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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JULY 1st, 1919

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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 7

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National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association on payment of fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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EDITORIAL.

The 1919 Conference must be voted the most successful yet held, both as regards the number of people attending and the interest taken in the proceedings. The Conference Hall where the meetings were held is a very fine and suitable place, albeit the acoustic properties are not all that could be desired, but we learn this is now being remedied. Wellington weather, too, was at its best, which contributed not a little to the general enjoyment.

The Secretary's Report and Balance Sheet shows the National to be in a very satisfactory position financially, and with the indications of other Branches being started in new districts, and the general attention drawn to the industry by the Conference, the National Association has every chance of becoming a power in the land, to the benefit of those engaged in beekeeping.

Although the attendance was larger than usual, we are convinced that it would be a great deal larger if a few erroneous ideas as to what the Conference really stands

for were dispelled. For some unaccountable reason the idea is abroad that these are gatherings of a certain number of "big-wigs" in the beekeeping world who hold the floor in discussing subjects that are of very little interest to the "smaller fry." This is quite wrong; all the subjects are of interest both to the beginner and the expert, and the opportunity arises for everyone to question the speakers on matters that affect him personally. A great number of those who attended for the first time remarked to the Editor how different it was to what they had anticipated, and how they had been helped on many points they were in doubt about. If the beginner wants to get the best advice from the best of the beekeepers in the land, the Conference is the time and place to get it.

It was a pity that the capping melter demonstration only resulted in one machine being shown, the other two gentlemen who were to have attended being unavoidably absent. But " 'tis an ill wind," &c., and we feel that the informal discussion that followed and filled up the rest of the evening was a most helpful and enjoyable one. Here many who were a bit shy of getting up and asking questions during the daily sessions were quite at ease, and there is no doubt that an evening for informal discussion must become a permanent part of the Conference.

When one looks through the amount of business disposed of, we think it must be acknowledged that real solid work was accomplished. The apinary boundaries question is now so far advanced that the Solicitor-General thinks it possible for something to be done, and we sincerely hope so; but whether we shall get the Government sufficiently interested (which, apparently, seems to be a "sine qua non" to the success of the venture) is rather a weak foundation on which to build any sanguine hopes. However, all credit is due to Mr. Ireland for tackling this debatable subject and bringing it thus far.

The motion on giving the apinary instructors power to prevent bees being moved to another district will, we think, be the real solution of the difficulty, and if the Department can get this addition made to the Apineries Act, there will be very little or no need for an Apinary Boundaries Act. The whole question centres on outsiders dumping apineries in a district that is already occupied by men who have been established some years, and we think they are entitled to some protection, which the proposed regulation will give. It would also prevent a slovenly beekeeper from holding territory that he does not properly exploit, as the inspectors would be able to tell him that unless he got busy and improved his methods he would not be granted the protection, and would have to make way for a more progressive man. This measure would of land who wanted to start beekeeping in a district where an apinary was already

established, a matter that we believe it is impossible to do. In this case it will resolve itself into the survival of the fittest and the established apiarist has the best chance of coming out on top.

The motion of Mr. Brickell—that the Department be asked to conduct experiments with granulated honey—is timely. A few years ago the burning question of the day was Scum: What is it? How does it come? How is it to be prevented? &c., &c. Now one hears nothing at all about it, simply because a quantity of so-called scum was analysed, and found to be absolutely pure honey of a higher standard than the analysis of American honey. Now the question is Soft Granulation: How is this to be avoided? What is the cause of it? Does it indicate that the honey will ferment? &c., &c. The fact is that at present neither the graders nor the beekeepers know much about it, and the unfortunate part of the business is that honey that granulates only to a soft condition is turned down for export, when it is probably as good an article as that which gets as hard as a brick. Therefore, it is highly essential that the Department carry out the suggested experiments that we may know the cause, and, if possible, enable us to remedy the difficulty. It is no use saying it is caused by a preponderance of unripe honey; a man does not get his honey turned down twice through any fault of his own, and we have evidence that after particular care had been taken the same result eventuated—soft granulation and export refused.

We had a different proposal this year on the condition the honey should be in for exporting. Last year we talked about exporting in pine boxes without any containers at all; this year we go to the other extreme and want honey in liquid form exported. We hope both these experimental shipments will be carried out. We really cannot see there should be much difficulty in passing honey for export in liquid form, as any loss from leakage would have to be borne by the beekeeper, and he would see that it did not occur twice if it was caused through faulty tins and packing.

Holding the position of officer in charge of the Rukura State Apiary, where hundreds of ednets pass through his course of instruction, it was only to be expected that Mr. A. B. Trythall's talk to beginners was a very big feature of the Conference. Those who know Mr. Trythall and his quiet way of thoroughly explaining all matters addressed to him, will readily believe that the morning session occupied by him was worth a very great deal to those who were fortunate enough to hear him. We quite agree with Mr. Kirk that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find another beekeeper in the Dominion who is so capable and competent to do the excellent work that Mr. Trythall is doing at the Rukura State Apiary, which, of course, affects the industry of the Dominion as a whole.

Mr. Allan's remarks on the relative positions and activities of the National and H.P.A. we are entirely in accordance with: both are absolutely necessary for the well-being of the industry. All beekeepers should support both.

The merits or demerits of using half-depth supers were thoroughly discussed, and, according to the majority of the beekeepers, these are very useful and an advantage in the many operations of manipulating the bees to the securing and harvesting of large crops.

The motions for the appointment of a Chief Apiarist, four new inspectors, embargo on importing queens from countries where Isle of Wight disease exists, increase of penalty for keeping box-hives, compulsory annual registration, are all good, and were passed unanimously, and very little comment is necessary on them.

Mr. Allan's motion to approach the Department to frame a Honey Industries Act on similar lines to the Fruit Industries Act is very good, and, as may be expected, gained the full support of the Conference.

The proposal to have a display of honey at the next Conference, with champion prizes to be awarded by the National, is excellent, and we hope it will prompt a large number of entries, and the attendance of the entrants.

We think the supper and social evening was an excellent idea, and must be a permanent feature of the Conference. It is pleasant to have a complete break in the proceedings for purely social purposes, and we are sure all those who attended enjoyed it immensely.

The ladies attending the Conference took advantage of the kind invitation of the Mayoress of Wellington (Mrs. Luke) to a motor trip out of the city to Island Bay, where the Mayoress entertained them at afternoon tea. The weather being good, the trip was thoroughly enjoyed.

Regarding the place of holding the next Conference, this has usually been left to the Executive, but this year a motion was carried that the incoming Executive be recommended to hold the Conference in Christchurch next year. For our part, we see no reason why the experiment should not be tried, but we shall have to get the H.P.A. to hold their annual meeting at the same time and place, else it will probably result in a poor attendance at both.

The remarks of Mr. Gosling, manager of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association in England, were particularly interesting, especially to those who, so far, have not seen that their prosperity and that of the industry is identified with the co-operative system of marketing. These

gentlemen will admit that had it not been for the H.P.A. the New Zealand market would have been glutted, and prices down to zero; yet still they hold aloof, and operate against the H.P.A. in supplying the local market at high prices which the H.P.A. has enabled them to obtain. This is not "playing the game." But it does not end here: they also export part of their crops to England, and here again they are fighting the co-operative principle, as the B. and D. have guaranteed a certain price f.o.b. which, when the freight charges are added, comes to somewhere about £50 per ton. The Editor was shown letters from English importers, offering New Zealand honey to the Bristol and Dominions at prices considerably below that figure, which must mean that the exporters cannot realise as high a price as the H.P.A. will pay for that season. And so the question comes: How can the B. and D. fix a high guaranteed price f.o.b. when there is a danger of consignments of New Zealand honey being offered at considerably below by their competitors? No stable market can be established under these conditions, and it would be well for those who as yet have not supported the co-operative system of marketing to just sit down and think on what they are doing, and weigh the matter carefully in their own minds as to the danger they are creating, not only to their own loss, but to the loss of practically the whole of the commercial beekeepers of the Dominion.

A most successful Conference: only one fireworks display: pachydermatous hide pierced: squib caught Editor fair in the eye: quick recovery: everybody friendly and happy: good resolutions for following year: votes of thanks: congratulations to all—and home again to experience, we hope, a bumper season.

The Editor would appreciate the return of any copies of the May issue of the Journal by those who do not file them.

We are publishing the crop reports in this issue, and tender our thanks to all those who sent in their returns. The figures, we think, will prove interesting, but they are not to be taken as any real indication as to the amount of honey raised in the particular districts. There is quite a number of commercial apiarists who, for some reason, have not sent in their returns. However, the response has been a very good one, and, we hope, will lead to a more comprehensive return next year.

Having had a number of requests to publish answers to the series of questions now running through the Journal, we are giving these, and hope they will be found useful to those who desired them.

The annual meeting of shareholders of the H.P.A. was very well attended, and passed off with a feeling of confidence as to the future. Mr. C. F. Ryland, the newly-

appointed manager, created a very favourable impression by his quiet manner in explaining the position of the Company, and the clear, concise, business-like programme mapped out for the future.

