

Registered at G.P.O., Wellington, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.



S.O. East

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JANUARY 3rd, 1919

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



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



STONE, SON & CO., LTD., PRINTERS, DUNEDIN.

Jan. 3, 1919]

N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' JOURNAL.



ITALIAN QUEENS



FROM ROOT'S FAMOUS STRAIN
SAFE ARRIVAL GUARANTEED

PRICE LIST—

Untested	7/6 each.	Tested	17/6 each
Select Untested	10/- "	Select Tested	20/- "
No reduction for numbers.			
Three Frame Nuclei	"		15/- each.
Four	"		17/6 "

Price of Queen required to be added to Nucleus Colonies.

ADDRESS: M. SHEPHERD, 10 Wilmer St., CHRISTCHURCH

All "Queen Business," address to "Southbrook," Canterbury.

NICHOLAS' TARANAKI APIARIES.

BEEKEEPERS! Send Your Foundation Cases along.

2/- each given F.O.B., Hawera.

One Ton Comb Foundation ready for Casing.

Every sheet guaranteed of Superior Quality,
and free from any disease.

Wax made up at 8d. lb., plus cases.

4 Caledonia Street - Hawera.

Don't Forget

Our Store when anything is wanted in the shape of

BEE MATERIAL.

Full supplies of all Beekeepers' Requisites kept in stock. Honey Tin
Manufacturers. Agents for Alliance Box Co. and for
Benton's Capping Melter.

REMEMBER! If it's for Bees, we have it.

H. BEALE & CO., LTD., PLUMBERS, TINSMITHS
and IRONMONGERS.

P.O. Box 129. 'Phone 62.

MASTERTON, WAIRARAPA.

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 1

VOL. 3

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.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1918-19.

President: Mr. W. E. BARKER, Peel Forest.
Vice-President: Mr. J. ALLAN, Tasman.
Executive: North Island—Mr. E. W. SAGE (Ohaupo), Mr. R. H. NELSON (Martinborough), South Island—Mr. A. IRELAND (Christchurch), Mr. W. WATSON (Geraldine).
Secretary & Treasurer: Mr. FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.
Editor of Journal: Mr. FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

Auckland Provincial Branch.—Hon. Sec., E. W. Sage, Ohaupo.
Sub-Branches:
Lower Waikato.—Hon. Sec., M. P. Mallett, Papakura.
Te Aroha.—Hon. Sec., C. A. Gruniger, Waihou.
King Country.—Hon. Sec., W. Copsey, Te Kuiti.
Rotorua.—Hon. Sec., F. E. Stewart, Rotorua.
Taranaki Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., H. W. Warcup, Hawera.
Canterbury Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Miss MacKay, Middle Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Christchurch.
Southland Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., L. Gardiner, 119 Elles Road, Invercargill.
Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Mr. Y. H. Benton, Featherston.
Cheviot Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., E. McKnight, Demott.
Clutha Valley Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., G. Cottrell, Greenfield, Otago.

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

CONTENTS.

	Page	Page	
Editorial	1	Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Association	7
Apiary Boundaries	4	Honey Crop Prospects	7
Beekeeping for Beginners	5	Beekeepers' Exchange	7
Branch Reports	5	Correspondence	8
Canterbury Tales	6	It Pays to Keep Bees	12

EDITORIAL.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

The Editor wishes to apologise to those correspondents who were kept waiting for answers to their letters last month, which was due to the fact that he was in charge of a temporary hospital in the district from November 22 to December 18, his home being used as a nurses' home whilst fighting the dreadful scourge that has been amongst us. This prevented him

from attending to his ordinary business, the bees included, but one could not see his friends dropping down like flies without "doing his bit" to help those less fortunate than oneself.

We mentioned last month about beekeepers being more immune from the disease than others, but we are not very sure about it, although the Editor kept well in spite of being continually in and out of the ward for three weeks; but we learn to our very great regret that other beekeepers have in some cases succumbed to the disease.

We are sure all our readers will learn with deepest regret that our gonial Vice-

President, Mr Jas. Allan, has sustained the serious loss of his only son, who has left a wife and four children to mourn their loss.

Mr L. Gardiner, the Secretary of the Southland Branch, passed away on December 9, he too having lost a son just previously from the same cause.

We desire to express our very deep sympathy to the bereaved; may the Great Consoler be near them in their distress.

The following, too, is very sad indeed, and we shall appreciate any help that can be rendered to our late friend's widow. Mr Flanagan was a good beekeeper, and a regular attendant at Conference:—

Dear Sir,—It is hard for me to write and tell you of the death of my husband on Monday last from influenza, and I am asking a little advice about the bees, if there is any chance of selling them. It could be sold as a going concern, ready for someone to go into, house and all, as I know the bees could not be shifted at present; or if the bees were sold without the property, they could remain as they are until after the honey season. I have three young children, and want to do the best I can. I had a terrible shock, as I thought my husband was getting better.

Yours, etc.,

Mrs. G. W. Flanagan,

c/o Mr. A. Peters.

Seddon Street, Dannevirke.

We feel sure we have only to make this case public to bring speedy help to our friend in need, so please act promptly.

The district is a good one for beekeeping, and offers a splendid opportunity to any desirous of taking up commercial beekeeping, providing they have the experience necessary to carry it on.

In the December issue of the N.Z. Fruit-grower, Mr Hopkins gives a clipping from the Bee Notes in the Taranaki Herald, written by "Tainui," dealing with prevalence of foul brood and box hives in the district, the article finishing up with the following:—"This one day's outing (by local inspectors) discovered 26 box hives, and it is known that there are several more in the same locality."

Mr Hopkins then adds:—"Who is to blame for such a state of things, this condition of drift? Is it the fault of the Department, the inspectors, or who? Someone is to blame, and the sooner it is placed on the right individuals and they are brought to book, the better. Our National Association, which is supposed to look after such things and to use its influence in the rectification of such evils, is it really doing anything meantime, or is it only at the annual conference it wakes up? One rarely sees it mentioned even in its own organ, so I may be excused for asking the above question."

Why labour the point of responsibility, friend Hopkins? The Department is entirely to blame, as it is for this very work the inspectors and instructors are

appointed. As regards the National Association, we have in every case except the one quoted below brought complaints on this matter right into the open, and if those to whom foul brood and box hives are a menace do not ventilate their grievance, we surely cannot be blamed for not mentioning it.

The report of the meeting of the North Taranaki Beekeepers' Association given last month was written by the same gentleman, "Tainui," and in it you'll find:—"Questions were then the order of the day; they came fast and furious, but the expert was equal to all attacks."

It occurs to us that the opportunity was right there to ask why the owners of these diseased box hives were not made an example of in the Magistrate's Court. We particularly notice there is no mention case found was to be one for prosecution, and if the inspector does not do this he is to blame, not the National Association. We particularly notice there is no mention made about prosecuting the owners of the "several more in the same locality," and we venture to assert that the only way to avoid these conditions continuing is to prosecute every one, and we look to the inspector to do it. The Apiarics Act is all right, but the administration of it is ludicrous.

