



E. A. Sharp

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

DECEMBER 2nd, 1918.

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
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ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.



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MASTERTON, WAIRARAPA.

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 12

VOL. 2

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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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Editor of Journal: Mr. FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

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

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EDITORIAL.

We had hoped to have been able to put the opinion of the President and members of the Executive on the question of Apiary Boundaries, but the mails "in this locality" are just now very erratic.

We are able to give their opinions on the questions of the sale of untested queens by the State Apiary, also the exhibit of honey and wax.

On the matter of having a National exhibit of honey and apiary products, it will be noticed that suggestions are made that either the H.P.A. run this, or that the National run theirs in conjunction with the H.P.A.

For our part we should say they should be kept entirely apart, and there is room for both. The H.P.A. would naturally make a show of the honey as it is put on the market, so that would-be purchasers could get exactly the same as that exhibited at the local store. This would not in any way advertise the National Association, and would

only help the confusion that already exists that both associations are one and the same body.

In our opinion the National's exhibit should be purely an ornamental and instructive one. Each branch would show the various colours and grades of honey produced in the districts covered by the branch, and those interested would learn of the existence of such branches and the parent body.

We will get definite instructions on this matter, and in the meanwhile we ask all our readers to put by a pot of about two pounds of their best, and await further instructions.

With regard to the wax, we would suggest this be in the form of solid slabs or cubes of a uniform size, as it would be so much better for packing.

A meeting of the Executive of the National will be held either late in January or early in February, and we shall be glad to receive any matters for discussion. Will branch secretaries please send in all the subscriptions received to date, so that the refunds can be paid, as the Secretary will have to present a statement of accounts, and would like it to be as complete as possible.

The meeting will be held in Christchurch, and if those members' branches which intend holding field days would hold the date open until next month, it is probable the members of the Executive would be able to attend. As soon as the date of the meeting is fixed the Secretary will send the branch secretaries notice by mail.

We have received from the Department of Agriculture a copy of the Gazette, advertising the sale of New Zealand Export Coy.'s Store to the Wellington West Export Company in a grading store at Wellington. There are all commitments should now be sent to the former address.

We are very sorry, indeed, that our valued correspondent who has written under the name of "Critic" is compelled through ill health to cease writing. With the exception of a few months our branch has regularly contributed his "Comments" right from the start of the Journal, and we feel sure that we are regarding the feelings of the majority of our readers in stating that our Journal has sustained a distinct loss.

As one of our correspondents wrote, of his "Comments": "He knows whom he speaks to," which opinion we think is endorsed by our readers.

Mr. "Critic's" remarks were never personal in such a as captious spirit, they were made for the sole purpose of increasing the interest in the many questions bearing upon our industry, and in our opinion certainly achieved their object.

The Editor desires to publicly place on record the very great help extended to him by Mr. "Critic" not only in the subject matter, even given by his contributions to the Journal, but in advice, counsel, and encouragement on all matters submitted to him.

Mr. "Critic" on behalf of the National Beekeepers' Association, accept our warmest thanks coupled with the wish that you may soon be restored to perfect health.

The same will complete Volume 2 of the Journal and those who intend buying this copy will appreciate the notice that will be supplied next month.

The Editor thanks those readers who have kindly responded to his request for August and September copies.

The industry is in bad shape in the Editor's district just now as a case of honey poisoning with almost fatal results has just occurred. A neighbouring beekeeper gets a section of honey to a lady who ate part of it for tea. About 7 o'clock in the evening she rang up a neighbour saying she was feeling very unwell. In the morning the neighbour went to see her she was found her respirations ceasing in her bed had been very sick, her teeth set staunch distended and very near death. Help was immediately summoned the doctor ordering her immediate removal to the hospital which is 20 miles away. There it was found necessary to place her in a straight jacket, and in her bed, her strength being more than the nurses could manage. The patient did not regain consciousness for another 24 hours, but is now quite well.

The Editor would be secure the remains of the honey, so that it could have been submitted to the Government analyst, but unfortunately the neighbours had thrown it out and the bees in the district had cleaned it up. He questioned the lady about the honey, as to colour, and she stated there were quite a number of unsealed cells with honey in, and so she had had only a light touch of bread and cheese and bread and butter with honey for tea, she and the doctor, too, are convinced that the honey was the cause of the trouble.

The beekeeper and his family have been eating the same honey without any ill effects.

We state this case that those who are in such districts and raise section honey should be very careful not to take any of the honey immediately the cells are sealed, but better to leave them on for a month, so that the bees of the hive will thoroughly mature the honey. It is a positive fact that if one had two frames of honey quite ready to extract to-day, one was extracted and the sample kept, and the other left in the hive for a month and then extracted, the latter, although presumably from exactly the same source, would be found to be a better honey in every respect than that extracted immediately it was capped. It is the chemistry and atmosphere of the hive that makes good honey—don't rush it.

We learn that Mr. A. Goodie has been appointed Assistant Agency Inspector for the Auckland Province. Mr. Goodie was for some years in charge of the operations of Mr. W. Lees, of Masterton. Consequently, the Editor must assume as a matter of fact at the same time, and a great many of his best hives—practical beekeeping were at the hands of Mr. Goodie. At that time Mr. Lees was running about 1200 colonies in 11 out-apiaries, with an extreme distance of about 20 miles.

We can only say that if Mr. Goodie gets control his district in the same manner as he got round those apiaries, the Auckland province is going to be "best the best."

We congratulate the Department in securing the services of an experienced practical man like Mr. Goodie.

It has been stated that beekeepers, by being frequently stung and thus vaccinated with bacteria, which is a very strong opinion, are rendered more immune to disease organisms. It would be interesting to know if this is any truth at all, and as we now know that various epidemics amongst us, there is a chance of being vaccinated, and we should appreciate any information from our readers that would go to show apparent proof that we are more immune.

The Editor thought the honey was worth trying, as assumed to come from a sting at the last inspection of the agency, and it is at the time of writing, "right side up."

It is fitting that in the December issue the Editor should have a little personal note to his readers, as the great festival of peace and goodwill will have taken place before the next issue.

The glowing joys of the season of hospitality, which even as yet is hardly realized, must surely make this Christmas the most joyful one yet spent, promising as it does the

down of a new one, when the spirit of the Father of Peace will enter more fully into the minds of men.

And in our rejoicing our hearts will go out to those whom the war has bereaved, and pray that God may grant to them a full measure of his peace. To those that return maimed or broken in health, we trust He will give them a speedy return to health, that they may soon again be amongst those beloved ones.

To those who have rendered help by contributing articles, criticisms and helpful suggestions to make our Journal what it is, the Editor extends a hearty goodwill; and to those with whom he has disagreed and allowed his (allegedly) "valiant" suspension to come upon them, he desires to "bury the hatchet," and by thus doing both he and they may enjoy the festival to the fullest extent.

A Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all is the earnest —



C. W. Bacon.

Deliberations of the National Executive.

The following matters have been discussed:

Place of Holding Annual Conference.—It is decided to hold this in Wellington, it being the most central for both islands, the advantage of being able to have the attendance of the Government officials at the meeting, and as the B. P. A. hold their annual meeting there, the danger of splitting the attendance of both if the conference were held elsewhere.

The Sale of Certified Queens by the State Agency.—I am in favour of the sale of certified queens.—W. E. BARNES.

This depends. If they are in a position to guarantee that 75 per cent, or more, of those certified queens will be purely mated, they can do a great deal of good, on account of the cheapness of production, but all the same their main effort should be to give something as reliable as possible.—J. BARNES.