The Beginners' Handbook is now available, and has earned eulogiums from everybody. All members of the National can obtain a free copy from the secretary of their Branch. Copies can be purchased from Messrs. Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd. at the four centres; Alliance Box Co., Ltd., Dunedin, at 1/6 each; postage extra. You will want one of these during next season.

Market Reports.

Since our last report the market has gone from bad to worse, and what honey has been sold has been of the poorer grades, about ten tons West Indian having been sold at 70/- to 75/- per cwt., and a similar quantity of Chilean at 75/- per cwt. These sales have been made by first-hand importers. The market is further made worse by outside speculators who have been operating during the past year, and were caught at the fall of the market with stocks on hand, which they have placed on the market. This action has naturally tended to make the market weaker than it otherwise should have been. The future, however, does not look rosy, as buyers are making still lower offers for future shipments.

Beeswax.—There is no change to report. The value of good grade is about £10 per cwt.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 26th April, 1919.

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

Auckland.—The prices ruling for honey are the same as last month. Beeswax is slightly easier, but 2/- per lb. is still being obtained for good samples. Two fair shipments of honey left Auckland last month, in all nearly 3,000 cases having been shipped, thereby relieving to a great extent the accommodation at the grading store, where there is still close on 1,000 cases to grade.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—The season has now finally closed, and the crops are average in quantity, and good in quality. Bulk lines are quoted from 8d to 10d., and sales have been effected at £95 per ton. There is considerable activity over export lines, which are arriving freely at the grading stores. Beeswax is finding a ready sale at 2/- per lb. Both "pat" honey and sections are scarce.—P. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch & Dunedin.—There is little or no alteration in conditions prevailing last month. Extracting is finished where it was delayed. The bulk of the crop has now been sent forward to the grading stores. A few parcels, however, have yet to arrive. Prices are firm. Bulk honey is quoted at 8d. per lb.; sections, 8/- to 13/- per dozen. Pat honey is being forwarded, and is in strong demand. Beeswax is scarce, and is quoted at 2/3 per lb.—E. A. Earp.

(Australasian Beekeeper, May 15 1919.)

Supplies from coastal districts have been arriving freely all through the month, and market is over-supplied with amber and dark honeys, which do not meet with favour from grocers for bottling purposes. On the other hand, choice liquid Western is in limited supply and strong demand at from 7d. to 7½d. per lb.

A big problem confronts the industry in reference to the disposal of all dark honey rejected by the consumer, the only local avenue of distribution being the confectioner, who to-day is procuring sugar at less than 3d. per lb.

Supplies have been drawn from bond store which were intended for export, and placed on the local market, and packers in their eagerness to get out with minimum loss have chopped ruling prices about, with the result that sales of this particular line have not been too satisfactory. The fact, also, that the bulk is candied has a telling effect upon sales generally. Private cables from London during the past week report further fall in values of Australian honey, quotations now being from 50/- to 56/- per cwt.

Latest local market quotations are:—Choice quality clear Western, 7d. to 6½d. per lb.; good, light and best coastal, 6d. to 6½d. per lb.; dark and candied sorts, from 5d. per lb.

Consignments from Adelaide are reported to have recently been placed on local market, and from information available other States seem to be in difficulty in regard to dark and candied, and prices are quoted even lower than locally.

Work for the Winter Months.

By FRED C. BAINES.

[These questions have been taken from a series running in the British Bee Journal, and we, recognising the good that can be obtained by studying and answering them, have taken the liberty of using them as far as they apply to the conditions of the industry here.—Ed.]

26. Should a queen take wing while a frame is being examined, what is best to be done?
27. In what features is a queen most readily distinguishable from drones and workers?

28. When changing queens in a hive, what is the procedure?
29. What eggs are laid by an unfertilised queen?
30. What are the remedies for queenlessness?
31. What does "piping" in a hive indicate?
32. For what length of time after a swarm goes out is a hive queenless?
33. Give a reason why foundation should be put in a hive during a honey flow only.
34. During what part of the year is it particularly necessary that bees should have easy access to water?
35. When bees are idling, what is to be expected?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

1. The best site for an apiary is a gentle slope facing the sun, and the hives facing the same way. If space is not limited, a distance of two or three feet between each hive is advisable.

2. Although bees have been known to fly very many miles in search of nectar, it is advisable, if starting commercial beekeeping, to find a location where the crop can be gathered in the radius of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles.

3. By leaving plenty of sealed honey stores when closing down the hives for the winter, the bees will winter more successfully, and brood-rearing in the spring will be carried on without interruption, even under spells of bad weather.

4. The demand for honey in either form. The chief difficulties in regard to honey raised in sections are their frail nature and the limited demand. As a rule, storekeepers will only take a certain number for immediate disposal, as section honey speedily deteriorates unless properly stored. Unless one is near a large city and can make arrangements for the disposal of the whole of his crop, the number of sections raised should be limited. Extracted honey can be put up in properly sealed vessels and railed any distance, kept for a considerable time without depreciation, and has an unlimited demand.

5. (a.) Black bees.—A very useful race; good workers, and cap the honey with beautiful white cappings; not resistant to foul-brood or wax-moth, and inclined to robbing; rather restless when being handled. (b.) Italian Bee.—Distinguished by having three yellow bands across abdomen; vigorous workers; partly resistant to foul-brood, and will not tolerate wax-moth; queens easily found, being a light brown colour; quiet under manipulation. (c.) Carniolans. Very similar in appearance to black bees, but are inveterate swarmers; bees do not collect propolis; this race is not popular with beekeepers owing to swarming trait. (d.) Caucasians.—Also similar in appearance to the black bee; bad propolisers and swarmers.

6. Paralysis. Swollen abdomen, black, greasy appearance, with a trembling motion of the body. Bees in this state are found crawling about the bottom board and entrance. Dusting powdered sulphur over the combs is reported to be a cure.

Isle of Wight Disease.—Not met with in New Zealand. Indications are that the disease resembles paralysis and dysentery in an acute form, the only cure being the destruction of the bees.

Dysentery.—This is easily detected by the presence of the droppings of the bees scattered about the combs and hive.

7. Chiefly the loss of young queens returning from mating flight mistaking the hive, and being killed on entering the wrong one.

8. During winter an entrance about three inches wide by three-eighths deep; sufficient for ventilation without chilling the cluster. Spring: enlarge to about six inches to allow free egress and ingress. Early summer: the full width of the hive, three-eighths deep, to allow plenty of ventilation. Full summer and honey flow: Hive may be propped up with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch blocks, to allow plenty of passage-way and ventilation. After honey flow, decrease gradually from full width of hive to winter entrance. The strength of the colony also determines the entrance.

Robbing.—Entrance closed down to one-bee way.

9. The comparison is all in favour of the Italian, the points of superiority being—

- (a) More industrial workers, being both earlier and later in the fields.
- (b) More prolific breeders.
- (c) Queens easily found, being usually a light brown colour.
- (d) More resistant to foul-brood disease, some pure strains being credited with self-care after infection. Will not tolerate wax-moth; badly infected combs will be cleaned out and repaired by the Italians. Will resist robbers better. Inferior to the black bee only in the appearance of cappings, as the Italians cap close on the honey, the blacks leaving an air space between.

10. This will appear in the spring if bees are wintered on poor stores, such as thin, watery honey; also caused by the bees being prevented by bad weather from taking a cleansing flight, they not being able to retain the fecal accumulations. Bees that have been confined in the hives for removal will often show signs of this disease, but as a general rule after a few fine days, liberty, and return to normal conditions the trouble disappears. Detected by yellow droppings scattered about the combs and hive.

11. The north, being the position to obtain the maximum amount of sunshine.

12. A great amount of activity at one particular hive in the apiary, bees rushing in and out, many fighting on the alighting board, and a general appearance of unrest.

13. Keep all colonies strong, and the hives in good condition, that there is only one entrance possible. Close entrance to one-bee way; throw handfuls of wet grass over entrance; a carbolic cloth covering the whole front of the hive is also a splendid help.

14. The movements when examining a hive should be quick and quiet, avoiding all jarring. Avoid all jerky movements, and should you get stung, remove sting quickly, and neutralise the smell of the poison with one or two puffs of smoke on the wound.

15. Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.; a great part of the population is out in the fields. The exception is when manipulating for treatment of disease, which should be done in the evening when no bees are flying, that robbing may not be started and the disease thus spread.

Crop Reports.

AUCKLAND.

(Including Waikato, Bay of Plenty, King Country.)

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
20	32	1 10	Fair.
5	10	0 3	Good.
4	9	0 1½	Fair.
28	—	0 8	Good.
60	100	2 1½	Fair.
28	48	1 1	Fair.
30	45	0 12	Very poor
2	4	0 3	Good.
100	110	6 2	Good.
45	58	1 15	Fair.
3	8	0 3	Very good
4	16	0 1	Fair.
4	10	0 2	Poor.
98	120	3 5	Fair.
83	—	1 10	Poor.
3	4	0 1¼	Good.
100	117	3 7	Fair.
6	12	0 3	Fair.
4	—	0 1½	Fair.
106	—	3 7	Fair.
4	7	0 3½	Poor.
14	30	0 14	Fair.
243	254	10 0	Fair.
48	258	0 15	Good.
12	17	1 0	Good.
17	20	0 17½	Fair.
200	395	10 12	Fair.
6	—	0 3	Fair.
1	—	0 1	Good.
60	70	1 19	Fair.
184	450	12 10	Fair.
32	56	0 17	Fair.
17	37	0 10	Fair.
8	16	0 3	Fair.
275	—	8 0	Fair.
70	90	5 10	Good.

