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# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

SEPTEMBER 1st, 1919

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



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# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 9

VOL. 3

5/- PER ANNUM.

## National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

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

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## EDITORIAL.

September and Spring! We wonder if there is any other industry in which those engaged look forward to the opening of the season with so much hopefulness as beekeepers. How keen we are to see how the bees have wintered and the state they are in for building up, which is now just starting. In other industries, such as fruit-growing, poultry-raising, dairying, etc., one's stock in trade is in view the whole time, and there is no uncertainty as to what is happening. But with ours, our

stock has not been seen for four or five months, and many things may have happened.

We do not know exactly how the weather has been in other parts of the Dominion, but in the Editor's district we have had a very mild winter indeed—in fact, pollen has been gathered almost the whole time. In June and July fair quantities were coming in, chiefly from the wattles which abound in this locality.

On August 8th—a glorious sunny day—the Editor's hands itched, and the only things to cure the complaint were a smoker and hive tool. Apparently breeding had

been going on all through the winter, as the hives were all in splendid "nick"—in fact, we have never seen bees open up so well thus early in the season. Bees covering six to eight frames, with three and four frames of brood in all stages, and in two or three the bees were well spread over the twelve frames, these containing six frames of brood—(The Editor uses twelve-frame hives.)

Now, why did the bees open up so well? Certainly we have had a mild winter, but we have had them before, yet the bees haven't opened so well. The chief reason we are sure, is that plenty of stores were left when closing down for the winter—more, in fact, than we usually do, there being on an average about 5lb. of honey.

But you may say the bees don't need that amount. Granted; they don't; but we are convinced that Doolittle was absolutely right when he said that to get the bees into condition was to give them the idea that "there are millions of honey in our house."

At any rate, these two facts stand out clearly—more honey than usual was left, and the bees opened up in the spring better than usual.

This doctrine of abundance of winter stores is, of course, not new, but it cannot be emphasised too often. There is no substitute that has the necessary elements for raising bees that can be compared with honey, and the more we can give the bees for that purpose the better.

We believe it is being recognised more and more every year by those who are in a position to judge that it is an absolute necessity to save a number of well-filled sealed combs of honey for use in the spring. Apart from the superiority of the food, by leaving these combs the messy and often dangerous job (from the effects of setting up robbing) of feeding syrup is eliminated. There is nothing so easy as taking out an empty frame and replacing it with a good frame of honey; no bothering with feeders; no cause for disturbance among the bees; and the assurance that you have done the very best possible thing.

If you do not want these combs of honey for feeding purposes, then they will give you excellent service if when placing on your first super you put one in the centre and bruise the capping; you will find they have been a splendid bait to draw the bees from the crowded brood chamber.

In the American Bee Journal for July there is an excellent article by G. F. White, Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D.C., headed "Some Observations on Nosema Disease."

We regret we cannot reprint it, with its excellent illustrations, but must be content with one or two extracts that we feel would be interesting to our readers.

"Since Nosema disease has affected apiaries as much in the past as at present it

is of interest to know the name used by beekeepers for the condition to which losses due to it are attributed. Early during the writer's studies it was observed that the highest percentage of Nosema-infected bees were present in weak colonies. This fact led to the request made of beekeepers in different sections of the country for adult bees from weak colonies. Out of about 150 samples received in reply fully one half of them contained Nosema-infected bees. Nine well-informed beekeepers among those sending samples were asked concerning the name by which the disease condition was known to them. Of these, three replied 'spring dwindling,' two 'not spring dwindling,' two said 'weak colonies,' and one wrote 'I don't know.'

"That the following names have been used in one or more countries, and from time to time, for the disorder that is produced by Nosema Apis is very probable. Dysentery, paralysis, palsy, spring dwindling, dropsy, disappearing trick, and Isle of Wight disease. To this list the beekeeper most likely could add many more."

"Bees from spring-dwindling colonies were requested also from beekeepers. Out of thirty-eight samples received only fifteen contained Nosema-infected bees. In reply to requests for bees from hives in which colonies had died during the winter nineteen samples were received, and seven of them contained Nosema-infected bees. Out of five samples taken from colonies which beekeepers had diagnosed as suffering from paralysis no bees were found infected."

"A word should be said in regard to Isle of Wight disease in order to allay any possible uneasiness which might be felt in America regarding it. The writer has not encountered during his studies any condition which causes the losses which have been attributed to Isle of Wight disease in England. Certainly Nosema-disease does not cause such losses in America. Since the Isle of Wight disease does not seem to be in America fear by American beekeepers is scarcely justifiable at the present time."

In the first paragraph quoted the most significant sentence to us is, "Out of 150 samples received (from weak colonies) fully one half of them contained Nosema-infected bees." The slogan, "Keep your colonies strong," fits in well just here.

We think there is very little doubt that we in New Zealand are not free from the Nosema-disease. Certainly the Editor has seen amongst his own bees the symptoms—bees with a greasy, shiny appearance, evidently in distress, crawling about the front of the hive on the bottom board, with numbers of dead bees about. He, like others, has put it down to some unknown complaint, and as in every case the hive did not dwindle, but came along quite naturally, the trouble, whatever it was, could not be considered a serious one.

