



*E. A. G. P.*

# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

---

AUGUST 1st, 1919

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



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The Official Organ of the  
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No. 8

VOL. 3

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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.

If your Journal arrives late, please do not blame the Editor; put it down to the Government and its curtailed railway service. Last month the Editor's addressed copy did not arrive till the 14th of the month, and, judging from the number of enquiries received, many of the subscribers thought their copy had not been sent.

Elsewhere we publish a copy of the instructions sent by the Department to the

honey graders on the matter of using petrol tins for the export of honey, which indicate the use of these containers is now prohibited. We are quite in accord with the opinion expressed by the Department; our honey is a first-class article, and worthy of a first-class container. We quite recognise the very great assistance that has been given to the beekeepers during the war period by the acceptance of these second-hand containers, because had these not been allowed many men would not have been able to harvest their crops at all. But indications are that new tins will be available at a reasonable rate in the early future, and there is no justification in

advocating the continued use of the second-hand container. The Department has to uphold its reputation in the matter of exportable produce, and we have been of the opinion all along that the beekeeper did not really recognise what the use of petrol tins meant. In any case, we are sure that all the beekeepers will recognise the assistance the Department gave at a time when it was so needed, and accept the decision now arrived at without demur.

We were very pleased to receive a letter from the secretary of one of the newly-formed Branches, in which appears the following:—"These questions are JUST IT! We had the best meeting we have yet had on the 21st, discussing the two months' questions. They suit us so well, as there are so many beginners here." This, with a number of letters received from amateurs appreciating these, is very satisfactory to the Editor.

We have taken from the Journal of Agriculture an article on Queen-Rearing, by Mr. A. B. Tryball, and commend it to our readers. One cannot read too much or too often on this vital matter.

That Canterbury is a good place for beekeeping is emphasised by the number of apiarists owning motor cars, and we learn that another gentleman has just succumbed to the charms of a "Tin Lizzie." We hope the "lady" will prove a pleasurable companion, but not so much as to shorten our monthly tales.

At the Conference the Editor appealed for assistance with the Journal by the contribution of articles of interest. So far the response has not been very great, and we again offer stamps and stationery to any who will help to make the Journal interesting to all. We particularly invite short notes from different districts indicating the conditions ruling in the particular locality. Amongst the series of questions we are using are the following, all of which could be made subjects for interesting articles:—

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on containers for the retail trade in honey.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the sources of nectar in England (New Zealand).

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the influence of weather on honey production.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the feeding of bees.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on swarming.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on honey as a diet for human consumption.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on how to fail in beekeeping.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the links between apiculture and horticulture.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the beekeeper who attributes his want of success to ill-luck.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the main differences between the working of an out-apiary and that of the home apiary.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the importance of doing the right thing at the right time in an apiary.

Make notes for a fifteen minute lecture on beekeeping in the past as a guide to the future.

Make notes for a fifteen-minute lecture on the food of bees other than honey.

Now, friends, there are a few subjects to write on; please start at once before the busy season arrives. It will not matter in the least if two articles on the same subject come along, so select your subject now and "get busy."

Elsewhere we publish a letter from Mr. E. W. Sage bearing upon the directorate of the H.P.A. We have no desire to discuss the alleged grievances, but would rather speak on the question of the cry—North Island v. South. To us this is absolutely wrong—it is a parochialism in its worst form, and cannot but end in making trouble. We cannot possibly see anything very serious happening even if the whole of the directors were situated in either North or South, provided they were doing their best for the shareholders. It surely does not follow that because a man lives in the South Island he is going to ignore the necessary requirements of the North, and vice versa. We take it all the directors recognise they are appointed to study the interests of the shareholders as a whole, and unless a given proposition affecting either North or South was to benefit the whole it would not be carried out. We must confess that Mr. Sage's letter gives us the impression that those directors who live in the North Island are there to watch over the interests only of those similarly placed, not for the benefit of the whole, and he is rather afraid the southern men will do likewise. We may be wrong, but that is our impression. If equal representation is so necessary, why were there not more nominations for directors from the North, as the election paper showed four southern men against one northern? Does this indicate that more interest in the H.P.A. is being taken by those in the South than in the North? Our opinion is that only harm can come by raising the cry North v. South. If men are willing to serve the shareholders (which, by the way, means a certain amount of time and work), and they are sincere in their desire to do their best, then by all means elect them, even though they all came from one district, leave alone island.

We heard a whisper of the same cry at the Conference at the time the Executive was being elected, and the same argument applies. The gentlemen appointed were to act on the Executive of the National—mark the word "National"—not the Executive of the northern or southern portion of that body. If in the deliberations of either the Executive of the National or the directors of the H.P.A. this party spirit is going to make its presence felt, then we are rather dubious as to what is going to happen in the future.

Mr. Benton sends an interesting letter which we expect will call forth some comment. Seeing that the remarks chiefly affect the Editor's actions, we shall not at this stage make any comment, save that we feel if the remit had been worded more clearly as to what the grievance was, it would have had a different reception.

## Market Reports.

During the month there has been a fair trade doing both for export and home trade at regular prices. Australian, in cases, 60/- per cwt. West Indian and Cuban, at 60/- to 68/- per cwt. Jamaican, at 65/- to 68/- per cwt.

Chilian.—Pile 1: Good quality, 250 barrels sold at 75/6 to 78/-; pile 2, at 73/- per cwt.; pile 3, at 65/6 per cwt.

Prices for honey seem to have stabilised themselves for the present, largely due to the Continental demand; but how long this will continue is a question which cannot be decided; but in view of the resumption of the normal, and, indeed, probable, increased production of sugar, both beet and cane, all over the world, it would seem to be rash to expect the present level of prices of honey to continue; and before the end of the year is reached we are afraid we shall have to record much lower prices.

Beeswax.—The value of this article seems to be stereotyped, and we have to report sales of Chilian aloft at £9 17/6 to £10; Cuban at £9 2/6. A little on the spot has been sold in retail at about £1 above these prices.

Yours truly,

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 23rd May, 1919.

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

Auckland.—There is little further to report since last month. The weather has been cold and showery, but seasonable. Prices remain unchanged. Beeswax is in

demand at from 2/- to 2/3 per lb. Bulk honey is asked for at from 7d to 9d wholesale.—G. V. Westrooke.