If the Department choose to sell certified queens, and our first priority of purchases, from a financial point of view I should say it was good business. But my own reason of a better queen is one that has been carefully watched for two seasons. I saw my own queens from the egg, and from queens I know something of.—R. H. NIXSON.

I have always been of the opinion that the Government should not compete against private enterprise in any capacity whatsoever.—E. W. SALES.

If the State is going to sell queens, I do not see why certified ones should be introduced.—A. BARNES.

I do not see that any objection can be taken to the sale of certified queens. It is the usual custom in all countries, and if the buyer knows exactly that he takes the risk of not having his queen purely mated, where's the harm?

If queen breeding in the State Agency is going to be put on the same footing as other stock where they are sure of certain results by purely mating, then queens are going to be very expensive to buy from the State.—W. WATSON.

Exhibit of Honey, Wax, and Vinegar.—I am in favour of this exhibit being framed either with or without conjunction of the B. P. A., preferably the former.—W. E. BARNES.

My feeling is that the B. P. A. should attend to this. It is in the direct interest of the producers to have their honey produce well advertised, and it seems to me that the B. P. A., as their agents, could do very much to advertise both honey and the B. P. A. by this method. I would suggest that the Executive approach the B. P. A. in the matter, and ask them to take it up.—J. BARNES.

I have no hesitation in saying that the National Executive should endeavor to form this exhibit, as it would be an exceedingly interesting exhibit, quite apart from the educational value.—G. W. SALES.

Good idea. Let each branch collect samples in 2½ pints, and forward them to Wellington at Conference. All expenses to come out of the National funds.—R. H. NIXSON.

I have always been in favour of this, not only of honey, but all bee products or by-products.—A. BARNES.

I think it would be a means of education, and a wise move on the part of the National, and that we may very well ask the Government to help us by the use of their show-rooms and stands.—W. WATSON.

Your Journal is a good 5/- worth; it is about the only cheap thing going about now.—G. B. New Plymouth.

Beekkeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS—DEC.

[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.]

The weather recently experienced in the Auckland province has been the very opposite to what is required for successful spring work amongst the bees. Cold, cloudy, and windy days, interspersed with heavy showers, have been the order lately, so that the bees have not built up as they would do under normal conditions.

This weather delays swarming, but with hives where the bees had made preparations by starting queen cells, instead of coming out about the time the first cells are capped, wait for the first fine day (unless too long delayed), when out they come one after another, often getting hopelessly mixed up, sometimes two swarms uniting and causing the beginner to wonder what has possessed the bees.

Don't let the hives get short of food in any case. With the large number of bees in the hives just now the stores diminish very rapidly during a spell of bad weather.

Under normal conditions work in the hives should be going at full speed, and the beekeeper should see that nothing happens to prevent the bees taking full advantage of the honey flow that will be on during this month.

When looking through your hives should you see queen cells being built, although the queen and bees have plenty of room, it can be taken that the queen is failing, and the bees are preparing to supersede her. Crush the cells and send for an untested queen. Look through the hive in another week and repeat the operation. When the queen arrives, find the old queen and kill her, and crush any cells.

Place the cage containing the new queen on the top of the frames, in a position that the bees can know they have a queen.

At the end of two days break the wire gauze, so that the bees can gnaw away the candy and thus liberate the queen.

Should the hive where the queen is being superseded be a very strong one, and the queen an Italian, you could make a nucleus hive in the following manner.

Make a complete box the same length as an ordinary hive, and a width of 5in, with a moveable cover. Nail two slabs 2in wide on the bottom to keep it off the ground, bore a hole ½in wide in one side near the bottom. Over the hole tack a piece of wire gauze. In the forenoon go to your hive and take out two combs, making sure that on one of them is at least one good queen cell; also that you are not taking the queen.

Place these with the adhering bees in the nucleus hive with another comb containing some honey. Put the cover on, and see that no bees can escape, else they will all fly back to the old hive. Place the nucleus hive in a shady spot, and leave it until the evening of the following day, when the wire gauze can be taken off and the bees liberated. In about a fortnight the young queen should be laying.

As you will be thinking of harvesting your crop shortly, it will be as well to get ready for the operation.

You will, of course, have a shed that is bee-proof. Screw your extractor on to a stand that will allow a pail to go underneath the outlet, then put your screw-eyes into the floor, hooking your anchor rods to these and to the rim of the extractor, firmly tighten up.

An uncapping box can be made of an empty super, having slabs 1in x ½in nailed ½in apart on the bottom, this to fit into a tray or bath to catch the honey as it drains. Across the top of the box put a piece of wood ½in x 1in, which has the point of a strong nail sticking through on which to steady the frame whilst uncapping.

The size of your tank will be regulated by the size of your apiary, a size 40in long, 20in wide, and 14in deep holding about 500lb. This will be fitted with a honey tap, and raised on a platform to allow the tins to be placed for filling.

The honey coming from the extractor will contain pieces of wax, pollen, few bees, etc., therefore the strainer is necessary. Make a light framework of 3 x 1 to rest on the tank, having wire gauze tacked on the bottom, and through this pour the honey.

In taking off the frames of honey to be extracted, one must be careful that the honey is sufficiently ripe, which will be when the combs are well filled all over, and capped at least half or two-thirds down—the more capped the better. Don't use too much smoke when taking off the honey, as it often taints the cappings, and might flavour the whole crop.

To unclog the combs, place the end bar on the nail point, start at the bottom of the comb, and cut with a sawing motion. The double-edged Bingham knife is the best, and if heated by being placed in hot water over a wick stove, much better and quicker work can be done.

When the frames are ready in the extractor you will avoid breaking their backs by giving only a few turns for a start, just sufficient to partly empty the one side. Then reverse and completely empty the other side, reverse again, and complete the extraction of the partly extracted side. If you completely empty the one side at the start, the weight of the full side pressing against the empty cells on the other will break the backs of the combs.

At sundown replace the empty combs on the hives to be filled again.

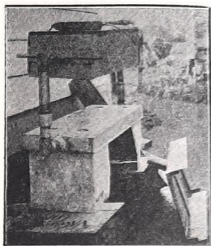
When you have finished your apiary, the honey should be left in the tank for at least 48 hours, when all the immurities will have risen, forming a scum. Carefully remove this, and your honey is ready for tinning. Do not leave honey exposed to the air for any length of time, as it loses its aroma, and if the atmosphere is moist the honey will absorb it, and a thin layer of watery honey will be found on the top, which might set up fermentation.

F. C. B.

Remember what has served you well,
Remember all your friends to tell;
Remember what to every best
Has proved to be the very best.
Remember, winter's months are here
There's sore throats, cough and cold to fear;
Remember treatment ever sure—
Remember Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

THE SMEDLEY GAPPING MELTER.

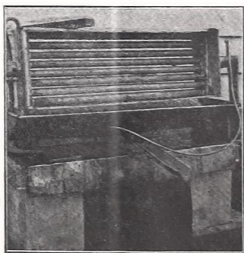
(Patent applied for).



1. The four tubes going through the boiler are shown here, the heat retainer is leaning against the box, showing short flue, which is coupled with another that goes through the wall when in use.



2. All ready. Note the coupling or down-pipe on the left side was by error out of focus when taking the photo. This can be clearly seen in No. 1.



3. Turning the melting surface over, also showing uncapping knife and rest for frames on top. The melter stands on two boxes.

The photos herewith reproduced will illustrate my melter, which I claim has the following advantages over other machines:—

1. No trouble with the tubes blocking. When this happens just wait till nearly emptied, then turn the tubes over, and start again on a clean surface as often as required. The trough under the tubes will finish off small pieces of wax not melted when the turning is done.

