

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



F. A. Say

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

MARCH 1st, 1919

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



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



Mar. 1st, 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' FOUNDATION FACTORY.

BEESWAX WANTED

In Large or Small Lots to keep our Up-to-date Foundation Factory going at top speed. The capacity of our Electric Power Plant has been greatly increased for 1919.

Highest SPOT CASH Price paid for Beeswax.

Foundation made up at 8d. per lb. or on Shares.

NICHOLAS, 4 CALEDONIA ST., 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.**

MONEY IN BEES
in
AUSTRALASIA.

Price 8/-

By
TARLTON-RAYMENT.

MONEY in BEES in AUSTRALASIA.

By **TARLTON-RAYMENT.** 292 pages; 100 illustrations specially drawn by the author.

Price 8/-

Posted 8/6

A concise, explicit and eminently practical guidebook, conveying the elementary as well as the more advanced phases of practical apiculture. The volume also contains a special section—the first of its kind—dealing with the nectariferous value of the indigenous flora.

WHITCOMBE & TOMBS LTD.,

Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, & Melbourne.

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 3

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, Kaiti Kaiti.

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

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

Auckland Provincial Branch.—Hon. Sec., E. W. Sage, Ohaupo.

Sub-Branches:

Lower Waikato.—Hon. Sec., M. P. Millett, Papakura.

Te Aroha.—Hon. Sec., C. A. Grainger, Waibou.

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., R. McKnight, Domeit.

Clutha Valley Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., G. Cottrell, Greenfield, Otago.

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

CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Editorial	33	Canterbury Tales	41
Market Reports	36	Field Day at Mosgiel	42
The Honey Market	37	Beekeepers' Exchange	42
Meeting of the National Executive ..	38	Answers to Correspondents	43
Beekeeping for Beginners	38	Correspondence	43
District Reports	39	Westland's Dormant Industry	44

EDITORIAL.

In the September issue of last year we proposed a scheme of instruction and education in the craft, to be carried out by the National Association, which, although meeting with the approval of a certain number of our readers, did not bring forth any with very great emphasis on the need or necessity of the scheme. We suggested that in the event of the proposal being carried, it would be necessary to frame the lectures to be uniform all over the country, and suggested that it perhaps would be a

good idea to secure copies of similar courses that were held in other countries. That no waste of time should be experienced, the Secretary wrote to England and America. The receipt of the letter by the British Beekeepers' Association was reported in an account of a meeting held by that body in the British Bee Journal for 24th October, 1918. This our old friend Hopkins noticed, and in the N.Z. Fruitgrower for January, 1919, comments thus:—

“The following paragraph appears in the issue of the ‘British Bee Journal’ for 24th October last as part of a report of a meeting of the British Beekeepers' Association, held on 17th October:—‘A letter

was read from the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, asking to be furnished with particulars of the Association's examinations, and the secretary was instructed to send the same. I have no doubt that many of our beekeepers will, like myself, consider this action a most extraordinary one, that we, who are credited in other countries of being in the lead of advanced bee culture, should apply to the representative institution of beekeeping in the most backward of English-speaking countries in regard to this industry for a copy of its examination schedule. If it is the wish of our National Beekeepers' Association to advocate a strict examination into the qualifications of all persons before appointing them to responsible positions under the Apiaries Act, which all our beekeepers would uphold, surely we have sufficient talent in this country to draw up such a schedule without going outside. Such action, to say the least, is a direct reflection upon our apimary instructors, whether intended or not, and I do not think for a moment it was so intended; it must have occurred in a moment of abstraction. If the member of the Executive of the National Association who first suggested such a course had had the experience I have with certificated British beekeepers, he would never have dreamt of doing so. The replies to some questions I put when officially examining them were absolutely farcical; it was not their fault altogether, it was more due to the faulty system and to the general want of knowledge of the examiners. Surely no one should know better than our apimary instructors what is required in an examination schedule, and if they were to collectively draw up one, I am sure it would be better suited to the requirements of our advanced stage of bee culture than that from a country where the use of straw skeps is still advocated, and where disease has for the past thirteen years played dreadful havoc among the bees, and practically ruined the industry of commercial beekeeping, without any legislative measure being taken to suppress or control it."

The Editor is willing to admit that friend Hopkins was a commercial apimary and an authority on bees in New Zealand when he was a small office boy in London thirty years ago, and didn't know the difference between a bee and a blow-fly. Just previous to that period he used to write in his copy-book at school in fine copperplate style the following maxim:—"It is always safe to learn, even from our enemies; seldom safe to instruct even our friends." Not bad teaching either, is it? So that the experience of friend Hopkins and the experience of the Editor cannot be compared; but with the usual impetuosity of youth, he is going to "butt in."

Well now, it occurs to us that if the suggested proposal was carried out, our friend would wish the examinations to be (to use his own words) "suited to our advanced stage of bee culture." Now, if you are going to frame a set of examination questions that is going to "beat

the band" in the apicultural world, the only way to do this, in our opinion, is to get as many of the existing specimens possible, and then "go one better." Surely the attempt of the Secretary to achieve such an object cannot be construed into a "direct reflection on our apimary inspectors" or anyone else; and it was his action entirely, so if there is any blame attachable—"it's him!"

As regards the replies given to our friend by some of the English certificated beekeepers being farcical, we could give instances of the ACTIONS of some of our certificated beekeepers which were beyond farcical—they were pantomimic. In one case, even the old horse that was carting the bees thought the certificated man had played the fool with him long enough, so he promptly sat down on his haunches and broke the shafts, and our certificated friend learnt more about bees in a few minutes than ever obtained him his certificate. As he admitted to the Editor, there is a bit more to learn than you get at Ruakura, and that he could write a book on what he had learned since leaving that excellent place.

The Editor regrets that he has not had an opportunity of meeting a certificated beekeeper from any country, but it was a peculiar coincidence that by the same mail that brought the January "N.Z. Fruitgrower" there should also come the January number of the "Queensland Agricultural Journal," in which appears an article headed "English Notes from Sergt. Rosser." This gentleman is evidently an Australian beekeeper on active service, and has spent his leave in England in the most pleasant possible manner—viz., seeking out the names of certificated beekeepers and visiting them in their homes and apiaries. His article finishes thus:—"Tis an ideal way to holiday, and one is always sure of a welcome from beekeepers."

"I have heard the British Bee Association's examination system condemned by so-called practical men, who considered it too theoretical, and not likely to produce beekeepers who could handle 1000 colonies. It may be; but if I were looking for a man to manage a large yard, and a man holding the first class certificate of the British Association was looking for the work, I should give it him, and feel confident that everything would be well carried out.

"If our Association were to have a similar system of examinations, and as high a standard as that of the British Association, Australian bee-men abroad would have some standing, and could obtain work if they required it. Not only that, the Association could insist on such men only being given work as inspectors of apiaries when disease does break out in Queensland.