The last paragraph quoted should quieten any fears that may exist in the beekeepers

here, as, favoured by a much better climate, than America, we do not think there is much probability of the disease getting a hold here.

By the way, if the resolution passed at Conference relating to the embargo on the importation of queen bees from countries where the Isle of Wight disease exists, be acted upon by the Department it will mean that queens cannot be imported from America, for the article referred to indicates that it exists there without a shadow of doubt.

In our opinion, the terrible mortality from the disease amongst the bees in England is largely due to the climate. The Editor knows the climate too well, and since being interested in bees in New Zealand has often marvelled that successful beekeeping was at all possible in the Old Country. One thing is certain, that the native English bee must have been a very hardy race, and great workers when they had the chance; and it is a pity the race has been practically wiped out by this terrible scourge. We are absolutely certain that commercial beekeeping as carried on in New Zealand is impossible in England, simply for the fact that the climate will not allow it.

We want to draw the particular attention of our readers to the fact that our list of subscribers to the Journal is not increasing—rather the reverse,—and we are getting concerned about it. We go earnestly ask all our friends to introduce our little publication to any that are interested in bees. The Editor will be grateful for names and addresses to which specimen copies may be sent.

We are making the offer of one year's subscription to the Journal, and a copy of the Beginner's Handbook, post free, for 6/-, and trust this will help matters. Please do your best.

We are exceedingly pleased to announce the formation of another branch of the National in Hastings, H.B. Mr H. Shepherd, the secretary, whose address is Hastings P.O., will be glad to enrol those in the district. We look to our friends in Napier and the surrounding districts to rally round and make the branch a large and live one.

This example should prompt others in districts where the National is not represented to get together for mutual improvement and the furtherance of our industry. Judging from the number of subscribers to the Journal in Blenheim and Nelson, we are sure branches could be formed in both these places if one would take the initiative to get the matter started. Who will?

Now the winter months are over we are not giving any further questions. These we hope to continue next winter.

We are very gratified with the result of our experiment, the questions having proved to be a great assistance to the branches that used them as a programme for winter meetings. People at all interested in beekeeping, when they join a branch expect to get a little education on the subject, and we do not know any better method than discussing these questions.

## Market Reports.

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

Auckland.—Prices unchanged; market quiet; bees wintering well.—G. V. Westbrook.

Wellington.—The present weather conditions are largely paving the way for another successful season for the commercial honey producer. The wet weather is seasonable, and very necessary to the agriculturist as a foundation for summer growth, and helps the honey producer by ensuring a good stand of clover and nectar-yielding flora. The present evidence points to an early spring, the acacias having been in full bloom in some districts for more than a week. This in turn will enable cleansing flights to be made by the bees, thus assisting healthy conditions in the apiary. Although the rainfall has been below the average up to the present, growth has been such as to lead one to form a favourable opinion of the future prospects.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—A few small lines are still coming forward for export. The market is bare of supplies. Prices are firm.—E. A. Earp.

## Work for the Winter Months.

By FRED C. BAINES.

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

26. Replace frame and close hive. Do not open again for at least half an hour. It is also advisable not to be working near the hive during that time, as the queen might possibly return to the hive you are working at and get killed.
27. By a long pointed body and comparatively short wings. With Italians the queen is usually a light shade of brown without markings, and is thus more easily distinguished from the workers and drones, they having striped bodies.

28. Presuming the change is being made by the cage method, the first thing to do is to find and kill the old queen; then hang the cage containing the new queen between two frames in the centre of the hive, from which she is released either by the bees or beekeeper after 48 hours.
29. Drone eggs only.
30. According to the strength of the hive and time of year found to be queenless. In the early spring a weak colony should be united with a queen-right, by placing on top, first putting a sheet of newspaper between with a few holes punched through with a nail. Late spring and fairly strong colony should have either a queen cell or young queen given. If neither are available, keep the strength of the colony up by giving one or two frames of brood until either is procured. Should a hive with a good Italian be preparing to swarm, use a cell from it. A queenless hive in the mid-season can be used for making nuclei. In the fall a queenless hive can be united to a nucleus, which will make a good strong colony for wintering.
31. Piping, or "quabbling" as it is termed by Americans, is a noise made by the young queens hatched and those just ready to emerge from their cells. If heard in a hive it indicates that a swarm may be expected from that hive the first fine day.
32. Assuming the prime swarm issued on the day the first queen cell was capped over (the eighth), there would be no queen in the hive for another seven or eight days.
33. Foundation can only be worked out into comb whilst honey is being stored above the requirements of the hive for brood-rearing.
34. Chiefly the spring. If there is no natural place for the bees to gather water, shallow troughs having either stones or slats of wood for foothold for the bees should be placed in the apiary. It is advisable to get the water so placed located by the bees early, so that they do not become a nuisance to the neighbours by flying about pumps, cattle troughs, etc. A small quantity of salt added to the water is appreciated by the bees.
35. Bees idling by hanging in a cluster on the front of the hive indicate they are crowded for room, and unless extra supers are put on at once swarming will eventuate. Should a hive be found where the bees are idling, look through the brood chamber before putting on super, and tear down any queen cells that may have been started.