We are willing to take the blame for not making public the following complaint, mainly due, we believe, to the Editor being so careful to not hurt anybody's feelings. (Uml) It is dated August 9, 1918, at Marton, and reads thus:—"I got our inspector to visit this district this last season—the first time in 10 years, so I am told—and he could have wallowed in box hives and f.b. if he had liked—to his heart's content."

This is the only case where we have paid no attention to a complaint, and we find the reason is that in the September issue we were having a few pleasantries with the inspector concerned, and didn't want any "riff in the lute."

So, friend Hopkins, we will admit the Journal did not do its duty in this particular case, but no other.

The worst of this business is that when once you start you never know where it will end, as in another paragraph Mr Hopkins quotes from a correspondent "that he had not seen an inspector in his district for two and a-half years." We do not know which inspector is to blame, but there is the accusation, and alas! we have no Chief Apiarist to appeal to that the work should be done.

So we will continue on the same subject—from a letter dated November 16, 1918, Ohau:—"May I ask if it is safe to comment on the appointment of local instructors? For instance, I offered my services in 1907, again two years ago, but have never been appointed, and do not feel inclined to take it on now unless there is some discussion on the matter. —'s yard four miles away is rotten; some places

never visited yet." Our correspondent is a beekeeper of 20 years' standing, and a very careful apiarist, and we, too, should like to know why he has not been appointed. To be in a district where inspection is the crying need, and not only to be neglected by the inspector, but refused the power of helping both the Department and oneself, is all Thomas nonsense.

Is there any need of a Chief Apiarist in these matters?

Our readers will note with pleasure that our Taranaki correspondent, Mr H. R. Penny, is again amongst his bees, he having been discharged from the army owing to the armistice. He tells us of a case of robbing at one of his outyards, where the thieves took about 6 cwt. of honey by cutting the combs out of the frames and carting it away in milk cans. By offering a reward of £35 he, as he says, "caught the birds," the result being one man fined £10, two were admitted to probation for 12 months, and ordered to pay £40 damages and loss of honey. Good for you, Reg.!

The war having ceased, we have now withdrawn the Roll of Honour. We are proud that so many of our craft quitted themselves like men, and, whilst regretting the loss of a number, we thank God they were instrumental in helping to bring about the downfall of the Kaiser and his abominable following.

In this issue we are showing the opinions of the members of the Executive on the question of Apiary Boundaries, which must close the discussion.

We have already expressed our opinion on the matter, and have very little to add, except that if a beekeeper is to be given sole right to a given area, then he must be compelled to exploit that to the fullest extent. If you decide a three-mile radius, that gives the beekeeper, roughly, over six miles of country.

A commercial apiarist is—what? The owner of over 10, 20, or 50 hives; although immediately a man raises more honey than he wants for his own use, and has a surplus for sale, he is running his bees commercially. However, let us say 50 hives; therefore, unless the compulsory clauses are added, two men with 100 hives between them will be able to hold over 12 miles of territory, and that possibly capable of running five times that number; so the proposed legislation would be really handicapping the industry, as it would prevent a really live man from exploiting the district to its fullest extent.

We trust our readers will not think the Editor is against getting protection for the established beekeeper; he is willing and anxious to do everything possible, but when the question is very seriously considered from all points we cannot see how the difficulty is to be overcome.

As one of the Executive states, this is a question for Conference, where a well-thought-out proposal should be brought forward so that the various clauses could be discussed, and if possible a rough outline of what the beekeepers require drafted. We must first decide amongst ourselves before we can ask the Department to take the matter up.

There is time between this and Conference for anyone so disposed to go very carefully into the suggestions that have been made, looking at them from all points, and get together the clauses in concise form to submit for discussion by those attending the gathering.

We feel this is the only way of really deciding whether the suggested legislation will be of help and practicable.

In referring to the case of honey-poisoning last month, we stated that it was advisable to leave the honey on the hive as long as possible after it was capped, which would result in a better honey in every way than that extracted when only partly or just recently capped. Having only just read the October Gleanings, we were pleased to find Mr A. I. Root, on page 626, writing thus:—"Just here I wish to remark that letting honey stay in the hive until the season is over produces a much better quality of extracted honey than where it is taken out during the working season as we used to do." Then in a footnote he says:—"Ernest (E. R. Root, Editor of Gleanings), who overheard the dictation of the above, tells me to add that leaving the honey on the hive until the season is over is getting to be the common practice everywhere."

We feel sure that if this is generally practised here there will be far less honey turned down for export on account of soft granulation, which we understand is becoming rather frequent of late. (Shh!) The Editor was guilty too!

In the same issue of Gleanings, Mrs Grace Allen, who writes so beautifully about bees, mentions having received fraternal greetings from different parts of the world, New Zealand included. The Editor sent those from here with a copy of the Journal, the latter for some reason being mis-carried, but we hope those sent subsequently have arrived.

The Editor received a charming reply from this good lady, acknowledging receipt of the letter, but he isn't going to publish it, else you'd all probably be writing in the hopes of receiving a similar one.

The first annual Field Day of the Clutha Valley Branch will be held at the apiary of the President, Mr H. N. Goodman, at Greenfield, Otago. We commend this meeting to all who can possibly attend. A good programme has been arranged, demonstrations will be given, and a thoroughly enjoyable day promised. Get there and be happy.

Has it ever occurred to you when in town or travelling by steamer and train that possibly the man next or opposite you may be interested in bees, or better still a beekeeper, or one better still a member of the National or its branches, and had he (or even yet still better, she, particularly if young and pretty) had worn anything in the shape of a small badge to indicate the fact of membership, many tedious hours would probably be turned into pleasant and profitable ones, because the badge would be the sign of the bond of friendship between the two, and introductions superfluous? At one hotel in Wellington during Conference three men sat in a smoking room; all were beekeepers, who were down to attend the gathering of the clan, but neither knew the others as beekeepers, and it was not until after they had seen each other at Conference they knew they had anything in common. This should not be; beekeepers simply love to yarn about the industry, and no chance should be missed of exchanging opinions with one another.

We suggest that the membership fee should include the gift of a small gilt badge—one that can be placed in the button-hole of a man's coat for men, and a safety-pin brooch for ladies. The design should take the form of something attaching to the industry—we think an old-fashioned skep in gilt, with an enamel filling at the bottom which would throw out in relief the initials N.B.K.A., would look very well and answer the purpose admirably. What do you think?

Then, if this proposal was carried out, it would be only right and proper that every President of the National should, on his retirement, be presented with one in gold, as a little memento of our appreciation of his services. Up to now we vote a man into the position, give him plenty of hard knocks, an enormous amount of writing, a "volcanic" secretary to deal with, sit him in a chair, and keep him there for three solid days at Conference, then pass a hearty vote of thanks to him, and leave him half-dead to recuperate as best he can.