2. The melting surface or tubes can be used with the boiler as shown in photo, or used separately by steam from any other supply.

3. If used as shown in photos, the heat from the lamps is used to the best advantage; no wholesale waste, the heat and fumes pass up through two tubes at each end of boiler, then to escape must go back to middle of boiler, up through a flue, and out

through the wall of extracting house. Thus it can be seen that the heat is held longer round the boiler than in any other meter, and is then expelled from the room.

4. The tubes being lin in diameter, the escape of the honey and wax is quick. The trough catching these is not attached to the boiler, but sufficient heat rises to keep the wax liquid. Here the honey and wax pass out along an open spout and are caught in the gravity strainers.

I have put this machine to a thorough test, and am convinced it will do all that other machines claim to do, and do it better.

I intend to demonstrate the working of this machine at the next Field Day held at Ruakura.

C. SMEDLEY, Te Awamutu.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

The prospects for the coming season in Canterbury at the time of writing can be summed up in one word—doubtful. The weather for the last six weeks on the plains has been dry except for an occasional shower. Farther back on and near the foothills there has been more rain, but the spring on the whole has been the most cold and backward one I have ever known. An occasional balmy day has been sandwiched in between several when the wind has been cuttingly cold. On the morning of November 9 there was a severe frost which has ruined most tender garden stuff, and on Sunday, November 10, the heat was stifling. Truly, as one American visitor is credited with saying, the weather in Canterbury is made up of "samples"—sometimes every variety in one day.

Carnival Week and the Agricultural Show has come and gone, and, as usual, the show of honey was confined to a few. I cannot say whether it was good, bad, or indifferent, as most of the dairy exhibits were removed before I reached the room where they were shown. I wonder how long it will be before a really good exhibit worthy of the industry will be seen. I suppose the idea is being kept "steadily in view" by the National Executive, but now that the attention of so many is being drawn to honey production, the time seems ripe to do something. I have not forgotten what the editor wrote on this matter some months ago, and shall be ready with help when needed. I shall be interested to know what the editor's ideas are, and hope he will be enthusiastically supported.

These remarks on swarming in last month's issue suggested many thoughts. If the bees would only act "according to plan," how it would simplify matters. Mr Earp once said to me: "Your first swarm is like your first baby." I don't know what it is like to have a first baby, but if those who have had the experience had as much trouble as I had with my first swarm they were glad when it was all over. It settled in the heart of a currant bush, and the more I tried to get it into the hive the further it wiggled its way in, and

after struggling with it all one afternoon and well into the night I let it till 2 a.m., and then brought what I could get of them home in a sheet. I may mention that I found a few in bed with me next morning. Fortunately they did not "kick." After energetically lading them up with an empty cocoa tin from under the alighting board and other inconvenient places, and tossing them into the hive, only to see them run out again. They got disgusted and rose in the air, finally settling on a convenient branch of a currant bush, where an obliging neighbour helped me to shake them into the hive "for keeps." I heaved a deep sigh of relief, and thanked my stars bees did not swarm at night as well as in the daytime.

I said in last month's journal I hoped to have a demonstration day at my apiary some time in January.

As I learn that the Executive will be holding a meeting in Christchurch either late in January or early in February; also the possibility of the Directors of the H.P.A. meeting about the same time, I shall be only too pleased to make the date to suit as many as can possibly attend. "Let 'em all come." The more the merrier.

I spent the third week of October in moving my late friend Gidley's bees to my own apiary, so I suppose there will not be any more complaints about them being a nuisance. There are now about 180 colonies, and I have been told that the crop will suffer through overstocking. Well, I suppose I shall know more about it later on. I'm hoping for the best.

I referred in last month's journal to diagonal wiring of frames as suggested by Mr Martin. I gave the method a trial with one set of ten frames, and compared the time taken with the ordinary three horizontal wires. I find it took me one-third longer, so have definitely "turned it down."

I expect to take up my quarters at Lakeside on November 18, for the season, and hope to have everything in apple-pie order in good time to welcome anybody and everybody who cares to pay the apiary a visit during the season. I hope to be able to announce the date of the demonstration in next issue.

Branch Reports.

WAIRARAPA.

Beekeepers in the above district have experienced exceptionally rough weather this spring, and in consequence many apiarists have had to feed sugar syrup for the first time. It is generally considered that the gales have been the strongest ever remembered. The season will be much later this year than last, but, nevertheless, it gives promise of being a good one.

The weather conditions have prevented many from making the increase in stock they expected to, queen rearing being seriously delayed.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all.

H. BENTON.

"Critic's" Comments.

(TO THE EDITOR).

Sir,—Owing to indisposition, likely to be of a lasting nature, I am compelled to give up as much writing as possible, therefore my usual "Comments" will be absent. If they have assisted on the lines of the heading their object is gained.—I am, etc.,

CRITIC.

On Frames.

By LEXICOGRAPHER.

Frame.—Without context this is a very difficult word to define. In the nomenclature of beekeeping it is a device composed of four or more pieces of wood or other material held together by nails, tacks, glue, or other devices; classified according to size, shape and design; and intended to surround, protect, and limit the size of combs built by bees from wax, or by man from wax, aluminium, paper, or other material; or by both bees and man from wax, or a combination of wax and other material; said comb being intended for the reception and storage of honey, pollen, or brood; or any two of said articles. There! I have coughed up that lump and feel better to get it out of my system.

Classified according to accepted zoological rules the frame is a branch of the Inanimate Kingdom of Bee Fixings, said branch being divided into two classes, to wit, Langstroth and the other kinds. The division into classes is regulated by the outside dimensions of the frame. The division of each class into three orders that compose it is in accordance with the design of the frame—viz.: Simplicity, Hoffman, and the other kind. Each order is again divided into two families—the wired and the unwired. The unwired family has no further division, and deserves no further attention. The wired family contains three genera—namely, Genus Quadrangular (four horizontal wires), Genus Triangular (three horizontal wires), and Genus Freako (wired any other old way). Each genus contains three species: full sheet, starter, and no foundation. That carries the classification to its ultimate division.

Simplicity frames are used by beekeepers who study efficiency and practice economy of operation. Hoffman frames are used by fools and amateurs. The other kinds are used by dawdlers and experimenters.

The Hoffman frame was first popularised by the bee journals owned by companies interested in their manufacture. The Simplicity frame can be made by anybody who possesses a buzz saw. They must, therefore, be sold cheaply or the beekeepers will make them. The Hoffman frame requires more complicated machinery, though the added cost of manufacturing them is very slight. But there is far less danger of the ordinary

beekeeper undertaking to make them, so it is good business for the supply dealer to put up the price and advocate them.

It is said that the Hoffman frame took its name from its inventor. This is a mistake, though the Honourable Mr Hoffman must have had something to do with its introduction. The Hoffman frame was invented by the devil for the express purpose of teaching good beekeepers to swear. They answer the inventor's purpose admirably.

When you open a hive for the first time in the spring you will find the frames glued together and to the sides of the hive in one mass so solid that it will take half an hour of careful manipulation with a crowbar to separate them. As the season advances the bees will cement the bottom bar of the frames in the super to the top bars of those in the brook chamber. When you take off the honey for extracting the two little nails that are supposed to hold the bottom bar in place, pull out and leave it in the hive with about half an inch of comb. The shoulder on the end bar gets in the way of the uncapping knife, and in the extractor the two shoulders hold the comb away from contact with the basket. If the combs are new or have been broken before, a little extra centrifugal force will break the comb between the top bar and the first wire. If it is an unwired comb, good night! When you put back the empty combs you must manipulate them very carefully to prevent killing bees, and all through the manipulation of Hoffman frames your tongue must be held in leash to keep from overworking the recording angel.—

Western Honey Bee, August, 1918.