Wellington.—The export of last season's crop is proceeding rapidly, and the grading stores of the Dominion present a busy appearance. The quality of the crop is all that could be desired, and the quantity is likely to exceed other years. Sellers on the local market quote 9d per lb in small bulk. Comb honey unprocureable. Beeswax 2/3.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—There is little fresh to report. Export lines still continue to come forward. Prices are firm. Pat honey is in strong demand. Beeswax is scarce.—E. A. Earp.

Market conditions generally for the past month were unaltered. Sales of good clear liquid were satisfactory, any offering moving off freely at late rates. The position, however, so far as any too dark for ordinary grocer's trade, or rejected by wholesale bottling houses was difficult, and other avenues of disposal had to be sought, which meant concession rates to induce sales.

During the past month heavy shipments, totalling many thousands of tins, were landed from Adelaide at a cost, including all expenses, of not more than 5½d. per lb., and the quality is reported as meeting all the requirements of retail and wholesale trade. These importations must naturally affect the local prices, and were it not for the limited quantity of choice, clear liquid offering an early reduction of market rates would be inevitable.

Latest quotations are—Choice, clear liquid, 7d per lb; good light and pale amber, 5½d to 6d per lb; dark and candied, 4½d to 5d per lb.—Australasian Beekeeper, June 15, 1919.

## 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.]

36. How long does a worker bee live?
37. How is worker comb distinguished from drone comb?
38. What circumstances lead to the construction of a large proportion of drone comb?
39. How do bees recognise their own hive when returning from a flight?
40. Compare the advantages of nucleus swarming with those of natural swarming.
41. Give details how a nucleus is made?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

16. The harvesting of pollen by the flying bees may be taken as an indication that brood-rearing has begun.
17. A piece of strong calico, about 6 inches larger than the hive, wrung out in cold water, and sprinkled with Calvert's No. 5 carbolic acid.
18. By obtaining the weight of the swarm and estimating 4500 bees to the lb.
19. The egg remains such for three days, larval period five days; spinning cocoon, resting, and passing from larva to nymph six days; in nymph state, seven days;—total, 21 days. On hatching out the young bee remains in the hive for about a fortnight, caring for and feeding the brood and assisting in the general economy of the hive. During this period numbers of these young bees will be seen having a play spell in the front of the hive, which is to exercise their wings and mark the exact location of their hive preparatory to taking their flight in the fields.
20. Briefly described, is the fertilising dust of flowers. It is a food for all insects, being rich in proteids, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, etc. Bees cannot rear brood without it.
21. In nectar between 60 and 90 per cent., in honey from about 16 to 22 per cent.
22. The state of the brood chamber. Directly this shows the bees are becoming crowded, and occupying all empty cells for the storage of honey and pollen.
23. The number of bees found dead head first in the cells, also brood will be found to have been uncapped by the bees.
24. The old containers having this disease-honey are usually thrown outside when emptied, and the bees of the district clear out that which is left, and thus spread the disease all round.
25. There is a possibility of foul brood disease appearing if the swarm came from a diseased hive, as the bees would store the honey they brought in their honey sacs for feeding the young brood. By hiving on foundation this honey would be consumed in the secretion of wax necessary to form the cells.

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—Backbone.

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## Rearing of Queen-Bees.

(By A. B. TRYTHALL, Apiarist,  
Ruakura Farm of Instruction.)

The most vital point in successful bee-keeping is to ensure that each colony is headed by a good queen. The traits in a queen-bee's character are just as hereditary and the degrees between good and bad just as great as in any other kind of stock. A queen-bee should be prolific, of good size, colour, and shape, and keep her brood-nest compact and solid. Her progeny should be good honey-gatherers, disease-resisters, reluctant swarmers, good-tempered, robber-resisting, of good colour, and not given to building too much brace-comb or collecting too much propolis.

The only way to secure queens with as many of these traits as possible is to persistently breed from stock showing these qualities. If in the apiary there is a colony which stand out pre-eminently above all others that is the one to breed from. If there are none that are satisfactory it is advisable to send to a reputable queen-breeder for as many as one can afford, and after testing them in one's own apiary breed from the best. It is not necessary to be constantly buying breeding queens, as each importation may alter one's standard, nor is it always advisable to breed from a queen before fully testing her, as it is quite possible the bee-keeper may have a better one among his own stock.

It is best to breed only from pure Italian queens whose correct mating has been assured. Novices can judge the mating by noting the uniformity of the hatching brood as regards colour. Should the young bees show diversity of colour—some being yellow-banded and others quite black—the mating has not been correct.

The question of mating is always a difficult one, as queens mate on the wing, and therefore it is impossible for the apiarist to select the sires. But as purebred queens, even though mated, throw pure drones, it only takes a comparatively short time to eliminate crossbred drones from an apiary. There is, however, still the chance of contamination from other drones in the neighbourhood.

To sum up the matter: By persistently breeding from the best it is possible to achieve wonderful results, while under careless management, or, as is often the case, no management at all, bees are sure to deteriorate.

Methods of queen-rearing are legion, but may be roughly divided into two classes—namely those which use the naturally built queen-cells and those which necessitate the provision of artificial queen-cups into which young larvae are transferred. The former method is most suitable for

beginners, or for use early in the season, as it minimises the risk of chill to young larvae; while the second method is used largely by beekeepers who want to rear queens in greater numbers. As an example of the first method I will briefly describe what is known as the "Stewart method" (after the noted queen-breeder, Mr R. Stewart, of Crookston, Otago), and how to carry it out.

#### THE STEWART METHOD.

In autumn or very early spring place a comb containing a fair number of drone-cells in the centre of the brood-nest of one or more of your best Italian colonies other than that headed by the choice queen it is desired to breed from, so as to get very early unrelated drones. By getting pure Italian drones flying before Black drones in a district it is possible to get a larger percentage of pure matings than would otherwise be possible. If in going through Black or inferior colonies at this time drone-brood is found to be in existence it is best to either remove it or to place a drone-trap at the entrance of such hives.

Weight of evidence goes to prove that Black drones are either more alert or active or less susceptible to cold than Italians, and therefore it is necessary, if we wish to Italianise, to eliminate Black drones as much as possible. My experience is that early batches of queens are the most likely to show the highest percentage of mis-matings, and an Italian apiary left to its own devices is almost sure to revert to the Black type in time.