"When lights burn low" where sweet babe sleeps,  
While grateful mother vigil keeps,  
Watching it breathing calm and free,  
Her pet that yet the morn shall see—  
O, what relief and joy is known  
Where croup is foiled and overthrown;  
What gratitude and blessing pure,  
Evoked by Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

## Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—SEPT.

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

In most parts of the country a very mild winter has been experienced, therefore where the bees have been left with plenty of stores the hives, which can now be examined on fine warm days, will show rather more brood than usual.

Weak queenless colonies should be united with queen-right ones by the newspaper method.

Clear all grass and weeds away from the hives, so that the air can get to them; damp hives are not good for the bees.

Look through your stock of appliances and place your order for the season's requirements early; don't wait until you are needing them before ordering.

Look out all faulty hives, covers, etc. Repair them, and if possible give a coat of paint.

If water from a natural source is not handy, provide by placing shallow troughs having slats of wood or stones for a foothold for the bees. A little salt added to the water is very good for the bees.

## Spring Management.

By H. R. PENNY.

The most critical time of the season has now arrived. The main points to remember are as follows:—Don't tinker with poor queens. If you find a queen is poor, and cannot replace her, it is better to unite the poor colony and destroy the queen and divide later in the season—for preference in the fall. These poor colonies are only a waste of time, and in districts like ours a serious drain on the syrup tin.

Decide carefully when is the most reasonable time to expect your main flow to start. This decided, try and retard brood-rearing by modest issue of stores, so that queens will not exert themselves and colonies become too strong too early, and then fail to respond again.

This should be continued until about six weeks off the anticipated flow, and at that time colonies should be in an even state and of moderate strength—to be ideal, say, about five or six frames of brood and about eight frames of bees.

Then is the time to stir them along. If Nature does not supply a good spring flow, get to work and give them the syrup—good white sugar. About 50lb to 60lb of water to a 70lb bag of sugar is a good mixture and saves a lot of hauling as against thin stuff.

See that every colony has either sealed stores or a continued flow, and never gets below 10lb of stores.

Three weeks later the young bees from the seeding-up will commence to hatch. Give them another round of syrup if necessary; and as soon as it is safely stored, if you have ten frame hives it will be necessary to put on a super; also with the strongest of the 12 frame, lifting up a couple of frames of brood into the centre of the super. This will not only start the queen upstairs and ensure a double dose of bees when the flow starts, but will tend to stop swarming.

These operations will require careful judgment according to local circumstances and strength, but the main point to remember is to endeavour to have as many colonies as possible at the very top of their form (and not past) when the season opens.

## Control of Foulbrood.

By H. C. WEDDE.

In writing up a method or appliance I always consider the method and appliance must fit the man. Thus we have an advocate of half-depth frames in Mr Simpson and an advocate of full-depth frames in Mr Penny; and yet we may grant that both are right, because the different appliances suit the different men; so if the reader finds favour in the following control, or can alter it to suit himself, let him do so, and good luck to him.

It is considered good policy to have plenty of frames and supers in an apiary. This being so, why not treat each hive individually, and have plenty of combs and supers for each hive? Then by marking each frame with the number of the hive that it belongs to and using the frames in no other hive, we eliminate largely the possibility of spreading foul brood by introducing it with honey containing disease. To carry this out the comb room must be so constructed as to give access to a frame of any hive in the yard. My own room is arranged with racks enabling me to do this with the greatest of ease. The racks each hold 30 combs, and are numbered from 1 to 100, to correspond with the hives in the yard. By this arrangement there is no inducement to use any but the right combs of the hive we require them for. This could be modified by having shelves to take two or three supers as the room required for storage dictates, instead of racks.

While I in no way pretend to be able to control the source of disease outside the apiary by the above method, I contend that I control the spread of the disease within the yard.

There are a few instances where this rule may not be strictly adhered to. If we had a colony in danger of starvation we would be justified in using a comb or two of honey from another hive; but in

that case we would know what to expect if disease turned up in the hive that the comb or combs of honey were taken from. In making increase we can use the combs of the new hive on the hive to be divided, and when ready to divide can place the combs on the stand of their number. Take this example: No. 1 is the hive to divide; 12 is the new hive. A super of 12's combs is placed on No. 1 three or more weeks before the division takes place, and when ready to divide the super with 12's combs is placed on 12's stand. This is not a description of increase, but a method of keeping the combs in their own hives.

## Among the Bees

(By D. M. MACDONALD, Banff, in British Bee Journal.)

### Apicultural Facts and Figures.

Dr. Planta somewhere gave the following analysis of nectar:—Water, 73 per cent.; invert sugar, 12 per cent.; cane sugar, 12 per cent.; ash, &c., 3 per cent. Koengi's analysis of honey was:—Water, 20 per cent. down to 6 per cent.; invert sugar, 72 per cent.; cane sugar, 1 to 7 per cent.; and a small amount of phosphorus, gum and various acids. An analysis of sugar stood as follows:—Water, 15 per cent. (or less); cane sugar, 84 (up to 99) per cent.; and ash, about 1 per cent.

Pap supplied to the young queens showed water 69 per cent. and nourishing matter 30 per cent. For the drones and workers, water 72 per cent. and 28 per cent. of nourishing material.