Average yield per hive: 53.64 lbs.

WELLINGTON.

(Including Manawatu, Hawke's Bay, and Wairarapa.)

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
18	dec. 8	0 2	Poor.
80	—	1 12	Poor.
6	14	0 9	Fair.
700	—	8 7	Poor.
1	3	0 0½	Fair.
50	60	1 14	Fair.
110	140	4 0	Fair.
500	—	7 10	Poor.
19	dec. 18	0 2	Poor.
100	—	2 6	Fair.
15	16	0 1	Poor.
75	120	3 3½	Good.
700	750	18 0	Fair.
6	10	0 8½	Good.
22	25	0 2	Poor.
5	—	0 1	"
15	25	0 4½	"
50	75	0 12	"
4	6	0 2	"
8	dec. 6	0 0 70lb.	"
19	28	0 17	Fair.
8	16	0 1	Poor.
9	14	0 7½	Fair.
90	95	2 2	Poor.
5	7	0 1½	Fair.
9	—	0 5½	"
200	—	Nil.	Poor.

(Average yield per hive: 42.04 lbs.)

CANTERBURY.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
60	80	2 6	Good.
210	233	11 10	"
13	26	0 6	"
5	9	0 1	"
50	63	3 1	"
122	174	3 3	Poor.
35	63	1 10	Good.
18	25	2 0	"
24	36	1 8	"
28	50	0 19	Fair.
10	14	0 5½	Good.
18	26	1 4	"
80	120	1 3	Fair.
27	34	0 14	"
280	300	8 0	Good.
24	45	0 12	"
48	54	2 0	"
13	17	0 4½	"
17	36	0 3	Fair.
40	60	1 7	Good.
70	80	1 10	Poor.
24	40	1 9	Fair.
84	dec. 61	1 6	Good.
120	150	7 10	Very good
35	100	6 5	"
by purchase			
230	270	20 8	"
9	13	0 4½	Fair.
34	40	0 15	"
5	12	0 1	Poor.
18	27	0 6½	Fair.
9	23	0 12½	Good.
11	24	0 15	"
24	48	0 10	Fair.
26	40	1 5	"
90	116	7 10	Good.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
22	54	1 5	Fair.
19	34	0 18	"
120	170	2 15	"
35	—	1 0	"
11	24	0 6	"
127	147	5 16½	Good.
250	310	15 5	Very good
2	3	0 0½	Good.
30	34	1 3	"
22	45	0 18	Fair.
28	45	1 10	Good.
15	25	1 0	"
38	49	1 16	"
250	—	12 0	"

(Average yield per hive: 82.71 lbs.)

OTAGO.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
9	11	0 4	Poor.
15	20	0 3	"
9	17	0 3	"
28	38	0 2	"
14	18	0 6	"
78	88	NIL.	"
4	8	0 4	"
48	50	0 10	"
50	60	2 6	Fair.
300	dec. 280	NIL.	Very poor
75	100	4 8	Good.
9	16	1 3	Very good
50	70	0 5	Poor.
36	50	1 8	Fair.
20	26	0 5	Poor.
3	4	0 0¾	"
10	11	0 1	"
4	7	0 2	"
20	30	1 0	Fair.
6	12	NIL.	Poor.
60	—	0 15	Very poor
4	10	0 2	Good.
40	60	0 12	Poor.
12	18	0 6	"
60	90	1 15	"
80	—	0 6	"
35	50	0 2	"
12	—	0 10	Fair.
5	6	0 3	Good.
30	60	4 5½	"
5	11	0 4	Poor.
3	5	0 0½	"
63	—	0 12	"
8	19	NIL.	"

(Average yield per hive: 50.91 lbs.)

SOUTHLAND.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
2	4	0 1	Poor.
14	18	0 6½	Poor.
2	4	0 1½	"
120	—	1 0	"
15	18	0 3½	"
51	—	0 6	"
12	19	0 3	"
8	16	0 5	"
35	55	NIL.	"
3	5	NIL.	"
50	70	1 5	"
7	12	0 4¾	"
12	20	0 5½	"
50	56	0 7	"
10	12	0 4	"

(Average yield per hive: 26 lbs.)

WESTLAND.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
8	21	0 4	Poor.
11	17	0 6	"
6	22	0 2½	Fair.
14	25	1 4	Very good
50	85	1 8	Poor.

(Average yield per hive: 42.49 lbs.)

NELSON.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
8	12	0 5	Fair.
12	17	0 7½	"
2	5	0 2	"

(Average yield per hive: 47.76 lbs.)

MARLBOROUGH.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
2	8	0 5	Good.
31	48	1 13	Fair.
65	111	3 16	Good.
16	18	0 3	Poor.

(Average yield per hive: 70.83 lbs.)

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the H.P.A.

The above meeting was held in Edman's Hall, Wellington, on 10th June, and attended by about 70 shareholders, Mr. J. Rentoul, chairman of directors, in the chair.

Mr. Rentoul, in his address, referred to the difficulties under which the Association had worked during the past year, particularly with regard to the lack of shipping space, the failure to get this meaning that we were not able to participate in the high prices that had been ruling in England during that period. Now that shipping was easier, the expected had happened—prices had dropped from about 220/- to about 70/- per cwt. He stated, however, that owing to the excellent contract they had with the B. and D., they were assured of getting returns at the highest market value, and, in addition to this, the bottling and retailing of our honey was again started, and we could look forward to a profit made on the bottling depot in Bristol being returned to us. He asked the shareholders to let whatever mistakes had been made in the past be allowed to rest. He readily admitted wrong moves had been made; but although they went wrong, the directors and management had been actuated entirely by the desire to do their very best; and with the exception of one particular instance the mistakes had been due to an error of judgment. He thanked all those who had stood loyal to the Association in the most trying time, when competitors were offering prices above the Association, and stated that with the return to normal conditions, both here and in England, there

could be no doubt as to the splendid marketing proposition the Association had to offer all those who were engaged in bee-keeping.—(Applause.)

A motion that the Balance Sheet be adopted having been passed, the Chairman invited discussion thereon. Evidently the remarks of that gentleman re the past was agreed to, as there was very little comment made.

The Chairman then took the opportunity to introduce to the shareholders Mr. C. F. Ryland, the newly-appointed manager, and asked him to give a brief outline of the Association's position and future operations.

Mr. Ryland, who is quite a young man, certainly gave one the feeling of confidence, which increased as he, in a quiet, clear, and concise manner, gave the actual position of affairs. He paid a compliment to the previous management, which had very great difficulties to contend with, and had done the very best possible under the circumstances.

He then outlined the future policy of the Association with regard to operating on the local market, pointing out that those outside the Association had been reaping the benefit of the Association's operations. On the price now fixed for the local trade, the nett return to the shareholders would be from 1d. to 1½d. per lb. better than the f.o.b. price now obtained. Whether that would be more or less than the ultimate return from England could not be gauged at present; but whilst figures were as they are to-day, the local market would be exploited at a profit to the shareholders.

Regarding the question of the Association handling the supply business, Mr. Ryland stated that he had gone thoroughly into this matter, and laid the position before the directors, who had agreed to at once take the matter up, but it would require the co-operation of the shareholders to decide whether it could be carried out. He pointed out that if the Association handled supplies, they would be expected to handle these in the co-operative spirit by allowing shareholders to get these on credit early in the season, to be debited against their honey cheques due, perhaps, nine to twelve months later. This meant that a large amount of capital would be required, which was not available for this purpose, the present paid-up capital being required for the honey marketing operations. Therefore, he proposed that a call for shares be made to enable the scheme to be carried out, and a capital of £5,000 was called for. These would be contributory shares, the calls being made particularly easy—2/6 on each on application and allotment, the next call being made in January next year, and after then at intervals not less than three months. If the shareholders were sincere in their desire that the Association should take up the supply business, they could easily show this by a liberal response to the call for shares. Mr. Ryland explained the supplies account would be kept entirely separate from any other; all supplies would be sold at a profit

to the Company, and at the end of the year a rebate would be made to all purchasers according to the amount of business they had put through.

A list was circulated at the meeting, and about 450 £2 shares were applied for.

Mr. Ryland answered all questions on these matters satisfactorily, and the Report and Balance Sheet were carried unanimously.

The election of directors was then proceeded with, Messrs. Watson and Bray being elected, Messrs. Penny and Gibb acting as scrutineers.

On the motion of Mr. H. C. Taylor, the Chairman of Directors was voted an honorarium of £50, the motion being carried unanimously.

Mr. Renton briefly expressed his thanks, stating that whatever he had done was for the benefit of the whole as well as himself.