By judicious feeding or otherwise work one of your strongest colonies—which will be called No. 1—in early spring until it has bees in two hive-bodies for preference. As soon as drone-brood is beginning to hatch out of the combs inserted for the purpose, as mentioned, go through the hive, find the queen, and place her in the top story with two frames of young brood and stores, leaving the remainder of the brood below, and place a queen-excluder between the bodies.

In three days' time go to the hive—which will be called No. 2—containing the choice queen which it is desired to breed from, taking with you a nice clean comb that has not been used for brood-rearing more than once or twice, and insert it right into the middle of the brood-nest for the queen to lay in.

In a further five days' time return to No. 1 and remove the top body with queen and bees to a new stand—No. 3—where they can remain permanently to build up to full strength again. Return to No. 1 and examine very carefully every brood-frame to see if any queen-cells have been started; if so, remove every one without exception.

Now exchange an empty frame from this hive with the special frame from No. 2 which was placed there five days previously. This frame, which should now contain eggs and probably very young larvae,

is treated as follows:—With a sharp knife cut a strip off the bottom of the comb right through the cells containing eggs and larvae, and another strip or two vertically down the comb, thus leaving plenty of room for the building of queen-cells. The cutting of the comb should be done as quickly as possible, in order to avoid any possibility of chill to the young larvae. If the day is at all chilly it would be best to do it in a warm room.

The prepared frame of eggs and larvae is now placed in the centre of the brood-nest of No. 1 hive. Prior to the giving of this comb the bees in No. 1 were hopelessly queenless, having not only had their queen removed, but a hive containing no brood under eight days old. They will therefore be just in the condition to go to work to form queen-cells on the edges of the prepared comb.

In ten days' time the queen-cells should be nearly ready to hatch. Examine the comb to see how many good cells are available, and after preparing the requisite number of nucleus hives, less one, or destroying the queen in hives it is wished to requeen, come back to No. 1 and cut out carefully with a sharp thin-bladed pen-knife all the cells but one. Then, after putting each in a "West" cell-protector, insert in the centre of each nucleus or queenless hive and leave to hatch out. Examine in two or three days' time to see if young queens are hatched. If so, leave for a week or ten days, according to weather, and examine again to see if they are mated and laying.

If it is very early in the season or the weather is doubtful, it is advisable to introduce the cells into the nucleus hives rather than de-queen hives for the purpose, as it entails less loss of time and bees in case the queens failed to mate, which is often the case in early spring.

#### THE DOOLITTLE METHOD.

As indicated, if queens are required in large numbers it is advisable to adopt the "Doolittle" principle of artificial queen-cups. These cups may be purchased ready-made from the appliance dealers.

The only other tools required are a transferring needle and a jelly-spoon, which also can be procured from the appliance-dealers, or may be made out of knitting-needles by slightly flattening the ends.

Having made sufficient cell-cups and placed them on bars the beekeeper is ready to commence rearing operations. Hive No. 1 is prepared in the same manner as stated for the Stewart system, and after removing the top box with queen, etc., to new stand No. 3, return to No. 1 and place a frame containing one or more cell-bars with cells right into the middle of the brood-nest, and leave for a few hours for the bees to discover their queenlessness and to warm and polish up the cell-cups given.

A supply is now needed of royal jelly—the term given to the food supplied by the



worker-bees to the young queen larva, and resembling thick cream in appearance and consistency. This can be procured from a previously built queen-cell. The thin jelly from a queen-cell in its early stages is the best for the purpose. If no natural queen-cells are available a hive should have been made queenless a few days previously, so that a supply would be assured. Go to hive No. 2—the choice breeding-queen hive—and procure a frame containing newly hatched larva not more than twenty-four to thirty-six hours old, and take it into a warm room, together with one or more cells of royal jelly and the bars of queen-cups which were placed in hive No. 1 a few hours previously. With one's back to the window, so that the light may shine directly into the cells of the brood-frame, remove the royal jelly from one of the queen-cells with the jelly-spoon and divide it among the queen-cups, placing a portion about the size of a pinhead into the bottom of each cup.

One queen-cell usually provides about enough jelly for a bar of cups—say, twelve to fourteen. With the transferring-needle now very carefully remove a tiny larva from a worker brood-cell, place it on the spot of royal jelly, and continue until you have tenanted all the cups, when the bar should be quickly taken out and placed in the holding-frame of hive No. 1 from which it was taken. Leave it there for the bees to carry on the work. Return the original frame of brood to hive No. 2 from which you borrowed it. Next day look into No. 1 and see how many cells have been accepted. In ten days' time these cells should be almost ready to hatch, when it will be necessary to prepare nucleus hives as stated in connection with the Stewart plan, and to give to each a West cell-protector containing one of these ripe cells.

If many young queens are needed it is advisable to prepare a succession of No. 1 hives, and as some bees are better at accepting queen-cells than others, it is a good plan to pick hives for the purpose whose bees show a tendency to build a number of natural queen-cups, as they usually accept grafted cells readily.

The day after the grafts are given to No. 1 the queen-cells started may be removed and given to any other queenless hive, or placed in a well-populated super above the excluder on a queen-right colony, providing care is taken to see that the queen is kept below the excluder. The bees of this hive will carry on the work and finish the cells. It is advisable, however, to place a frame containing brood on each side of the cell-bars in the super.

No. 1 hive can now be given fresh bars of grafted cells, and the process kept up daily until the bees tire of the work. Usually the second bars given are the most successful as regards the number of grafts accepted.

Some queen-breeders graft the larva without using a supply of royal jelly at all;

but the larva leave the needle best if placed in the jelly at the bottom of the cell; and, personally, I always have the best results when jelly is used.

It is very necessary to avoid chill in all manipulations, as the larva are very delicate and easily killed. Speed is therefore very desirable, but it can be attained only with practice.

#### GENERAL.

In either system of queen-rearing when preparing No. 1 hive by placing the queen above the excluder, it often happens that the bees form queen-cells on the brood-frames in the bottom body box. When, therefore, the top box with the queen is removed on the eighth day to a new stand it is necessary to search carefully and remove any such queen-cells that may have been formed, or one's queen-rearing efforts will be a failure.

It only remains to be said that the best results are obtained during a good honey-flow. If no honey is coming in it is advisable to feed heavily.—Journal of Agriculture, June 20th, 1919.