"Australian honey has a good reputation here, and New Zealand a better." Now, friend Hopkins, how do we stand? It occurs to us that, according to this

first-hand evidence by a man on the spot who has seen the apiaries and met the holders of these certificates, that the action of the Secretary of the National in asking for a copy of the examination papers cannot reasonably be put down to one that could only be done "in a moment of abstraction." It may be true "that we are credited with being in the lead of advanced bee-culture," but we submit that perhaps we are taking credit for more than we can really claim to be. An enquirer who came to New Zealand as being "in the lead of advanced bee culture" would, for a start, expect to find the industry under the control of a Chief Apiarist, whom, we are told, it is impractical to appoint. He would expect, after an Act of Parliament having been in force for eleven years for the elimination of disease and box-hives, that neither could be found to-day, but in January we reported that twenty-six box-hives were found in one district in one day, and strong complaints on the existence of foul-brood. He would expect that in every district suitable for beekeeping there would be at least one man who was a certificated expert to whom he could go for information. (The latter, we will admit, might be met by the Apiary Inspectors should they happen to be at headquarters.)

And as regards the apathy of the English authorities to recognise the need of legislation to protect the beekeepers, is our own very much better? They pass an Act of Parliament to bring about improvement, but will not staff the Department to enable it to be carried out properly; also it needed the resignation of a capable officer, with newspapers and our own Journal and Association to back their claims, for the Government to recognise they were worth a better salary. For how many years have we been asking for a Chief Apiarist, and for the stricter enforcement of the penalties of breaking the Apiaries Act?

That the Journal has not done its part in trying to bring about conditions that would really give us a right to the claim of being in the front rank, nobody can deny; but until many improvements are brought about, it seems to us we cannot reasonably claim the lead.

Since writing the above the Editor has paid a visit to the Queen-rearing Apiary at Tauranga, and has learned some further interesting items, which emphasise the amount of help given by the Department to the industry and the methods adopted. This apiary has now been in existence two years, and in spite of repeated applications to have the necessary buildings and plant put on the place, nothing has been done. The officer in charge arrived last October, and, would you believe it friend Hopkins, he has not yet received official notice of what his duties are! And—sh-h!—the apiary instructor under whose supervision this apiary is has not yet received official notice that this officer has been appointed! The following is strictly between you and me, friend Hopkins:—The officer went out and found a pretty severe case of foul-

brood within "cooee" of the queen-rearing yard, and the Editor found two more! How is that for the lead in advanced bee-culture? Can you imagine any commercial beekeeper who intended starting an apiary for the breeding of pure queens acting in a similar fashion? Of course not! The first thing he would do would be to clear the district of foul-brood by getting the owners of the hives prosecuted in the Magistrate's Court, thereby publishing the news to all in the surrounding district what would happen to them under similar conditions. He would then have gone round to every beekeeper and kindly re-queened every hive with a selected tested queen, with which the owners of the bees would have been very pleased, and the effect of this would be that as far as possible he was guarding against the probability of getting a number of queens mismated. The registered list shows there are within flying distance of the State Apiary fifteen hives of black bees and sixteen of crossbred, so the re-queening would not have meant a very great outlay. But this was not done, and the expected has happened: only about 3 per cent. of the queens mated can be classed as pure; and until the conditions outside the apiary are improved by the Department on the lines indicated above, you will have very little chance of doing much good. You cannot COMPEL anyone to keep any particular race of bees.

Whether the Department sell these mismated queens or not does not matter just here, but for absolutely no provision to be made to ensure a reasonable number becoming purely mated is, as we have remarked before, "Thomas nonsense." (Nice phrase that, isn't it? Looks better in print than "bally rot!")

The officer in charge was so handicapped by the want of somewhere to work that he borrowed a tent and fixed it up. The following conversation ensued:—

"Well, Mr. Rhodes, where do you work?"

"In the tent."

"Where do you keep your supers?"

"In the tent."

"Where is your workshop?"

"In the tent."

"Where do you graft the cells?"

"IN THE TENT!"

"Where do you sleep?"

"IN THE——. No, I sleep in a whare near the hen roost at the back of the farm."

"And what are you going to do in the winter when you cannot rear queens?"

"I am going to be busy—IN THE TENT!"

Hats off to the country that is "credited with being in the lead in advanced bee-culture."

Friend Hopkins, our Government have not given us a Chief Apiarist: they have not done anything like what they might in enforcing the Apiaries Act: they have so lmbugged the Queen-rearing Apiary venture that their (uncertificated) action is "absolutely farcical."

People that live in glass houses should—at least pull down the blinds! And before we complain of the apathy of other Governments, we might make sure that our own is without reproach.

"Them's our sentiments," friend Hopkins, with no offence to you intended.

In the January issue we ventilated a complaint of the lack of inspection in the Marlton district. We have received the following from the same correspondent:—"I think it only right to state that one of our biggest beekeepers has told me that the result of our inspector's visit last season is such that there is a noticeable diminution of foul-brood." We agree that it is quite right that the inspector should get the credit for work done, and we gladly ventilate the fact.

We learn that Mr. Gilling has resigned the position as manager of the H.P.A., and applications have been advertised for to fill the vacancy at £400 per annum. We are sorry for this, as Mr. Gilling put in an enormous lot of "spade work" in the early days of the Association.

The printers omitted to state that the article that appeared in last month's issue, "Swarm Impulse: Is It Inherited?" by A. O. Miller, was clipped from the American Bee Journal.

We have been frequently asked of late what is a fair price at which to sell honey from the apiary? It is difficult to get the exact value of honey to-day with the fluctuating markets, but we feel that a fair price to ask is 10d. per lb. put up in containers. Reckoning about 84/- per cwt. for bulk, this is only a little extra to pay for the tin or jar.

Please note that the Executive has decided to go on with the National exhibit of honey and wax; so please save about a pound pot of your best. The Secretary is now getting particulars of the cost of jars and cases for transportation, and hopes by next month to be in possession of definite information as to whether suitable containers can be procured. If so the names and addresses where the samples are to be sent will be announced.

We noted in the January issue of the "Fruitgrower" that Mr. Hopkins had been favoured with a copy of the new contract between the H.P.A. and the Bristol and Dominions for public comment. We wonder why the Journal was not similarly treated. Does the H.P.A. think the terms are of no interest to our readers? The manager himself had a motion passed at the last Conference relative to co-operative marketing being made the first plank in the National's platform, and the action of withholding this important information rather militates against the motion being carried out. We are quite certain that more shareholders of the H.P.A. take the Journal than the

Fruitgrower, and we are prepared to prove that, in comparison, the Journal has used its columns far more than the Fruitgrower for the purpose of advocating the claims of the H.P.A. If the new contract is advantageous to the shareholders, then we think the utmost publicity should be given to the terms, and we regret we were not permitted to see them.

We congratulate our Taieri friends on the formation of a Branch in their district with a financial membership of twenty. The National is growing well, and we are of the opinion that to increase the usefulness of these Branches a definite programme for the winter months should be put forward.

APOLOGY.

We regret that in the issue of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal of January 3rd, 1919, there appeared a paragraph reflecting upon the conduct of a beekeeper in the Wairarapa, in that he had invaded the territory of another. We particularly regret that the paragraph contained a reference to nationality which was offensive. We unreservedly withdraw the paragraph, and express our regret for having published it.

Market Reports.