North Taranaki Beekeepers' Association.

On Monday, October 28, the North Taranaki Beekeepers' Association held their first day of the season.

Over 25 beekeepers, including several ladies, availed themselves of the invitation, visitors coming from Waitoitoi, Tariki, Lepperton, and Tahora. Mr Jacobsen, the Government apiarist for the district, was present, having motored up from Wellington the day previous. Mr E. Beale, of Frankley Park, had kindly placed his apiary at the service of the Club and spared no effort to make the demonstration a success. The hives of bees were in splendid condition. Mr Jacobsen remarking that they could hardly have been better. Promptly at 9.30 a.m. the fall hive was opened. This proved to be an Italian stock, possessing a very fine queen, a very stately dame, who showed herself off to

A glass of good wine and a choice cigar

Promoters of comfort undoubtedly are.

Soothing the nerves in a wonderful way.

After the worries and work of the day.

But when drenched and cold on a winter night.

And needing a "soother" to put you right.

There's nothing so soothing and warming, be

As a "sooth'cap" of Woods' Peppermint Cure.

advantage. Certainly a very fine opportunity for novices to see a queen attended by her retinue. Several other queens were seen in other hives, but none showed to greater advantage. Mr Beale has been using Italian queens for some time, and only has a few black bees left. Most of the apiary is now Italian or hybrids.

Mr Jacobsen took the opportunity of explaining various matters while taking out combs and showing the brood, eggs, and drone cells, and the interest was kept up for over an hour.

Two hives were divided on the "Hand" system of non-swarming, and the process thoroughly explained.

After the hives had been worked through, Mrs Beale invited the gathering to morning tea, which was much appreciated.

Mr Jacobsen then gave a short demonstration and lecture on foul brood, showing by means of two diseased combs how it affects the brood, and the method of testing in order to distinguish between "foul brood" and "chilled brood."

The method of cure was also carefully explained by means of a hive and frames prepared by Mr Beale.

How to get a hive and frames ready for a swarm was also explained and illustrated practically.

Questions were then the order of the day; they came fast and furious, but the expert was equal to all attacks. As a finish Mr Jacobsen showed how to cut a ripe queen cell from a comb in a hive, and graft it on to the comb in a hive that was queenless.

The Vice-president, Mr F. S. Johns, moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Jacobsen for his attendance and instruction, and hoped that he would be able to come again later in the season and give another demonstration.

The President, Dr Blackley, moved a vote of thanks to Mr Beale for his kindness in giving the use of his apiary also for his clever manipulation of the bees, and the good practical exhibits of appliances, most of which were of his own making; also thanking Mrs Beale for the morning tea, which had proved very acceptable. Several visitors spoke to the resolutions, and the opinions expressed were very flattering to Messrs Beale and Jacobsen.

Mr Jacobsen distributed several of the Department's bulletins on foul brood, etc. He is staying in New Plymouth for a few days. Quite a number of those present invited him to visit their apiaries.

Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Club.

The above Club held its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 8, in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, about 40 members being present. The Secretary read the report for the year, and congratulated the members on the year's work. The financial position was good, and some very fine instructive work had been done. Several field days were held, when a profitable and pleasurable time had been spent. Great credit was due to Mr Bowman for his de-

monstration and lectures during the winter months. The following officers for 1918-1919 were elected:—President, Mr Sullivan; Vice-president, Mr Bowman; Secretary, Mr Patten; Treasurer, Mr Skipworth; Reporting Secretary, Mr P. Jack; Committee—Mrs Bowman, Mr K. A. Smith, Miss Coomber, Mrs Mason, Messrs Jack, Gill, McDonald, Henderson.

The first of this season's field days was held at Mr Ambrose Johnstone's, Opawa, on Saturday, October 26, when between 40 and 50 were present, and a most enjoyable and instructive time was spent amongst the bees. A practical demonstration of handling bees by Mr Johnstone was given. Many questions were answered. The guests were most hospitably entertained at afternoon tea by Mrs and Miss Johnstone. Mr Sullivan moved a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr Johnstone and family for their great kindness. Eight new members joined the Club.

P. JACK.

Honey Crop Prospects.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
INDUSTRIES, AND COMMERCE
HORTICULTURE DIVISION.

Wellington, November 9, 1918.

To Mr F. C. BAINES,
Editor, New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal,
Kati Kati.

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

Auckland.—Auckland districts have experienced an exceptionally cold and windy spring, and colonies recently examined have been very short of stores. In many cases feeding has been necessary up to the time of writing.

The late season would indicate that there will not be much thick honey this season. There is an abundance of clover in bloom; all that is required is warm, sunny days to ensure a fair crop.—G. V. WESTBROOKS.

Wellington.—I have to report that throughout the whole of my district the climatic conditions during the past month have been very unfavourable to beekeepers. In many instances the colonies have had to be fed to keep them alive, whereas the favourable seasons at this period would induce the colonies to become strong to gather the honey flow later. It will therefore be seen that unless the weather materially improves at once the prospects will not be good.

Honey in bulk is still coming forward to the grading store, but it is improbable that any more of last year's crop will be available for export.

Beeswax is quoted at 2s 6d per lb.—F. A. JACOBSEN.

Dunedin.—The prospects of a good season are excellent, as the bees are building up well in most districts. Fine weather has enabled the bees to work the fruit blossom and the early-flowering nectar plants. Prices are unaltered. Bulk honey from 10d per lb;

sections, none offering; pat honey, scarce. Beeswax is quoted up to 2s per lb, according to quality.—E. A. EARP.

Yours faithfully

T. W. KERR,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

I find the Journal most interesting and instructive.—H. R., Blenheim.

Honey.—Coming in quietly. Good demand from 4d up for fair qualities.

Comb.—12s to 13s.

Beeswax.—Demand strong, supply short, realising up to 2s 3d for better quality.—Queensland Agricultural Journal, October, 1918.

There is nothing fresh to report regarding past month's market conditions.

Latest quotations are:—

Choice clear liquid Western, 6d lb.

Good liquid and choice candied, 5d to 5½d lb.

Dark and candied, from 4d to 4½d.—Australasian Beekeeper, October, 1918.

Top and Bottom Boards for Hives.

The Editor has requested me to give a short article on the top and bottom boards, which I am using at present.

I have tried for two winters and one summer asbestos sheets 8ft x 4ft x 3-16in thick at 12s pre-war price, which cuts ten sheets for 12 frame hives, and 12 for 10 frame hives without wood or labour, at 1s 3d for the larger, and for the smaller 1s each.

On the bottom boards I use lin or lin square battens to nail on the sheets with a mouth contractor. To those who prefer a reversible bottom board they can nail the different size battens on each side and nail right through and clench. Sheets are cut the width of hive and left long in front to form a lighting board.

The top is cut the size of hive, with only two battens running same way as frames, nailed on with four nails to each batten.

Then over this top is a flat iron roof same width of hive when finished, the sides of which are turned down 2in, and the ends turned up lin. The corners are cut off so as not to catch. If lin and the 2in are marked on the flat sheet it will show where and how much to cut off the corners. I leave the iron roof loose, but it may be fixed to the battens on top; so if I want to do so I can insert my hive-tool anywhere, as I use no mats, have no bee-moth, so they are plentiful here of both kinds. To keep iron on I have a weight 12lb, made of concrete attached to a wire, placed over each hive, and have found it satisfactory, and this is the place where it is said the wind is made.