All joking apart, we think we do not treat our Presidents at all well; something more than a vote of thanks should be given.

Apiary Boundaries.

OPINIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The President has not forwarded his opinion on this matter.

I give it up. I cannot give any lead beyond that of moral suasion. I certainly think that a beekeeper who does that sort of thing should be made to feel his position. It is a very difficult matter, and I confess I cannot suggest a cure.

J. ALBAN.

My idea is to have all apiaries registered, and all apiaries of 10 hives licensed (commercial apiaries). The Registrar of each province to have a map on which all registered apiaries should be marked on their proper location. Anyone applying for a license to establish a commercial apiary on any location, the Registrar will take his compasses, set at a radius of two to three miles, will place one point of the compasses on the nearest apiary, and if the described circle comes within that circle the license will not be granted; if outside said circle, then it will be granted.

If anyone were to establish an apiary in defiance of these regulations, the penalty to be the forfeiture of apiary.

A. IRELAND.

I think it is going to be an exceedingly difficult business, and as time goes on will be very much more so, therefore if anything is going to be done in the matter we should endeavour to find a solution now. For my part, I would suggest that at the next meeting of the National we should go fully into the question, and by that time we will have a good number of suggestions.

W. WATSON.

I think the Government should confer the power on our inspectors to prevent any person from removing bees to a new location, they to receive notice of the beekeeper's intention to remove, and if they after inspecting the district decide that no overlapping will ensue, to give written authority to the beekeeper to remove.

The beekeeper to have the right to appeal against the decision if he thinks fit.

E. W. SAGE.

I thought it would be as well to remain silent on this subject until it was possible to gauge how far this form of kultur had permeated the beekeepers of New Zealand. My views upon this subject were given to the 1917 Conference.

Previous to said Conference I wrote Mr. J. Rentoul, then President, that I intended putting a motion to the meeting somewhat as follows:—

1. That all commercial apiarists must be licensed.
2. That no apiarist shall establish a commercial apiary at a less distance than three miles from an already established commercial apiary.
3. That no apiarist who has already done so can remain a member of the National Association. If not, a member, he be excluded from membership until he removes said apiary.
4. That a commercial apiary shall consist of not less than 50 colonies. This to be subject to amendment by the President and Executive.

Now, I thought the time was ripe, at that time, to bring this subject forward. Mr. J. Rentoul and I could not see eye to eye, so he suggested that I start a dis-

cussion in the Journal. I preferred to wait a wee. Mr. Ward, of Christchurch, and self both had something to say on this subject at the 1917 Conference, but it somehow fell flat, at that time.

For any apiarist to plant an apiary alongside of, or inside of bee-flight, say three miles of another, is either right or it is wrong. Beekeepers the world over seem to agree that it is wrong. Then why not right it?

If the National Association and its branches cannot devise a means whereby an apiarist can have a legal claim to his location, the result is going to be chaos, and that in the near future. What is going to happen when the branches are full of warring elements who are jumping each others' claims? It is absolutely useless leaving it to the honour of a certain type of men. They do not and cannot understand the meaning of the term.

Any apiarist who does so has only one object in view—viz., to squeeze the other man out. Good, clean competition I heard someone say. Contemptible, sneaking, underhand work, and unworthy of any clean-living man. I believe the Allied army has been fighting, also dying by the million, to uphold the principle of right against a race of thugs who are on a par with, say, the Terra del Fuegian. If the principle of right is worth fighting for, then let the National Association begin now, and draft legislation governing apiary boundaries. Establish a precedent! Well, let New Zealand establish another one. There are several on her Statute Books, and older countries have copied and put into operation those same measures.

Mr. Hopkins raises a question. A man with 1,000 acres can farm it any way he likes. Of course he can, at present. But he doesn't require 1,000 acres freehold to run an apiary, also anyone can squat anywhere around him outside of his boundary fence. Futile argument is no good.

Since writing above had a mild attack of the 'flu. Fight on!

Oh, about that chap with the 1,000 acres. Some years ago, when I had a table of logarithms handy, I worked out the area of a circle whose diameter was three miles. If I remember right, it worked out at or about 5,000 acres. The man on the 1,000 acres ought to have his flying bees pounded for trespassing on the other fellow's 1,000 acres. Let us hope the National Association will get its collective brains to work and settle this very important subject before it goes any farther.

I had a large dose of this form of kultur once, so wrote "Anis," of the Auckland Weekly, detailing the circumstances, and asking his advice. I got it. It was this: That as I had not the location fully stocked the other man was quite justified in dumping down 150 colonies half a mile away; also, I hadn't any right to the whole of the district. Whew! also, whew! . . . I had

at that time 85 colonies on the spot, and the "Sharman" had 1,200 scattered over the Waitarapa. Comment is needless.

R. H. NELSON.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS—JANUARY

[As these instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland District, an allowance must be made for difference in latitude North and South. Average bee-season in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

The honey flow is in full swing now, and the beekeeper should see that the bees are not cramped for room for storing the harvest. If you do not possess plenty of supers, take off and extract all combs that are well filled and not less than half capped over, but you will find your honey will be much superior if you can leave it on the hive until fully capped. This, of course, means one must have plenty of spare combs and supers, but it is the better way.

Don't let the grass and weeds choke the entrance to the hive, which only wastes the bees' time in getting in and out.

Keep swarming down by allowing plenty of room. Bees hanging out at the entrance is evidence that they are cramped.

Towards the end of the month, the flow will be easing off in some districts, therefore if you have any foulbrood hives do not defer treating them, else they will not build up sufficiently strong to winter successfully.

Mark any hive where the queen shows signs of failing, and replace as soon as young queens can be procured from the breeder.

F.C.B.

Branch Reports.

TARANAKI NOTES.

After marking time for six months in Bill Massey's army, I am once more back among the bees, with a nice little family of 500 colonies.

The past spring has been the worst experienced in Taranaki for many years, and sugar-feeding has had to be resorted to freely to get the bees in good condition.

Until December 13 we had unsuitable weather right through, with an occasional day with a light flow interspersed.

A fair clover flow commenced on December 13, and yesterday one of our best colonies put on the scales made an increase of 3 lb. of nectar, and to-day the same colony showed an increase of 1½ lb.

We have had abundant rains, and clover is plentiful, and given the weather the bees will do things.

The flow promises to be heavier than usual when the mild weather comes, but there is a lot of catching up to be done.

H. R. PENNY,
Okaiawa.

15/12/18.

MANAWATU.

Prospects here are very fair so far, although it has been a very severe winter, probably the hardest I have seen with the bees.

Clover has returned after an absence of three years, but the weather is still very unsettled; in fact, it has changed so suddenly some days that one could see dead bees everywhere.