## District Reports.

#### CANTERBURY.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Canterbury branch of the National Beekeepers' Association was held in the Trades Hall on Saturday, Mr H. A. Johnstone (president) in the chair. The annual report and balance-sheet showed a satisfactory state of affairs. A committee was appointed to approach the Christchurch Amateur Beekeepers' Club with a view to an amalgamation of the two associations. A discussion took place concerning the advisability of favouring a relaxation of the Government regulations in regard to the export of liquid honey. The matter was left in the hands of those attending the forthcoming conference in Wellington, where the question will be fully dealt with. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr C. A. Pope; vice-presidents, Messrs A. Johnstone, H. A. Johnstone, W. E. Barker, H. Ireland, and E. G. Ward; secretary, Miss Mackay; treasurer, Mrs E. G. Ward; librarian, Mr H. A. Johnstone; auditor, Mr W. A. Sillifant; reporter, Mr E. G. Ward; committee—Messrs Elvines, Oetgen, and Shaskey.

#### WAIRARAPA.

I have to report that the past season did not come up to expectations, but a fair average per colony was harvested throughout the district. So far we have had a mild winter, frosts and bright, sunny days



predominating. Indications point to an early and boisterous spring, followed by a dry honey season.

Bees are changing hands in every part of the district, and keepers of bees are diminishing in number, while on the other hand the number of commercial beekeepers is growing. Rumour has it that Mr Lenz has sold his apiary business to Mr D. Hoskings, of Masterton.

We are very pleased to learn that in all probability the Wellington district will shortly have the service of two more apiary inspectors. We also learn that the Department is prohibiting the use of petrol tins as honey containers for next season. Present prices, we believe, for 60lb tins are 25/- per doz in Auckland and 24/- per dozen in Christchurch. These prices are prohibitive, and unless the H.P.A. can procure them for their shareholders at a considerably lower figure there is a danger of many putting part of their crop up in petrol tins and selling it on the local market. There is absolutely no reason why tin should be such a price in New Zealand. At present it is more than double the price ruling in Australia; therefore we venture to think it will pay the H.P.A. to import tin plates from Australia and have the same made up for their shareholders.

Reports indicate that the number of colonies in this district will be increased by about one-third next season. We learn that an apiary is to be established on the returned soldiers' training farm at Masterton, but so far we have heard no particulars.

The annual meeting of the Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association was attended by half its members, all the largest commercial men being present. Some lively arguments took place over the alteration of certain of the branch's rules. Many matters of importance had to be left undiscussed on account of a number of those present having to leave by an early train. The balance-sheet showed a substantial credit balance, which was slightly decreased by the meeting voting an honorarium of £5 to the secretary for his past two years' services. The activity of the branch is seriously handicapped by its members being so widely scattered.

Featherston, 11/7/19. H. BENTON.

Dear Sir,—In taking over the secretaryship of our association I would ask your loyal support in helping to hold the position our Association has gained and to increase its membership, by supplying the name of anyone you think might be induced to join. All our members and any new members joining are entitled to Mr. Baines' Handbook, "Beekeeping for Beginners," free of cost.

(Please note address.)

A. H. DAVIES,

Pukeroro Rural Delivery,

Hamilton, July 11th, 1919.

Auckland Pro. Branch National Beekeepers' Association.

#### TAIERI TALK.

We were not at the Conference! Blame the wretched season! We had intended to come, but when we tapped our cash canisters, they gave forth a sound so startlingly hollow that—well, we decided to content ourselves with the Annual Report, which is just to hand.

There is much that is interesting, much that is educational in the Report; but there is one thing of paramount importance to beekeepers in these higher latitudes—the possibility of the next Conference being held at Christchurch. We hope that the Executive will ratify that proposal, for, like the urchin of Pear's soap fame, "we won't be satisfied till we get it!" There will be record attendances then, provided the present "dot-and-carry-one" railway service has slipped into the past along with other nightmares.

The question of apiary boundaries seems destined to bring prematurely grey hairs to heads of our worthy Executive. We have followed the matter closely, and have read articles thereon, ranging from succinct opinions pronounced by members of the Executive to lengthy theses by Mr. Bartlett-Miller, and yet we cannot see a glimmering of light. The question bristles with as many difficulties as a rampageous porcupine! It is clearly seen that no action can be taken to prevent an owner of land from setting up as an apiarist. Now, what is there to prevent a man from buying an acre or two in a district, and after a year or so setting up an apiary? The subterfuge would be within the law should the proposed Bill be passed. Therefore the only man who can be restrained is the leaseholder (or does he come under the title "owner of land"?), or he who is ass enough to state his intentions openly. In any case, is it possible to induce the powers that be to pass such a Bill? The Government would not be equal to the strain imposed by the outcry that would certainly follow in certain quarters. Moreover, the Government will be licking its collective finger to see which way blows the wind before they move. The passing of the Bill rests on the ability of the Executive to raise a healthy draught from their quarter. We have spoken!

We are overjoyed to see that representations are to be made to the Government agent the establishment of an Experimental Apiary in the South Island. The idea has often been discussed, but hitherto no move has been made. We have to thank Mr. Allan for his proposal, and we hope that ere long it will come to fruition.

"The greatest single appliance for beekeeping that has been invented since the extractor and bee comb foundation"—the aluminium honey-comb. See the advertisement in the American Bee Journal. Has anyone in New Zealand ventured to experiment with them yet? The opinion of experienced men is, of course, that they are foredoomed to failure: which is very likely.

Still, they are surely worth a trial. The advertisement is decorated with the usual amount of Yankee boost; but clear away that lumber and look at the bare facts, and you will see that there are possibilities in the invention—merely possibilities, though. What about the State Bee Farm making a trial?

It is rather early to speak yet, but everything points to the Beginners' Handbook being a roaring success. Abundance of congratulations to the Editor.

Did you hear about him who

“Walked among the bees with nothing to defend,  
Sometimes he sat on them,  
But truth to tell they stung him in the end!”

We think it is a case of “Verb sap.”

BASIL H. HOWARD.

## Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

Those complimentary remarks by the editor at the recent conference concerning my contributions to the Journal have completely taken the “wind out of my sails.” I had hoped to be able to take a back seat after last conference—for a time, anyway;—but now, what am I to do? Just peg away, I suppose, and do my best to retain a good reputation. Well, if I fall short of expectations, I must ask readers to be merciful and lay the blame on the Editor—not on me.

