less happens to be first in setting up an apiary. Such a proposition is too unreasonable to entertain. The number of instances of hardship, such as Mr. Horn (page 156) illustrates, and which is to be regretted, likely to occur will be very small compared with the number of beekeepers in New Zealand.

I hardly think Mr. Horn is correct in his illustration of the miner's right business. A miner has no right to break the surface of any land without the consent of the owner; neither can he encroach below the surface on another person's property without consent. Mr. Horn must have in mind Crown lands, gazetted as a goldfield, in which a miner's right stands for certain privileges: there is nothing in common between the right of a miner and that suggested by our friend.

The loss of queens you mention, taken together with the continual failures for very many years back to import queens safely, should give us furiously to think whether we are not acting foolishly in spending money in this way. After all, are we sure if we succeeded in our endeavours that we would get better queens than we can breed ourselves? I for one do not think so, but it is a failing of Britshers to believe that foreigners can

supply better things, including queens, than can be made or bred in our own country.

The beekeepers' class recently formed in Auckland is a great success: there are now well on for 100 pupils attending each Saturday afternoon. Supposing only half the number become commercial beekeepers and members of an Association (a branch of the National), the class will have been of great benefit to the industry. As Mr. Westbrooke has withdrawn his resignation, the class will continue.

Page 147—The H.P.A.—I think the decision to remove the headquarters to a larger centre and a shipping port is a wise act, especially as the Association expects to do a large trade in the supply business Auckland, in my opinion, is the best centre the directors could have chosen.

Ibid—Department and Untested Queens.—This is a question that all who have the best interests of our industry at heart should express an opinion upon, and not leave it to one or two to discuss. I briefly gave my opinion in my last "Comments," and will now leave the matter till others do likewise.

Page 150—The Grading Schedule.—This is another matter that has an important bearing upon our industry, and should be well discussed by our leading beekeepers. Mr. Allen's opinions apicultural must always be respected, and we know that anything he suggests in bee matters is not in self-interest, but for the benefit of the industry as a whole. As I understand the matter, the present grading schedule has the support of the Department, our graders, and we may infer from the very few of our beekeepers who have objected to it that it is in favour with the majority. In any case the opinion of others is desirable.

Page 154—Waikato Beekeepers' Association.—The report from this Branch Association reads well, and shows what can be done when some energetic movement is undertaken by our Branches. More has been done to the advantage of our industry by this Association during the last few weeks than was accomplished since it was first formed in July, 1906, more than twelve years ago. Congratulations, and may its influence constantly grow greater.

Page 154—Locating an Apiary.—While sympathising with our friend Mr. Ward over his difficulty with his late friend's apiary, it is to be expected when bees under domestication are located near a public road strong complaints will be made sooner or later against the owner on the grounds that the bees are a nuisance and danger to passers-by. By the way, Mr. Ward has not informed us of the distance from the public road the apiary is situated. This would be of value to others. A high fence between an apiary and a thoroughfare, although of some service, would not be of any use in the case of swarms com-

ing off, which might interfere with horse traffic. I have always reckoned from 150 to 200 yards to be near enough to a public road for a good-sized apiary.

Page 155—**Gorse Honey (?)**—If there is such a thing as gorse honey in New Zealand, then I must plead ignorance of it. Although I watched for years, I never saw but two or three bees on gorse, and they appeared to me resting, not working, on it. From what I have heard at different times, they may now and again gather pollen from the flowers in early spring, but not nectar.

Page 157—**Benzine Cases for Hives.**—Doubtless since the war commenced, like many other things benzine cases are not so good as they used to be. I made a number of hives out of them some years ago, and found the cases run very exact in measurement and made of very good timber. They were made in accord with the instructions in Bulletin. Kerosene cases were not so good.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

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EDITOR.

FOR SALE, UNCAPPING MELTER and HONEY SEPARATOR. Price, £3 5s. In good order. Also, 100 lbs. FOUNDATION, about 8 sheets to lb. 100 lbs., 2/9; 50 lbs., 2/10; 6 lbs., 3/-.

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- 1 400-gallon Galvanised Iron Tank.
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 - 50 12-frame Galvanised Screens; only used last winter.
 - 75 Double-size Division Board Feeders.
- These goods are all in good order. Tank and Extractor are in Tararaki.

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Miscellaneous Items.

FEEDING.

When the prevailing winds do blow in the spring and you want to work at your bees, but they are so savage. If the bees are sheltered you have ideal conditions for practising open-air feeding. Try it, and you will find the bees as quiet as when the honey is flowing in. You can feed all day, and your neighbour's bees will not steal your sweets—that is, if they are not under the lee of the same shelter; the harder it blows the better for a good day's work. Do not start working at the bees until they get properly started on syrup, and do not mix syrup too heavy and bog them.