Honey.—The market is in a disturbed state in consequence of the arrangement of the armistice. Everyone is naturally in the dark as to the effect of this upon world prices of all commodities. According to the public reports which reach us from places in Belgium and Germany which have been re-occupied by the Allies, the general position of economic affairs would not appear to be so black as it has been painted. Of course, nothing can affect the position of the world's supplies of natural products until the next harvest. Now that the great wastage caused by submarine destruction is passed, we shall rapidly pass to normal conditions. Honey is notoriously high in price, and we are afraid it must come down. Since our last report prices if anything went slightly higher, but now the market is on the easy side. For good extracted honey we quote 1/10½ to 1/11½ per lb. Californian sold at 215/- to 220/- per cwt. (112 lbs.); Argentine sold at 210/- to 220/- per cwt.; Cuban sold at 205/- to 210/- per cwt.; Jamaica sold at 205/- to 210/- per cwt. Chilean: No first hand offering; price nominally 210/- to 215/-.

Beeswax.—The market remains dull, and for good quality we quote 2/- to 2/1 per lb. Chilean sold at £11 10s. per cwt.; Jamaica sold at £11 5s. per cwt.; African sold at £9 10s. per cwt.

TAYLOR & CO.
Liverpool, 25th Nov., 1918.

Market conditions generally are unaltered. The demand continues fair, but there has been practically no honey offering, and any scanty parcels arriving from coastal districts are readily snapped up at firmer rates. The market for some time has been bare of choice liquid western, and prospects, owing to continued adverse weather conditions, point to a small flow. Many beekeepers still holding limited stocks of last season's honey are not anxious to sell locally while more attractive values are reported from overseas markets. Latest quotations are:—Choice clear liquid Western, 6½d. to 7d. per lb; good clear light liquid, 6d per lb; other grades, dark and candied, 4d. to 5d. per lb.

—Australasian Beekeeper.

January, 1919.

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

Auckland.—The weather conditions in the Auckland Province have not been favourable for large yields of honey. Up to the end of January the summer has been cold and changeable. February has started well, and the bees are now busy on clover and pennyroyal. The yield generally will be below the average.—G. V. Westbrooke

Wellington.—As anticipated in former reports, the honey crop is assured. The general climatic conditions have been such as to enable the bees to gather large quantities of nectar from the excellent pasture maintained by previous excessive rains. In the Gisborne district this is particularly evident, but the Wellington and Hawke's Bay Provinces have not fared badly. The crop is superior in quality to anything obtained for some years. Export lines are still coming forward to the grading store on account of last season's crop, but this season's may be expected to soon fill the stores if shipping is not made available. Honey prices are still firm, as reported last month. Beeswax is selling at 2/6 per lb. Comb honey is scarce.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—As reported last month, there is an assured crop in the Canterbury district. Notwithstanding the

unsettled weather, conditions have been favourable to the secretion of nectar, and from some quarters beekeepers report abnormal yields. On the West Coast the returns are normal; wet weather, particularly in the spring, has retarded operations. In Otago and Southland the season is still in the balance. Continued wet weather and boisterous winds have been experienced. The crop will be small. The quality of the Canterbury honey this season is excellent, being above the average of the past few seasons. Prices are firm. Bulk honey is quoted at 8d. to 10d.; sections to 10/- per dozen. Beeswax is in strong demand, and sales have been effected at 2/6 per lb.—E. A. Earp.

The Honey Market.

By FRED C. BAINES.

Last month I made a few remarks on the above, and amongst them I stated that it was probable there would be a difference of £100 per ton on the price realised between the first and last shipments. Unfortunately, I received cable advice on 30th January that our honey was down to £100 per ton in England, Australian being quoted at £80. By this it is evident that shipping facilities have been so increased to allow large consignments of honey to reach the Old Country, and that the days of highly inflated values are passed.

I learn that the H.P.A. shipped 80 tons in January and about 50 tons in February, so our accumulated stocks will soon be got rid of. As these will arrive on the falling market, it rather upsets my optimistic idea of the suppliers getting £150 per ton; we shall, apparently, be lucky if we get just half—£75.

In any case, we can rest assured that the Bristol and Dominions will realise full market value for all honey sent them, and it is easily possible that the market will harden again, although it is not likely to go "way up."

In travelling round recently I was surprised to find a number of suppliers to

To Beekeepers—Beginners or Experts.

TAKE NOTE.—The Dates of the ANNUAL CONFERENCE are

JUNE 11th, 12th and 13th.

We want a Record Attendance this year.

the H.P.A. who were not conversant with the terms of the contract existing between the Bristol and Dominions and the H.P.A., and I feel it would not be out of place to again put them forward. The old contract agreed that we should export not less than 100 tons per year, both parties agreeing not to export or import honey from New Zealand through any other channel. The Bristol and Dominions agreed to advance 4d. per lb. without recourse f.o.b. N.Z. ports for all first grade honey, which on arrival in England they were to liquify, bottle, and place right into the retail shops under the H.P.A. brand. You will notice particularly that this arrangement dispenses with merchants, brokers, and agents, as well as the saving of commission and charges associated with them.

The first year of the contract we exported 108 tons, and the profit made on the bottling depot in England came to somewhere about £1100, which came back to us. I do not know what the amounts have been since, but this one instance will be sufficient to indicate what a splendid marketing contract we have, one in which we have complete control over our produce until it reaches the actual retailer. Producers of other commodities look with envy on us, and are doing their utmost to secure an arrangement on similar lines.

The new contract recently signed with the Bristol and Dominions gives the advance without recourse at £60 per ton f.o.b., and do not lose sight of the fact that it is only an advance; there is yet the profit made on the bottling depot in England to come, and I have sufficient faith in Major Norton's business ability to reckon on a very substantial sum being made. There is only one drawback, which is practically unavoidable—viz., the length of time that elapses before this return is available; but you will readily see that it is necessary to get the figures for the whole year's working before the actual profit can be arrived at.

Can you tell me of a more profitable method of marketing?

Meeting of the National Executive.

A meeting of the above was held in the Trades Hall, Christchurch, on Thursday, February 6th, the whole of the members being present.

After the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed, the Secretary presented a rough balance sheet, which showed a balance at bank and cash in hand at £194 3s. 11d.

The Journal account showed that, in spite of the great increase in the cost of printing (between £4 and £5 per month), the Journal was not being run at a loss, although the margin was very small. The list of subscribers showed a net gain of 20 since June.

The following business was transacted:—
The National to take up the proposal to form an exhibit of honey and beeswax, the Secretary to go into the matter of the cost of jars, cases, &c

The Beginners' Handbook, compiled by the Editor of the Journal, be printed and distributed to the secretaries of the Branches as soon as possible; also the book be sold at a retail price of 1/6.

Mr. W. B. Bray be asked to act as auditor, as Mr. A. C. Askew was shortly leaving the Dominion.

The dates of the annual Conference were fixed for June 11th, 12th, and 13th, to be held in Wellington at the Hall of the Dominion Farmers' Building, if available.

The evening of the second day be set apart for a supper and concert.

The Minister and officials of the Department of Agriculture and the Mayor of Wellington be invited to the opening of Conference and social evening.

The following papers were promised:—
"The Work of the N.B.K.A. and the H.P.A."—Mr. James Allan.