Am I glad I went to the conference? “I should smile.” Did it pay? Rather! Each conference is an improvement on the previous one, but I suppose a time will come when it is impossible to improve, and then we must see to it that we don't deteriorate. I was sorry to miss a few familiar faces, notably Mr R. H. Nelson; but as an offset there was the pleasure of meeting my old friend, Mr J. B. Adams. I had hoped Mr Bartlett Miller would have been present to redeem his promise made two years ago in reference to mating queens to particular drones. I wonder if he is sorry he made that promise. At any rate his illness has given him a year longer to experiment, and we must be patient for a year. I see one of the Wellington papers credits us with having passed a vote of condolence by “acclamation.” Surely the reporter, being hemmed in by so many beemen, must have got “a bee in his bonnet.” Those who heard Mr Miller's letter of apology for absence read will understand the joke, and those who didn't must just guess, and kick themselves for staying away.

In my last report I commented on the dry weather prevailing in Canterbury. Since then we have had a fair amount of moisture, and the prospects for next season have improved considerably. Snow fell on June 25 and 26 to a depth of about an inch in Christchurch, and did not disappear for nearly a week. Of course there was much more on the hills. Since then we have had rain on and off for about a fortnight, and the ground has had a good soaking.

I see our inspector has been “on the job” in the Ashburton district, and a couple of beekeepers have been before the “beak” for failing to keep bees in properly constructed frame hives, and also for failing to register. Number one pleaded ignorance of the law, and was convicted and discharged for keeping bees in improper hives. He had to pay costs only for failing to register, and in excusing himself said he “did not think it was necessary.” Number two tried to excuse himself by saying he was “waiting for forms” of registration, which the inspector had promised to supply. Mr. Earp pointed out that these were obtainable at the Post Office. The magistrate was unsympathetic, however, and it cost him five bob in each case. More power to your elbow, Mr Earp. Rub it in.

I had an experience last season which may be of interest to some readers of the Journal. It may also, possibly, “fetch” Mr. Bartlett-Miller. Now for it. I had occasion to examine a hive which I suspected was queenless, and in examining the frames, instead of being queenless I found—what do you think?—a virgin queen and a beautiful yellow drone “cuddling” each other. The word I have used is the only one I can think of to express the actions of the two. I had Mrs Ward with me at the time, and she will corroborate me. Well, I “sat up and took notice,” you may be sure. I thought for the moment “Here's ocular demonstration that mating takes place within the hive.” No chance. I examined the hive a few days later, and her ladyship was gone. I successfully introduced a queen later on. What do you think about it, Mr. Miller?

I am sorry to learn that we are to lose the services of Mr. Winter as inspector. I understand he is going to join another returned soldier and launch out in the commercial way. I can only hope our loss will be his gain; and I am sure I am not alone in wishing him and his “pardner” a good season to start off with.

I learn on the highest authority—namely, Mr T. W. Kirk,—that instructions have been sent to the honey graders that petrol tins are not to be allowed for export of honey next season. I learn that new tins will likely be obtainable at very reasonable prices before next season's crop is ready so that there is now no need to risk spoiling our good name by using converted petrol tins. I'm not shedding any tears over it, either. I'm wondering if it would not be possible for the H.P.A. to arrange to supply all shareholders with necessary tins

for the coming season, and do away with each one of us "bumming round" to see where he or she can make the best deal. Wholesale orders placed with reliable firms in the large centres ought to mean some slight advantage, and is certainly in line with the co-operative idea which is the "sheet anchor" of the H.P.A.

In May "Gleanings," page 313, Mel Pritchard—Root's queen breeder—says he believes that the hatching of queen bees' eggs can be retarded by regulation of temperature, presumably by the bees. Well, why not? Everybody knows that hens, ducks', and turkeys' eggs are not necessarily "new-laid" to ensure hatching, so, arguing by analogy, the proposition seems reasonable enough. Who's going to try it out? Here's a chance for some of you aspiring scientific beemen.

## Beekeepers' Exchange.

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

### FRAMES FOR SALE.

The Best Simplicity Frames, 1 1-16 in. top bar, cut from first-class timber.

Price, 15/- per hundred. Narrower top bar if required. Sample on application to

CORBETT & KIRK,  
Te Rapa, Hamilton.

### NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I have ESTABLISHED a COMMERCIAL APIARY at Tuakau, Waikato, and will ESTABLISH OUT-APIARIES this Spring.

P. A. HILLARY.

WANTED, a Two-Frame HONEY EXTRACTOR in good order.

Send price and particulars to

R. N. SADLER,  
Broadwood, Hokianga.

### HONEY IMPORTS.

The registered value of honey imported into the United Kingdom during the month of March, 1919, was £200,781.—From a return furnished by the Statistical Office, H.M. Customs.—British Bee Journal, April, 1919.

When children come home from the pictures  
Through the damp of a winter's night,  
All parents who care and of colds beware,  
Take measures to keep them right.  
They tuck them warm and snug in bed,  
For of croupy colds they've needful dread;  
At signs of such to make things sure,  
They give them Woods' Peppermint Cure.

## Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—To partly experienced beekeepers your series of questions are very interesting and practical, and your suggestion of publishing answers would, to those like myself, be of greatest help, solving many of our troubles, for your questions comprise the beginner's stumbling blocks.

I have been a journalist, and through ill-health have just taken up apiculture, and I would like to compliment you on the extremely bright and comradely tone of your Journal. It makes one feel it is written personally for himself.—I am, &c.,

P. A. HILLARY.

Tuakau, 16th July, 1919.

Sir,—On leaving New Zealand I would like, through the medium of the Journal, to bid good-bye to those friends to whom I have been unable to do so in person. I have made many friends amongst the bee-keeping fraternity during my 10 years' sojourn in New Zealand, and it has given me very great pleasure to have done my little bit in getting the industry put upon a better footing than it was when I arrived here. I may say I have received a commission from the H.P.A. to the B. and D. "to look into matters in regard to the methods adopted for the marketing of our honey at Home, and also to make inquiries in regard to the method adopted for advertising our honey." I therefore trust I may be of some service to New Zealand honey production, although absent from its shores, to which it is quite within the bounds of possibility I may return after a time spent in the Old Country. Should anyone care to communicate with me a letter addressed, care of Editor British Beekeepers' Journal, Bedford street, Strand, London, W.C., will find me.—I am, etc.,

W. HOOPER TEED.

[Good-bye and bon voyage to you, friend Teed. We shall miss you from our midst. Please don't forget we shall be interested in your doings whilst in England, so please drop a line occasionally.—Ed.]