Prior to the termination of the meeting, the Chairman presented Mr. H. W. Gilling with a purse of bank notes, which had been subscribed by some friends, who wished to indicate their appreciation of the services he had rendered the Association up to the time of his resignation.

Mr. Gilling thanked all those who had thus expressed their feelings in such a pleasant way, and stated that during the whole time he occupied the position he did in the Association, his one idea was to benefit those who were engaged in the industry.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

“TRUTH'S” CRITICISM.

While the city profiteer is busy raising prices and making the lives of many people miserable, the busy bee works on with his cheerful hum, adding to the sweetness of life. It has taken the intelligent bee-farmer a long time to gather the results of the insects' toil into a commercial channel. This has at last been achieved by the wonderful methods of co-operation. By banding themselves into an Association the apiarists have been enabled to bring into the store of wealth productions a large amount of value that would otherwise have been lost to the community. At the same time they have opened a refined and profitable occupation for men and women who delight in the wonders of nature. Bee-keeping is really a delightful occupation as well as a healthy one. It could not flourish unless it was profitable.

Here are some of the facts the above Association has to lay before its members. Its sales for the last three years have risen as follows—viz., £8,257, £17,860, and £35,338. How many tons of nectar is comprised in these values, “Cambist” is unable to say, but the fact is clear that honey is being used locally and exported by the ton nowadays. So it has

Become a Staple Industry.

The paid-up capital, as shown in the balance sheet, is £3,744, and as that amount is not large enough for the business, the Association has had to borrow from its bankers the sum of £3,394. There is un-

called capital amounting to £2,961, and calls in arrears £10, so that the bank has ample security for its advances.

The debtors stand at £1,667, and stocks at £6,426. Here, again, there is ample security for all of the liabilities of the Association, outside of its shareholders.

Trading account shows a surplus of £2,253, but all charges and depreciations have brought this down to only £50. Yet this is enough to pay for interest upon the shares, and leave £32 to carry forward to next account. Careful management and good prices for the honey have been the chief causes for the position of affairs. The bulk of the profits go to the producers, and that is the object for which the Association is in the business.—'Cambist,' in N.Z. Truth, 14/6/19.

JOTTINGS.

By J. S. COTTERELL.

In response to the request of several who attended the Conference held in Wellington recently, I venture to pen a few remarks with reference thereto.

For the past three Conferences I have not been able to attend, and I was agreeably surprised at this one to note the earnest interest displayed by those present, also the number of large producers of honey represented, as well as those less advanced in our absorbing and interesting pursuit. I should liked to have heard a larger discussion on the main subjects brought forward, but time and the indisposition of many through colds were doubtless a contributing factor in this connection.

What were the outstanding features? To my way of thinking, the most prominent one centred on the need of legislation to define apiary boundaries, or in its amended form to restrict the registration of apiaries of migratory beekeepers moving bees from one location to another to the detriment of established apiaries. This is of vital interest to all of those now engaged in beekeeping for a livelihood, and to those who may follow in our steps.

I regret to say there were some present who held the view that it was perfectly justifiable to ring-fence anyone's apiary with a chain of apiaries in close proximity, and that it was only another case of "the survival of the fittest"—the best man and the longest purse would win out. Personally, I cannot subscribe to such a dogma.

The next outstanding feature was a proposal from Mr. J. Allan that honey in a liquid state of a specific gravity of 1.42 (60 deg. F.) be received at one or more of the H.P.A. packing depots, the honey being transported in similar containers as milk-cans, thus saving to the supplier the cost of tins and cases. Had this proposal come forward earlier in the form of a paper, we should have had time to digest it, but coming as it did in the dying hours

of the Conference, little opportunity was afforded for discussion on this startling innovation. There is much to commend it if suppliers would be careful to keep up the standard of 1.42 s.g., which means extracting practically nothing but capped honey, and the honey in the cans was not too long on the journey.

But there is a probability of honey being received at the depot below the standard of s.g. 1.42, in which case what is to be done with it? The answer is, reduce the water content by boiling in a vacuum pan at a temperature of less than 100 deg. F., the cost of such process being a charge against the supplier. To what extent this boiling would impair the honey in order to get it to the required standard was a question the Conference asked the Government to determine.

Those who were present at the 1913 Conference will remember that this subject cropped up, and it was stated that it would be a rapid way of taking in our crop of honey, sealed or otherwise, and afterwards subjecting it to concentration in vacuum pans; but at that time the proposal did not find favour, as the operations of the H.P.A. and packing depots were non-existent.

An interesting paper on the value and utility of half-depth supers was read by Mr. Simpson, and several spoke in support of his contentions. There is one point that he did not, to my understanding, mention, and that is by the use of half-depth super combs with a top bar seven-eighths of an inch wide and unwired, it was possible, by close uncapping, to extract thick honey (warm), such as we are troubled with in the north, without breakage of combs, this class of honey being unextractable in full-depth combs. Was there anyone to defend the use of full-depth supers? No, not one. Surely a victory for the half-supers! In a measure it was disappointing that there was no champion for full-depth supers, several experienced apiarists being present, and many, I feel sure, would have liked to hear both sides of the question thrashed out.

Mention should be made of an informal meeting on the evening of the first day, after a demonstration of a capping melter or comb reducer. At this meeting Mr. Clayton gave an interesting talk on honey pumps; Mr. Trythall on N.Z. hives compared with English ones; and Mr. Bray on the use of ventilated bee-escapes for removing supers of honey. All these addresses elicited various useful questions and replies, and a limited amount of discussion thereon.

Did it pay? Was it worth the trouble and expense in attending the Conference? Yes, most decidedly; for not only were we helping to protect our industry, but we were at the same time absorbing information which, if rightly applied, would enable us to produce larger crops of honey. There was also the stimulus in meeting and talking to fellow-craftsmen, the exchange of ideas, giving an added incentive to greater effort on our part for the coming season.

In conclusion, I should like to mention that the feeling seemed to be that the time at our disposal was all too short, considering the distance many had travelled. Why not extend the Conference from Tuesday till mid-day on Saturday, or even to the following Monday? The Executive of the National would, I am sure, entertain lengthening the term of Conference, if those proposing to attend next Conference would express their wishes to the Secretary.

Do not forget to write a few lines for the Journal; the Editor wants anything original with reference to beekeeping, and if we are to keep the Journal going we must all help. In writing, do not hesitate to make your wants known, in the shape of questions to be answered. That is what the Journal is for, to help our industry in every possible way.

21/6/19.

Conference Impressions.

A number of small slips of paper were handed to the Secretary, on which appeared the following:—

"Cannot be beaten for getting acquainted with all A-1 beekeepers."

"The best to date."

"I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and am looking forward to the next one, and consider the Conference most helpful."

"Things done in promptu are generally best."

"A very enjoyable time."

"The enormous volume of sound from a small body; for example, Mr. Baines at the social."

"The Conference was most successful because the delegates were sincere in their desire to advance the interests of apiculture."

"Mr. Allan's suggestion re sending honey to depots in liquid form, tinning and casing to be done by the Company, is just the thing, and the crowning suggestion of Conference."

Have you a neighbour that keeps a hive of bees? He will want some instruction. Suggest the *Beginners' Handbook*. 1/7 post free.

The woman wore a worried look.
Her brow was creased with care,
The chemist's store by storm she took
And hailed a salesman there.
"O Sir," she said, "I'm ill w'ch dread,
My child will die, I'm sure;
With cross he's sick, please serve me quick!
With Woods' Great Peppermint Cure."

District Reports.

TARANAKI.

Conference and the H.P.A. meeting are over, and those of us who attended enjoyed the discourses as well as the courses and jokes at the Association's dinner.

Mr. Gilling decided not to stand for the H.P.A. directorate, and Taranaki beekeepers generally were disappointed, as, knowing Mr. Gilling as we do, we cannot help but think his experience would be valuable to the board.

It is worthy of remark that by Mr. Wedde being defeated by a small margin, that there are only two North Island directors at present on the board, so unless some of our crown heads bestir themselves, it is quite possible in time to come we will be unrepresented.

Mr. Simpson gave an interesting address at the Conference on half-depth supers, and made out a fairly good case for such (to me) an intolerable nuisance. No doubt Mr. Simpson did well with half-depth supers, but I believe he could have done just as well with full-depth, and I would advise beginners to think twice before accumulating a quantity of them, as they will probably end up as mine did. I believe they have their use for ladies and unfits, and in handling thick honey; but the possibly slightly increased crop is not (to my mind) worth the tinkering in a large commercial apiary. Bees that need half-supers to coax them up are no use to me, and so I re-queen that sort, and go in for the strain that fills the brood-nest and climbs into the super, which I like to see with 6 or 7 frames of brood, and by extracting time the queen is crowded down with honey.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 15/6/19.

GREYMOUTH.

A general meeting of the above Association was held in Greymouth on the 24th inst., there being a large number of members and friends present, Mr. Baty being in the chair.

In the absence of the secretary (who was unavoidably detained on duty), it was moved by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mr. McEwan that Mr. Dixon act as secretary pro tem.—Carried.