Composition of the pap fed to the larva was as follows:—

	For Queens.		For Drones.		For Workers.	
	For whole period.	First 4 days.	First 4 days.	First 4 days.	After.	After.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Albumen	45	56	32	53	28	
Fat	14	12	5	8	4	
Sugar	20	10	38	18	45	

The cells of the queens receive 14 times as much pap as a drone cell and 90 times as much as a worker cell.

The amount of honey consumed by a normal stock in wintering has been calculated to be as follows:—November, 1 to 2 lbs.; December, 1 to 2 lbs.; January, 2 lbs.; February, 3 lbs.; March, 5 lbs.; April, 6 to 7 lbs.; after, there is a heavier drain.

Honey contains inorganic elements, and although the amounts are small they are very important, as they form constituent parts in the organs and fluids of the body. Of these, the following are present in the ash of honey:—Phosphorus, iron, calcium, magnesium, chlorine, sodium, potassium, sulphur, manganese and silicon. All honeys contain these, but many in only small

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# New Zealand Beekeepers Journal.

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*Your Subscription expires with this number. If you wish to continue to receive the Journal, tear off slip at the bottom, enclosing 5/- Postal Note.*

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*Mr. F. C. BAINES, Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.*

*Dear Sir,*

*Herewith please find P.N. for 5/-, being one year's subscription to the Journal.*

**NAME** .....

**ADDRESS** .....

quantities. As man requires supplies of these, it can be seen that honey must be a valuable food.

A queen begins to lay sometimes at a very early date in spring. At first the patch of brood is small. It is not, however, until March or April that even the best queens lay at the rate of more than 100 eggs a day. In late April or early May this increases to 300 or 400, but by the middle of the latter month this may extend to 1,500 eggs in the 24 hours, and by the end this number may be doubled. In June and July the best queens may lay from 3,000 to 4,000 eggs a day, but not every day. The above periods may be ante-dated in the South and post-dated in the North. A good queen should lay in a given time 100,000 eggs, but there is no guarantee that 80,000 mature bees will ever issue from these cells.

A pound of bees may number 5,000 workers, but 4,500 may be a safer estimate. In a swarm, however, the number may not count more than 4,000, or less. A good swarm may contain 30,000 bees, but more likely not more than 20,000 when the bees are heavily gorged.

Bacteria—frequently called germs, microbes, or parasites—are very minute plants (or animals). At times they are so tiny that if 12,000 are placed end to end they measure but an inch. They increase in number with marvellous rapidity, for it is found that, under favourable conditions each bacterium may become thousands in the space of half an hour. At this rate millions are formed in 24 hours. Dr. Zander calculated that one bacterium may multiply into over 16,000,000 in a day and a night, and in 48 hours, at this rate, they would number no less than 281,500 millions of millions! Later, many of these become spores, which are somewhat comparable to the seeds of higher plants, and these spores are very difficult to kill by heat, cold, or disinfectants. This will explain why some of our bee diseases are so difficult to eradicate.

A standard Langstroth (American) frame measures 17½ in. by 9¾ in., and has thus a comb area of 134 square inches. With 25 cells to the square inch, and doubling it for the two sides, we would have about 6,760 cells on each frame. For a ten-frame hive this would give 67,600 cells. Our "Standard" frame measures 14 in. by 8½ in. The cells on each frame would work out to about 5,000, and for the ten-frame body we would find about 50,000 cells. Several American frames are larger than the Langstroth, especially in depth; the Gallup being 11¼ in. deep, but the number is rather negligible. The

thicker wood used in the American standard makes both nearly the same in actual depth of comb.

This is a Continental estimate of what colonies of different strength can accomplish in the way of honey-gathering in one day's work:—

20,000 bees collect	¼ kilo.
30,000 " " "	¾ "
40,000 " " "	2 kilos.
50,000 " " "	3 "

If correct, the inference to be drawn is that we should do our utmost to have all colonies strong. Just note 1 and 3. With only double the number of bees, 3 gathers eight times the quantity of honey collected by 1.

The books generally tell us that we get five cells to the inch. A comb built entirely by the bees shows 4.926. Messrs. Roos' manufactured foundation has it 4.877. Dadant's 4.828, Dittmer's 4.849, and a Rietsche machine 4.535. All of these show a difference in the cell-base impressed in sheets of foundation to rear worker bees. Which is right?

From America we learn that "lumber," wood for hives and appliances, has gone up 50 per cent. since last season, and metal work 300 per cent., prices for the latter being almost prohibitive. Wages, too, have gone up. Yet, showing the steady rise of our industry, one appliance manufacturer increased by 30 per cent. in 1916, and last year stood 50 per cent. over that. As time flies, beekeeping is making vast strides, and yearly there is steady progress.

## The Carbolized Cloth.

### HOW I USED IT SUCCESSFULLY.

Before dealing with the subject of this article, perhaps it would not be out of place to say that most likely I will reiterate what has already been placed before you in a paper given at a Conference by a capable and successful beekeeper. I am informed that quite a number who tried the experiment pronounced it a failure; but as I found it successful, perhaps my testimony of the fact may induce those who failed to review the method they employed.

Now I do not want to be verbose in this description, but I feel it is necessary to emphasize strict attention to detail, for in the degree in which we meet that demand will be the measure of our success.