Sir,—What do you think of this stab in the back to our proposed measure to prevent dirty tricks by bee pirates? I have written to the Editor of the Auckland Weekly News protesting against the false description of the proposed measure, and hope other beekeepers will do the same.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES J. HALLETT.

"Raumati," Te Teko, Bay of Plenty.  
8th July, 1919.

### APIARY BOUNDARIES.

It has been advocated by some of our beekeepers, and was passed by resolution at the conference, that legislation should be sought enabling the first beekeeper in

any district to claim the rights within certain boundaries of all bee forage, which practically means all vegetation, grown within such boundaries. To understand the full import of this it may be well to state that the area to be reserved, as will be requested by those who advocate the measure, will not be less than one and a-half mile radius, and is more likely to be two miles, from the specified apiary. In the lesser area there are 4425 acres, and in the larger 8030 acres, and within the area the legislature decided upon, if such a Bill were passed, no other apiary, however small, would be allowed."

What this means is that the beekeeper who happens to be first in a district can debar all the farmers, orchardists, and settlers within such boundaries from keeping bees. In a measure, he would own all the crops and pastures in the district for the purpose of honey-raising, though he only owned or rented enough ground to locate his hives upon. The proposition is so iniquitous that I am surprised any body of men could support such a suggestion. Several experienced beekeepers at the conference, including the president, opposed this measure; but notwithstanding this a committee was appointed to draft a Bill, and it was reported that the Solicitor-General and the Director of the Department of Agriculture, Dr Reakes, were not averse to supporting it. It, therefore, remains for all farmers, orchardists, and reasonable beekeepers to oppose such an outrageous measure in every legitimate way possible. I shall refer to the matter again as occasion requires.—Cutting from Auckland Weekly News, 3rd July, 1919.

[Don't worry, friend Hallett. "Apis" has read a bit more into the proposed legislation than is suggested. It is unfortunate that such statements should appear in a paper such as the Auckland Weekly News, as they would give the impression that we beekeepers are asking for something very extraordinary.—Ed.]

Sir.—I received a couple more copies of the B.K. Journal the other day, and read them with great interest. I am still instructing here, the classes numbering about 25 on an average. Quite a number express the intention of following up beekeeping when they return, so I flatter myself I am getting in some good work. On Major Norton's invitation I took a party of 23 "diggers" to visit the B. and D. packing depot at Bristol a fortnight ago. We were very kindly entertained, the Major treating the boys to lunch, after which we were shown over the depot, and then addressed on honey matters, state of the market over here, etc. I was fortunate in seeing our honey being unpacked, and was agreeably surprised at the tip-top way in which it was opening up. The benzine tins did not seem to be in the least detrimental. The honey I saw was No. 44 or 48—I don't just remember which. The tins had been lacquered, and were not a bit rusted, and

the honey was perfect. Unfortunately one number had a lot of honey fermented, and this is not being sold under our name. The market over here is flooded just now with honey, some speculators having lost fortunes and gone through the mill, and, consequently, with increased sugar imports, the bottom has more or less dropped out. Major Norton tells us that he is getting 2/6 to 3/- a dozen (pound pots) more for N.Z. honey than any other honey is selling at, in consequence of our having got a good name and an established footing with good houses. They won't look at anything else when N.Z.H.P.A. is to be got. I saw our honey on sale at Exeter when on a visit there—quite an attractive display in the grocer's window.

I had a rather interesting experience some little time ago. I was told of a large apiary at Buckfastleigh, and some of us cycled out one afternoon. The place is past Totnes, up the River Dart, the bees being kept by monks at Buckfast Abbey. They have about 100 colonies, kept as up to date as any that I have ever seen at home.

The control of Isle of Wight disease is what interested me most. They have been able to save their bees when nearly all others have died out, and do a first-class trade in selling nuclei and shook swarms. Nuclei sell at £2 10s. per three-frame strength. The man in charge said that they had had losses, but more among the black bees and gave the Italians credit for being more immune. They spray disinfectants on and about the hives after the bees have made a cleansing flight, the spores of the disease being spread through the excreta.

Another point of interest was their methods of queen-rearing, the cells being kept in incubators between the time of capping and hatching.

The hive I have at the school is doing famously—in fact, preparing to swarm. To-morrow, if warm enough, I am giving a demonstration in grafting queen-cells. The bees are the quietest I have ever seen: veils and smoke are not needed, and so far no one has been stung. I wonder would they act the same in Taranaki?

Well, I expect to be sailing end of June or the beginning of July, and intend to have a trip to Scotland first if leave will allow. At Exeter a friend and self cycled through North Devon, visiting Barnstaple, Bideford, Hfracombe, Clovelly, and Lynmouth, also Exeter and other places on the way home, so you see we don't do ourselves badly.

Have had no word as yet from New Zealand as to how the season went, but gather from reports from weekly papers and Beekeepers' Journals that it wasn't anything to write home about. Hoping to see you in the near future. Kind regards.—I am, &c.,

ALLAN R. BATES.

May 10, 1919.

## (TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I would just like to emphasise a timely remark of Mr. Penny's in your last issue, and one which I think should appeal to all shareholders of the H.P.A. as being unfair, and that is the fact that the North Island is now only represented by two directors. Firstly, I would like to refer to the determined attempt in the South to bring this state of affairs into existence prior to the last adjourned annual meeting. Whether this was the direct intention of the southern shareholders as a whole or the result of wilful misrepresentation we who live so far away can only make a guess. I have unfortunately to record the fact that certain directors of our Company have been subjected to very unfair criticism, and certain statements which were made at different centres in the South Island where meetings were convened were positively untrue. An apology having been forthcoming in the particular instance where a southern member of the directorate is concerned, I beg leave to present the most prominent features of unfairness as they appear to me, and which concerns the northern directors particularly. It will be remembered that during May last several meetings were held at various places in the south, and at these certain reflections were cast upon the northern directors which were quite unfair and uncalled for. Whether we have been guilty or not of any maladministration, I do not wish to discuss here, but I will say that we should be given an opportunity of refuting such unjust misrepresentations as have been sown broadcast by an irresponsible individual or individuals. The Conference of shareholders held annually at Wellington is just the place to ventilate any supposed or real grievances, and no one would be placed at any disadvantage by making good use of the opportunity so afforded; but a vast amount of good would come of having all misunderstandings thrashed out. Any person or persons desiring a seat on the directorate, or for other private reasons, such as prejudice, could in a short space of time sow the seed of distrust of the northern members without their knowledge, and consequently discord would result. I think it is only fair and right that each Island should have equal representation on the directorate as near as possible, and each should respect the other's rights in that respect, exceptional ability only to be an exception to the rule. If this is not done the result will be continued strife between the Islands, and the one with the highest voting-power holding the reins of the H.P.A., with the inevitable result that a split between the two will eventually take place, and the one will then be in competition with the other. This we must avoid at all costs, and endeavour to work in harmony with each other, to our mutual benefit. We invite fair, friendly criticism, and we do not claim infallibility, but we are earnest in our desire to do the best for the shareholders and the industry in general, and any slur, uttered for personal benefit is naturally felt very keenly, and I am of opinion that had the northern