E. J. PINK, Ohan.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

As regards the prospects for the season, I can only say the possibilities are great, but the weather is as yet so unsettled that we have still to exercise that admirable virtue, hope. In the Ellesmere district the clover is abundant, and bees in good condition, but there have been too many "off" days. After a partial drought of about five weeks, rain started on November 18, and continued all the following day. Rainy conditions prevailed till towards the end of the month, and good honey flow started on November 30, but only lasted a few days. There have been a few decent days during the first half of December, but on the whole the weather has been very boisterous and nights cool.

Mrs. Ward and "yours truly" arrived at the apiary on November 18, and found the bees in need of room. Brood-rearing was well advanced, and prompt measures had to be taken to allay the swarming fever, which otherwise would soon have developed. The weather was erratic, but we managed to save the situation, and up to the present have not had many swarms.

The mention of swarms reminds me of something which I think is unique in the way of disposing of an undesirable swarm. The story, as told to me, was that a swarm had settled in a garden somewhere within 100 miles of Lakeside, and as the owner of the garden had a mortal horror of bees, he promptly got his gun and shot it into "smithereens." Can anyone beat that!

With regard to a field day which I have mentioned twice previously, I have fixed Saturday, February 8, 1919, as the most suitable date after corresponding with a number of those whose engagements I desired to fall in with. I have now much pleasure in extending a cordial invitation to any reader of the Journal or anyone interested in bee culture to visit my apiary on that date. I have ascertained that a motor conveyance to hold 33 passengers

can be secured, and I suggest that anyone wishing to travel by it book his or her seat at the earliest possible date, so that final arrangements can be made. Application for places should be made to Miss Mackay, who I am sure will willingly answer any inquiries. I cannot say what the programme will be, but as I expect the co-operation of Mr. Earp and some, if not all, of the directors of the H.P.A. and Executive of the National, I can promise something interesting.

I am sorry to learn of our friend "Critic's" indisposition, and hope that his view is more gloomy than the case warrants. We have "crossed swords" once or twice, but I am sure we part the best of friends.

I learn from Mr. Earp that influenza has been rife among the beekeepers of his district, and desire to offer my sympathy. I am thankful to say Mrs. Ward and I have escaped so far.

In answer to Mr. Luke, I may say that I used strapping for my cases, not wire, and did not have any extra charge made for omitting to nail it outside the lid. I think if the N.Z. Express Company had any sense of gratitude they would send me a cheque for cutting down their wages bill. Mr. Earp related a little incident relative to the above matter. He showed me a three-inch nail he had in his pocket, and assured me that one consignor had nailed his lids down through the strapping with five of these murderous spikes at each end. I consider Mr. Luke has been "victimised."

Mr. Editor, I don't believe that lady you speak of was poisoned by eating section honey. It would take too much space to go into the matter fully, but I believe she was a victim of auto-suggestion. Everyone knows that the tomato or love apple is a harmless and nutritious fruit, yet there is a case on record where a lady died in agony after eating some. She had eaten the fruit in ignorance of what it really was, some fool told her it was poisonous, she accepted the statement as true, and the result was as above stated. Mind you don't get into "deep water," Mr. Editor. You are wondering if bee stings are an antidote for influenza. Some people think they are a cure for rheumatics. I know some people ward rheumatics off by wearing a certain kind of ring. My own mother had great faith in a potato which she used to carry in her pocket, and so on ad infinitum. All bunkum!

In the Lyttelton Times for December 13 the following appears:—"London, December 10. Eleven hundred cases of Australian honey were offered at auction and 250 were sold at 200/- per cwt." That's interesting. A good many of us are wondering what has become of New Zealand's output for last season. Hope the H.P.A. directors are wide awake and staring. A little of that kind of treatment would be refreshing. I think an occasional report of what is being done would be much appreciated and would tend to attract new

shareholders. There are many little details which I feel sure would bear publicity and at the same time would not "give the show away."

Although somewhat "late in the day," I will conclude this month's "Tales" by wishing the readers one and all the compliments of the season and a bumper crop to boot.

Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Association.

The above Association held its second field day on Saturday, November 16, at Mr. Dunnage's apiary, Canal Reserve, Woolston, where there was a fair muster of members and friends, all of whom had a very interesting time among the hives. The day was perfect. Mr. Peter Jack was demonstrator for the day. He gave a very interesting and instructive demonstration on how to manipulate a hive, showing the different strength of the colonies, their productiveness, etc. Mr. Jack emphasised the importance of having good young Italian queens, also that productiveness was a matter of strain and not breed. Mrs. Dunnage kindly entertained the members at afternoon tea. Mr. Sullivan (President) in a few appropriate words thanked Mr. Dunnage and Mr. P. Jack for their afternoon's entertainment.

P. JACK.

Honey Crop Prospects.

Department of Agriculture, Industries, and Commerce (Horticulture Division),
Wellington, December 10, 1918.

To the Editor,
N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal,
Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

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

Auckland.—Owing to the unfavourable weather during spring, many colonies of bees became reduced in strength, and the prospects for these are not good; but for those who have fed them up to last month the season promises to repay their attention, and will probably be up to average. Honey is now arriving in small lots from the north, and prices are up to last year's.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—Since my last report was forwarded, the weather has shown no sign of improving in favour of the beekeeping industry. Rain and wind have predomi-

nated to an unprecedented extent for this period of the year. In consequence, colonies of bees throughout the Manawatu and Taranaki have suffered through insufficient stores to continue brood-rearing, and in a large number of instances apiaries have had to be heavily fed with sugar syrup to keep them alive. There is an abundance of clover and nectar-yielding flora in evidence, and I anticipate that those who are giving their bees the necessary attention in the above direction will reap their reward when fine sunny weather prevails. A few odd lines for export have reached the grading store this month, and the new season's crop should commence to arrive shortly after the New Year. Wax is selling in bulk at 2/6 per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Dunedin.—The prospects of a good season are not so good. A month of boisterous weather has prevailed, and feeding has had to be resorted to to keep the bees alive. In many districts losses are recorded, and there has been a serious depletion in the number of stocks. The clover is beginning to bloom freely, but the weather is preventing the bees from working it. Unless the weather takes up soon, it will be too late for the bees to build up in time to work the main flow. As yet very few swarms have issued. The market for honey is still firm. Bulk honey is quoted from 8d. to 10d., pat honey none offering, sections scarce. Beeswax is in strong demand.—E. A. Earp.

Yours faithfully,

T. W. KIRK,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

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,
Mataura, Southland.

Beekeepers' Exchange—continued.

FOR SALE.

- 1 1½ H.P. GASOLINE ENGINE
- 1 4-FRAME EXTRACTOR FRICTION,
No. 25.B
- 2 2-INCH HONEY GATES.

The above are new, and have not been used.

Apply

P. C. HJORRING,
Solicitor,
Tyne Street, Oamaru.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir.—It speaks well for the beekeepers of New Zealand that they have responded generously to our appeal for additional capital. I quite expected a liberal response, but I must confess my expectations have been more than realised.

As further evidence of their good sense our suppliers' contracts are being very freely signed. We have met with very few flat refusals. One might naturally expect some to hesitate or even refuse, as human nature is after all rather weak, and we find it difficult sometimes to overcome our weaknesses and allow ourselves to be guided by our better judgment.