Too often is a person regarded as "fussy" or too particular who strives for accuracy in everything he does; yet accuracy is only an expression of truth. We all admire truth of speech; truth is just as applicable to action as to the spoken word. We have this idea brought out in a humorous way in the story of the negro who was told by his teacher to draw a cow, but not to bother about detail at first,

One day while waiting by the "phone"  
To send a message of my own,  
I heard across the lines a call,  
In accent, anxious accents fall—  
"Is that you, Central? Hurry, do!  
Please put me on to 2-6-2.  
It's closing time, I'm late, I'm sure;  
I'm after Woods' Great Peppermint Cure."

but to make a good outline. So taking up pencil and paper, the pupil drew an outline of a cow and took it to his teacher, who, on examining it, said: "Yes, that is not bad, but you have left off the tail." "Oh," replied the negro, "you told me not to bother about de tail!" Work with nature and she will become your servant and make obeisance. Attention to detail is the first step.

The cloth I used is of a cotton material finely woven, and large enough to completely cover the top of a super. The carbolic acid is of the strongest, with which I saturated the cloth. For convenience of carrying about, conserving the acid in the cloth, and for warming it, I have a tin with a close-fitting lid, in which I keep the cloth when not in actual use.

Assuming that everything is ready, I go to the hive at which I have decided to start operations, remove cover and mat, and spread the carbolized cloth over the tops of the frames, and replace the cover. If the combs are so well drawn out as to leave only a narrow bee space between them, I remove the two outside combs and space the others. In a few minutes time "*Aphis mellifica*" will have deserted that super.

Most satisfactory results were obtained by using the carbolized cloth when treating a colony for foul-brood in the following manner. Remove the hive which is affected, replacing it with a super containing starters. On the top of this place the affected hive, and employ the cloth as previously described. In five minutes the bees will be seen pouring out of the bottom box like a swarm flowing over the bottom board, where they cluster, and also up the front of the hive. The hive may now be removed, when the remaining bees, if any, make good their escape in no uncertain way. It will be patent to experienced beekeepers that three or four days on the starters will be too long to keep the poor little beggars; two days, I think, is quite sufficient, for it must be remembered that in about five minutes time after putting on the cloth they had deserted their brood chamber and left their stores behind. It is as though the addition of carbolic acid to the evil-smelling larvae was too much for them, and they said: "Come on, girls, let us get out of this," and forthwith took to their heels without stopping to pick up even a mouthful.

I mentioned that one purpose of the tin was for warming the cloth in. This, perhaps, is rather brief. On cold mornings, when Jack Frost has painted everything white, and is winking and blinking as the sun's first rays fall upon his hoary head, the cloth will be found to be somewhat stiff, although kept indoors and in its tin all night. The tin containing the cloth may be placed near a fire or in the melter if it is an F.C.B. and the Primus stove is alight underneath. The warming of the cloth serves two purposes: first, it is rendered pliable, and therefore easy of manipulation;

second, the acid becomes more volatile, and thus permeates the atmosphere of the hive more readily and thoroughly, which is an important detail.

So far as I can tell, the carbolic acid did not have an injurious effect upon the bees. In some instances they remained clustered to the front of the hive for a long time, but when brushed on to the bottom board they entered the hive without hesitation.

Such are the results from the use of the carbolized cloth by a beginner in his first year.

W. BOOTH.

[Friend B., we are interested. How did you get the bees off those two frames to spread the others? and what did you do with them whilst the others in the hive were being cleared? As we take it, the hive would be diseased, and we are wondering what was done with them until it was their turn to be cleared. You say, "When Jack Frost," &c. In the name of all that's hot (or cold), what do you want to do with bees, carbolized cloths, &c., when he's about? We would prefer to take the place of the tin in the warm melter!—Ed.]

## Curtailed Railway Service and Supplies for Apiarists.

Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty,

August 15, 1919.

Hon. W. H. Herries,  
Minister of Railways,  
Wellington.

Dear Sir,—As secretary of the above Association and Editor of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal I beg to approach you on the matter of getting apiarists' supplies included in the list of essential goods to be carried on the railways. Unless the beekeeper has his appliances ready for the honey flow, which is only of a few weeks' duration. He loses the chance of securing the season's crop, to his own financial loss and the country's loss in the production of foodstuffs. I may state that a number of returned soldiers have obtained the requisite instruction in the industry at the Ruakura State Farm and elsewhere, which has prompted them to take up the industry for a living; but they are now faced with the impossibility of getting their supplies. Our industry does not call for a great deal of heavy haulage, and the total amount to be carried would not make any appreciable difference to your Department; but to the industry it means a very serious matter. As representing practically the whole of those engaged in commercial beekeeping in the Dominion, I trust you will give this matter your very serious consideration.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,  
FRED. C. BAINES,  
Secretary.

Fred. C. Baines, Kati Kati.

Re your letter fifteenth about carriage of apiarists' supplies, consignors should supply particulars to nearest district traffic manager, who has authority to fully load trains with urgent goods that may be offered.—W.H. HERRIES.

[By the above it appears that the beekeeper has only to go to a little trouble, and his supplies will be carried.—Ed.]

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SEASON.