The method followed by the writer in open-air feeding:—A shallow vessel is made from a heavy gauge sheet of galvanised iron (72 in. x 36 in. sheet). A cut is made in each corner diagonally to allow the edges to be turned up about 8 in. all round, the corners being soldered inside and out; to make a float for the busy bees to rest their dainty feet on while they fill their sacs, use light timber ripped into thin strips, and leave only enough room between strips for a bee to comfortably walk down; if the strips are boiled in beeswax so much the better. One-inch timber is good to cut strips from, such thickness will bear up a good weight of bees; but the sides of a benzine case will do at a pinch, strips cut from which are the right length to fit across vessel described. Mix your syrup about two and a-half water to one of sugar, and when putting on the float put handfuls of long grass (or such like) at intervals round the vat reaching from towards the centre to the outside overhanging edge. This precaution is to allow a free passage for the lady bees to walk on who get their feet wet, otherwise they sometimes collect in knots and start climbing over one another. If a rough shelter is placed over feeder to shed any possible shower all will go sweetly.

Any old wash-tub, &c., can be pressed into service as an open-air feeder, but instead of a float, stuff lots of coarse green grass into the syrup; green grass will not absorb syrup. To use a float, of course, the sides of vessel must be at right angles with floor.

While on the subject of open-air feeding, if you have occasion to do extracting after the honey flow has ceased, try feeding a weak solution of sugar and water. The writer did last autumn, and it worked like a charm—no stinging bees. I put combs back as extracted, and no excitement was caused. About 12 gallons of syrup fed in the morning will keep towards 200 hives quiet all day.

HONEY AS AN OINTMENT.

Honey makes the best ointment that money can buy. It heals cracks, chaps and sunburn in quick order. Let the lady beekeepers, after a day in the hot sunshine use a little of their product as an emollient. It is a great soother. Apply after a wash, while face and hands are yet damp, and use just little enough of the honey so that no stickiness remains.

MICE.

If you are troubled with mice chewing up your nice combs, do not nurse your trouble, but lay poisoned meal around in likely dry places when preparing bees for winter, and your trouble will vanish. As much strychnine as will stay on a sixpenny-piece to a pound of meal will kill mice wholesale.

PREPARING HONEY FOR EXPORT.

Some three summers ago someone unnamed was sharply rounded up (in the Journal) for bunging in the lids of tins tight and turning same upside down for the scum to rise to the bottom. I felt as though the cap fitted a little, rather uncomfortably, still not very much. I will explain. In preparing honey for export (and usually that prepared for local distribution), I have always followed the procedure advocated by Mr. F. A. Jacobsen—that is, to delay tinning honey for market until well forward in granulation, and stirring somewhat during the process of granulation. In preparing two tons of honey for export over three years ago, I followed my usual practice of leaving honey in settling tank for a few days after extracting, then stored in 60-lb. tins to be handled at a more convenient season. When that time arrived, I partly reliquified and emptied into tank, skimmed off any scum that may have risen, and stirred occasionally for a few days until the right consistency was reached, then tinned. However, I must confess that I did not leave part of that two tons in tank long enough to arrive at that stage when I considered no scum would rise; so after being put in tins, the tins were turned upside down, and the question arose in my mind as to whether there was any difference in leaving honey in tank a little longer, so that whatever scum may be present would stay mixed throughout the whole body or proceed as described, which would probably rise to the bottom (top). I admit it savours of trickery. However, I guess it made practically no difference to the appearance to that two ton. By storing honey during the busy time to be handled during the off season entails more work, but one can then blend the different extractings if so desired, and make a better all-round sample, and it gives time for the stirring business too.

CONFERENCE.

Ye Editor asks for expressions of impressions gained at Conference. The writer was at the first and the last Conferences, none intervening. Impression: Phenomenal growth!

J. WALWORTH.

A long-haired man, destitute of humour, met a little boy who asked him the time. He replied, "Ten minutes to 9." The lad said, "Well, at 9 o'clock get your hair cut," and bolted off. The long-haired man, completely mystified, pursued the boy, and ran into a policeman. "You see that urebin, policeman," he ejaculated. "He asked me the time, and I told him, 'Ten minutes to 9,' and he said, 'At 9 o'clock get your hair cut.'" "Well," answered the stolid constable, "what are you running for? You've got eight minutes yet!"

Correspondence.

THE GRADING SCHEDULE.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am sorry if I have in any way misunderstood Mr. Allen with regard to colour in the grading of honey. I (with others with whom I discussed the matter) was certainly under the impression that he had objected to colour in the schedule, and am glad to learn that he does not. Yet, how are we to reconcile Mr. Allen's statement that he "entirely agrees that the classification should be done by colour" with the non-inclusion of colour in his suggested grading schedule? I am a bit puzzled.—I am, &c.,

I. HOPKINS.

UNTESTED QUEENS FROM STATE APIARY.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—(Although I observe several weak points in your argument in favour of above in last issue, I prefer to rest in meantime upon what I have already said and until others of your readers express their opinion.—I am, &c.,

I. HOPKINS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—As a constant reader of your valuable columns, I have been struck with the diversity of opinions that have been expressed as to the best methods of disposing of your exportable surplus of honey. No doubt quite a number of the principal beekeepers in New Zealand are in favour of adopting the co-operative method while others are for selling to the highest bidder at the moment, whoever he may be: it is a question with the latter of "the bird in the hand being better than the two in the bush." It is a matter of history that the co-operative movement has always had this class of individual to contend with; they will support the co-operative movement just so long as the price at the moment is better than the other fellow is giving, but immediately the fractional part of a penny better is offered by any sort of speculator their belief in the co-operative method appears to vanish—the type of person who would like to "eat their cake and have it."