I am inclined to think that there may be some who are holding back, thinking there may be better offers forthcoming soon from our competitors, and they would be prepared to sell their birthright for this mess of pottage.

It is surely hardly necessary to remind such that it was just that spirit that brought destruction to the beekeepers in South Australia. Years ago Major Norton organised the beekeepers there, and a co-operative company was formed, but, owing to the shareholders snatching at the prices offered by competitors of the Union a little in advance of the advance being offered by their Union, the Company has gone to the wall, and is now a thing of the past. What is the result? During the season 1917 and 1918, when the beekeepers of New Zealand were getting 8 1-3d. and 8d. for their honey, with every prospect of getting several pence more per lb. for their 1918 crop yet, the beekeepers of Australia have only obtained 4d. to 4½d. I have noted the market quotations repeatedly in Australian papers filed in our public libraries, and find above prices and even lower for some grades to be the ruling figure. But the feature of the business that must surely cause the South Australian beekeepers to kick themselves is the knowledge that the honey that has been shipped to England by the merchant buyers has been sold for £180 to £200 per ton. The beekeepers, however, are not going to receive any further portion of these nice prices.

What a contrast to conditions here. Our shareholders have received 8d. to date, and still have the bulk of last season's honey

in hand. We would like to have shipped it, certainly; that, however, was impossible, but the war is now over, and there is a fleet of 75 ships coming to Australia and New Zealand within the next few months, so there is every prospect of our getting the honey away before prices drop. The Government have bought the butter and cheese for another two years at record prices, so it is evident the price of some food products is going to keep up for some time. Why not honey?

I have before me the new contract between ourselves and the B. and D., to take effect as from January 1. In this we are guaranteed £60 per ton for three years after the signing of peace; we are sure of that, but have every reason to expect considerably more.

Last season we had some competitors. Several firms jumped to the front and offered very tempting prices, but only for a time. All of them, one by one, dropped out and left us alone in the field. One firm even wanted us to take the few tons they had managed to get hold of off their hands.

"One Interested," writing in the November issue of the Journal, remarks that the co-operative movement has always had to contend with the class of individuals who want to eat their cake and have it. Those who will betray their craftsmen by selling to competitors of the H.P.A. will always exist. Like the poor in pocket, the poor in spirit, those wanting in the fine qualities that make the man will always be with us. They possess, however, the distinction, amongst Britishers, of being amongst the miserable minority.

In the religious world it is customary to appoint special missionaries; there are the foreign missionaries, the missionaries to the poor, and so on. Will anyone volunteer to be a missionary to the poor in spirit amongst the beekeepers and endeavour to make them men?—I am, &c.,

H. W. GILLING.

Manager,

N.Z. Co-op. Honey Pro. Assn., Ltd.
G.P.O. Box 1293,

Auckland, December 16, 1918.

TO H. BARTLETT BARTLETT-MILLER.

Sir.—Would not the article on Hybridism in *Encyclopedia Britannica* (new edition), last paragraph, "Law of Disjunction of Hybrids," furnish the information you want? I hesitate suggesting this, lest ye say, "All this have I known since my youth up." I should hesitate myself also ere I called such variable items as the golden bands in queens unit characters, but would rather class them as useful harmonies for guiding us in the selection of the strain of bees we prefer. I don't know but that a good Avery scale, a foot-rule, and a pocket-knife are not the safest guides, however.—I am, &c.,

W. E. BARKER.

I think the Journal "just it"; every number is an improvement, and I would not be without it for something.—G.M.B., Fiction.

APIARY BOUNDARIES.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—This question is being well ventilated just now in the Journal, and beginners might readily believe from some of the correspondence that the evil of over-stocking is very much more serious than it really is. One can readily understand that beekeepers who have suffered from some inconsiderate person setting down a large number of occupied hives (generally out-apiaries) within a short distance of their established apiaries feeling incensed at such unreasonable behaviour, and wishing for protection. But as the question of regulating apiary boundaries over private lands, without perpetrating greater evils to the owners thereof, is so complicated, it is not at all likely to be solved by legislation.

I think it would tend to prove the necessity, if any, for such protective legislation if they would show that much injury had been done in a large number of cases through the want of such legislation. If my memory serves me, there have been only two, or at the most three, such cases reported through the Journal, and as you have some 700 or 800 subscribers, all of whom I presume would be ready to make known any hardship of the kind that came under their notice, the evil cannot be very acute. Supposing it existed in the same proportion throughout the 9000 beekeepers in New Zealand, which is very much open to doubt, the total would be very small indeed in proportion. As the evil to a large extent carries its own cure, I cannot believe it will ever do much harm. How, I might ask, would your correspondents deal with such apiaries that have been in existence for many years within a short bee-flight of each other?—I am, &c.,

BEEKEEPER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have waited to make my remarks upon control of apiary locations until we had evidence that it was a matter that really counted with a sufficient number of our readers. That time having arrived, it may as well be pointed out that the desires evinced by correspondents that the law should be resorted to as a means to accomplish the wished-for restrictions is absolutely and utterly vain. Law is powerless!

In the last analysis of what constitutes the length to which legislation within our Empire may go in the matter of control of any person's property and his inherent rights and privileges therein, we resort to the British Constitution—the most wonderfully perfect, and at the same time most vague, controlling force in the world, for it has never yet been put down in black and white. Nobody ever saw a copy of our British Constitution, upon which all our proud and justly vaunted civil rights depend. That Constitution is founded upon what is called the "Common Law of England," which largely means law that has been existent so long that its origin

must be delved into to be discovered—in two words, we might say ancient law. It is binding throughout the Empire.

If two persons doubt the application of Common Law under the British Constitution, anywhere within the Empire, final appeal must be made to the English House of Lords, who refer it to the Lords of Appeal, sitting as the High Court of Appeal of England, from which (except in the extremely rare case of reconsideration by the King's Privy Council) there is no further appeal. The decision of the Court of Appeal is British Law, final and unalterable!

Naturally, many subjects have been so often dealt with that previous decisions are sufficient to establish the right and wrong of such subjects, and of such matters property right makes up much the largest bulk.

The basic principle of such property right, laid down from time immemorial, is that every property owner has a right to enjoy all recognised privileges such property entails, but if to the detriment of other property owners in the locality, such detriment to full and uninterrupted enjoyment must be compensated for.

An accompanying fact, and one consistently upheld as being a big factor in our British Constitution, is that which prohibits the binding of any person in any industry.

I found out the foregoing facts partly on account of a very retentive memory and partly per medium of my bank account. I had, and, indeed, still enjoy (?) the presence of a very sour and cantankerous neighbour, who eight years ago reported to the Kihī Kihī town nuisance inspector that my bees were making his life miserable. He also did to the health inspector for Waikato district. Of course, I let him fire away. He is still firing, and no bull's-eyes yet, or even a ring on the target, as he is seeking to prevent industry, not for compensation.