directors not been subjected to unjust ridicule during the recent organised meetings held in the South, the two Islands would now have the equal representation which I so strongly advocate.

Not wishing to further monopolise this column I would just like to remind the Southern shareholders that although we live in another Island, our best efforts are used in the administration of the Company's affairs, to the best of our ability, and with the utmost impartiality.—I am, &c.,

E. W. SAGE.

Ohaupo, 15/7/19.

## THE POLICY OF THE JOURNAL.

## (TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In reference to the remit from the Wairarapa Branch of the National Beekeepers Association to the recent Conference of the latter, I wish to bring before your notice that many beekeepers in the Wairarapa strongly resent the manner in which the Conference received the remit. The fact that the remit was fully discussed and passed unanimously at the annual meeting of the above Branch was not taken into consideration at all. Why? Because one short-sighted person thought that the remit indicated that we had no confidence in the management of the Journal. The delegates of our Branch were so dumbfounded and disgusted at this view being taken of the remit that they wisely said nothing on the matter.

We contend that the policy of the Journal is not what it should be, and that the Editor should have the help and advice of the Executive of the National in defining the policy thereof, "several heads being better than one, even if they are only sheeps'." All men do not think alike, and one man may take an entirely different view of a matter from everybody else; hence the judgment of several on a matter that concerns many is not only desirable but necessary to successful management.

Our chief bone of contention against the policy of the Journal is that advertisements from competitors of the H.P.A. continue to appear in the Journal, which, in our opinion, are derogatory to the interests of the shareholders thereof. And, mind you, the shareholders of the H.P.A. are members of the National almost to a man. We are told that competition for our honey is healthy. We are told, and by a director of the H.P.A., that to refuse advertisements from competitors of the H.P.A. would be to admit that we were afraid of competition. Competition for our honey, I must admit, is healthy, providing the honey goes through the hands of the H.P.A. first. Competition for our honey before the H.P.A. get it is decidedly unhealthy, and I do not hesitate to admit that I am afraid of it—not only for myself, but chiefly for the interests of our industry and our organisation. If the H.P.A. had not been afraid of competition, why was



it necessary for them to make shareholders sign a binding contract? Let us look facts square in the face, and the majority of readers will agree with me that we are afraid of competition for our honey before it passes into the hands of the H.P.A., and that under the circumstances it is decidedly unhealthy; and that being so, advertisements from competitors of the H.P.A. should not appear in our Journal, as it is inconsistent with the professed policy of the National, in running the Journal, in the best interests of the beekeeper, and thereby furthering and promoting the interests of our industry.

Let me say that nothing in the remit was intended to imply that we were dissatisfied with the management of the Journal in the person of Mr. Baines; nothing, in fact, was further from the minds of those present at the annual meeting of the Wairarapa Branch. Our earnest desire is to aid Mr. Baines to raise the standard of the Journal to the highest degree possible, and it was with that idea uppermost in our minds that the remit was drafted and forwarded to the Conference.

In regard to Mr. Ireland's remarks at the Conference, it is to be hoped that in future he will stop and consider before voicing an opinion, and not be too hasty in jumping at conclusions. Our late President, Mr. Barker, who presided at the Conference, also took the same view as Mr. Ireland, as he stated that he thought the remit was uncalled for, and dropped the matter accordingly.

It is now up to readers of the Journal, members of the National, and shareholders of the H.P.A. to decide whether the remit was uncalled for or not.

I conclude now, hoping that more able pens than mine will take the matter up.—I am, &c.,

H. BENTON.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The Journal was a little late arriving, but it was nevertheless well worth waiting for, especially the Conference Report. I quite agree with Mr. Simpson in all he had to say about the half-super, especially if a colony is just about strong enough to store a few pounds of surplus. If the super is a full-depth one, you will find the combs thin, no matter how they are spaced, and in this district difficult to extract, whether early or late honey.—I am, &c.,

H. THOMAS.

Waikumete.

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There's nothing like butter for bread,  
 There's nothing like leather for boots,  
 There's nothing for bullets like lead,  
 There's nothing grows timber like roots.  
 On foregone conclusions like these,  
 To argue is cussedness pure;  
 'Tis as certain for colds you'll find cause  
 In Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Dear Sir,—I would feel indebted to you if you will allow me to answer a few who have not fully understood the working of my melter. As I have mentioned before, I am not a second Miller in speech, and perhaps have not conveyed a clear understanding of it.

First, let me say to Mr. Clayton if he cannot recommend a better melter than the old type that nearly all beekeepers of a few years experience have laid aside, he had better stand aside with his pot melter, and leave the field of progress to those who are more progressive. One or two said it was not fast enough. To these I would say in answer, if it did not come up to what you expected, what are the conditions you worked under? If you have put it through faster in any other melter, and compare with the following: Were the combs cold and partly granulated? Was it summer or winter? Was it done with steam generated indoors or outdoors? and was it a type of melter that will do its best work at the start? For these are the conditions I worked under: First, the melter as used was not put to a test of fast work, as I do not recommend it with an indoor boiler for wholesale comb melting for this reason: the construction of the melter is not perfect to get the full advantage of the lamps used, but is perfect to get the full advantage of an outdoor boiler. The reason it does not get the best possible advantage of lamps I will explain later, as I have now a melter to get the full benefit of the lamps indoors (as the melter demonstrated does not do this); but on the other hand, it is as a combined melter as good or better in this respect as any other melter known. I have another melter in view that I know will give more satisfactory results as a combined melter; but the one I demonstrated, to show it at its best, wants a good volume of steam through it from an outdoor boiler; and with regard to working the wax and honey, it comes up to its best after an hour or two from starting; then the trough is heated in all parts, and gives better results. The little I put through it—anyone who stood near would observe that it did not more than a quarter fill it, and did not cover half the available melting surface, but it condensed practically all the steam. Now then, fill it up and give more steam, and you will see it going as fast again at least, but more lightly—twice that, as the combs with more weight on them between the wedged surface would melt proportionately quicker; so if you want to melt up a crop of non-extractable honey, I can honestly say you will not get as good a machine as this melter, taking into consideration all desirable points. Mr. Johnson's may or may not be better—as I have not seen it, I cannot express an opinion.—I am, &c., C. SMEDLEY.