It would appear, however, from an advertisement that I notice in your issue of June 1st that after all a supporter of the co-operative movement is coming into his own, and the gentleman who wants to "eat his cake and have it" will find that he has not been able to do either.

For some time prior to the date I have just mentioned, owing to the very high prices ruling in the United Kingdom, certain firms offered most tempting baits in the way of excessive prices to the beekeepers in New Zealand to break away from the co-operative movement. I notice that in some instances as high as 1/2 per lb. ex grading store Auckland, and that a cheque would be paid within 48 hours of the grading of the honey. To the producer who could not see further than the end of his nose this was undoubtedly too good a thing to be turned down. According to the advertisement, however, that appeared in your June number, this offer is only subject to the necessary shipping space being available, and as such is not the case in New Zealand at the moment, apparently the honey is not wanted; but just as soon as the necessary shipping is available there will once again be buyers at these high prices. I shall watch your paper with considerable interest to learn if such will be the case, because in my humble opinion by the time the necessary shipping space is available to take honey in any quantity from New Zealand to the United Kingdom honey will have come under the control of the Government, and when that does happen I think that the price in the United Kingdom is far more likely to be 140/- than 210/-, as it is at the moment; and I think you will agree that no exporter will get very fat on the profit he will make by paying 1/2 per lb. ex store in New Zealand and selling it in the United Kingdom at 140/- per cwt. Anyway, time will tell.—I am, &c.,

ONE INTERESTED.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The discussion in your Journal re apiary boundaries is very interesting, and it seems extraordinary if it is impossible to secure legislation that will improve the present position, which, to say the least of it, is not very encouraging to a beekeeper who wishes to build an up-to-date honey house or make other permanent improvements. It is said that the Government cannot prevent a man from keeping bees on his own property. Well, provided he can keep the bees all within his own boundary fence that may be all right; but if so it seems strange that the Government has not as much control over a beekeeper as they have over a man who would produce opium or run a whisky still on his own property. Is it that beekeepers are such dangerous people that no policeman could be found with sufficient courage to enforce the law?

Now, compare the position of a beekeeper with his neighbour who keeps an hotel. The beekeeper may instal an expensive plant and do everything in his power to improve his bee range, and then the publican may cut in with apiarics alongside him and prevent him reaping any benefit from his expenditure and

labour. Let the beekeeper attempt to return the compliment by buying a house near the hotel to sell liquor in. He will find that the Government will not grant him a license to do so, and he will soon make an appearance in court if he tries to carry on without the license.

If the Government can license one man only to collect the money spent on liquor in a certain district, they can surely license one man to collect all the honey produced within a certain area, and if a Licensing Committee can decide how far apart licensed hotels shall be located, a committee of beekeepers would be just as capable of deciding how far apart it is advisable to locate licensed apiaries. No doubt mistakes might be made in both cases, but it is a poor argument that it is no good punishing criminals because some sentences are sure to be unjust.

Again, if the beekeepers failed to make proper use of their bee ranges their licenses could be endorsed, and then if they failed to mend their ways the licenses could be forfeited, as a publican's license is if he does not conduct his house in a proper manner.

There may not be many instances of injustice being done by overcrowding so far, but the trouble will get worse year by year. We will begin to wonder when a brother beekeeper comes to visit us whether he is thinking of stealing the bread from our mouths, and the industry is sure to suffer from the ill-feeling that will be created.

New Zealand has led the way in improved legislation before, and surely New Zealand beekeepers have enough grit in them to battle for what is right, even if they are not sure of an easy win. There is a great deal in the old saying: "Where there's a will there's a way."—I am, &c.,

CHARLES HALLETT.

Te Teko, Bay of Plenty, 9/10/18.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In your editorial remarks in the August Journal (page 114), you state that you fail to see how legislation re defining bee boundaries will help us, and yet you say that you do not countenance the establishment of a new apiary near an existing one. In fact, you go further: you state "that it is clearly a dishonest action."

Since the law does not prohibit a man establishing an apiary beside an existing one, we can hardly accuse any person of dishonesty, under present conditions, should he see fit to adopt such a course. Dishonesty is punishable by law; hence what we really want is the enactment of a law defying bee boundaries, thus making it a dishonest act to commence operations within those limits, such dishonesty being punishable by severe penalties.