Now, what applies to my case is exactly what would apply to every land owner if the correspondents in our last issue obtained a New Zealand law prohibiting keeping bees except on defined areas and at certain distances (whatever such a law permitted). Farmer Brown finds he is midway between two apiaries, and law forbids his starting. Robinson is right alongside an apiary and is in like case with Brown. Both take bee fever and do start apiaries. Down comes our New Zealand Act and prosecutes them both. Both can plead that such a law is "ultra vires" and a dead letter. They would ultimately succeed in their opposition to the law, because no person can be bound in any legitimate industry, and our National Association will soon prove whether it is an industry or not.

You cannot purchase a business and prohibit in your agreement of sale that the seller shall make a new start within a certain distance of you. That would be to bind him in that particular industry. I'll tell you what you can do. You can

include a clause making him pay you a certain sum by way of compensation if he again sets up in the same business within a certain distance of you; but that is not preventing or binding him against starting an industry again. In similar case, you cannot bind the apiary industry, either by law or agreement.

Suppose the aggrieved law-permitted apiarist got up antagonism against such a law-defying new chum, and neighbours on the other side of him started to make life unbearable with complaints about his bees, even then such complaints will not lead to any legitimate law or by-law compelling removal of bees from the property. What could be done is for the aggrieved (1) neighbour to claim, and if need be to sue the beekeeper, for such a sum as would compensate him for the loss of enjoyment in his property brought about by the beekeeper exercising his right to enjoy his own property by following a legitimate industry. First of all, the aggrieved party would have to put up £50 in the Supreme Court as surety, should the case go against him or her. Here is the big fence against mere persecution as defined from prosecution. That such a claimed sum may be justly recoverable the law admits, but that such a complaint shall permit the eradication of a duly acknowledged legal industry our British Constitution has again and again decided shall never be allowed, Acts to the contrary notwithstanding.

Now, take by way of clearer explanation the dog that Melissa tells us in last issue chased her from that neighbourhood by nightly howling. That could—and should—have been stopped by law. Howling per dog may be industry (for the dog), but it is not a duly acknowledged legitimate industry. If any such nuisance not connected with an industry is persisted in for longer than one day, any aggrieved party can have it done away with. E.g.: If I give a party once a week whose uproar and jollification keeps awake all neighbours for blocks around, that must be put up with—nuisance though it be, because I have a right to enjoy the reasonable use of my property; same if I choose to keep bees. If, however, I maintain such jollification every night, then I can be stopped, because I have no right to exercise my property rights to the loss of my neighbour's rights, except it be by way of the carrying on of a legitimate industry—say, beekeeping. Jollification is not an industry and all must be given equal rights. Industry is privileged to avoid stoppage by paying compensation to neighbours for the loss to them of the rights in their property by such industry.

Just you substitute streets for miles, grocer for apiarist, and £100 worth of stock for colonies, and apply the desired legislation to the grocery trade. Do you think it could destroy competition by Act of our Parliament? Absurd to expect such legislation, you answer. Exactly! And to beekeeping the same thing applies. Any New Zealand law passed to privilege apiarists against such competition as property

owners may choose to set up by a recognised industry would be a dead letter, inasmuch as it would be an attempt to override the British Constitution, by robbing the property owners situated between the legalised apiary sites of their inherent rights to establish upon that property any industry. Once you grant beekeepers the protection of what would be a most flagrant privilege instituted to prevent legitimate competition in an industry, where are you going to stop? Such legislation would be the laughing-stock of the whole Empire. Licensing of other occupations is not on all fours with the beekeeping industry. Take most licenses—e.g., that of caterers for vehicular carriage. The licensing does not seek to limit the number of licensees nor the range of their trading; same with slaughter-houses and many more. The license fee is in the nature of a subscription toward the clerical labour entailed. Except in the liquor trade, licensing as a rule does not bind the industry as against development, and that is what your beekeepers are seeking. The liquor trade is an industry affecting for good or bad the health and morals of the community, and its moderate binding is for the common weal; but to compare the moral effect of beekeeping as in the same licensing category with the liquor trade is, to say the least of it, not wise.

Here is your true remedy! Be it resolved, if a butter-in upon an already fairly-stocked apiary locality sets up another yard, all the members of the local Beekeepers' Association loan a percentage of their colonies, the total number to be placed so near the interloper's bees as to make him very sorry he started in an unfair position. This constitutes a fair and legitimate protest.

Let every Beekeepers' Association in New Zealand pass such a resolution, and the mere fact of its being determined upon will prevent any attempt that would lead to its being put into effect.

Another way is, breed better queens. For my part, I would gladly loan an acre of my land right beside one of my yards, just for the fun of seeing the other fellow fall in (the empty honey tank) when extracting time arrived. I should certainly not fear his competition against the progeny of my queens.

There was a case decided by the English Court of Appeal about 1910, where two peppery neighbours fell out about the bees of one of them, and the beekeeper moved the bees, for pure cussedness, from back of his section jamb up alongside his fence closest to his neighbour's drawing room window. Both wealthy men, the case was carried to the highest Court in our Empire, which ordered the bees removed to their original position 14 yards further away—the furthest distance the section permitted—but had no power to order removal from the property, nor forbid the keeping of bees, although it was admitted they were kept only as a hobby; and it cost Colonel Farquharson—whom I well know—

a modest seventeen hundred pounds to find out that Major Mumby, his neighbour, could not be compelled by British Law to give up beekeeping on his own property. So what use to try compulsion here in New Zealand?

I have dealt at this length with this matter because we are likely to waste much more space over it, and argue indefinitely for years, when already the possibilities are as sure and definite as British Law can make them. Now, then, where are our "compulsion" correspondents?—I am, etc.,

H. BARTLETT BARTLETT-MILLER.

Thorough Work,

Kibi Kibi, Nov. 7, 1918.

RE YOUR REFERENCE TO MY
"COMMENTS."

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I feel pleased that my contributions to your Journal should have been considered worthy of your commendation as expressed in your last issue, and I am sorry circumstances arose which compelled me to discontinue them. I thank you and the National Beekeepers' Association for your good wishes.—I am, &c.,

"CRITIC."

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have read with much interest the recent discussion between yourself and Mr. Hopkins as to whether the Government apiaries should sell untested queens or not. I appreciate the fact that Mr. Hopkins has the interest of the industry at heart, but at the same time I consider that to destroy all mismatched queens would be a decided loss to the Department and also to the industry, without any compensating benefit to either.

If there is any reason why the Department should not sell untested queens, why not sell the mismatched ones as such? Or they could be given to returned soldiers who are taking up beekeeping.

I have found that when there is a heavy honey flow hybrid bees with pure Italian mothers will gather more honey than pure Italians. As far as gathering honey goes, they are in no way behind.