"A Workable Scheme for Settling the Question of Apiary Boundaries."—Mr. A. Ireland.

"Honey Crystallisation."—Mr. W. E. Barker.

"The Depot System of Handling Honey."—Mr. J. Rentoul.

"The Appointment of a Grader for the Whole of the Dominion."—Mr. W. Watson.

"Do Queens Mate Once Only?"—Mr. R. H. Nelson.

The Secretary was instructed to invite further papers from prominent beekeepers on matters of interest.

It was considered advisable to make the Conference interesting to the beginner, and to that end the Secretary was instructed to write the Department with a view of securing the presence of Mr. A. B. Trythall with a paper to be "A Practical Talk to Beginners."

The usual exhibition of appliances, demonstration of melters, &c., to be held.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—MARCH

[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-seasons in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

This month sees the absolute close of the honey harvest for this season, and our work will be preparations for the winter.

First, we will overhaul all the hives, replacing any old bodies that show splits

and cracks, all covers that show any indication of weakness, as to successfully winter the bees they need to be in dry and warm quarters.

Clear away all weeds and rubbish round the hives, and it will do no harm to place them on extra bricks, so that the air can circulate all round them. There will be very little more growth round them at this time of the year.

You will notice the drones being turned out of the hives this month, and should you see a hive where the drones are still happily living, just look into it, and you will probably find it is without a queen. Unite this and any other queenless colonies with a queen-right colony by the newspaper method.

Your storage combs should be all cleaned up dry, and carefully put in sound supers in tiers, with a sheet of newspaper between each, and a few naphthaline balls to keep away the wax moth. These are particularly destructive in districts where the winter is mild, and it needs very great precaution to avoid having the combs ruined.

It is very advisable where these pests are numerous to fumigate the combs at intervals of a fortnight.

You will probably have an accumulation of odd pieces of wax, broken combs, scrapings, &c., which can now be rendered into marketable form. In these days of high prices of foundation, it is advisable not to sell your wax outside the industry; get it made up into foundation, or exchange it for its value in other supplies.

F. C. B.

District Reports.

SOUTHLAND BRANCH.

The annual Field Day of the above was held at the apiary of the President, Mr. R. Gibb, Menzies Ferry, and attracted a large number of people.

The following was the programme:—Address of Welcome, President; Lunch; Demonstration, Honey; H.P.A. Business, Mr. R. W. Brickell; Preparation of Honey for Export, Mr. E. A. Earp; Demonstration, Queen-finding by "the Boys"; Natural History of the Bee, Mr. R. Gibb; Foul-brood and its Eradication, Mr. E. A. Earp. Mr. R. Stewart also gave a demonstration on the introduction of queens.

The absence of both Mr. J. Allan and Mr. H. W. Gilling was particularly noted, many members having come long distances to meet the latter gentleman, as information was required as to the intentions of the H.P.A. regarding the South Islanders' crop for the coming season. However, a very pleasant and instructive time was spent, closing with three hearty cheers for the President and his wife, who had taken so much trouble to make the guests welcome.

CANTERBURY BRANCH.

The annual Field Day of the above was held at the apiary of Mr. E. G. Ward at Lakeside, on Saturday, 8th February. A motor conveyance took the visitors from Christchurch, the journey out being much enlivened by the fact that nobody knew the way, which resulted in the visitors seeing the best part of Canterbury before arriving at their destination.

The meeting was attended by Mr. T. W. Kirk (Department of Agriculture), the directors of the H.P.A., and the President and Executive of the National. Mr. E. A. Earp was unfortunately too indisposed to attend, his place on the programme being filled by Mr. W. B. Bray.

The following programme was carried out:—Address of Welcome, Mr. E. G. Ward; Lunch; Queen-Rearing for Beginners, Mr. R. Gibb; Queen-Rearing by Swarthmore Method, Mr. W. B. Bray; Demonstration Taking off Honey, Messrs. Ward and Winter; H.P.A. Business, Mr. J. Rentoul; Photo; Grading Regulations and Work of the Department, Mr. T. W. Kirk; Packing for Export, Mr. W. B. Bray; N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal, Mr. F. C. Baines; The National Association, Mr. W. E. Barker; Demonstration of Extracting Honey with Power and Steam-heated Knife, Mr. E. G. Ward.

Mr. H. Jobstson (President) was unable to be present owing to harvesting, and sent an apology and good wishes for an enjoyable day.

The whole of the proceedings were attended with very great interest, and at the close a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Ward for such an excellent day's outing.

The journey home was accomplished without incident, except to the Editor, who (rumour has it) was last seen in a motor-car with a young lady; and HE says it was owing to a breakdown with the car that he missed the boat train! Is it a fact, Mr. Editor, that you received a wire signed by four gentlemen asking for the lady's name?

[I am not going to enter into a discussion where a lady is concerned; I am on my dignity.—Ed.]

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

This popular function took place at the Ruakura State Apiary on Wednesday, February 12th, and was attended by about 200 people. Mr. T. W. Kirk wired expressing regret that owing to pressure of business he was unable to be present.

The following programme was gone through without hitch, to the great interest of the visitors:—

Welcome to Visitors by the Farm Manager (Mr. Green), Visiting Officers of the Department of Agriculture, and local

Members of Parliament; President's Address, Mr. C. S. Hutchinson; "Elementary Instruction in Handling Bees," by the Apiary Cadets; "Experiments and Work Done at the State Apiary," Mr. A. B. Trythall; "Queen Cell Forming and Grafting," Mr. Goodin; Luncheon; Written questions to be handed in; N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal, Mr. F. C. Baines; "Testing Honey for Ripeness," by Apiary Instructor, Mr. G. V. Westbrooke; Queen-rearing, Nuclei-forming, and Queen Introduction by Drumming," Mr. C. S. Hutchinson; "Catching and Caging Queen and Bees for Mailing," Mr. A. H. Davies; Questions answered by prominent Beekeepers; "Taking off Super Honey," Messrs. Davies and Pearson; "Bee Literature," Mr. I. Hopkins; "Future Prospects," by R. W. Brickell, N.Z.H.P.A.; "Packing Honey for Export," by Honey Grader, Mr. G. V. Westbrooke; "A Simple Method of Queen Raising," Mr. E. W. Sage; Photographs, Mr. Stewart, Official Photographer; Demonstrations of Various Honey Melters, by Makers or Owners. The last item was rather spoilt by the fact that Mr. Smedley had omitted to bring a particular part of his machine, and was unable to demonstrate its capabilities.

Mr H. Bartlett-Miller attended with an extra large machine and separator. The latter appliance was to eliminate the trouble of dark specks of pollen and comb appearing in the melted honey. Unfortunately, the separator did not do what was anticipated, as the specks were strongly in evidence, and the appliance will need a lot of improving before it is efficient. The melter itself is highly efficient, but on taking the temperature of the honey running from it, the reading was 190 deg., and at the outlet of the separator 170 deg. This is far too great a heat to subject delicately flavoured honey, and the general opinion was that it would spoil both flavour and colour if any quantity was put through. With the stronger flavoured and darker honey this perhaps would not be so noticeable; but we take it that the machine is on the market for all districts, and consequently we must comment on the actual result obtained.