A letter was handed in apologising for the absence of Mrs. Chambers.—Received.

In connection with the deputation that was appointed to wait on the Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald, Minister for Agriculture, re district apiary instructor, Mr. Baty stated that the deputation had been very favourably received, the Minister stating that he was quite in accord with the aims of the Association, and promising to do what he could in the matter.

Mr. Malone moved and Mr. Rawlings seconded that a vote of thanks be accorded the deputation.—Carried.

The Chairman stated that at a meeting of the Executive held on the 17th May, seeing that our branch of the Association consisted of a number of beginners, they had decided to give during the winter months indoor practical demonstrations in the A B C of beekeeping, and for that purpose they had brought along hive, frames and combs.

Mr. Duffy then moved and Mr. Nimmo seconded that Mr. Baty be asked to give a practical demonstration on the building of hives, manipulation of frames, &c.—Carried.

Mr. Baty then spoke of the different sorts of hives, and stated which, in his opinion, were best suited for the West Coast. Several questions were asked by members re nailing and painting, and quite a discussion arose in connection with what timber was most suitable, seeing that white pine soon rots where there is much dampness. Methods of wiring and nailing frames and fastening foundation were discussed by Messrs. Baty, Glasson, Duffy, and Dixon.

At this stage of the meeting Mr. Glasson produced a comb badly affected with foul-brood, which was shown to members, more especially to beginners, demonstrating what foul-brood looked and smelt like.

The meeting was here brought hurriedly to a close, not by the odour from the foul-brood, but by members and friends having to rush off to catch their respective trains.

G. R. DIXON,
Sec. pro tem.

May 24th, 1919.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

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Ohaupo.

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To Rapa, Hamilton.

The Possibilities of Beekeeping in Westland.

By JOHN MURDOCH.

[The following paper was to have been read at the Conference, but owing to illness in the family Mr. Murdoch was unable to be present.—Ed.]

It is quite possible that some delegates here to-day may ask the question, Where is Westland? or How do you get there? I had the pleasure of attending last Conference, and after more than a month's holiday in Wellington left in the celebrated trip of the Mavoroa on 18th July, 1918. It was a beautiful calm moonlight night when we left the wharf, and all went well until 2 o'clock next morning, when a howling southerly gale struck us with such force that two of our lady passengers rushed on deck shouting, "we have struck a mine!" A big Scotch fireman lifted his shovel and ordered them back to bed. Instead of getting into Lyttelton at 7 o'clock that morning, it was nearly 5 o'clock in the evening when we arrived, and, as the reporter said, none of the passengers were in a communicative mood.

On Sunday morning snow fell in Christchurch, and I was held up until the following Saturday, when "Westward ho!" was the order of the day. The train stuck us up in the snow at Arthur's Pass for a couple of hours. Going down the Otira Gorge was like walking on glass, but after many delays (even the head of the Westinghouse brake had to blow out at Otira) we arrived home safe and sound.

When my beekeeping friends arrive at Otira, they are once more in civilisation—that is, in Westland. This is the land "flowing with milk and honey!" The

milk problem is receiving attention, but the honey business is in a very dormant condition.

Our food problem will be worse before it is better, seeing that the world shortage of food is unlikely to be remedied until years after Peace is signed. Our two-fold problem is to increase home-grown supplies, and help our returned soldiers back to the land by helping them to help themselves. True charity, I consider, is in assisting these brave lads to earn for themselves, showing by our practical interest in their work that we do not agree with some who advocate giving them a sum of money and then practically letting them go to the dogs.

Last October Mr. T. W. Kirk kept a promise he made to me at the close of last Conference, and sent Mr. Earp over to the Coast to report. We spent fourteen days together, going down to Wataroa in the south, visiting on our way back Hari-Hari, Mikouri, Ross, Hokitika, Kanieri, Kokatahi, Koiterangi, Rimu, Blue Spur, Ararua, and several other portions of the district. Mr. Earp was visibly impressed with the district. He was also more visibly impressed with the amount of rain we had during his trip; but I think he was most visibly impressed with the danger of travel, especially when crossing in the coach the Little Wanganni River, as it was in flood. Ask him!

The beekeepers in the various districts were conspicuous by their absence, and one could not help feeling what a shame it was to see such fine locations for successful beekeeping lying dormant. In some instances we found men making an attempt to handle bees that was absolutely laughable. Just imagine the sheet of zinc for the roof sent out with some hives having been cut down to fit inside the hive instead of the mat covering the frames! When matters were explained, the usual answer was, "Well, why don't you send a man to show us how it should be done?"

This is the only solution for our difficulties. This matter has been taken up by the Chamber of Commerce in Reefton and Hokitika, and a Branch of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association has been formed in Greymouth. Last month a deputation from the Westland Chamber of Commerce waited on the Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald at Hokitika, and asked that an instructor should be sent to this district about September next, and I can assure you it gives me great pleasure to be able to state—not for my own sake, but for the sake of a lot of returned soldiers and others who are struggling with this industry for lack of knowledge—that he has promised to send an instructor to this district as soon as there is a man available. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that there is room here—say, between Wataroa and Reefton—to place 200 returned soldiers in suitable locations, so that they may earn an honest living.

To merit success I make this provision, that every man who expects to succeed must put in one season at a school such

as Ruakura (we have just as good a site three miles from Hokitika), or under a commercial beekeeper.

Last year I made a statement that £4 per colony could be made on the Coast with up-to-date methods of management. Our esteemed friend, Mr. Baines, thought I was painting the picture too rosy. President Barker wrote me that he would be off to the Old Country for a trip if he could do this. This year I have done even better (ask Baines), as my crop report gives an average of nearly 200 lbs. per colony. This at 6d. per lb. gives the magnificent return of £5 per colony. Now, don't all come at once, as just as much depends on the manipulation of the hives as the location. The weather also plays an important part, but when I tell you that we had the wettest season on record for some time back, you will really wonder how the little beggars piled it in. We had three weeks in February and only one week in March of beautiful weather, then the honey flow ceased. The other side of the picture shows one beekeeper who evidently believes in keeping bees just for fun instead of them helping to keep him, as he assured me he had not sold 1/- worth of honey, although he kept twenty hives.

I have written to several asking for crop reports, but up to the time of writing the only replies available are as follows:—

Hives.	to.	ton cwt.	Season.
8	21	0 4	Poor.
11	17	0 6	"
6	22	0 2½	Fair.
14	25	1 4	Very good
50	85	1 8	Poor.

In conclusion, let me say a few words on hive manipulation before I finish, as I fear that this paper is already too long. Every hive needs individual treatment. Early in August each hour of sunshine is occupied in examining the frames of the brood-nest, and where colonies are light feeding commenced. Early in November, if not before, I artificially swarm on ten frames, removing the old colony to a new stand. I find that the field bees returning to the old stand soon have the colony with ten frames as strong as the old hive. At this time many beekeepers use the queen-excluder, which I consider a great mistake, as I have found that if you can judge when the end of the main honey flow is likely to occur, you must allow six weeks before this date. This is the time to put on your queen-excluders.

In an ordinary season, by the use of only one brood-nest and two supers I can get as much as any mortal could expect from any hive of bees. About December I can generally lift out the ten frames or honey and brood from the first super, replacing with drawn combs, and putting the brood up in the second super. Early in January I can extract from 10 to 17 frames of honey. I then confine the queen to the brood-chamber, taking care that at least one frame of brood goes with her. Put on the queen-excluder, replace any brood in the same rotation as taken out,

and fill up with extracted combs. Next week look out for queen-cells. In three weeks time I can start at the beginning and extract the same combs. In another 14 to 21 days I make the last round, never removing one ounce of honey from the brood-chamber, which leaves ample stores for winter.

The three extractions keep down swarming, prevents the I.W.W. (I-wont-work) workers from clustering in front of the hives, stimulates them by cleaning the wet combs when replaced in the evening, and ends up with such a crop that "Baines" will be able to buy that motor-car and President Barker can go for his trip to the Old Country.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. G., Edendale.—That's a nice little phrase "May your bow ever hold strong, and your shadow never grow less." Honestly, friend G., I am told my bow is a long one, and frequently drawn, and as for my shadow growing less—well, if it does, you will want a new Editor.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Honey when fermented is not all fermented—half of it at least (more than half when honey is very green). What remains is perfectly liquid, and remains so for years. I wonder—now I wonder (with apology to Dr. Miller) if it is not merely levulose, dextrose having fermented. It may possibly be good for people with sugar in the blood.

I make foundation (good foundation, 8 sheets to the pound). I cut up each sheet separately under a glass pattern. I then have a lot of pieces left too short to be wide enough for the frames. I put the pattern over them and cut. I find that better combs are built that way than out of full foundations, because I fasten them with wax to the sides, and bees so build them out. That makes a better comb, not solely dependent on wires, which nowadays are not made of such good material as formerly. Moral: It might be well worth while to cut the full sheets in two parts and fasten them to the sides. I wire with the Dadant's electric device; does very good work, and not very difficult to make.—I am, &c.,

STEPHEN ANTHONY.