May I point out that New Zealand is only a young country, and that, being so, is in a much better position to legislate for the protection of many things that would be almost impossible to adequately deal with in older and more densely populated countries. To-day the number of beekeepers in this Dominion is probably small to what it will be ten years hence, and existing apiaries are not likely to be very seriously overlapping each other; consequently no time could be more opportune than the present to secure legislation to prevent future intending apiarists establishing themselves in what may be termed another man's district. Take, for instance, your own case. If there was a law to prevent apiaries being established within certain defined limits—say, six miles—it is very evident no one would purchase the ten-acre block you referred to that is situated within half a mile of your apiary for the purpose of bee-farming. Should this occur, you would certainly be entitled to invoke the aid of the law to expel the invader. Though you may not dictate what class of farming he shall do on it, the law will definitely define what class of farming he shall NOT do on it.

Any legislation brought forward would not interfere with existing apiaries, but would merely prevent others commencing within the prescribed area. There is ample space in this country to very easily allow for a six-mile limit without placing any hardship on intending bee-farmers. For their own protection it would be preferable that application for and registration of such commercial areas be made compulsory. This would establish beyond doubt the existence and situation of commercial apiaries, and consequently no fresh applications would be granted within that area limit; neither would it be possible for private beekeepers to build up commercial apiaries in districts where there was one already situated. Should a private beekeeper within a registered commercial area have more honey than he was able to consume and commenced selling, he would at once become a commercial beekeeper, and be liable for a breach of the law. However, if the registered commercial man chose to purchase his surplus honey, it would be a matter entirely for his own discretion, and the private man has always the option of applying for a protected area of his own should he wish to establish himself in the profession. In regard to the difficulty of framing workable legislation, this can very easily be overcome, as all Acts of Parliament are framed and drawn up by men who have made this class of work the study of a lifetime, and who could, if given the outline of our requirements, very readily draw up an Act that would be eminently suitable. If such legislation were brought into force, it would be a great protection to both present and future apiarists; but if we adopt the attitude that nothing can be done we will never attain anything for ourselves nor for those who come after.

Finally, may I suggest that should we ask the Government to define bee boundaries we err on the safe side rather than content ourselves with half-measures, which would leave us no better off than we are at present. The production of honey is an industry worthy of special encouragement and assistance from the Government, and, if fostered carefully, there is no reason why the export of this article should not in the near future rival that of butter. Nothing but a broad-minded and far-sighted policy will enable us to reach the desired goal.—I am, &c.,

ATHOLE V. DAVIS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Dear Sir,—I have just read the editorials and correspondence in last three issues re apiary boundaries. I am strongly in favour of "D. R.'s" suggestion to license apiaries. No doubt it will be an uphill fight to get legislation compelling every apiary to be licensed, but it will be a fight worth winning. How would it work if a sort of referendum (license or no license) be brought before all commercial beekeepers in New Zealand giving them the option of voting for or against licensing apiaries. No doubt the voting power would require regulating—say, one vote for every twenty colonies each beekeeper owned; it would hardly be right for a five or six-colony man to have same voting power as the man with hundreds of colonies. Should the result be a majority in favour of licensed apiaries, surely the State would not object to pass legislation which the beekeepers themselves asked for, and which would not affect any other industry. I am in favour of something like the following:—

1. That no commercial beekeeper be allowed to keep bees unless his apiary or apiaries are licensed.
2. That no license for a new apiary be granted unless located five miles (or more) from any established licensed apiary.
3. That any beekeeper who wilfully neglects or does not reasonably stock his apiary have his license cancelled.
4. That any person be allowed to keep up to four colonies for genuine private use.

I do not see that something along these lines would be a hardship to anyone, but I can see where it would do a lot of good. For instance, take the beginner with a touch of bee-fever. He goes mad on bees, and makes a start anywhere without knowing the established apiarist has at least a moral right to a certain radius, or that there is such a thing as overstocking. Result: From my own experience, he buys bees anywhere he can, in box hives or otherwise, works hard, and spends a lot of money on them for two years, then finds

he has not made the fortune he expected, so he gives them best, and neglects them for next two years. The established beekeeper suspects disease, because it is continually breaking out in his apiary in spite of all precautions. He is allowed to inspect this apiary, finds it rotten with disease, and finally has to buy up the lot, bees, hives, disease and all. Would it not have been better for both beekeepers if they had to obtain a license, and the beginner was forced to get out wide? Both would have obtained more honey, and the established man less disease. Perhaps this instance is a bit personal, but take any case of another beekeeper locating close to an established apiary: would it not be far better for both to force that new apiary to be located five or six miles away? I think that if a beekeeper has not brains enough to locate his apiary where he has a clear field, it is time the State made him.—I am, &c.,

C. A. OLDMAN.

Waiau, October 7, 1918.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Page 155, Mr. Ward says he has not seen half a dozen bees on gorse in the whole of his beekeeping experience. If he came along here I could frequently show that many working on one bunch; they certainly get plenty of pollen, and by the way they use their tongues I should say they must get a little nectar.—I am, &c.,

Papakura.

M. P. MILLETT.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—“A sensitive plant in my garden grew.” “Critic” tells us he has nothing to say in regard to a certain part of my last letter, and then, presto! he says it. Does an Englishman always mean “look in” when he calls “look out”?