A wax-rendering appliance, consisting of a cylinder of perforated metal enclosed in a steam-proof box, was demonstrated. The cylinder is filled with everything containing wax, the box closed down, and steam from a boiler run through, the cylinder being revolved by turning a handle on the outside. The result was not so good as that obtained by a good press, and we think that if the same amount of steam was used in a steam-heated press, a much larger percentage of wax would be obtained.

The day closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. W. A. Green, Mr. A. B. Trythall, and the Auckland Provincial Branch.

[We made a few remarks in last month's issue relative to the Department's action over the matter of supplying refreshments,

which, we learn, rather reflected on Mr. W. A. Green, the manager of the farm. We wish it to be clearly understood that both this gentleman and his wife did on the above day—and have always on previous occasions done—everything possible to make these field days the successful functions they are, and we express our regret that anything we said should have created a wrong impression.—Ed.]

MANAWATU.

Prospects for a crop are about over. Never have I seen clover, &c., so good, and I never want to see worse weather. Bees about here have gathered little more than that needed for brood-rearing, and it will be a toss-up if any surplus is stored.

E. J. PINK.

Ohau, 15/2/19.

TARANAKI.

We are assured of a crop well above the average, and should the weather continue good and the flow hold, some real good crops will be secured. After three bad seasons it is a welcome and much-needed change for the cow country beekeepers.

Prospects took a rapid change from 11th January, when, after weeks of despair, the weather became mild, and a heavy clover flow commenced, and except for a break of a few days has continued to date.

Only those who fed in December and kept their colonies well up to strength will receive the full advantage.

Thistles are in full bloom, but should continue to yield for some weeks yet.

A peculiarity of the season is that, contrary to the past few seasons, the bees round the mountain are not doing so well as those on the rich flats. This is accounted for by the fact that the weather has been generally colder and wetter. I have often gone to work at one of my out-yards near the mountain, twelve miles from Okaiawa, and worked all day without seeing the sun, and been kept busy dodging showers, and then on arrival home in a pessimistic mood would find that the home yard had piled in the nectar.

Friend Ward, writing in last month's Journal, mentioned that clover appeared to be yielding at a lower degree than usual. I can bear him out in that, as we have had comparatively cool days, and the clover has yielded. I believe moisture has a lot to do with it, and that after a wet and cold winter it will yield at a lower temperature than after a mild winter.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 16/2/19.

TAIERI TALK.

I am going to talk of the weather, despite the fact that the Editor considers discussions thereon inflammable. Decidedly this is a bad season. Summer weather there has been of late, but the miniature deluge and consequent floods at the end of January well nigh counterbalance it. Why, here we are in the middle of February, and practically no extracting done. Let that serve as a guide.

I have but two hands and two feet to vote "Aye" on the proposal of a membership badge. I wish that, Vishnu-like, I had a double set of hands to put to the same use. Mr. Editor, you must say some more about that idea: invite suggestions for a design, and if they prove to be as numerous as Mr. Ward suggests, set up a committee to make a selection!

Mr. Ward finds that swarms are often queenless two or three days after hiving, and suggests that in these cases the bees may have left the parent hive without the queen. It seems likely. Here is a case from the Taieri: The swarm in question was sifted prior to uniting with a weak colony, but there was no sign of a queen. She was certainly not lost in transit from the tree to the box. The two colonies later united quite peacefully. There is only one solution. Apropos of uniting, a local tyro, wishing to strengthen a colony, went about it in the following simple fashion:—He opened up the hive, placed an empty super on it, and dumped in a swarm he had just taken. There followed what he called "a regular bally Mons retreat," only he did not say "bally."

You will hear more of us elsewhere in this issue. We have ousted the Clutha Valley Association from the position of the youngest Branch of the National.

ARISTAEUS.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

Canterbury beekeepers now know their fate for another season, and from various reports it can be said that the season has been considerably better than the average. In South Canterbury the returns are excellent, and on the lighter lands of Middle and North Canterbury the returns are good. In my own district early indications were for a phenomenal crop, but the weather has been erratic, and expectations have not been realised.

I have not yet finished extracting, but I shall have a better crop than last year, and live in hope of that "bumper crop" which all the old veterans love to "crack" about when they have enjoyed such a delightful experience.

Since last report we have had a very heavy rainfall (over 4 in.), a lot of dull, overcast weather, when the bees sting like "billy-oh," and now we are having a spell of weather which can be called our first taste of real summer. The thistles are blooming (three weeks late), and there is a good second growth of clover, which will keep the bees quiet for a while.

I see in my last "Tales" the printer says I have extracted a couple of "tins" or so. Fancy a man with 180 colonies extracting a couple of "tins" of honey! Why, Mr. Printer, that would hardly wet the extractor. I said "tons!"

Field Day at my apiary passed off successfully. I am referring to it for the purpose of putting on record my appreciation of the help given by those who attended in making it a success. Both Mrs. Ward and myself felt it a very great compliment that so many of the "big guns" were willing to travel so far to see us. We were particularly honoured in having the attendance of Mr. T. W. Kirk, and can only hope that he found something of interest to compensate for his trouble. We were very sorry Mr. Earp was too ill to attend. I should not wonder if he felt sorry himself, because it was he who gave me my first lessons in beekeeping, and I know he takes a keen interest in my progress. However, Mr. Robert Gibb "stepped into the breach" and ably filled Mr. Earp's place, and with Mr. Winter and "yours truly" the demonstrations were carried out according to programme. Mr. W. B. Bray, as master of ceremonies, was a tower of strength, and kept the ball rolling to such good purpose that there was not a dull moment. A special word of thanks is due to Miss Mackay, our secretary, for the manner in which she worked, both before and on the auspicious occasion. From a rough estimate I should say the number of colonies owned by those who were present was somewhat over 3000. This is a record to feel proud of, and almost enough to give one a "swelled head." Finally, I would just like to say that if I have left undone any of those things which I ought to have done, or done any of those things which I ought not to have done, I tender a humble apology.

Some time ago I referred to the wiring of frames, and said that the plan of diagonal wiring advocated by Mr. Martin took me one-third longer than the usual plan of horizontal wiring. When extracting this season I came across the experimental set I tried, and find that there is just as much sag in the foundation on these as in those horizontally wired. I also find that there are a number of drone cells on the diagonal wired frames, which are evidently caused by the wires crossing the cell walls at an awkward angle. The result of the experiment has confirmed my opinion that the plan of wiring with three or four horizontal wires tightly stretched will ensure a worker comb as good as can be produced, provided there is a good honey flow on.

The following paragraph appeared in a local paper recently:—"It is expected that there will be a large honey crop this season, and prices, it is anticipated, will be easier. A large quantity of last season's honey is still in store awaiting shipment, and as some of it has deteriorated, it will fail to pass the necessary standard required for shipment. If this happens it will be thrown on the local market for consumption."

Now, if the above is correct, the producer is entitled to know something about it: if his fault, he should bear the brunt; but if as I suspect it is the usual old gag to bring down the price, nobody need be alarmed. Anyway, let us stand "shoulder to shoulder," and keep the H.P.A. flag flying at the mast-head.

Field Day at Mosgiel.