A request that provision should be made for the conveyance of apiarists' supplies on the railways was made recently to the local district traffic manager (Mr. A. Duncan) by a deputation of apiarists. Mr G. V. Westbrooke, Govt. apiary instructor, said that during the next few months the bee farmer would require frames, wax, hives, and other appliances; and if he could not secure these his operations for the coming season would be altogether restricted. The Government was spending a considerable amount of money in establishing returned soldiers as bee farmers, and 40 soldier cadets, who passed through Rukura last season, were about to commence operations. The Auckland bee class had over 120 men and women receiving instruction during the season, and it would be a serious matter if the necessary appliances were not available. They should at least be placed on the same footing as necessities for other agricultural industries.

Mr Duncan, in reply, said parcels up to one hundredweight could be sent through the parcels post. However, he would communicate with headquarters and recommend that the deputation's wishes should be accorded to.—N.Z. Herald, July 29, 1919.

As men and women pass their prime  
The all-eroding wills of time  
Break down each life sustaining force,  
And they to "aids" must have recourse.  
But cough and colds through every stage  
Assail from infancy to age;  
And in each case relief is sure  
When using Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

District Reports.

TARANAKI.

Bees have wintered better than for many seasons, having been very light on the stores. Heavy winter rains encourage our hopes for a good clover season.

H. R. PENNY, Okaiawa.

WEST COAST.

The Beginners' Handbooks are very much appreciated by the members, and we are wanting more.

The questions published in the Journal have taken on splendidly, and are proving very beneficial. The only drawback is that time does not permit the whole of them being gone through. Some of them are very deep, and lead to a considerable amount of discussion.

We are getting along fine, and have fairly large meetings, all the members taking a very keen interest. Every meeting brings along one or two new members, and I hope to be able to report to you at least 40 members before the honey season comes along.

D. T. COCHRANE.

WAIRARAPA.

Fine days during the past month were few and far between. Spring is now upon us, and is the earliest known for years in this district. In another week the bees will be gathering from gums and weeping willows. Colonies are opening up very well, the strongest having four and five frames of brood.

The freight on 6 cwt. of wax consigned from Featherston to Hawera amounted to £3 16/-. If the same rates apply when it is sent back manufactured into foundation, freight alone will amount to over 2d per lb. As it is essential that beekeepers get their wax made up into foundation for the coming season at a reasonable cost, we look to the National to see into the matter.

ITALIAN QUEENS AND NUCLEI.

Safe Arrival Guaranteed.

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PRICE LIST, 1919-20.

Untested	7/6 Each	Tested	17/6 Each
Select Untested	10/- Each	Select Tested	20/- Each

Nuclei with Untested Queen 25/- each. Containing two, three or four frames, according to time of delivery.

TERMS.—CASH WITH ORDER. CHEQUES TO HAVE EXCHANGE ADDED.

Postal Address: M. SHEPHERD, Southbrook, Canterbury.

Railway authorities have kindly consented to carry Nuclei as space permits.

Beekeeping is classed as an essential industry, yet it is being persecuted by railway freights on such essentials as wax and foundation, which can only be sent under parcel rates. We wonder—yes, we wonder—if parcel rates are charged on liquor, for instance.

The Journal is just to hand, in which we were pleased to note, by Mr A. Bates's letter, that honey sent forward in benzine tins arrived in good order; and we contend that the Department is placing unnecessary restrictions on the industry by prohibiting the use of these containers. Major Norton has stated that he does not care what the honey is packed in so long as it arrives in good condition; and as the onus, to a great extent, rests with the graders—they having the power to reject any consignment that is not cleanly and properly packed for export—we think the restriction on the use of petrol tins unwarranted.

One ton of tin plates will make up enough tins for approximately 20 tons of honey—60lb tins. At the prices ruling in Australia at present, tin plates can be landed here for approximately £35 per ton. Allowing 6d. per tin for manufacture, the cost of tins should be 17 1-3d. each, or 17/4 per dozen. At present prices—viz., 25/., the cost of packing honey for export will be 3/4d. per lb., cases included. The H.P.A.'s price just received is 28/- per dozen, so on the face of it, it doesn't appear that co-operative buying is going to benefit us much in this instance.

Our Editor in the last issue of the Journal stated that, had the remit from Wairarapa been worded more clearly, it would have received a different reception at the conference. Granted; but do you not think that the delegates of the Wairarapa should have been given an opportunity to explain the purport of the remit before it was subjected to the conference for criticism? We do.

H. BINTON.

[You must realise that a considerable quantity of honey is exported to other than the agents of the H.P.A., and finds its way into the open market. We contend that the second-hand container is undesirable. The extra cost over pre-war rate comes to about 1/4d per lb, and you are getting an advance of 1d per lb over pre-war rate, with a practical certainty of more to follow. The Editor was out of the room when the remit referred to was brought up, but there must have been every opportunity for the delegates to have expressed their views had they been inclined to. You stated last month: "The delegates of our Branch were so disgusted and dumb-founded at this view being taken that they wisely said nothing on the matter." No chance of a discussion under those conditions, friend B.]

CLUTHA VALLEY.