“Critic” indulges his faculty of humour by relating a pretty anecdote about bagpipes and mineral waters. I follow his example. But at my little innocent persiflage “Critic” holds up his hands in holy horror! Is an Englishman really so meek as to inherit the whole psychological earth?

In fact, shall we poor foreigners ever understand him and his bizarre contradictory attitudes? I am extremely sorry at having quite unintentionally wounded

For children's hacking cough at night,
One remedy has proved the best;
And parents' toil with fond delight
How it has answered every test.
The children take it eagerly,
And tell their chums, you may be sure,
That mother's only remedy
Is "good old Woods' Great Peppermint Cure."

"Critic's" susceptibilities, but even here Nature has provided an antidote. I myself am perfectly immune. Au revoir!—I am, &c.,

UOMO SELVATICO.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers give me any definite information as to the colour in their yards of the worker offspring of an Italian queen (purely bred) mated to a black drone, also purely bred? Also the colour of the workers resulting from a reciprocal cross? Can any reader advise me of any researches into this subject they may have read or even heard of?

I think most beekeepers believe that it is positively correct to judge the mating of an Italian queen by the colour of her workers. Should the progeny all bear three yellow bars, it is taken for granted the queen is purely mated. This I have proved to be wrong. On the other hand, should the workers of a purely mated Italian queen bear less than the full three bars, even though all should bear some yellow, it is just as readily taken for granted that such a queen is not purely mated. Obviously this idea is wrong too—at least "in this locality" (parlon the joke!) where one swallow makes no summer.

Since the science of genetics has shown us how it is possible for a laying worker to produce worker bees as well as drones, and judging by analogy in the matter of queen-rearing, that such worker bred workers, might be raised as queens, we must one and all admit that a lot of what we have erstwhile considered as axiomatic is in truth the result of our slowness of progress in scientific research—progress only recently made possible.

Before we can hope to make progress in the longed-for region of queen-breeding as distinguished from mere queen-rearing, the first truths we must establish are the unit characteristics of our hive bees—i.e., what characteristics are positively and distinctly inherited, wholly and separately from any other distinct characteristic. For example, colour in cattle is distinctly a unit character, being inherited quite independently of any other characteristics the animal may possess.

In humans, however, colour is not a unit character, as every half-caste family abundantly testifies. If it was, all the children would be quite dark or perfectly "white."

I want to impress upon the minds of the more erudite within our ranks that it is not fair to simply sit down and wait until one or perhaps two (at most seemingly) have plodded and endured

through the mountains of failure and disappointment that must be conquered in the attainment of our positive knowledge of this subject, and then accept the results as a mere matter of fact, to be applied to their own benefit gratis because unasked, and never even dream of proffering any assistance toward a labour that, unassisted, must inevitably prove tedious, lengthy, and intensely trying to both temper and patience. Immense labour may be saved by corroboration of results by co-workers in other localities, saving the tedious repetition accentuated by a single experimenter's doubt, that under different environment results might possibly have differed too; and this is the position that prompts my initial query.

The smallest donation of knowledge or actual experience will be most gratefully received by

H. BARTLETT BARTLETT-MILLER.

October 17th, 1918.

Honey Crop Prospects.

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

Auckland.—Bees have wintered well, and present prospects indicate a good season; but it is too early to predict with any certainty. Beeswax is in demand at 2/- per lb.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—It is almost impossible to estimate the prospects of the coming crop, which is so dependent on weather conditions. Honey in small consignments is still being sent to the grading store for export. The price of beeswax has advanced to 2/6 per lb. nett.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Dunedin.—The prospects of a good season are bright. Generally the bees have wintered well. In most districts fine weather has enabled the bees to work the fruit bloom, and in bush districts nectar is being freely gathered. Market prices are unaltered. Beeswax is scarce, and for good clean samples 2/- per lb. is quoted.—E. A. Earp.

Hallowed Ground.—"Oh, mercy! I can see tombstones away over in that grove," observed the emotional young thing on her first visit to the country. "Is it a private cemetery?" "Private enough, but them's beehives," the farmer smily explained.—The Country Gentleman.

AN APOLOGY and a CAUTION.

The Inventor of the **BARTLETT-MILLER PATENT COMB REDUCER** tenders sincere apologies to those clients who have had to await delivery of orders.

It has been almost impossible to obtain that particular heavy gauge of flat galvanised iron, of which the Reducers are made.

I have now (October 5th) obtained sufficient for nineteen more machines and separators. Of this number eleven are ordered, leaving material for only eight more.

Will those friends who have already stated intention of purchasing be good enough to note that orders must be executed in rotation as received, and make their respective orders definite, notifying when they require delivery?

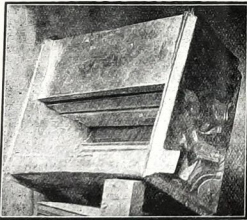
Now that the U.S.A. has followed England's prohibition of all galvanised

bulk goods, it may be many months before a further supply of heavy gauge material can be obtained.