The bottom boards are a success. The top board, or, as I call it, the ceiling having no ventilation, causes the moisture to condense

in some of the hives. So far there have been no mildewed combs, they scrape well, have not tried boiling, but think they will stand that test. Sometimes, if using a blow-lamp on asbestos sheets of any kind they explode. Though they do not seem to do any damage it may cause blindness if a small piece hit the eye.

This season I have had made for me by the Konko Board Company Konko board reinforced with wire-netting, to make strong. These are to be tried for top boards, some to be used with battens and iron roof, some to be tarred and left without iron roof. I was afraid they would not scrape, but tried one the other day, and it seemed as if they will stand that test as well as fire and boiling water. Will give experience of them after one season's working. Twenty of them made 20½ x 20½ cost 30s. So it looks as though wood for roofs and bottoms are out of date, and no joints to leak or painting to be done, and more lasting. Being a carpenter and joiner, I know somewhat about wood.

The asbestos sheets, eternite, polite, are cut with a handsaw, the sheets being placed on four 4in x 2in on two trestles. Two of the 4in x 2in being placed nearly together, leaving room for saw. If possible, try and see the carpenters putting up same on a building. It is better to bore all nail holes. Sometimes they crack, and that would spoil a piece. I use a Yankee drill; a breast drill will do. Nail with small flat-headed nails. Once learn to cut the sheets and then the rest is no trouble, because there is no need for extra good fits as in woodwork. Smooth side next bees.

Since writing the above have tried Konko boards on wet or damp hives, and have not seen any sign of dampness. They seem a success. Will now order some more. If made like mine they will not blow off even in a strong wind. Their weight is about 12lb. By using the Konko board the iron roof can be done without. Paint or tar top and edges, and it seems just as satisfactory. All these tops and bottoms take very little room to pack if the apiary has to be shifted.

A Konko board top has been on a hive all day, and it is the windiest day we have had for years, and it has not shifted.

J. M. RUSSELL, Featherston.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

ADVERTISEMENTS on this Page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion.

BENTON CAPPINGS & COMB HONEY REDUCERS.

Material for building these Machines is in short supply. Order now to avoid disappointment.

You run no risks. Satisfaction guaranteed, or your money refunded.

Apply

H. BENTON,
Newstead, Featherston.

BEE HIVE COVERS.—No more hive covers blown off. WATT'S SPRING CATCH FASTENING will keep them secure. Two pairs to each hive; quick and handy; easily fastened; patent granted.

WM. WATT,
Lorne Street,
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FOR SALE.

Shook Swarms.
One 2½ h.p. Vertical Boiler (New).
Will take Foundation Mill in part payment or buy outright.

E. J. PINK,
Ohan.

FOR SALE.

Half Supers for Comb Honey. Trays and all to fit, in good and clean order. Will sell cheap, as I am going in for Extractor Honey.

A. COSTELLO,
Dargaville.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR).

SIR,—I am in favour of the Department of Agriculture selling untested queens. All your arguments are to the point. If queens are wanted they are always wanted early, and that is one reason why I support the proposal. I believe that if early queens can be secured at a reasonable price good business can be done.—I am, etc.,

E. G. WARD.

(TO THE EDITOR).

SIR,—I believe the Department of Agriculture has taken a step in the right direction by selling untested queens. According to Mr Hopkins's idea of a tested queen, beekeepers a few years ago were getting a good deal for 10s when the Waerenga Queen Raising Apiary was in existence. The fact could not have advertised itself, or not one of those 80 queens would have been without a buyer. But can Mr Hopkins expect us to believe that those 80 queens had all those qualities. While Mr Robt. Gibb had charge of the apiary it sold a good few queens, but I rather think that when beekeepers found that it was being run by one-year cadets from Ruakura, even though Mr Hopkins visited it occasionally, the sales fell off. Of course, it was no discredit to the cadets, but beekeepers would naturally expect that such an apiary would be run by a man of extra ability. It is to be hoped that the Department in its new venture will profit by experience.

In continuing this discussion we must have some definition of tested and untested. The commonly-accepted definition of the trade term "tested queen" in a young queen (bred from pure stock), which has been kept until it could be ascertained that she has been mated with pure stock. She is tested for nothing but purity of matting. To test her

for all the other qualities that Mr Hopkins speaks of she would need to be a year old, so that her stock can be judged on their working qualities. If her stock satisfy all requirements she can be sold as a breeder. Now, I do not believe that all the tested queens sold from Waerenga were subjected to such a searching test, and no private beekeeper sells such as a tested queen. Of course, to be able queen breeder must dequeen his colonies. To sell a tested queen early in the season a Does anyone expect to get the pick of those queens (Mr Hopkins insists on merciless culling for 10s? Would it be sound business for a queen breeder to sell one at that price? But it is good business to get a sale for all and sundry queens that have served their purpose a year or perhaps two years, and replace with a young queen. How many beekeepers get stung by buying such queens and find them superseded shortly after their arrival? (The mails get blamed for a good deal). No, Sir, Mr Hopkins is talking about a breeder queen at a tested queen price.

An untested queen is, or should be, one bred from a pure mother, and sold as soon as she begins laying, and before her brood is old enough to determine the purity of her mating. Mr Hopkins speaks as if an untested queen is a mismatched one. Some unscrupulous breeders might sell them when they have ascertained they are mismatched, but it is dishonest.

I agree with Mr Barnes that the best practice is to buy a number of untested queens and do the testing for breeding qualities in one's own yard. This is where the Department will do useful work. For the same money the beekeeper can get more queens. He is reasonably sure that they are bred from pure stock of desirable qualities, and that they are young. If the queens are young and nothing else they are still worth the money. If some are mismatched they also are worth their cost, as their drones are pure (I hope this statement will not arouse those plasted chromosomes from their well-earned rest). But the great advantage is that while the beekeeper gets full value for his money on every queen, he is able to pick out the breeder that Mr Hopkins would pick out for him at the State Apiary. When one wants a thing done one must do it one's self.

I do not think the demand is for early queens, specially as if beekeepers want queens at all they will get them—in their turn. Apply early and take their turn. Queen rearing is carried on all the season, and the queens would be delivered in rotation as available. In this connection I think large orders should be filled in instalments to give the smaller man a chance.

To sell nothing but tested queens would mean about twice the appliances and stock required to produce the same number of untested queens. If the demand is continuous for untested queens it would be possible to

I used to be a martyr to bronchitis.

A victim and of winter flu and alls

THU I was told by elderly Mrs. Rights,

Of a remedy that really never fails.

The winter time is so scarcely seems to try me.

Tho' I sometimes get a twinge, you may be

sure:

But I always keep a large sized bottle by me

Of Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

send out two from the one nucleus in the time required to test a queen for purity of mating. Therefore, it would be possible for the Department to distribute twice the number of queens by selling them untested. No great farm, but a deal of good should result if the parent breeding stock is the right sort. In this connection there should be an apiary run for the honey, so as to get a proper selection of the honey gathering qualities of the parent stocks. The best way the beekeepers could help the Department to get quick and good results would be for those who have pure stock to send one or two of their best one-year-old queens to the apiary. If the apiary were composed of colonies headed with the best queens from all over the Dominion, then surely a purely mated queen reared in that apiary should be something worth having at the price of an untested queen. I, for one, should like to see an effort like this made to improve the strain of bees we have in New Zealand. We want an improvement, and we want a chief apiarist, too, but the nameless correspondent that Mr Hopkins quotes would not be an improvement in the position of chief apiarist, however suitable he thinks he would be. I can give a shrewd guess who he is, and that he wants it, but the beekeepers won't have him. If Mr Hopkins thinks I can't guess, we will leave the Editor to decide. In conclusion, I hope that after all this free advertising, the Department will help the Journal with an advertisement.—I am, etc.,

W. B. BRAY.

(TO THE EDITOR).