Coromandel, 10th June, 1919.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Referring to G. W. Phillips' letter in the June number of the Journal, he is certainly under some misapprehension as to his being the oldest beekeeper in that particular district. When I came to New Zealand in March, 1909, hearing that a man had sold his 50 colonies of bees, I called on him to make sure. He told me they had been bought by a man who was going to remove them to Matamata, and this was afterwards carried out. The vendor of the bees also assisted me in obtaining a freehold site, on which I erected a house. It is therefore self-evident that there should have been no misapprehension on Mr. Phillips' part had he made proper enquiries before also purchasing from the vendor of the bees a cottage adjoining the site on which the bees had been previously located, that he had forfeited the moral right to bring the bees back again, as well as additional ones, making altogether more than 100 colonies. The distance from my apiary to his was three-quarters of a mile. This, however, was not the worst feature of the case, for the bees were, and still are, very badly infected with foul-brood. Enquiries from the Department will bear this out.—I am, &c.,

W. HOOPER TEED.

17th June, 1919.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Done in the "so-called beekeepers' paradise." See p. 702, Oct. 1, 1917, in the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal, and then read the marked paragraph below, "Everything comes to those who wait," and the author of "Stray Bees" knew it. It is stated that the marked par. below was written by the Editor of the "Press." There are, however, very few unoccupied territories in the Bay just now. 12½ tons honey 4 cwt. wax, and increase from 180 to 450 colonies.—I am, &c.,

R. B.

AWAKERI HONEY INDUSTRY.

The honey season just passed has been a very successful one for the A. L. Luke Company, of Awakeri. Mr. A. L. Luke says the crop amounted to 12½ tons of honey and 4 cwt. of wax, and their colonies of bees have been increased from 180 to 450, thus enabling the Company to establish five extra out-apiaries. This was necessary, Mr. Luke points out, as over-stocking with bees on a bee-farm is worse than over-stocking with cows on a dairy farm. As a rule bees can work flowers profitably within a radius of three miles. To give a good radius round each apiary, the Company keeps the out-apiaries a very considerable distance apart—five miles if possible. What number of colonies should form an out-apiary is a question that can only be decided after practical experience. The worst drawback to the honey production industry in this district is that the honey, though of good quality, is of an exceptionally sticky nature, and a satisfactory way of separating it from the wax

It's quite true, as philosophers say,
That "Where there's a will there's a way."
'Tis the secret of business success,
And it comes to our aid in distress.
When illness or danger assails,
Or when we've had times to endure,
Firm will in our trouble avail,
Like Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

has not yet been found. Experiments were carried out at the Company's bee-farm last season by Mr. Westbrooke, Government apiary instructor, Auckland, but more experimental work has yet to be done. The largest yield of honey from one colony of bees in the Company's home apiary was 381 lbs.—Whakatane Press, May 22, 1919.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In considering the subject of foul-brood, and looking at the expense it has caused, and will cause in the future, I have come to the decision that if this thing is to be conquered in our lifetime, some remedy other than inspectors must be found. Situated as we are, with wild bees in trees and buildings of every sort, not to mention the State-owned bees in the bush, it would take an army of inspectors to cope with it. In order to do my bit to produce a strain of bees immune to foul-brood, I am prepared to purchase Italian bees from any beekeeper who will guarantee they have resisted it in an apiary otherwise affected. The colonies containing these queens will be placed in a separate apiary, and fed on honey taken from a foul-brood colony. Queens will be numbered and the results made public. As this is a vital point to every beekeeper, I ask your interest and co-operation in the matter. A prepared cage will be posted to those willing to forward queens. One pound each will be paid for all pure Italian queens arriving safely.—I am, &c.,

M. SHEPHERD.

Southbrook, Canterbury.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I noticed your remarks touching my short note to the Editor. No, there was no diseased matter in those foul-brood hives which I reared the cell in, as I took all their brood combs away. The queens did not mate before treatment, because the weather was real bad before; they mated shortly after because the weather was real good. The point I wished to stress was that the hives were re-queened while the brood hatched. Those treated and re-queened hives did better in gathering surplus than some hives I ran, having a much better start, which circumstance is explained by the magic word "locality."—I am, &c.,

J. WALWORTH.

274 Boundary road, Palm. Nth., 30/5/19.

COLONIAL HONEY AT BRITISH SHOWS

The following particulars of the competition for colonial honey at the British Dairy Farmers' Association Show in England will be of interest to our readers.—Ed.

Wellington, 29th May, 1919.

To Mr. F. C. Baines,

Sec. National B.K. Assn. of N.Z.,
Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th inst. in reply to mine of the 22nd idem. with

reference to the exhibition of colonial honey at the British Dairy Farmers' Association Show.

The exhibits will be forwarded to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, 413-16 Strand, London, W.C.2, but intending exhibitors should communicate with this office as early as possible.

Yours faithfully,

T. W. KIRK.

Director of the Horticulture Division.

COLONIAL HONEY.

(Produced in the Over-seas Dominions.)

CLASS D.—TWELVE JARS OF EXTRACTED HONEY, 1 lb. each (approximate weight).

Entry Fee, 10/.

First Prize, Silver Medal. Second Prize, Bronze Medal.

Jars must all be effectively secured against leakage to the satisfaction of the judges, who will be empowered to submit them to any necessary test at owner's risk.

Honey will be received up to 6 p.m. on MONDAY, October 20th.

Entries close MONDAY, September 8th, or, with an additional fee of 50 per cent., at noon on SATURDAY, September 13th.

Canterbury Conference.

A conference of Canterbury beekeepers, the principal object of which was to promote the welfare of the honey industry, was opened in the lecture hall of the Y.M.C.A. on 20th May, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Watson (Geraldine). There was a good attendance.

The Mayor (Dr. Thacker, M.P.), in formally opening the Conference, said that honey production was going to be one of the essential industries of the Dominion. He was told that Canterbury was producing more honey than any other part of the Dominion, the climate being favourable for honey production. He dealt briefly with the introduction of bees into the Dominion and with the growth of the honey industry. Referring to the Government instructors, he said he understood that there was not sufficient instructors, especially in view of the prevalence of foul-brood. He undertook to place any representations on this subject before the Minister. He spoke of the health value of honey as a food, and said he put it on a par with fresh milk for its healthfulness. Referring to the Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Club, he said it had a membership of 96, many of whom would have been present but for the fact that they had to attend to their ordinary businesses. Referring to foul-brood, he suggested that beekeepers should invoke the assistance of Dr. A. B. Pearson, bacteriologist at the Christchurch Hospital.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Thacker for attending and opening the Conference.

MORE INSPECTORS WANTED.

Mr. W. B. Bray, in moving, on behalf of the Southland Beekeepers' Association—
 "That the Government be urged to appoint two more inspectors for the South Island"—said that the necessity for additional appointments arose from the prevalence of foul-brood. What was required was that each inspector should concentrate on one part of the country until the foul-brood in it was eliminated, and then take up other parts of the country, and so ultimately clean the whole country. He thought that the appointment of two inspectors would be more valuable than the appointment of a Chief Apiarist.

The motion, which was seconded by Mr. Oldman, was agreed to.

In an address, Mr. E. A. Earp (Government Apiary Instructor) referred to the suitability of beekeeping for discharged soldiers.

Mr. Earp said that in recommending beekeeping for discharged soldiers, it was necessary that the man should not be totally disabled, but should have sufficient strength to carry on the manipulation required in handling bees. He hoped that there would soon be established by the Department a scheme whereunder discharged soldiers would be able to receive the necessary training. He understood that the Ruakura State Farm in the North Island was to be devoted to the purposes of training discharged soldiers in different callings connected with the land. If the movement advocated by the Canterbury amateur beekeepers for the establishment by the Department of a State apiary for instructional purposes was realised, they would then be able to give a certain amount of training. During the past season a number of discharged soldiers had been billeted with bee-farmers in Canterbury and other parts of the Dominion, and had received a certain amount of training. The Repatriation Board was prepared to advance £300 to discharged soldiers who decided to take up beekeeping. Those who possessed a certain knowledge of beekeeping could, with the sum mentioned, establish themselves in a livelihood. He stated that the Government instructors were prepared to give all possible assistance in the matter of instruction to discharged soldiers who wished to take up beekeeping.

Dealing with the question as to whether a discharged soldier could make a livelihood out of beekeeping alone, Mr. Earp said that if the man possessed the necessary knowledge, then he was strongly out for specialisation. Of course, the old argument would be advanced that one should not put all their eggs in one basket; but if a man running 100 colonies of bees could not make a living from them, then he should run 200 colonies. If returned soldiers paid a little more attention to specialisation, they would do far better. He did not believe in any half-and-half business; America was a progressive country, and its people believed in specialisation. Of course, good and bad seasons would be experienced; but the average of

20 years in respect of a Southland bee-farmer showed that the return had never been less than £150. In that case, beekeeping was conducted in conjunction with a small dairy farm of 30 cows; and if instead of 150 or 200 colonies, the farmer had gone in for 500 to 600 colonies, the return would have been considerably higher. He had no hesitation in recommending those taking up beekeeping—either discharged soldiers or others—to specialise. In South Canterbury beekeepers' cheques had been as high as £1000 & £1100, and he mentioned that in the North Island a company had been formed with a capital of £5,000 to secure locations for 2,000 colonies. He urged that the best locations in the South Island should not be similarly monopolised.