I thought your arguments in favour of the Government Department selling these queens very good and forceful, and it seemed to me that Mr. Hopkins hadn't a "leg to stand on." Mr. Hopkins did say that selling untested queens was "gambling and commercialism," but I consider these statements very far-fetched. Why should queens that have cost a lot of the time of experts to rear, and whose progeny would gather tons of honey, be destroyed? Well, I see no sane reason. I would like Mr. Hopkins to read an article in Gleanings, October number for 1918, page 601. The article is entitled "The Best Kind of Hybrids." Let all beekeepers who have the opportunity read it several times and profit by it.—I am, &c.,

J. C. HORBS.

Kauwhata, Palmerston North.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I see by November Journal we have at last discovered a capping melter and separator as perfect as present-day science can make them. Well, I for one am glad to hear it. Now I feel sure the Journal will be open to any of the users of this machine to state their experiences with the same. I cannot say that the steam idea is as new a discovery as some recent inventor will have us believe, as I have read in Gleanings of steam coils as far back as January (page 30), 1911, and have used two myself at intervals of several years. Capping melters of various designs were frequently discussed in Gleanings, 1908.

In Gleanings for February, 1916, page 164, the B.B.M. melter is described as the outcome of nine years of designing, but I see by the last Journal B.B.M. has laboured 15 years, and I hope he reaps his reward.

Last Conference I had hoped to see the B.B.M. worked, but unfortunately the inventor had filled the primus with the wrong spirit or else he forgot to overhaul the lamp before starting. Anyway, I had to leave before he heated the melter. I thought at the time that he used a good flame and needed to be "clean shaven"—"the sole drawback to obtaining the floor," one of our energetic beekeepers once told the President. Now, I did not like to ask Mr. Miller at the Conference why he had brought such white combs (most of you know Mr. Miller) in preference to black ones. I was previously told when in Wanganui at a meeting of directors of the H.P.A. that Mr. Miller had been very hard hit by foulbrood, so I concluded that all dark combs were melted. So much for melters. I have yet to try the B.B.M.

It seems to me I'm too slow even when I try to uncup over a melter that is heated by steam direct from a boiler with 60 to 80 lb. pressure showing on the gauge, and I can tell you the steam from the exhaust is as good as when it entered the melter, and I have never yet been able to discover a steam pipe in it that was cooler at the bottom as described by H.B.M., page 165, Gleanings, 1916.

As to the spec(tre) mentioned by H.B.M. in the November Journal, the same thing has been referred to by J. L. Bver, Gleanings (page 936), December, 1917. In summing up melters after using them to take care of cappings from 40,000 lb. of honey, he says they were a failure. J. E. Crane gives a similar report in Gleanings, February, 1918. Mr. Severin, in describing his new separator, page 16, Gleanings, 1915, says:—"If for any reason one is careless, it will start drizzling little specks," &c.

My experience has been that of Mr. Luke's. What the bees use here, be it propolis or something else, I am quite sure the specks are specks, and they remain in the wrong place. I am quite prepared to pay a good price for the perfect melter and separator, and pay it willingly, and I hope we will soon hear more about the melter

and also hope Mr. Miller will describe his separator, as there have been many and varied.

One objection to C. melters is the early nosing of robbers around the honey-house, but if I can get a machine to do two tons a day the robbers won't be in it.

I'm glad to see Mr. Allan has been appointed to the directorate of the H.P.A. Why he never accepted office at first has always puzzled me. Now they have both honey and money to work with, things ought to "hum."

Cannot say I can follow Mr. Kirk re benzine tins being fragile. Most of these are of good quality, and for standing a knock I always prefer a benzine tin to any honey tin I can purchase, and I've tried a few. The Department made the mistake in compelling beekeepers to use unbranded tins, which are somewhat fragile.

Now, Mr. Editor, don't you think we should in some way keep on record the fact that next Conference will be the ninth annual meeting of beekeepers, even if it is only the sixth of the National? I attended two meetings, and there was one before that, and I know that a good deal was done at those meetings, even if there were but a few there.

Apiary boundaries? Well, I am of about the same opinion as yourself, Mr. Editor, and cannot say that I have any more right than a farmer in this district to keep bees, although I have done so for about 20 years now. I don't want to own every bee, as somebody may get stung. Moreover, I don't want to have to purchase the land to regulate the crops or stock thereon, and if all apiaries are to be licensed I must suggest "that all such beekeepers be compelled to grow not less than 15 acres of clover to compensate the beekeeper" be added to clause 4, page 174. Here, again, we will want further legislation to stop the small chaps letting their bees on shares. At the rate of four colonies to every farm about here, and I guess in most parts the licensed apiary could close down. To my mind I cannot see how we are going to get commercial beekeepers unless they can dabble with more than four colonies. The fellow who will locate near a large apiary deserves the same treatment as has been mentioned in *Gleanings*—i.e., starve him out by putting an extra lot alongside. It all depends on how the farmers treat the pastures, and not on what a beekeeper may do, that makes a good district (leaving out, of course, climatic conditions), so I think we will have to bind our cadets before we train them.—I am, &c.,

E. J. PINK.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I see by the last copy that you have had a case of honey-poison over there. There was a very bad one here just lately. Six people were poisoned; two others who had some did not suffer. Another beekeeper and myself went out last Sunday to get some of the honey, but it was all

buried. We resuscitated a small piece of it, and I sent it to Mr. G. V. Westbrooke. —I am, etc.,

J. W. EXCELL.

Opotiki, Dec. 15, 1918.

It Pays to Keep Bees.

(Continued.)

SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.

By PIONEER.

I always gave the bees plenty of super-room, even leaving them on in winter. I never suffered from an excessive amount of swarming; I found the bees were quite capable of doing their own re-queening, and my system of putting the extra swarms into the top of the super above the weaker colonies generally sealed the doom of all inferior queens. I relied on natural swarming for my contemplated increase, and marked all weak colonies. I took my swarms in kerosene boxes, and at night, gently lifting the roof lid and removing the mat of the colony I wished to strengthen. Holding the box just clear of the exposed bars, I got an assistant to smartly jar the top. I then quickly replaced mat and lid, and by morning they had all clumped up amicably, and an impetus given that often turned a bad colony into a good one.

(Memo.—I have just returned from the railway station, after motoring down 12cwt of honey. Motoring is a great improvement on the old style of carting, but I will write on motors in relation to the apiary later on. I got a telegram offering me 1s 6d per lb for 300lb. That's "better than a poke in the eye" with a—bee's sting.)

But I am anticipating these memoirs, so must go back. The scent of the queen bee is a most amazing thing, so subtle is it and lasting, yet quite unrecognisable by us. I very soon noticed that once a swarm alighted on a certain branch, subsequent swarms were sure to reselect it for all time. I have never believed in clipping the queen's wings. To see a mutilated queen hopping about the ground is as painful a sight as to see one of our soldier lads hopping on one leg, and when ordering queens I have always stipulated that they be sent unclipped. One day a swarm issued from a box hung on a branch near by. Before I could live them they returned, and I noticed them performing in a strange way on the alighting board, standing on their heads and buzzing. At last I found the cause—the queen had got caught in a crack. So remembering that a queen wanted to see a queen bee, I caught her, and placing her in a glass, took her to the house. Afterwards I put her in a new hive, when the bees, which had re-clustered on the branch, ran in. But the glass I left on a box near by, and for the rest of the day the bees continued to buzz around it, crawling in and out of it in a vain endeavour to locate her.