STR.—The many arguments put forth re bee boundaries are very interesting, and surely the beekeepers of to-day are more advanced than our forefathers were many years ago. Yet quite a few are satisfied to play along and let the other fellow (who has no respect for his brother beekeeper) come along and starve him out as a certain class of individual will.

I note Mr Critic (page 169) refers to a farmer with 1000 acres of clover, etc., and a man in the bee business with one acre beside him. If a man with the one acre was there first, and has an apiary established, then the farmer who buys the 1000 acres knows he has no right to start bee farming, or supposing both parties buy at the same time the one-acre man goes to a big expense and builds up an apiary, and is making a comfortable living. The 1000-acre man notices this, and decides to put a man on and go right into the bee business and starve the small man out. Nothing to stop him, but there should be.

Re Gorse.—In this locality bees tumble over one another in the early spring to get at the flowers for pollen and honey.

Binding Cases.—Away back in one of the Journals Mr Ward was kind enough to explain how he fixed the binding wire on his cases, and I think Mr Gilling gave him the tip to pass it on. Now we carried out the instructions as described. The same wire as used for cheese crates was secured, also small staples, and the ends of the wire was turned down inside the top of the crates so as to save the grader taking it off. Later a cheque from the H.P.A. and statement showing a deduction of 6d per case for strapping cases. I

wrote the H.P.A. and they assured me the New Zealand Express Company would not reduce this charge. I guess next time we will have the wire securely stapled to top.

Will Mr Ward be good enough to let us know how he got along? It seems to us the New Zealand Express Company can charge what they like.

I think, Mr Editor, we are in for a good season this year. At present honey is coming in "goodoh," and I hope your bees are doing likewise.—I am, etc.,

A. L. LUKE.

[If your cases were wired and stapled you should not be called upon to pay anything, as you have filled the conditions offered.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR).

STR.—After reading Mr Chas. F. Horn's able letter in the October Journal re apiary boundaries, I was disappointed that he was guilty of the common failing—descanting on the principle, and not suggesting a single practical idea to assist in the setting of this vexed question. Therefore I would, whilst heartily agreeing with all Mr Horn says, suggest the following as a basis for Apiary Boundaries Regulations:—

(1) A "territory" to be the ground within a radius of one and a-half miles from any central apiary; no outer or branch apiary to be more than half a mile from the central one. No central apiary shall nearer another than three miles.

(2) Any beekeeper must have not less than 20 colonies before he is qualified to register his right to a territory, and must, in order to retain such territory, have at the end of two years from date of registration and thereafter continuously, not less than 200 colonies.

(3) No beekeeper, other than the registered owner of a territory, shall have more than 10 (ten) colonies in such territory.

(4) No beekeeper having a territory shall have any colonies in any other registered territory.

(5) No beekeeper shall register a second territory until the apiary in his first territory contains at least 300 colonies, such beekeeper to lose any right to the second territory if the apiary in such first territory fall below 300 colonies. The second and any further territory registered shall be subject to Clause 2: Subject to the clauses herein any beekeeper may register any number of territories, but any territory unoccupied for six months in one period shall be deemed to be unregistered.

The foregoing regulations would apply strictly to any new apiaries being established, and would absolutely protect those now existing, and which have been built up despite disadvantages and disabilities of all sorts and every form of discouragement, the struggles for the betterment of which and for improved conditions making the profession what it is to-day. But there are many instances where these regulations would have to be modified as regards existing apiaries in order to avoid hardship, thus:—

(6) At the date of these regulations coming into force, if two or more territories overlap, the territory claimed by the largest apiary shall have priority, and the other apiaries concerned having to conform to these regulations, as clause 7.

(7) The other apiaries then also existing in such overlapping territories (clause 6) shall be permitted to remain, but only in such position then occupied and without the right to increase the number of colonies in such apiary, or the right to register such territory, or the right of occupation to lapse totally in five years from date of these regulations except in the case of the aforesaid largest apiary which registered such territory.

(8) A beekeeper only with the right of occupation in a territory as under clause 7 may register a territory other than the one in which exercising rights of occupation, without clause 5 operating in such registration, but upon such registration of a territory the right of occupation aforesaid lapses, and such apiary of occupation must within 30 days be removed from the territory so occupied.

This would mean that every apiarist who devoted his time and ability to the profession would be reasonably protected, and any householder who desired to keep a few colonies (up to 10), and thus not interfere with the living of the apiarist. The strict enforcement of the present Apiaries Act will do the rest.—I am, etc.,

P. A. H.

Auckland, 20/10/18.

(TO THE EDITOR).

SIR,—As soon as I read your editorial I thought that your closing of the discussion with a bang was not on sufficient grounds, and ought to be protested against, but influenza laid hold on me that moment, and I could not. I apologise now for being late, and also, please forgive me, should I be unconnected or abrupt, for I am not myself yet, and likely never shall be again. We cannot hope for redress, because only 10 beekeepers out of 4500 are suffering unjustly. Someone told me that a member of Parliament must be one of the sufferers first. And yet many of us, even probably most of us, think that British constitution guarantees liberty and justice to all. Moreover, why be shy. The State is losing wealth while these 10 men, through inhumanity to man and stupidity combined, are ruining themselves while ruining 10 other innocent men. The thing is a crime, and every crime not brought into the light only festers below, produces more crime, and makes us more at home with it, more pitiless and Prussian towards one another.

Again, because someone somewhere at some time said that bees fly 15½ miles, apiary boundaries could not be fixed. And yet everybody by means of a little horse-sense reasoning know that, whereas an apiary of any size placed close to another is likely to do it harm, no such thing would happen if the law placed the distance at, say, six miles. There is room enough in New Zealand for all the beekeepers blooming and budding. We are not out to legislate against stray bees, but against unprincipled beekeepers.

From page 762 of the last (September) issue of The Round Table I will copy, with your permission, as follows:—“ . . . A practicable aircraft would never have been designed by mechanical draftsmen without the aid of pilots willing to risk their necks. The best project which can be elaborated in the

drawing-room will reveal defects when actually flown, which no effort of the human mind could foresee, but which can be corrected by amendment. The only safe course when dealing with a new subject upon which administrative experience has yet to be made is to fly the machine—that is to say, is to get the measure into operation, to amend it as experience brings out the defects, and finally to consolidate the original and amending Acts. This in the oversea dominions is the recognised process of constructive legislation, which is rendered possible by the fact that their legislatures have time in which to do their work. Knowledge that defects can afterwards be amended obviates debate. . . .”—I am, etc.,

S. ANTHONY.

Coromandel.

APIARY BOUNDARIES.

(TO THE EDITOR).

SIR,—I wish to thank “Critic” for his criticism, for there is nothing like it to make us look at every side of a subject. I feel, however, that all “Critic” has said only clinches my argument. First of all, I want to reiterate the “Miner’s Right” parallel, and to assure your readers that “Critic” is wrong in his supposition that a miner is allowed to prospect on Crown lands only. According to “The Mining Act, 1901,” Section 1, page 32, a miner can prospect for gold on Native lands and private lands with certain exceptions, such as land under cereals or root crop, and with this proviso, “that he compensate the owner for any damage done to the surface of his property.” Now, Sir, the beekeepers’ rights would need no such proviso, for the bees do no harm, but a great deal of good, for which the beekeeper makes no charge. Ha! ha! “Critic” says “the man who owns the 1000 acres owns all the flowers on it, too. Quite so, but year after year he allows the nectar in those flowers to go to waste. That un-gathered honey is irretrievably lost, whereas the gold underneath the grazer’s grass (and which it might equally be claimed is the grazer’s property) is not lost, although un-gathered. See the point? Now I contend that if a scheme of beekeepers’ rights, or licenses (as another correspondent puts it) was put into operation, the man with the 1000 acres if interested in bees would secure a license, and if he did not care to avail himself of it then, the man who does care (be he a landowner or not) should have it, and be protected, for he brings new wealth to the State. “Critic” infers that the only safe course for the beekeeper is to buy 1000 acres and get in the middle of it; but under the scheme I suggest a man would no more think of doing that than he would think of buying a 1000-acre sheep run to prospect for gold.