On the 15th of February a bee-handling demonstration was given by Mr. Earp at the apiary of Mr. Naismith. At mid-day the sky was ominously dark and lowering. Our hopes fell; surely some evil fate was dogging our footsteps; 2 p.m. brought little change, but just before the curtain rose the cheery sun poured a few scattered rays through the cloud-rifts. Thus invited, Mr. Earp opened the meeting with a preliminary address on the subject in its general aspects, and then proceeded to an actual demonstration of bee-manipulation. This was accompanied by a running discourse on frames, foundation, comb, excluders, escapes, and other nifty-gadgets usually found in an apiary. Then after an examination of the pet hive of the apiary, Mr. Earp entered on the subject of foul-brood. His vigorous exposition of the evils thereof left no doubt in our minds that this arch-enemy should always be anathema to anyone aspiring to the name of bee-man. Shortly afterwards the demonstration was brought to a close, and we trooped off to the afternoon tea provided by our thoughtful hosts.

Advantage was taken of this all-too-rare gathering of Taieri beekeepers to call a meeting for the purpose of forming a Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association. When the subject had been briefly introduced by Mr. W. R. Howard, Mr. Earp treated us to a short lecture on the advantages of organisation. Thereupon we gathered in the harvest of intending members, and proceeded to elect officers for the year:—President, Mr. Naismith; Vice-President, Mr. A. Callick; Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. H. Howard; Committee—Messrs. Clark, Ewart, Dowie, Jones, and Watson.

The Branch starts with a roll-call of twenty, which is excellent, considering that the majority of the attendance hailed from Dunedin. In a day or two we shall have evolved a definite being out of the chaos of our creation.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks and three hearty cheers for Mr. Earp and for our host, Mr. Naismith—the end of a perfect day.

Beekkeepers' 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,
Lorac Street,
Mataura, Southland.

WANTED, BACK NUMBERS OF JOURNALS. 6d. each will be paid for the following:—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, Volume 2, Nos. 1 and 2. Wanted for America.

EDITOR.

YOUNG MARRIED MAN (one child) seeks PERMANENT POSITION as bee-keeper-orchardist; good knowledge bees, queen-rearing, pruning, spraying, and poultry, &c.; would milk couple cows; must have small cottage and garden; references. Address

STUART, c/o Editor.

CHOICE ITALIAN QUEENS for immediate delivery. Untested, 7/6 each.

NICHOLAS,
4 Caledonia Street, Hawera.

FOR SALE, 80 TESTED ITALIAN QUEEN BEES, 12 months old; 8/- each. A few Select Tested Breeders, £1 each.

R. WHITING,
Springdale, Waitoa.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. K., Greytown.—The Government has withdrawn all concessions on travelling, and there is at present very little chance of getting rebates.

A. Merricks.—Your verses are refused; they are likely to get me a "blister." Our readers can judge from the following:—

First Stanza.

Oh, I will sing of Nelson,
Who sailed the seven seas;
But with that life found too much
strife,
So took on keeping bees.

Second Spasm.

The season came, the bees did well,
They filled the supers quick;
And Bob was disappointed when
He found the honey "thick."
Nuff sed!

G. E. C., Dunedin.—The clipping was sent by a contributor in Wellington.

C. H. B., Christchurch.—I would suggest you give up trying to keep bees. How would raising white mice suit you?

J. W. A., Fairlie.—Many thanks for names. Journals have been sent.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—What do you think of this: is it anything extra? I got a swarm on 22nd October last, and I hived them, and gave them about 12 lb. syrup, as the weather was bad at the time. In about five days I had to put a super on, as they had drawn out all the frames in the bottom. Well, just three weeks after I hived them they threw off a lovely big swarm, and they have thrown two big swarms since and two small swarms. I double-banked the two small ones, and they are doing fine. Besides all the swarms, I have taken about 70 lb. of honey from the hive, and I expect to take two full supers and a super of sections off in a week or two, as they are doing very well; they have filled all the frames which I extracted about eleven days ago, but they have not started to cap yet. I had three hives at the start of the season, and now I have eight, besides one I destroyed with foul-brood.

R. B.

Blenheim.

[You have evidently got a strain of hustlers—and swarmer.]

Apiary Boundaries! What a question! Come to the Conference and hear how it is to be solved.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Kindly permit me to thank Mr. Miller for his information on page 31. I was somewhat aware of these facts, but considered them unavoidable. In regard to my method of testing the difference in the heat of pipes, I must say I considered the steam to be moving fast enough to maintain an even heat. I was always under the impression the dome on a boiler was to give a regular supply of steam, and to avoid taking steam through a square elbow, as would be the case in taking the pipe into the boiler.

I do not think Mr. Miller can blame me for classing his combs white under the circumstances. I was more than sorry I did not see the melter working, and hope the demonstration on the 12th February was a success.—I am, &c.,

E. J. PINK.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—There seems very few comments on your suggestion for a beekeeper's badge. I think it very good, and vote, like Mr. Ward, with both hands and feet. I have often thought when travelling perhaps there is a beekeeper in the car that I know through his letters in the Journal. How nice if we could have a chat to pass away the time. I really meant to mention the subject before, so you see how great minds think alike.

After all the wet weather and cold nights we have had, I think we are in for a fair crop yet.—I am, &c.,

J. W. EXCELL.

Opotiki, 12/2/19.

P.S.—The Journal is just the thing.—J.W.E.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In re your note on "Apis Mellifica." I am sorry I am not in a position to pronounce a verdict, as I know little or nothing about homeopathy, and the patient is not in front of me for examination and cross-examination. Two points, however, strike me as rather remarkable: (1) Apis mellifica is used as a cure for the poison of other insects. Is this on the principle of taking a hair of the dog that bit you, or, at least, the dog's first cousin? Would it cure a bee-sting as well? Then there is the question of every bio-chemical poison having its own specific enzyme. Would a course of Apis mellifica render one immune to the sting of a wasp or a hornet or cure such a sting when already received? I have no doubts.

(2) I see the remedy is given by the mouth, and was so administered in the case cited. This is interesting, as most of these bio-chemical products are practically inert when taken in this way, and have therefore no immunising effect on the patient. Whether this applies to Apis mellifica I cannot say. The subject of immunity is an intensely interesting one, and any suggestion bearing on the question is worthy of consideration. But of this anon.—I am, &c.,
UOMO SELVATOO.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice that Mr. A. E. S. Boshier asks through the Journal what effect the bee-sting poison in the blood has to prevent disease. Well, the effect of bee-sting poison on me has been to give disease. The doctor ordered me to bed for two or three days. I got one full day in bed, and next day, just after dinner, up gets a swarm, and there being no one to catch it, as it settled high, I got up and hived it. The trouble I got from them was a kind of eczema; that is what the doctor told me, and he said it was probably from the effect of the bee-stings; and I am pretty sure it was, as when I got a sting it would itch like fury. I am not clear of it yet, as when I get a sweat up any time I also get an itch up, and then I could pretty well rub down the first thing that I meet—tree or fence, or anything else that you could rub against. I was wondering if anyone could give a remedy, and if anybody else was affected the same way by it.