We had a good meeting at Tuapeka Mouth on August 2nd. The next will be at Greenfield at the beginning of September—date not fixed yet. I see Mr Benton

complains of the members being so scattered. Just so. I think that is the cause of some of the branches going to sleep. They are too big; for where they are so large there is a certain amount of formality and red tape about it—or at least the young beginners think so, and they either stay away or are too nervous to say anything or ask questions when they get there. Our district is only about 20 miles by 12, and we have three meeting places. There is no red tape, everybody knows everybody, and no one is afraid to speak; and we have a fine time. I think if some of the big branches would cut themselves up into half a dozen they would be like the bees on a warm winter's day. Everybody pleased there is a chance of having the conference in Christchurch.

H. N. GOODMAN.

CHEVIOT.

The winter has been mild, with a fair drop of rain, and at present everything looks like the makings of another good season.

The early gums along the coast are starting to flower, and the bees are bringing in a little white pollen on fine days. The bees have wintered well, but the next two months are the worst here. Then we have the willow bloom, with a heavy nor'-west wind. After that we generally have a spell of fair weather, with a little honey, and the bees go mad, some years swarming badly, with plenty of room. Once we get into October we are fairly safe in years when we have had a wet winter—dry winters mean, as a rule, no surplus.

I am working up to increase 50 per cent., and making all my own gear. Hives are made of *Pinus insignis*, which makes up very satisfactorily. Telescopic covers, 4in rim, 5/8in thick, 1/2in on top, covered with Naponist. I have covers made seven years ago, which look as if they will do another seven easily. A good season to all!

ROBT. McKNIGHT.

TAIERI.

Our winter has, to date, been comparatively mild. However, mild winters are looked on with suspicion here, for they usually presage a wretched summer. Of such we have had enough and to spare. It is now three years since the Taieri enjoyed a really good honey season. But as the old saw says, "Everything comes to him who waits."

We are grieved to report that we are shortly to lose Mr Earp, who has for some years past resided in Mosgiel. He is trekking northwards, we believe, seeking a central base for his operations. 'Tis a sad blow. What shall we do now, we amateurs, who used to ply him with myriad questions and overwhelm him with our difficulties? Our gratitude and our best wishes go with him.

Mr Editor, do you know anything further on the matter of badges? Questions are raining down on me. You see, we are keen on the idea. The pity is that nobody else seems at all enthused about it. Send them all down here; especially those who, considering beauty its own adornment, think a badge unsightly. Or is it that they cannot face the ordeal (this is, we admit, the one and only objection to a badge) of a thousand questions—"What's that for?" "What's that supposed to be?" "Blowfly brigade?" Now!—[You funny beggar!—Ed.]

We are anxiously waiting for the appearance of some of those articles suggested by the Editor last issue. They are just IT. The Journal will be soaring then!

Here is an extract from the Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th edition. The Englishmen evidently believe New Zealand to be a Utopia:—"In New Zealand the Government of the Colony has displayed praiseworthy earnestness and vigour in promoting apiculture. State aided apiaries have been established under the supervision of a skilled beekeeper, who travels over the colony giving instruction in practical beekeeping at the public schools, and forming classes at various centres, where pupils are taught beekeeping in all its branches." Alas, so mote it be!

BASIL H. HOWARD.

[The secretary is in communication with Australian firms on the matter of badges, and expects to be able to get something definite shortly.—Ed.]

TE AROHA.

The Te Aroha Branch held their first annual meeting on Saturday, 16th inst., the majority of members being present. Mr C. F. Horn (president, in the chair) gave a brief address on the year's work, Mr Cotterell was unanimously appointed local inspector for the Te Aroha district, subject to the Department confirming it, which is sincerely hoped they will do so, as the question is one of vital importance to this Branch. The Branch has purchased a plan of Piako and Ohinemuri counties, and great enthusiasm was displayed by the members in marking their apiary sites thereon. It was decided to hold our meetings alternately with Paeroa, with the object of drawing the numerous beekeepers established in that vicinity. The election of officers resulted—President, Mr C. F. Horn; secretary, Mr C. A. Grainger; committee—Messrs Cotterell, Whiting, Leonard, Housler, and Schmidt.

C. GRAINGER.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

A meeting of the above will be held in the Public Baths Building, Hamilton, on September 25th, at 11 a.m.

A. H. DAVIES, Secretary.

Business:

Conference Report,  
Field Day,  
General.

Beekkeepers' Exchange.

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

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

CORBETT & KIRK,  
To Rapā, Hamilton.

NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I have established a commercial apiary at Paraparaumu, Manawatu, and will be establishing out-apiaries this spring.

J. BECKETT.

TEPUKE AND PAPAMOIA.—The undersigned wish to intimate that they are establishing COMMERCIAL APIARIES in the above districts this season.

F. E. EARP.  
H. W. EARP.

WANTED, a Four-frame Hand HONEY EXTRACTOR, in good order; Root Automatic preferred. Send particulars and price to

C. A. OLDMAN, Waiau, Canterbury.

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CHOICE ITALIAN QUEENS.

Raised from the finest strain, guaranteed free from disease, hardy and specially bred for honey gathering.

Untested .. ..	5/- each
Select untested .. ..	7/6 "
Tested .. ..	10/ "
Select tested .. ..	15/ "
Breeders .. ..	20/ "

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If you want EARLY QUEENS, and wish to avoid disappointment, ORDER NOW.