The Reducer is now fitted for either steam from an outside source, or steam generated from its self-contained water should your oil-drum boiler collapse through boiling dry.

Several slight but nevertheless effective improvements are carried out in the latest patterns, one of which makes impossible the clinging to the under side of the tubes of any resinous slum-gum, which, by slowly baking all day, and being ever washed by the flowing honey, is the main cause of that darkening of the honey caused by rival reducers.

There is no bottom (as such) to the Bartlett-Miller Reducer Tubes, and all honey is off the machine as soon as ever the wax is melted.



The Bartlett-Miller Wax & Honey Separator.

At the demonstration made at Esperanto Hall, Wellington, the day after last Conference, I for the first time demonstrated the B-M Separator in public, as I was not until about then aware that any difficulty had been found with black specks in honey when whole combs are put through a comb reducer (as we sometimes prefer in a rush time). I had always used my own Separator, so had never had any experience of black or any other specks.

I wish to state I have never yet seen any specks in "reducer" honey, although I have never yet used my Machine with other than whole combs cut holus bolus out of the frames. I mention this because it was announced by somebody at the Conference that black combs should not be

put through a comb reducer on account of the black specks that could not be got out of the honey. What then, I ask, are we to do with the brood combs raised to the super to deter swarming when they are filled with unextractable honey? Such combs usually have a fair amount of pollen, and to talk about uncapping such combs to the mid-rib when one has between a ton and ten tons of it is, to me, simply out of the question. I just yank the whole comb into the Reducer, and either re-sheet or re-starter the frames. One cannot humbug around masses of pollen uncapping to mid-rib when things are "moving."

Such honey (so I am informed) calls for a properly devised separator, and such a demand is completely met by the B-M.

Honey and Wax Separator. The wax runs one way and the honey the other, and the Separator, holding only about 20 lbs. of honey when full, prevents even candied white clover honey in combs attaining any kind of colour or taste through being held too long beneath liquid beeswax, or being too long in contact with any heat. In less than one minute from being melted the honey from the **B.-M. Reducer** (when going at working speed) is in the 60-lb. can ready for export, AND ABSOLUTELY SPECKLESS AND SCUMLESS. If otherwise, then the operator is not attending to his business. But, bah! I do not believe you can get specks into honey through the **B.-M. Separator** unless you deliberately drop them into the third partition.

I did not demonstrate this Separator with the **Bartlett-Miller Comb Reducer** at Ruakura last Field Day (I used the one belonging to the State Apiary there), as at that date I had never heard about this black spec (tre) trouble.

There is one saving fact about thick honey in so far as the putting up for market goes—I leave out the re-sheeting of the frames. That has to be endured if it cannot be cured, although you can cut down to the mid-rib if you like with the **B.-M. Reducer**; but, beware! You will have to prepare to tin off some two tons per day if you mean to keep the Reducer going at top with deeply uncapped combs. The one saving fact is that it is a much shorter job to put whole combs through the **B.-M. Reducer** than to extract white clover combs and tank and tin next day.

Regarding the Reducer, there is no need to advertise any "guarantee of satisfaction." That has been absolutely proven at public demonstrations to the full and complete conviction of all spectators.

READ THE PRESS NOTICES.

"ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture," 1917 Ed. (p. 278):—

"It is impossible to confine the honey in a melter of this construction, and while it costs considerably more than either of the other [American, H.B.E.-M.] designs, we believe it has a greater capacity than any other design ever used."

This is high praise from so conservative an Editor as Ernest Root. See also report of demonstration at Ruakura on Field Day in February, 1918, when the Baines, the Benton, and the Bartlett-Miller Comb Reducers met in what was really

A COMPETITIVE TEST IN PUBLIC.

I quote from "N.Z. Farmer," July issue, 1918 (p. 860):—

"There can be no doubt the Bartlett-Miller Capping and Comb Smelter is a great improvement upon and a great departure from any similar machine we know of. Its large melting surface of over eleven square feet enables an operator to put through dense-honey combs very rapidly. In the

demonstration ten of the heaviest and toughest combs were put through the smelter in twenty-five minutes, and under more continuous work the time is much shorter. . . . That the Bartlett-Miller Machine is a great step in advance was the general opinion of all the visitors. No doubt the machine will be largely used in the future, especially where thick honey abounds."

Well, that report is amply corroborated by our Editor, who was present; and let me say generously corroborated, for his own invention was one of the trio demonstrated. See the Journal for last March (1918). The Editor writes:—

"Now we come to the latest—the Bartlett-Miller—which handled a ten-frame box of thick dark honey in old black combs, the worst the Apiary could find. Yes, it took and disposed of them in good time. . . . I think I like the Bartlett-Miller best of all. It has the largest amount of heating surface, meaning quicker work, but this is only my opinion."