During the discussion on the motion urging the Government to establish a State apiary in the South Island, Miss M. Sheppard suggested that twenty such apiaries should be established, and put under the charge of discharged soldiers, who could receive their training from the Government instructors. A start could be made with 20 or 30 colonies, which could be gradually increased in number, so that the discharged soldiers could earn a good salary before left to themselves. The speaker was of opinion that half an acre was sufficient for each apiary, and she said that she could vouch for the willingness of Canterbury bee-farmers to assist discharged soldiers who took up beekeeping.

Mr. W. B. Bray suggested that Miss Sheppard's ideas should be placed before the Repatriation Board.

EXPORT REGULATIONS.

Mr. Bray opened a discussion on the suggestion that the regulations governing the export of honey should be altered to provide for the shipping of honey in a liquid state.

The Southland Association was opposed to any relaxation of the regulations in the direction indicated.

Mr. E. A. Earp (Government instructor) said he thought that no harm would be done if the Conference recommended to the National Conference that a trial shipment of liquid honey should be made in specially constructed cases and tins.

Mr. R. W. Briekell, a director of the Honey Producers' Association, stated that the Association intended to try to get permission to make a trial shipment. At present they had no knowledge or experience in respect of shipping liquid honey.

Mr. T. J. Burnet urged that caution should be exercised.

Mr. G. V. Westbrooke (Government instructor) said the matter could be safely left to the Honey Producers' Association.

In moving—"That this Conference emphatically opposes any relaxation of the grading regulations in regard to liquid honey"—Mr. Bray said that New Zealand was unique in officially grading honey for export. The demand for honey in Europe had led to anything in the description of honey being shipped. He thought that it

would endanger the reputation of New Zealand honey if it were shipped in a liquid condition.

Mr. J. Bull seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

MARKETING QUESTIONS.

Mr. Bray gave an address regarding the relation of the Honey Producers' Association to the beekeeping industry, especially in the matter of co-operative marketing. But for this combination, honey would still be at 2½d. per lb. Australian beekeepers, without co-operation, got 3d. or 1d. per lb., whilst those dealing in honey—the middlemen—were getting a shilling a pound for it on the English market.

Mr. Brickell also spoke on the subject.

EXPERIMENTAL APIARY.

Mr. Brickell moved—"That this Conference urge on the Government the necessity for the establishment of a State apiary in the South Island." He said that what was required was an apiary for instructional purposes.

Mr. Bray seconded the motion, which, after a brief discussion, was agreed to.

Conference adjourned till 2 p.m. the following day.

SECOND DAY.

Mr. E. F. Sullivan, secretary of the Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Club, moved: "That this Conference invites the National Association to hold its annual Conference next year in Christchurch, when the Industrial Exhibition will be held."

Mr. W. B. Bray seconded the motion. He referred to the advantages possessed by Christchurch as a centre for holding conferences, and said that the Exhibition would give the National Association and beekeepers generally a splendid opportunity to make a display of honey.

Miss Shepperd said that the interests of Canterbury beekeepers suffered owing to the comparatively small attendance of delegates from Canterbury at the Conference in Wellington.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that the Conference should be held alternately in Wellington and Christchurch.

The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. H. A. Johnston, seconded by Miss Shepperd, it was decided to appoint a deputation to bring the decisions of the Conference before the Conference of the National Association and before the Minister of Agriculture. Miss Shepperd and Mr. W. B. Bray were appointed.

The songs my mother taught to me
I learned while perched upon her knee;
And though they be but simple rhymes,
I croon them fondly still at times.
'Tis then I realise and know
The debt of love to her I owe;
And how well justified and sure
Her faith in Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

Mr. W. B. Bray gave an address on "Increasing Production by Improved Methods of Apiary Management." He emphasised the importance of making all preparations ahead of the busy season, and working expeditiously to take advantage of the honey flow.

A general discussion followed on the various points raised, in the course of which Mr. E. A. Earp (Government grader) referred to the importance of allowing the honey to become thoroughly ripened in the hives before removing it.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman (Mr. W. Watson) and Mr. Bray brought the Conference to a close.

The Industries Commission and the Honey Industry.

The following correspondence will be interesting to our readers:—

Cheviot, 22nd May, 1919.

Mr. G. W. Forbes, M.P.,
Member of Industries Commission,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,—

The organisations of the beekeepers of New Zealand are meeting in Wellington on the 10th June and subsequent days, but I understand this will be too late to give evidence before the Industries Commission; therefore I am writing you with the request that you will place the following matters with regard to honey producing industry before them.

The honey producing industry has claims for its development that applies to few other industries. It is concerned with the gathering of a natural product of considerable value that is otherwise going to waste. Honey came into its true place as a food product in war-time, and in the United States every effort was made to increase its production to the full. In New Zealand the fringe of the business has only been touched, and a little consideration of its requirements now will make it a considerable source of primary wealth to the Dominion. The business is already fairly well organised, both for educational purposes and marketing, through the National Beekeepers' Association and the N.Z. Honey Producers' Association, and only asks for some security in its development and fairer treatment in the matter of railway freights. First, I might mention as an example of what might be done in the industry, that in the Cheviot district this year, the scope of which you are well aware, 31 tons of honey were produced, of a value on the English market of £3,000, with only portions of the district worked.

The following are the requirements for the present and future needs of the industry:—

1. **Apiary Sites.**—It is already difficult in some settled districts to get suitable sites for apiaries, which difficulty will increase as the Dominion becomes closer settled. In view of this, the Government was approached to set apart small areas of land for the purpose in all new blocks being sub-divided for settlement. This has been done in many cases, but such areas have not been reserved for occupation by beekeepers only, beekeepers only being given the preference among the applicants. Also in cases inspectors have not recommended that sites be set apart, because there was no immediate prospect of the locality being suitable for beekeeping. With regard to the last, there are few places in the Dominion, excepting the extreme high country, that will not in time become suitable for beekeeping. The object in asking that these apiary sites should be set apart was not so much to meet present requirements as the requirements of the future. It is suggested, therefore, that these small areas be set apart in almost all new settlements and reserved indefinitely as apiary sites. The reserves could be temporarily let until the locality offered sufficient inducement for apiarists to take them up.

Licensing of Beekeepers.—In the interests of the industry, considerable restrictions have already been placed on the individual as to the manner in which he shall keep bees. These restrictions have done a lot towards placing the industry on a sound footing. A further restraint of individual mismanagement is called for in the matter of over-stocking. This is being complained of in some localities, and shows signs of becoming the cause of a considerable loss in production. You will understand that where an apiary is established, and is working a certain locality to its full producing capacity, the establishment of another apiary in the same locality will reduce the amount of production as a whole, and with a further establishment of apiaries in the locality will end in simply feeding a lot of bees. It is suggested that the difficulty could be got over by licensing commercial apiaries, the Department only issuing licenses where the districts are not occupied.

Railway Freights.—The position with respect to railway freights on honey is very unsatisfactory. The tariff now operating is one fixed at a time when honey was railed, at the most, in a few cwt. lots. Honey is now railed in truck lots, and the same rate does not apply to any other farm produce. The present tariff, without taking into consideration the 10 per cent. and 10 per cent., is 26/6 per 100 miles for honey and only 14/6 per 100 miles for butter, while butter represents a higher cash value, and takes up nearly double the space.

There is another small matter, but of considerable importance to honey producers working through Christchurch and Lyttelton and other places where the source of packing supplies and the port of shipping is not the same. The tariff allows an "empties to be re-issued full rate," but this rate is not allowed, if, say, the empties are obtained in Christchurch, and the full cases have to go on to the grading store in Lyttelton, as they must if exported, and although this is over a greater length of railway, and is the port of the town of supply.

I would be pleased to hear if there is any possibility of the Industries Commission taking evidence after the 6th of June, when I and others interested in the honey producing industry will be in Wellington.

Yours truly,

(Signed) J. RENTOUL.

Chairman of Directors,

N.Z. Honey Producers' Assn.

Industries Committee of

House of Representatives,

28th May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—

Your letter of the 22nd instant to Mr. Forbes, M.P., was brought by that gentleman under the notice of the Industries Committee, and I am directed to inform you that it will have the Committee's consideration when they are framing their report. The Committee regrets that it will not be practicable for them to take evidence from you after the 6th June.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. BRIGGS.

Secretary.

John Rentoul, Esq.,

Chairman of Directors,

N.Z. Honey Producers' Assn, Hawera.

The Beginners' Handbook can be obtained from the Secretary. Post free, 1/7. Get it!

Am very pleased with the Journal, and think every beekeeper should take it.—C. W. L. Levin.

Mr. Trythall says the Beginners' Handbook is just splendid! He knows what beginners want. Get it! 1/7 post free.

The Journal interests me very much.—F. H. S., Tinwald.

Lots of useful information in the Beginners' Handbook. 1/7 post free.