Te Awamutu, 16/6/19.

P.S.—Some seem to think the wax would cool in the trough. This is under the control of the operator. If more heat is required, he has the means at hand to regulate it accordingly.—C.S.

## Prosecution under the Apiaries Act.

F. A. Jacobsen, inspector under the above Act, proceeded against Frank Baker, Frankley road, for failing to transfer his bees from box hives to the proper frame hives. The inspector stated that it was impossible for the bees to be properly inspected in the box hives, and consequently disease could not be detected. The industry was a very good rural one for Taranaki, and was developing; and it was essential that it should be protected. He hoped a substantial penalty would be imposed, as a warning to others. A fine of £2 (costs 7/-) was inflicted.

## Use of Petrol Tins for Export of Honey.

Department of Agriculture, Industries, and  
Commerce, Horticulture Division.  
Wellington, 8th July, 1919.

Mr F. C. Baines,

Secretary National Beekeepers' Association,  
Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

Dear Sir,—For your information. The following is a copy of instructions sent to the honey graders.—Yours faithfully,

T. W. KIRK,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

As you know, owing to the great scarcity of tin plate, petrol tins have been allowed to be used during the last year or two for the export of honey, provided, of course, that proper lids were supplied.

This concession has only been made from season to season. I now find that the quotations for good export tins are as follows:—

Auckland, 25/- per dozen.

Christchurch and Dunedin, 24/- per dozen, both with a falling tendency.

There will, therefore, be no justification whatever for the relaxation of the regulations for the season 1920.

I was recently at the Palmerston North Show, and found that one of the export cases entered for competition contained two tins, both of which were prominently branded "Big Tree Benzine." I purposely stood near this exhibit for nearly one hour listening to the remarks made by the visitors. The packing of honey in petrol tins met with very severe condemnation indeed; quite a number stating that that would put them off honey for many a day. If this is the view of the colonials, what must we expect from English people, who naturally expect high-grade honey to be got up in the very best style?

You will kindly intimate to those concerned that petrol tins will not be allowed for export next season, there being, as already stated, no possible justification for their use.

T. W. KIRK,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

## Apiary Sites on Land Thrown Open for Selection.

Department of Agriculture, Industries, and  
Commerce, Horticulture Division.

Wellington, 8th July, 1919.

Mr F. C. Baines,

Secretary National Beekeepers' Association,  
Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

Dear Sir,—

At the recent conference you mentioned that the Auckland Commissioner of Crown Lands had stated they could not allot apiary sites which had been reserved because they were waiting for the Agricultural Department to recommend regulations.

I was sure that this was incorrect, and on making inquiries I find that suggestions were made by our Auckland officer and were submitted to the Lands Department by this office. They were as follows:—

1. "The lessee shall within one year from the dates of the lease establish upon the land not less than 25 colonies of bees, and within two years from the date of the least not less than 50 colonies in all, and shall thereafter at all times during the term of the lease maintain upon the land not less than 50 colonies in all, and manage and work the land under his own personal conduct and supervision as an apiary according to the best principles of beekeeping and to the satisfaction of the apiary experts of the Department of Agriculture.

"Any failure to do so will be treated as a breach of the conditions of the lease, rendering it liable to forfeiture.

2. "Applicants will be required to produce evidence that they have previously been practically engaged in beekeeping, or that they have undergone a full course of instruction in the same."

I promptly recommended the adoption of the above, and the Lands Department was informed of this on the 17th February last.—Yours faithfully,

T. W. KIRK,

Director of the Horticulture Division.

[The remarks made by the Editor at conference were the actual facts of personal experience in May, 1918. It is evident from the above that it is not the Department of Agriculture that is at fault now. We are expecting to hear from the Minister of Lands on the matter, and have no doubt that these sites will soon be available.—Ed.]



## 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 ten 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 bhoy, 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, some one 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 "zackly" what Mr. Bumble once styled English Law. What's that? Why, "The Law," says Mr. Bumble—"the law's a base!" 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 "langwidgo" 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 laugh!

### 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 joke 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.

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**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.)

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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.

## Spring has Come.

The time to overhaul your apiary has arrived. Before you decide upon your policy for the coming season consider

**First, that Honey is nearly twice its pre-war value.**

**Second, that in order to get the best return from your bees good equipment in sufficient quantities is necessary.**

**Third, that 'Alliance' hives and Supplies are the very best.**

After having considered these three facts you will be forced to the conclusion that a sound policy would be to increase your apiary to the utmost limit of the capacity of your district, using 'Alliance' goods only.

Agents in the principal centres carry full stocks or you may order direct from the factory.

**ALLIANCE BOX CO., Ltd.,**

**Manufacturers of Beekeepers' Supplies,**

**P.O. BOX 572, DUNEDIN.**

New Illustrated Catalogue ready August 20th.

## **BENTON CAPPING AND COMB-HONEY REDUCERS**

**Can now be had in two sizes—one size for cappings, and one for both cappings and comb-honey.**

*Extracts from letters received, etc.:*—

"With cappings your machine works like a charm, taking them as fast as they drop from the knife."—MR. A. B. TRUTHALL, State Apiary, Raukura.

"Your machine is the best of the lot, and I have tried them all."—MR. H. BEALE, Masterton.

"I don't care how much thick honey I get now."—R. H. NELSON, Martinborough.

"Your machine reduces cappings splendidly."—MR. C. F. HORN, Waibau.

"Your machine gives every satisfaction."—E. SHAW, Okato.

"The best machine on the market."—J. M. RUSSELL, South Featherston.

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**AND MANY OTHERS.**

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