Now, in connection with the Ruakura demonstration, nobody will accuse the inventor of exaggeration if he states that the rapidity of the Bartlett-Miller Machine was an eye-opener to all who saw it, and particularly to the person who for nearly an hour and a half had been operating the other two machines, which had between them only the same number of combs that the Bartlett-Miller Machine disposed of alone in twenty-five minutes, and then it was only half working, for the ten combs soon left bare the upper part (the hottest) of the deep tubes, and that part of the Reducer was (nearly the whole time) out of action. Best of all, it did not alter the flavour of the honey—and never does!

Purchasers may depend that they are obtaining a Reducer and Separator AS PERFECT AS PRESENT-DAY SCIENCE CAN MAKE THEM. The Bartlett-Miller Reducer is the outcome of fifteen years' painstaking experiment and analysis of heated honeys, and is guaranteed not to spoil the honey flavour when properly attended to. It is the thirteenth different pattern made and tried by the

SOLE INVENTOR, PATENTEE AND MANUFACTURER, at THOROUGHWORK APIARIES, KIKIKIHI.

Price for both Apparata: £8 15s. f.o.r. To Awamutu Station, 100 miles south of Auckland.

Weight around 100 lbs.
Size of Reducer crated 9 cubic ft.
Size of Separator boxed 2 cubic ft.

Drop a line if requiring arrangements for remitting from next harvest's returns to

H. BARTLETT BARTLETT-MILLER,
THOROUGHWORK, KIKIKIHI,
WAIKATO.

INCIDENTS.

In venturing on the composition of an article for a Journal of the nature of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal, one naturally resolves first of all that it must be instructive. Fortunately, however, there are such things as second thoughts. After a careful perusal of our excellent monthly, a humble individual like myself can only conclude that the instructional department is in good hands, and at present amply catered for.

So there is only left to a would-be correspondent the privilege of relating a few happenings which have occurred during a fairly long experience of an absorbing occupation.

By the end of last season I was about as disheartened with everything connected with beekeeping as I have ever been in my life. Our district has periodical bouts of the "thick honey" trouble, and last year one descended on us. It was the worst attack I have seen. Before commencing extracting I made a tour of the apiary, and tried to lift a few hives, with the idea of gauging the amount of my crop before taking orders. I am not endowed with a great deal of muscular strength, and after wasting a lot of breath in the effort I gave it up. The hives were too heavy to lift! I went off with a smile on my face, calculating rapidly (I am good at mental arithmetic) what my returns were likely to be.

Alas! mine was the exact opposite of the experience of the "Gleanings" man who "put the empty supers on and took them off again." I took the full supers off and put them back again—still full. Without mashing my combs to pulp I could get very little honey from them. However, my natural optimism came to the surface, and I said: "At least the bees are well provided for." So they were if I had left them alone; but the mistake I made was in uncapping the honey. They gobbled it—that word is so expressive that I must use it—and with a very fine autumn to encourage them they bred rapidly. Consequently spring found the hives with heaps of bees, and little to feed them on. That matter could have been righted simply, but—we had a very wet winter and a wetter spring, and I found out this year that my apiary is located in a low-lying spot, and I could not get near the hives for water. By the time the ground had dried up sufficiently for me to get my heels out of the mud if I did not stand too long in one place, I had lost several colonies. Since then I have had to feed 50 per cent. But the fruit trees are in bloom, the willows covered with catkins. Yesterday I saw a field of rape in flower about 1½ miles from my apiary; the clover is in beautiful condition; we do not get thick honey every year, and the sun shines every day just now. So I am cheerful—decidedly so!

I often wonder why we beekeepers do not regard ourselves as a long-suffering race! One would almost think at times that we were lineal descendants of Ishmael. At one time I kept my bees in my own back yard, but the trouble that ensued caused me to move them. One of my neighbours owned a howling dog, and I had to submit to lying awake at night and listening to it. Another had cats that stole my chickens, and I did not protest; but if I had kept a herd of buffaloes on the premises I could not have been more anathematised! One woman—she of the cats—came one day to say she could not get her jam-pan out of the yard where she had put it to soak because of the bees. I could not understand what she put it out in the yard at all for—I always put mine in the scullery, so I was not sympathetic. In course of time the tale of her grievances came back to me, enlarged in its travels, and I learnt that my bees had got into her pantry and stolen her jam!

My neighbour at the back was digging his garden one fine morning, when the bees began to swarm. I got out the hose in a desperate effort to keep them within bounds, and the spray mounted in the air. Between him and me was a seven-foot fence, and he only saw the spray—he did not see me. From his side arose rumblings which steadily grew to a roar, and taking my courage in my hands I mounted a hive and inquired, "What's up, Mr. Smith?" I suppose no man who isn't an absolute boor could swear at a woman when she smiles at him, and my neighbour's wrath began to evaporate. I do not set up to be the possessor of a "witching smile," like the heroine in the "best sellers," but I did my best, and, metaphorically speaking, I saw the barometer swing round to "Set fair." He said: "What makes the bees so savage this morning?" I said: "They're not savage, they're only swarming." "Well, they stung me on both arms." The silly man was working very lightly clad, and as my poor bees heavily laden, as swarming bees always are, dropped on his arms, he brushed them off rather severely, and they hit back. Of course!