Regarding the season, beekeepers around me are complaining; but I myself cannot complain, as my bees are climbing towards one hundred 60-lb. tins. Last year I had 32 colonies, and they reached forty 60's, besides increasing to 60 colonies; and then in the spring only about a dozen of them were what you would call good colonies, and I expect by the end of this season to have over 200 colonies.

I quite agree with Mr. A. C. Miller that swarm impulse queen cells are just as good as any cells, and one thing that I am surprised at is that so many beekeepers go in for buying queens. Surely it is simple enough to raise queen-cells, even though you are very busy. I will tell you the way I do it. In the middle of the day when the bees are very busy, select one of your most powerful colonies, and, having a super, roof, and bottom-board with frames fitted with foundation—as I said, when they are very busy, lift the old hive completely at least a chain away, or, if a small place, away as far as you can possibly get it, putting the new hive in the place of the colony just moved. Now select one or two frames from one of the best colonies you have got, with eggs and brood, and place them in the bee-hive where you shifted your colony from, and the working bees returning home and finding their hive gone, will set to work and draw out your sheets of foundation, and a nice lot of queen-cells also, in about eight days. If you really want a large number of cells, remove the frames from them, and give to another colony that will take care of them, and give them another frame with eggs and brood, and then you will get plenty of cells. I would not advise beginners to do this until the swarming season has begun, as they may for one thing not select a hive that is strong enough; and another reason is that at swarming time the bees generally are not very much inclined to rob.

I notice by the Journal that Mr. E. G. Ward was having a field day, and if I had not been so far away and been busy, I think that I would have been there myself. I hope that he had a good day for it.

In my locality sky-scrapers would hardly suit me, as, if I leave the honey capped over too long, it means that it gets so stiff that you can do nothing with it, especially if it is new comb.

I also think, as Mr. Ward does, that the queen bee would be the best model for the badge, and she would also make a very nice buttonhole.

Some seven or eight years ago I made an arrangement with a young man from Christchurch who wished to learn beekeeping, and I was to meet him at a certain railway station. We had never seen each other before, and the question was how were we to know each other? Well, I wrote him thus:—"You tell me by what express you are coming, and I will meet you, having a queen-bee pinned on to my hat—not a live one, but one cut from a catalogue." Result, he discovered me without any trouble. Seeing that Critic No. 1 has stopped writing to the Journal, I will sign myself as

CRITIC No. 2.

Pukeuri, 16/2/19.

Westland's Dormant Industry.

£40,000 PER ANNUM GOING TO WASTE.

(Paper read by Mr. John Murdoch (Ross) at Westland Chamber of Commerce.)

The beekeeping industry in Westland is in a very dormant condition. Why? Simply because we fail to see that between, say, Wataroa and Reefton, annually we are allowing £40,000 to run to waste. At the end of last season honey was worth on the Home market £170 per ton. A commercial apiary requires only a radius of three miles. If we limit each apiary to 100 colonies, and plant apiaries between Wataroa and Reefton, we have only to take the average return of £4 per colony to give us £40,000. The best return last season for one colony in Westland was 230 lbs. of honey at 1s. per lb., which gives us £11 10s.

When extracting last season, during the first round I took seventeen frames of honey averaging 6 lbs. each—102 lbs. from one colony. In a good season you can extract three times, but unfortunately I have no record for the second and third extraction from this colony.

There are not more than ten beekeepers in the district who are working on the right lines to merit success. The days of the old box-hive are past, it now being an offence to keep bees in other than frame hives.

We require to be aroused to the value of this industry, which could annually give

us nearly as great a return in cash as all our butter and cheese factories put together. The amount of honey exported from Westland last season would probably not amount to more than ten tons. What a different tale there would be to tell if more of the settlers were induced to embark in this industry. Every man or woman would require to learn all the latest scientific methods of handling bees, as there is a bright future in store for anyone who has a taste for and will adopt up-to-date lines of work.

Westland affords the longest strip of territory in New Zealand, bar none, as a suitable locality for bee-keeping. We have an abundance of native bush, giving us a rotation of wild flowers, each yielding their quota of nectar to the bees.

In other districts where there is no native bush handy, spring-time is the most critical period of the year, as the beekeeper then has to feed his bees until the honey-flow sets in. On a fine day it is quite a pleasure to watch the young bees gathering in the nectar and pollen (for making bee-bread) from the bush. Their industry puts us to shame, as you can almost hear them say "How busy we are helping to win the war." "More food means victory; waste of food means defeat." Roll up your sleeves and get busy. Let us provide more food by boosting the beekeeping industry in Westland and advancing it financially at the same time.

One of the many problems to be tackled at the close of the war will be the settlement of our returned soldiers. I am quite sure that many settlers would welcome returned men in their districts and lease them one acre of rough land (the more stones the better) for a small sum. On Crown lands a miner's right at 5/- per annum entitles a man to one acre, which is all a man needs for 100 colonies. With the last number of colonies a man knowing his work can earn £8 per week. We will suppose that prices after the war go down to half this amount, he will still have £4 per week per annum for only six months work. It is not every returned soldier who will take up beekeeping, nor will every returned man make a success of beekeeping; but if a man has a taste for it, give him a season, and the instructor in charge will tell him if he is likely to make a successful beekeeper or not.

Most of the failures are due to lack of knowledge, hence our paternal Government have opened a Training College at Rukura, North Island, and a queen-rearing station at Tauranga. This season there are 33 students learning the art, women as well as men, which goes to prove that there must be money in the game. What is Westland going to do? We have an ideal location from one end of Westland to the other, and all we need is men or women to take one season's training, and then launch out on their own. We have no training college like Rukura anywhere in the South Island, so why not agitate for one in Westland? We have as much right to

a training college or State apiary in the South Island as the North Island people have.

The writer had the privilege of hearing the Hon. W. D. S. Macdonald, Minister of Agriculture, address the last Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand when in Wellington. This is what he said:—

It gave him very great pleasure to see such a large gathering of persons engaged in the apiary industry. It showed conclusively that the industry was going ahead by leaps and bounds; he did not think there could be any doubt about that. Those who were engaged in the honey industry were moving in the direction of greater co-operation and organisation, and that being so their movement could not fail to be successful. It was of paramount importance to this country and the Empire that the primary and other industries should aim at and get as near to perfection as possible. There could be no question that in the present trying time through which the Empire was passing, the producing industries, next to the heroic efforts of our soldiers, were of supreme importance. If we could not provide food for our soldiers, our men could not fight. He would like to impress upon every section of the community that it was of the utmost importance that our country, as well as other parts of the Empire, should produce foodstuffs and other necessities to their maximum capacity. He was pleased to see so many ladies present. The honey industry was one in which ladies were taking a great deal of interest. It was gratifying to him to acknowledge the excellent work being done by women in the dairy as well as in the honey industry. Beekeeping was an industry particularly suitable to women. The prospects of the honey industry never looked brighter in this country than it did at the present time. Beekeepers had now an offer from a certain firm at a remunerative figure for all honey that could be produced for export. That arrangement would remain in force during the period of the war and for some considerable time after, so that those engaged in the industry now knew where they stood. They knew the price was right, and the only thing that was necessary was to produce honey of the right quality. As he had said, the future of the industry never looked brighter.

—Hokitika Guardian & Evening Star, February 6th, 1919.