How to Control Swarming.—See the Beginners' Handbook. Post free 1/7.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

Some persons are trying to run down the BARTLETT-MILLER COMB HONEY REDUCER. One person somewhat desperately refers to "duds" in reference to Comb Reducers.

Well, some Comb (so-called) Reducers are "duds," but the only one I have actually seen "dudding" was one that was demonstrated at Ruakura Field Day—in public, of course. We tried to put through the "dudder" two good old black combs from the same lot that the Bartlett-Miller Reducer had simply taken tea of "in its stride." I watched, and others watched, and we all watched, until the operator (Mr. Trythall), the apiarist in charge, explained that it was not meant to melt combs, but only cappings; so thinks I to myself:—"Bartlett, me boy, you well named your Reducer 'The Glutton,'" for the thing gobbles all that is put in it; and that's much more than its competitors do—by long white chalks and big black combs it is!

Now, it is my belief that nobody gains much (but what he deserves) by "knocking" another man's invention, so I mention no names—at least, not yet.

Well, quite so, and more to it. But you should have seen that "dud"—the dudder at Ruakura "dudding." It was a sight for sore eyes to see how it completely "dudded" all its boasted claim to be styled a real comb reducer.

Another individual writes to—well, someone not a thousand miles from Kati Kati, giving the Bartlett-Miller Reducer particular fits; but the funny part of it is—How came this person to own a B.-M. Comb Honey Reducer? For I never sold him one! My patent is a big improvement upon the Reducer I demonstrated at the last Conference; so I know (without knowing anything more about the report than I have here stated) exactly what is wrong with him and his home-made abortion. He is trying to melt beeswax without heat—or at least without enough of it. However,

it is not a B.-M. Reducer, because B.-M. DID NOT MAKE IT.

Now, he is "zactly" what Mr. Bumble once styled English Law. What's that? Why, "The Law," says Mr. Bumble—"the law's a bass!" So is—well, I may tell you later.

NUMBER THREE.

This is another person who wrote so hotly that the gum all melted on the stamps and on the envelope flap. The "laugwidge" inside the envelope! I had to get "most awful wise" to read what it was all about. Then at once I told my youngest offspring to put it in the w.p.b. and pour some water upon its still pulsating, throbbing warmth! We were not then insured. Have been since, you bet!

Now, all this heat in the letter was on account of a lack of it in the Reducer! That chunk of solid "boor"-ax had actually tried to run his Efficient Sized Reducer by the heat from the chimneys of three large hanging lamps! What next? Three 25 candle-power lamps to reduce a ton of cold, and perhaps half-candied honey in eight hours. Hold me while I larf!

NUMBER FOUR.

This delight—(not lamplight)—ful person accuses B.-M. of fraud, for selling him an invention to melt combs, when—"For getting combs fresh from the extractor melted ready for the wax-press—(read it again, boys; it's worth it!)—it is simply no good whatever!" By jove! He's right first time! Now, what do you think of such a customer? I did not exactly tell him I thought him the best joko I had had since I caught the measles, but I assured him that the B.-M. Reducer was a "terror" for rending the "innards" from anything containing honey, but to do duty as a wax-boiler was ever beneath its dignity. I await in cold-drawn terror his reply to my well-meant communication. But if it gets too cold, I can always sit on that w.p.b. that accommodates the letter of Number Three, y' see!

Say, boys, don't use blue flame Perfection lamps for the B.-M. Reducers; and of course the Beatrice lamps are always out of court. It takes a great deal of heat to keep going a reducer that gets through a ton of honey a day, and it is one man's work to look after it without cutting the combs out.

If you cannot afford to purchase the Primus kerosene lamp while these exorbitant war-prices prevail, then rig up an oil-drum outside the honey-house, as we had at Ruakura Field Day last year (February, 1918), and conduct steam through the wall with a rubber hose. This is not the best way (to my mind), but it saves money till prices for metal goods get back to normal.

TO SUM UP.

One person cries, "Beware of Duds!" I cry "Encore, and remember Ruakura 1919 Demonstration, too!"

Another declaims about a Reducer that permits of a strong presumption that it is a home-made pirated imitation of the Bartlett-Miller Patent Machine, and my heartiest wish and invitation is that this disgruntled individual will bring his Reducer to the Conference, and if I made it and cannot make it work, I pay £10 to the funds of our National Association. If he will not accept this challenge, then all will know what to think of his complaint. Furthermore, I defy such a person to bring to the Conference any comb from a beehive that the Bartlett-Miller Comb Reducer will not deal with to the satisfaction of a majority of the onlookers; and if he can invent a more severe test, I will engage to put the B.-M. Machine to it. Surely no one can want anything better than this challenge.

Regarding the others, one purchaser came to my honey-room to see how to work his own B.-M. Reducer, with which he was not successful. As soon as ever he saw "The Glutton" delivering the goods, he exclaimed: "Oh, it's all right! I see, I have not been using heat enough."

AND THAT'S WHAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH ALL OF THESE.

except the wax-press individual. He's just a KOMMON HASS!

So give the B.-M. all the steam (not under-pressure) that you can give it. Tilt up the blind end so as to run the honey faster out of the gutter, and you will agree with all the others who ARE getting chunks of solid satisfaction out of the B.-M. Machine that, with clean combs, it needs no attention at all; and with black and pollen-filled combs IT IS THE BEST YET!

REMEMBER THE SIZES, PRICES AND CAPACITY.

BABY (larger than any other make on market), 5 to 8 cwt.	
a day.. .. .	£3 15 0
BOOSTER, to reduce 10 to 12 cwt. a day	4 12 6
BOON, to reduce 15 to 20 cwt. a day	5 10 0
EFFECTIVE, to reduce 20 to 25 cwt. a day	8 15 0
GLUTTON (for two operators at combs), 40 to 50 cwt. a day	13 10 0

AND EVERY ONE OF THEM REDUCES THE BLACKEST COMBS AT THE LOWER NAMED CAPACITY, AND MUCH OVER HIGHEST NAMED FOR GOOD, CLEAN SUPER COMBS.

Manufacturer, Patentee, and Inventor,

H. Bartlett Bartlett-Miller,

THOROUGHWORK APIARIES,

KIHIKIHI.

[ADVT.]

Honey for Export

A WORD and A WARNING

WE ARE BUYERS.

But owing to lack of Shipping Space and Congestion of Stocks awaiting shipment, we have been unable to buy during the past season.

But we will be in a position

TO BUY AGAIN NEXT SEASON.

Producers know the prices we were paying in 1918.

Do not tie yourselves or your future outputs up so that you are unable to take advantage

OF THE FULL CASH PRICES

(equivalent to the English value), which we pay you here in Auckland as soon as your Honey arrives and is graded.

Competition for your Honey is healthy—keep yourselves free to sell at the highest price.

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

No. 1 Custom St. West, Auckland.

Telegraphic Address—'ASPASIA,' AUCKLAND.

THE

New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Assoc., LTD. (H.P.A.)

TO BEEKEEPERS.

As a record of achievement, the history of the H.P.A. must already hold a high place in the annals of successful co-operative effort, and under the new Management the Association may confidently be expected to achieve even greater results for its Shareholders, who comprise the bulk of the commercial Beekeepers of the Dominion.

Unfortunately, there are a number of honey producers who have not yet realised what the Association has done for the industry, nor why they should be identified with the movement, and space for the full details cannot be found in this short column. One fact alone should be sufficient to bring in every Beekeeper, and that is—that the H.P.A., since its formation in 1914, has trebled the return per lb. to the Producer, and has raised the value of honey upon the local market to hardly realisable heights. -

Upon the basis of the Honey handled in 1918 by the H.P.A., the increased value of 1917-18 Honey as against 1914 represents a sum of approximately £17,000. These figures speak for themselves.

The success of the co-operative movement lies in the hands of the Beekeepers, and a stable market and permanently good returns are only possible through the co-operation and the elimination of private enterprise and speculation.

The merchants and retailers exist for themselves, but the H.P.A. exists for the Beekeeper only, and the whole of the profits return to the Producer.

A vigorous forward policy has been inaugurated by the Association, and all Beekeepers should study their own future interests and become members. Shares can be taken up in small quantities, upon the easiest possible terms.

Apply for shares or further particulars to

THE MANAGER,

**THE N.Z. CO-OP. HONEY PRODUCERS'
ASSCN., Ltd.,**

P.O. BOX 1293,

Stanley Street, AUCKLAND.

Advice for Winter Months.

Now that conditions are returning to normal, beekeepers may, with some degree of accuracy, calculate the probable returns from their bee yards. In doing so they must take into consideration the value of their product.

Prices for honey for the next three years will remain at a very high level, in fact at over fifty per cent. advance on pre-war rates. A wise beekeeper, therefore, will fill in the long winter evenings by making up hives, frames, supers, etc., in order that no time may be lost when the honey flow is on. In anticipation of an increased demand we commenced manufacturing some months earlier than usual, and we are now in a position to supply all orders within a few hours after their receipt.

ALLIANCE BOX CO., Ltd.,

1 Mason Street,

DUNEDIN.