I did not enter into any explanation: I merely apologised for their bad behaviour and proffered the ammonia bottle! The atmosphere cleared, and when I jumped down from the hive he was very nearly smiling. Subsequently the tale came back to me—as it usually does in this small township. He told his friends that he had thought "it was the man in the beeyard, but it was the woman!"

I should like to tell the story of the travelling book-agent whose wild interest in my apiary evaporated when he found that my bees had stings; but I do not want to claim the whole space of the Journal, and perhaps some day, if the Editor can stand any more of my reminiscences, I shall tell it. It was funny!

MELISSA.

[We shall be pleased to hear the tale of the travelling book-agent, Melissa: we very much enjoy a joke.—Ed.]

At a smoking concert held not far from Sheffield a little while ago, a gentleman was pressed to sing. He consented reluctantly, having left his music at home. A friend offered to "vamp" the accompaniment for the singer. So the vocalist hummed over the air which he was going to render. The "vampler" did his best, but somehow he could not get the right key. "Let's try it over again," he said, and again the singer hummed the air. But it was no better, nor even after a third attempt. At last the accompanist turned to him and said: "Look here, I've tried thee on the white 'uns, and I've tried thee on the black 'uns, and I've tried thee on the black and white 'uns mixed. It's no use, mon. Tha mun be singing between the cracks a' the time!"

CAPABILITY.

Near a small Wyoming town there is a capable lady of great executive ability, who, besides being an ardent suffragist, an active member in church circles, a dominant figure in all local women's clubs, manages a ranch in connection with her multifarious household duties.

A visitor stopping at the front gate to ask for her, heard a loud commotion in the rear.

"Yes, she's home," replied friend husband, who, in the life partnership, is nil, "but she's busy." He added in a voice which had an acid edge: "She's out in the back yard teaching a queen bee how to swarm."

—British Bee Journal.

BEEKEEPING.

The following is taken from the report of the South Island Efficiency Board:—

Mr. Armstrong said that beekeeping might be worked up by farmers. They would not take on beekeeping as a whole, but a man near Blenheim was making a living by farming the bees out. He lived in Blenheim, and kept the bees on different farms. He gave the farmers a proportion of the honey gathered. He believed that the man did very well at it. If it was undertaken in that way it would be a success.

It was resolved to include beekeeping in the list of industries about which information will be obtained in other countries.

[Not much efficiency about that, particularly the last paragraph. The information obtained in other countries will not spell for efficiency in beekeeping in New Zealand either. Pity these gentlemen do not know there is such a body as the National Association. We could give them a hint or two on the matter.—Ed.]

It is a pity the Journal is a monthly instead of a weekly; there is nothing I look forward to with so much pleasure.—H. B., Pukemiro.

I wish to thank you for making the Journal both interesting and useful.—F. W. D., Rakaia.

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, Maungata. |
| R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch. Died of wounds. | JAS. MARSHALL, Maungata. |
| J. SILLIFANT, D.C.M., Christchurch. Killed in action. | C. BEAVAN, Waiba Downs. |
| P. E. HOLMES, Pirongia. | D. CRAWFORD, Waikotui. Killed in action. |
| T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands. | R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-ventured. |
| R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded. | S. G. HERBERT, Rowai. |
| R. S. HUTCHINSON, Hamilton. | F. W. LUNT, Addington. |
| J. P. IRLAND, Te Kowhai. | J. MORGAN, Dannevirke. Killed in action. |
| G. R. WILLIS, Pukekohe. | H. SQUIRES, Hawera. |
| A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Christchurch. | ALEX. MAITLAND, Orari. Killed in action. |
| A. CURTIS, Porowhita. | A. B. BATES, Kaponga. |
| E. G. DONALD, Brookside. | C. E. QUAIPE, Russell's Flat. |
| E. N. HONORE, Otakelo. | G. HARRISON, Waipahi. |
| E. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt. | H. W. McCALL, Wallaceown. Killed in action. |
| J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki. | G. J. SHAW, Donnet. Killed in action. |
| G. ROGERS, Opotiki. | D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North. |
| C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action. | E. CLARK, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded. |
| P. O'FOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action. | M. J. DOBBING, Morrinsville. |
| G. NAPIER, Alfredton. | H. B. PENNY, Okalawa. |
| N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton. Killed in action. | C. L. GRANT, Rockville. |
| W. J. JORDAN, Ngaruawahia. | BEST BROS., Dannevirke. Invalided home. |
| G. SQUIRES, Fairview. | E. OMUNDSON, Dannevirke. Reported missing. |
| E. AYRTON, Domett. | E. PALLANT, Dannevirke. |
| W. BROWN, Kaitoura (Flying Corps). | R. G. EAGLE, Gordonton. |

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We are Buyers of
Honey Packed for Export
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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.

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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).

1918-19 PRICE-LIST 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.