Do queens mate only once? Text-books say Yes. Bob Nelson says—what? Come to the Conference and hear.

* * * * *

Be you beginner or expert, the Conference will be of interest to you.

* * * * *

Paste this in your hat:—Conference in Wellington on June 11th, 12th, and 13th.

A Comb Reducer to suit all Pockets.

The popularity of the BARTLETT-MILLER PATENT COMB REDUCER is so great that it has become necessary to design a size for the smallest beekeeper as well as for the largest. To that end the following prices have been worked out:—

For the Five-hive Beekeeper.—A Reducer containing three square feet of melting surface, and a Separator having partitions of wood fitted inside a painted (outside) benzine tin. Such a Separator was used at the demonstration at the Wellington Conference, and is O.K., but less expensive to manufacture than one with riveted and soldered divisions.

Code Word: "Baby."

Price of both Apparata: £3 15s.

NOTE.—No other machine on the market has as much melting surface as this smallest size we make.

For the Ten-hive Beekeeper.—Same pattern Reducer, but six inches longer, having four square feet of melting surface. Same Separator.

Code Word: "Booster."

Price, £4 12s. 6d.

For the Twenty-five Hive Beekeeper.—Reducer having six square feet of melting surface, and Separator made of Galvanised Iron, and wooden divisions.

Code Word: "Boon."

Price: £5 10s.

For Beekeepers running over fifty colonies, the eleven square feet reducer is recommended, with all Galvanised Iron Separator.

Code Word: "Effective."

Price: £8 15s.

For the Beekeeper having Out-yards and a Central Extracting Plant, the Reducer exhibited and demonstrated at Ruakura Field Day recently is recommended; but unfortunately the mathematical calcula-

tions as to velocity of heated honey of varying density have not yet been correctly worked out. The Separator demonstrated at Ruakura, and which was made by guess (for lack of time before the Field Day) lamentably failed to remove all the minute specks from the honey from the black combs reduced, although it was thought when made to be large enough, with a liberal margin of safety.

While it separated the wax all right, about every large metal ladleful of honey contained from two to a dozen fine black specks, which would need a settling tank to further remove.

Those needing a larger Reducer than "Effective" for reducing honey cut from the top of frames of foul-brood can obtain the size demonstrated at Ruakura, but with a Separator that will do no better work than that described.

As soon as the correct dimensions are worked out (and this means about 24 hours' steady calculation), the Separator to handle honey moving at such a tremendous rate will be sent free of further charge.

This Reducer has twenty-six square feet of melting surface, and requires two men to cut into it unless every comb is black; for at Ruakura Farm of Instruction sufficient honey was not available to fully test a Reducer of such capacity without violating the generosity of the establishment and destroying good combs. As it was, there were three, and nearly four supers of fully sealed shallow combs, and one Langstroth body of honey, and largely unsealed pollen brood combs, and the machine was not one-quarter loaded.

Code Word: "Slutton."

Price: £13 10s.

Separator for this "Slutton" holds five gallons of honey before delivering honey to tin, and requires (as now made) that the honey be run through fine muslin or silk laid above cheesecloth—i.e., touching the cheesecloth, and the honey to be allowed to settle in a 30-inch to 36-inch deep tank before drawing off.

The most important part of the Separator used for the first time at the Ruakura Field Day was left out through forgetfulness. This is the Deflector, which prevents the falling stream of honey from making a current straight through the Reducer. However, I am not making excuses. The Reducer as demonstrated failed to remove the black specks as promised, and as it was expected by the maker to do, and apologies are hereby tendered to those who, with myself, were keenly disappointed with the result of the Separator, as compared with the dandy work done by the Reducer.

With the Deflector in place, and no manuka honey in the Reducer, I believe the honey would have been speckless; but even then I have no proof, and shall not rest until I have worked out the calculations which will allow two to three tons of honey per working day to pass through a Separator slowly enough to permit the last speck to rise to the top before it reaches the exit. Of course, the operator must skim off this rising dirt occasionally.

Some of the onlookers at Ruakura asked me what I was doing when they saw me using the ladle to remove what little wax and dirt had risen after getting past the bottom of the first partition. I wonder what they thought those partitions were for? But perhaps they thought the wax would walk away itself, or evaporate!

Oh, some folk know "all about bees." I don't!

A CAUTION.

I have been told of three parties who have made a Reducer like my patent. If investigation proves the reports to be true, there will be some interesting Supreme Court proceedings AND expenses.

THE BARTLETT-MILLER PATENT IS
No. 39799.

No (?) Thick Honey this Year!!!

So several beekeepers tell me; BUT I ha' ma doots.

"For-why-because" I have despatched the "Effective" size Machines all up and down New Zealand. One went as far north as steamers serve—to Mangonui; another down opposite Stewart Island—to the Waiau River District; one to Timaru; still

another to Waiau, north of Christchurch; one to Blenheim; and all over the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Districts, as well as the rest of the Dominion.

So someone has thick honey, and a lot of it, apparently.

AT RUAKURA.

It is laughable to listen to beekeepers at a big gathering, like those at Ruakura, when they get talking inventions. With the very first few sentences they prove to a trained mind that they have never even learned the first principles of either mechanics or physics; yet to endeavour to show them wherein the absurdity of their ideas lies is like trying to beat a woman to the last word!

It is surprising how difficult it is to convince the average inventor, full of zeal and confidence in his own ideas, that surface made of flat material must—positively must—be cheaper than that made of piping. According to them, it is not. Furthermore, the heat lost in the lower half of a pipe is absolutely lost, but not according to the person who—"Well, I haven't made one yet, but I know I can beat yours."

Well, I smile, because I made so many Reducers before I used them—could not possibly fail to prove absolutely Bobby Dazzlers—and which afterwards reposed restfully upon a muchly populated scrap-heap, that I await quite calmly and serenely the appearance (?) of those Reducers—"so much better y' know than the Bartlett-Miller COMB Reducer." A few have actually been born, only to climb down to the status of a cappings melter.

Just now Beekeepers have one, and ONLY one, real COMB REDUCER.

If you want one, send along quickly, for I am being swamped with orders, despite late hours and the bees nowhere. I got a ton of flat iron, and have less than 1 cwt. left.

Prices include packing and delivery f.o.r. Te Awamutu, 100 miles south of Auckland.

Address:

H. BARTLETT BARTLETT-MILLER,
THOROUGHWORK BEE FARM,
KIHIKIHI.

Cash with order, or an order upon the N.Z.H.P.A. [ADVT.]

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 difficulty of shipping Honey from New Zealand through the shortage of shipping space at the present time, and the uncertain prospects, we are not yet in a position to resume buying, but hope to do so in the near future when space is available.

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

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

GOOD NEWS.

We are now entering into a new contract which is an absolute guarantee of £60 per ton f.o.b. for three years after the declaration of peace, as against the guarantee of £37 per ton pre-war prices.

The immediate return from private firms may be higher than our first advance. Our final payments, however, will be satisfactory.

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

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

Share application forms from—

THE MANAGER,

P.O. BOX 1293,

AUCKLAND.

10 p.c. REDUCTION ON EXTRACTORS, MOTORS, and PUMPS.

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	46/-
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.