Something should be done to raise the status of the beekeeper to a more independent type. At present in my district there is a feeling amongst many dairy farmers that our profession is a dishonourable one, in that our bees rob the cows of fat forming sugar or nectar. I have tried to prove from science that such is not the case, and the reply has been that if the cows are not robbed the fertility of the soil must be. Don’t you think that if our profession had the protection and backing of the State that people would soon regard the matter in a saner light.

The argument that the very few instances of hardship occasioned by overlapping makes the matter a trivial one is surely open to criticism. The very fact that our profession is so easily the victim of such abuse either designedly or through ignorance is, in the opinion of a good many, one of the most serious hindrances to its development. There is a great deal of talk about encouraging beginners to launch out into the business. Very good, but let us place these beginners so that they will be protected from unscrupulous men, and so that they will neither injure others or be injured. Only a comprehensive scheme of "Rights" or "Licenses" will do this. Our country and our industry is still comparatively young, but capable of enormous development. Now is the time to urge this reform, for every year it is deferred makes the matter more difficult of attainment.—I am, etc.,

CHAS. F. HORN.

P.S.—Mr Oldman thinks five miles apart is little enough, so you see we need an Act drafted in order that this matter of boundaries may be settled and be a guide to us all.—C. F. H.

(TO THE EDITOR).

SIR,—I was very pleased to read your remarks re loss of grading points due to using petrol tins and cases. We lose one point for using petrol tins and half a point for cases, I think. Your suggested alteration would be an easy solution, as you say, we are selling the honey, and the grader can easily prevent careless packing. I can heartily endorse Mr J. Walworth's remarks re outdoor feeding to keep the bees civil during a dearth of nectar.

During willow bloom my bees had a good time; the hives got very weighty, but what a different tale now. The willow bloom bumped brood rearing along, and every colony was ready for work in the fields. Then we got bad weather—wind and rain day after day for over a month. It was surprising how quickly all that willow honey disappeared, and all my reserve combs of honey, too. I had a good reserve stock—too much I thought, but it has all gone, and still the hives are light—too light in fact.

You can imagine what it was like working amongst the bees when the willow bloom ended and rough weather set in. Well, it got that serious that it was impossible to handle them, yet, handle them I had to, to keep down swarming. I tried all sorts of schemes, and finally tried the outdoor feeder as recommended in A B C of Bee Culture.

I put a small screw cap into a petrol tin, punched numerous small holes in the top of the tin, put a handle on the bottom to hang it up by means of a rope thrown over a branch of a tree 50 to 100 yards from the apiary. At first I tried syrup—about two water, one honey,—but it was too nice, and all hands got to it. Now I find about 5lb of honey in the tin of water is sufficient to attract the robbers and cross bees. Instead of those bees hanging round waiting for a hive to be opened they are attracted to the feeder, and waste their surplus energy clustering on the hanging feeder, falling off, and rising repeatedly before they can get a load. It is surprising how long a tin full of sweet water can keep them out of mischief. To-day was

perfect for the bees, and I noticed they were busy on white clover, etc. I hope the weather has changed for the better, or I will have to gather up all my honey and feed in earnest.

I work very carefully during the usual dearth of nectar after willow bloom, but this season I do not know how I would have managed without that feeder hanging in the tree. I use two robber cloths, so that only the frame being handled is exposed, the first comb removed is placed in a small bee-tight box, and the surplus that are lifted off are put into an escape board on the ground so no robbers could get in. Yet in spite of these precautions I had a lively time before I made the feeder. Those who have not tried outdoor feeders can hardly credit the difference it makes. All those cross bees are the first you miss, and with ordinary care colonies can be handled in comfort.

To-day (it was Sunday, too) I had the pleasure of clipping my first new queens. I really thought they were never going to start laying. It is a month since I made increase and gave ripe cells, but it was chiefly bad weather kept them back. Anyway they appear to be good queens, and are making up for lost time.

Acting as local inspector, I have had some wonderful experience with bees' hives, etc., one lot which I bought to start an out-apiary had pieces of wood nailed inside petrol cases for the frames to hang on, and the bees had built comb from the edges of the frames on to the sides of the box under the frame supports. It was simply a case of main strength to tear out the frames. Another visit I struck a lot of colonies that were practically box hives, only they were in patent hives on proper frames. I bought these, too, and am waiting patiently for the remaining brood to hatch above an excluder, as I can bring them home and cut out the combs.—I am, etc.,

C. A. OLDMAN.

It Pays to Keep Bees.

SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.

By PIONEER.

Some time ago a gentleman asked me to send him some native shrubs I had considerable difficulty to find a large enough box, but finally despatched them in one that had contained bee goods. They duly arrived at their destination. My friend's wife was about to pay calls, and her car was at the door when he appeared, letter in hand, and said: "Mr P— writes that he has sent me some native shrubs. You might call round at the station and see if they have arrived." They had; so she ordered the porters to place the box on top of the car. Now, unfortunately, I had not noticed that it had on its end a flagrantly conspicuous, in fact, a bellicose red advertisement, "It pays to keep bees." So she went on her round of calls, to be considerably chaffed by her husband and his guests on her return home. Now the question is, Does it? The object of these papers will be to endeavour to answer that question from personal experience.

EXIT THE GIN CASES.

"Was in the olden days. My predecessor used to keep about 15 hives of bees in gin cases, and in order to get them he had first to get rid of the gin—an operation he found easier and more agreeable than taking the bees. However, each autumn half of the colonies were condemned to the sulphur pit according to their virtues instead of their vices; so when I came into possession I found I was the owner of seven or eight colonies. In the following autumn, having more than doubled their number by swarming (being a prohibitionist, I substituted kerosene boxes for gin cases), I also resorted to the sulphur process, producing some 45 Mason jars of honey and 3lb of beeswax, making a profit of £7 6s 4d. This was in 1900. In 1901 I produced 336lb of honey and 65lb of beeswax, making a profit of £17 6s 8d. This was my first introduction to (I hardly like to call it) bee-keeping.

It struck me as a cruel way of obtaining honey and a strange way of rewarding virtue and industry.

ANOTHER STEP UPWARD.

On expressing this opinion to my man, he said, "Why don't you go in for the patent hives with moveable frames?" This was the first time I had heard of them, but I so disliked the cruel old way of getting honey that I immediately wrote off and ordered 15 hives and supers. Now, I have a confession to make. I do not profess to be an apiarist, but an accidental beekeeper, and what I have attained to in the industry has been by means of a masterly neglect, as I have had at the same time to run a large orchard. Therefore, these memories are of value chiefly as allowing the "other fellow" to tell how much better he could have done; and that no doubt is so, for whilst I have never succeeded in obtaining more than seven tons in any one season, it is not uncommon for a trained apiarist to get eight or even ten tons from 100 or 150 colonies. One should always remember that it is not the intelligence of the man that makes the apiary a success or a failure. I remember, at this time, a gentleman saying to me: "Oh! going in for bees, are you? I assure you there is nothing in it. I order £100 worth of the best up-to-date bee goods from A. and I. Root and Co., and lose every penny of it." "No doubt," I mentally thought.