There seems to be a fatal habit amongst beekeepers to like to have everything right up to the knocker; but this, as a rule, the industry won't stand. I started with the old

single-bar frames, which, when full of honey, often reminded me of dead cockybollies, as they had such a curve in their spines. I am only now weeding them out and replacing with the more serviceable Hoffman. Kerosene cases used in those days are still in use. Petrol cases make sounder hives than the white pine ones supplied by the trade; and then there is the extra pleasure of painting and building them up yourself. When the Hoffman frame came in it was a great pleasure to me to put them together and wire them. I always ran 10 to the box, and used full sheets of foundation. It is a good tip to break the splints in three pieces, and run wax down both sides. Then you never have a shift. In those days I had all gable-roofs, and though I love their picturesqueness, they seem designed to leak. So I am gradually superseding them with the much more practicable and serviceable flat zinc roofs. But it is easy to make old gable roofs serviceable and sound by melting out the tops and bottoms of kerosene tins, cutting through one side, and using them to cover up the weakness of the wood.

Oh, yes, I had indeed caught the bee fever, but being of a cautious nature, I still decided to go slow and make the bees pay for themselves, and not spend more than £15, or at the utmost, £30 in any year on their outlay. For that reason I utilised kerosene boxes largely for the bees' homes. I took in a good bee journal and read up all I could about bee-keeping. In 1903 I produced 1,906lb of honey, but having to buy 20 new boxes, costing £16 18s 10d, and numerous other necessities, my account stood thus:—

Receipts	£29 14 2
Expenditure	26 2 5

Profit £3 11 9

In 1904 I took 3,653lb of honey, and my expenditure was much less:—

Receipts	£44 2 3
Expenditure	17 1 8

Profit £27 0 5

In 1906 I took 6,781lb of honey, spent £16 in new hives, tins, etc., and my financial statement read as under:—

Receipts	£103 3 5
Expenditure	32 14 6

Profit £70 8 11

As so my profit and loss has ebbed and flowed. At this time I had 74 colonies.

NOTE.—These articles were written for the *Canterbury Times* in 1914, but after two had appeared that paper ceased publication. As the writer had the series completed, he submitted them to us, and we are very pleased to accept them.

"A Wellington grocer was fined £5 for selling honey which was not plainly marked with the net weight and the manufacturer's name," says *The New Zealanders*. London Punch adds: "The bee has been warned."

One of the best signs of a well-balanced mind is that of cheeriness. It means a healthful outlook on life.—Backbone.

When I don't know whether to fight or not, I always fight.—Lord Nelson.

An Explanation.

One of the many inconveniences arising out of war conditions which importers and others have had to put up with has been the non-arrival of shipments of supplies from over-seas.

In the bee supply business this delay has been particularly serious, and has caused loss and inconvenience to a large number of beekeepers. Early in January, 1918, we ordered sufficient supplies for the season, with instructions that they be shipped at once in order that they should reach New Zealand in August, September, and October.

At that time the best information was that no shipping was available from New York for New Zealand, as all the steamers were required to take Troops and War Equipment to Europe. The only way of getting the goods here at all was that they be railed the several thousands of miles across the States to San Francisco and Vancouver.

The goods left the factories in March, May, and June, and from then on have been subject to almost unbelievable delay.

First they were held up on the railways at various points for weeks on end, and eventually left the States in September, arriving in Auckland on the Niagara and Wellington on the Palooza in October. At these ports further delays occurred, due to the influenza epidemic and the shortage of shipping on the coast. At the present date, nearly nine weeks after their arrival in New Zealand, only about half of the goods have been delivered.

In addition to these delays, a consignment of some 50 cases was placed on board a steamer for Sydney and was only returned to New Zealand after many weeks of delay.

The shortage of shipping from Dunedin has held up consignments for other ports, in some cases for weeks at a time.

We mention these facts to explain that where delays in the execution of orders for hives and supplies has taken place the delay has been unavoidable, and we desire to express our regret that so much loss and inconvenience has been caused our clients.

Fortunately for all concerned, the world war is now at an end, and we may look forward hopefully to a return to normal conditions before next season's supplies are required.

Yours truly, *

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD.,

Dunedin.

Dec. 27, 1918.

[Advt.]

I don't believe that harmless cheerfulness and good humour are thought greater sins in Heaven than shirt collars are.—Dickens.

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 galvanized iron, of which the Reducers are made.

I have now plenty of material for building these machines, but it is necessary that I receive the orders from intending purchasers at once, as these appliances take a considerable time to build and every one is sent out perfect. Bear in mind, you are not buying a "pig in a poke," but the most efficient machine yet devised for handling cappings and combs of unextractable honey.

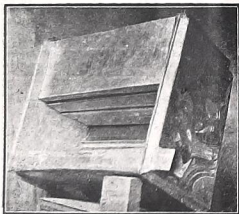
Will those friends who have already stated intention of purchasing be good enough to note that orders must be

executed in rotation as received, and make their respective orders definite, notifying when they require delivery?

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 hump 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.B.-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 Baimes, 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,
KIHIKIHU.

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, KIHIKIHU,
WAIKATO.

Honey for Export

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

'EX GRADING STORE', AUCKLAND

CREDIT NOTE and CHEQUE WITHIN 48 HOURS of the
Grading of the Honey.

Prices being paid being equal to full value of best
honey in the United Kingdom less shipping expenses.

ALL CONSIGNMENTS TAKEN DELIVERY OF BY
US ON ARRIVAL AT AUCKLAND.

Telegraphic Address—'ASPASIA,' AUCKLAND.

A. S. PATERSON & Co., Ltd.,

No. 1 Custom St. West, Auckland.

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

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

STANLEY STREET - AUCKLAND

G.P.O. BOX 1293.

BEEKEEPERS! PLEASE NOTE:

We offer the only reliable market for your Honey.

We had competitors last year, but they failed you and ceased to buy.

They will again compete if it pays them, NOT YOU.

We are here all the time and offer a good market at all times at good prices.

Our removal to the above address will enable us to handle the business all over the Dominion to better advantage. Call and see us if visiting Auckland.

H. W. GILLING, Manager.

JUST ARRIVED!**Extractors, Motors, Pumps,
Foundation,****And Sundries of Every Description.**

After being held up at various points for several months, Supplies arrived here 23rd December.

Orders on hand have been executed, and we are now in a position to execute any further orders same day as received.

Large Stock of the Famous ALLIANCE HIVES ready for delivery.
Order Direct or from our Agent near you.

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.