A swarm of bees suddenly made their appearance in Broad street on Thursday afternoon, and remained there for about two hours. Every effort was made to induce the insects to "swarm," but with the queen nowhere to be seen the bees remained for the most part on the wing. Others settled on the hats and faces of the spectators, but no one was stung. Eventually Mr C. J. Howlett's ruse proved successful, and the queen was enticed into a box in which there was a taste of sugar and beer. Some people thought that the delay in swarming was caused by the fact that the queen had been shopping. We have reason to believe, however, that she did not enter the box earlier because she had omitted to bring her sugar card, and had to return home to fetch it.—The Reading Standard, Saturday, July 6, 1918.

LITTLE CAPITAL REQUIRED.

The fact of the matter is that striking an average the margin of profit and loss is so small that one has to go very carefully to build things up. Yet no other industry can be started on so small a capital, which makes it peculiarly suitable to the industrious working man who wants to climb up the ladder of life. If our friends the Socialists ever attain to their idea of perfect bliss, a four hours' working day, the industrious ones can make an easy living by running an apiary out in the country. My first year's expenditure and receipts may be of interest here. Here they are:—

RECEIPTS.	
By sale 1016lb honey and 30lb beeswax	£21 10 1
EXPENDITURE.	
15 hives and extra queens	£13 11 10
2 frame extractor	3 8 0
Honey strainer	1 15 0
Making up hives and paint	2 10 3
Honey tins	4 14 0
Railage	0 6 0
Commission	0 5 0
	£26 10 1

Showing a loss of £5.

HYMNS AND OTHER WORDS.

Yes; those were happy days when I was feeling my way, except when I had to transfer my colonies that were in box hives into their new homes. Have you ever "driven" bees, reader? The directions are simple. Prepare an empty box the same size as the one containing the bees. Then, with your smoker well alight, puff a few puffs in at the entrance. Then turn the box upside down and place the empty one above it. Now drum with two sticks on the outside for 10 minutes, when you will find most of the bees will have gone above. Well, really, they do, and it is not as dangerous an operation as it appears if you get the bees sufficiently frightened; but it is most alarming, notwithstanding, to the beginner. I used, I must confess, to hum some hymn tune (sometimes, I fear, interspersed with an imprecation as a bee landed me one) to keep my pecker up, as I drummed that long 10 minutes. But I very seldom got stung. Then I had the messy job of breaking up the old boxes, transferring the deserted brood into the new frames, and binding wire round them. They were then hung in the new boxes, put on their new stand, and a sack spread in front. The bees now clustered in the empty box poured on to it. It was a pretty sight to kneel and watch them nosing their way into the hive, and to watch for the queen. Unknowingly, I had struck upon a good honey district. It was wonderful the way the bees filled up those supers, and I was very well pleased with my first year's venture, though it panned out an apparent loss, and I was still far, far away from being the possessor of a Studebaker or a Dodge car.

II.

That winter I read all available literature on how to keep bees, and decided to restrict myself, as far as possible, to an annual outlay of £15. I converted my old apple house into an extracting house for a few shillings. At the sale of an Australian squatter I bought

two round flour bins, getting a tinsmith to solder in honey taps. They are still in use in a minor capacity. Into the top of these I dropped circular strainer brackets, also made by the tinsmith, the bottom covered with finest brass mesh, and six inches higher, small perforated zinc. This double strainer answered very well. I had now gotten the "bee fever." What man can resist it who has time to carefully study these wonderful insects, to whose accomplished social ideals we humans are but now but dimly groping our way? These lines fittingly express my mood:

THE MIRACLE OF LIFE.

(By Grace Allen.)

Within a beehive in the spring
There lies a very wondrous thing—
So frail an egg it almost seems
A mote to float through fairy dreams.

In dews at night when silver light
Comes dancing down in streams,
Yet life is in this tiny thing,
And growth, and future eye, and wing,
Sure instinct, and the love of light,
And treasured heritage of flight.
(O wing of bees! And eve that aces
With such a different sight!)

Woe egg, what miracle befell
To touch you in this fragile cell?
What miracle shall yet befall
When winged life through waxen wall
Shall break its way some summer day
To follow life's far call?

How vain my questions, egg in cell!
You cannot understand nor tell.
I cannot understand nor know
How life can come, and life can grow,
All wonder seems to end in dreams,
Perhaps we worship so.

As we watch them hatch out that "wee microscopic mote," and in a few weeks take up their burden of life, our wonder and ad-

miration grow. How few of us do realize this miracle of life that goes on almost ceaselessly within the four walls, dimly on a hive? I remember a friend of mine living within the walls of his house, over his front door. After several of his guests had got stung, he decided to destroy them. So arming himself with a cocoa tin half-filled with kerosene, on the end of a long stick, he sallied forth, deftly caught the returning bees, and swept them into his pot. After he had continued this for some weeks, I happened to call, and explained to him that he was hopelessly handicapped, as a queen bee laid 3000 eggs a day. I then advised him to have a Porter bees' escape inserted in the wall wrong way out, and a small box with a queen bee placed on a bracket alongside. In this way his trouble soon ended. I found these Porter bee escapes a great convenience, making the taking of honey a very simple matter. I started with six, inserted in a board, and soon increased them to 12. I used to put them on the evening before I intended to extract. But your boxes must be sound, or you may have a bad case of rubbing, unless you remove your honey quick and lively in the morning. I shall never forget the experience I had owing to forgetting one for two days! I found it a good plan when the flow was on to raise each box by inserting inch blocks of wood at the corners. This, I am convinced, helped to keep my bees in the healthy state they were in for many years, and later on helped them to deal with foul brood when it appeared, as I will relate later on. I never bothered about destroying queen cells, and for many years never bought a queen. My bees in these early days were blacks.

(To be continued).

ROLL OF HONOUR.

"Our hearts, our hopes are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears;
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears
Are all with thee, are all with thee."
—Longfellow.

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|--|--|
| 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, Albany. |
| 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. SILLFANT, D.C.M., Christchurch. Killed in action. | C. BEAVAN, Waikoa Downs. |
| P. E. HOLMES, Pirongia. | D. CRAWFORD, Waikōkoi. Killed in action. |
| T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands. | R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-validated. |
| R. B. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded. | S. G. HERBERT, Ruawai. |
| R. S. HUTCHINSON, Hamilton. | P. 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, Orari. Killed in action. |
| A. CURTIS, Porowhita. | A. R. BATES, Kaponga. |
| W. G. DONALD, Brookside. | C. E. QUAIFFE, Russell's Flat. |
| E. N. HONORE, Otakeho. | G. HARRISON, Waipahi. |
| R. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt. | H. W. McCALL, Wallaceown. Killed in action. |
| J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki. | G. I. SHAW, Domett. Killed in action. |
| G. ROGERS, Opotiki. | D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North. |
| C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action. | B. CLARK, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded. |
| P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action. | M. J. DOBBING, Morrinsville. |
| G. NAPIER, Alfredton. | H. B. PENNY, Okatawa. |
| N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton. Killed in action. | C. L. GRANT, Rockville. |
| W. J. JORDAN, Ngauruwahia. | BEST BROS., Dannevirke. |
| G. SCURRES, Fairview. | E. OUNDSON, Dannevirke. Invalided home. |
| E. AYRTON, Domett. | E. PALLANT, Dannevirke. Reported missing. |
| W. BROWN, Kalkoura (Flying Corps). | R. G. EAGLE, Gordonton. |

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