NUCLEUS HIVES QUOTED ON APPLICATION.

A. V. DAVIS,  
Belmont Avenue,  
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**WANTED.** Zinc QUEEN EXCLUDERS; any number up to 36; for 19-frame hive. Also 100 HALF SUPERS; old style; must be in good order; also FRAMES for same.

BERNARD & BARNES, Drury.

**FOR SALE.** One ELECTRIC WIRE EMBEDDER, 6/-; one FRAME WIRING DEVICE, 12/-; about 75 Doolittle DIVISION BOARD FEEDERS—taking the lot, will sell them at 1/- each; about 150 HOFFMAN FRAMES, in good condition, free of foul brood; reason for selling, am standardising, using only staple spaced frames.

Write T. J. MANNIX, Box 20, Waihou, Thames Valley.

## Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Office of the Minister of Lands,  
Wellington, July 29, 1919.

Dear Sir,—Referring to your memo. of the 1st inst., forwarding a copy of the resolution passed by the recent conference of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, with reference to the method of allotting apiary sites to bona fide apiarists, I have to inform you that particulars for the preparation of a sale plan including all apiary sites now available for selection in the Auckland district are now nearly complete, and it is hoped to have this published at an early date. There have been many inquiries for certain of the sections in particular, and all applicants have been advised that the sites will only be disposed of by public application and ballot. It is proposed to insert special conditions in the lease, as follows:—

1. The lessee shall within one year from the date of the lease establish upon the land not less than 25 colonies of bees, and within two years from the date of the lease 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.

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

3. 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.

Yours faithfully,  
D. H. GUTHRIE,  
Minister of Lands.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Dear Sir,—Here is a small contribution towards the question of honey candied soft. Such honey is not at all likely to ferment if kept covered, and in a more or less reasonable place. I live in unextractable country. My extracting is done by pressure, honey being warmed as the combs are broken up to 88 degrees F., if new, and up to 100 degrees or even more if old and black. Then strained into the tank. The tank must not be much larger than, say, Root's Two-frame extractor. It candies very quickly. When it is candied it is quite hard and smooth, like butter. I start to get the combs into the house at the end of December, and finish after the honey flow is off, which here, sometimes, comes quite suddenly—sort of "now you see it and now you don't." It usually comes about the middle of February, and a great inclination to rob and cessation of the working hum at night are certain marks. The combs I collect must be at least three-quarters capped, and then the parts not capped must not show the least inclination to leaking. Of this I am most particular at the beginning; at the end it is not so vital. In October, November, and December, and even later, I have a good few broken pieces. This year I have thrown a good many of these, as to the ripeness of which I was not very certain, into a strainer, through which they dripped into a kerosene tin. They were not pressed: a sort of improvised Dadant's uncapping can. This honey granulated soft: like very thick mush, with bits of sugar crystals all through. To remedy the trouble I tried to stir it at stated periods for a few days, but that made the whole mass softer. I had no temptation to throw it into the tank, although it was very light in colour, because, although I love experimenting, I fully realise that an experiment, so-called, that logical argument will not support is dangerous. But I did the next most foolish thing: I ran into it about the same quantity of liquid honey from the tank, that would have candied right, and decided to let it rest in peace for a week; but it candied in a few hours—for all I know may have done so at once;—but it candied soft. "And the horrible toad came and ate up the prime.—'Boo! hoo!'" If I had kept that honey in the tin and then pressed it with the rest would have been alright. I speak from past experience.

I consider that your questions and answers, of course, is a very fine feature of the Journal. But I differ with you as to the size of entrances.  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 3in! Just think of mouldy combs. Long ago, when I was a very proper beekeeper I used small entrances and that other atrocity, mats. But after reading Simmins' "Bee Farm" years ago I have no use for either. My entrances now are an inch or more by the full width of the hive, which on some of my hives is 16 and on some 20 inches, all the year round. An article to argue this

out might be written, but I am an old man, with much work to do, and Angina pectoris and graphophobia (not hydrophobia) worse.—I am, etc.

STEPHEN ANTHONY.

Coromandel, July 22, 1919.

[We do not know how our southern friends would fare with your large enclosures. We don't all live in the salubrious climate that obtains at Coromandel. Say, friend Anthony, you're very bold in calling mats atrocities. We wouldn't dare; not that we like 'em, or use 'em; some people swear by 'em, others swear at 'em; so there you are. You are evidently troubled with two bad complaints. We think, with you, the latter one the worst. Give yourself a little ease by writing an article on why you discarded mats.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—As one who is feeling his way in beekeeping, I consider your little booklet, "Beekeeping for Beginners," very useful, especially that part dealing with swarming. But in your "Monthly Instructions" you advise that the boxes should not be opened during August; and this district is certainly not earlier than Bay of Plenty. Well, I have three hives, and I noticed lately that the bees in one did not seem very lively, so I opened up and could find no sign of brood. I opened No. 2, and found considerable capped brood. I said to myself, "If No. 3 is likewise, I'll assume that No. 1 is queenless." No. 3 was likewise, only more so, so I stole a frame of eggs and brood and gave it to No. 1. That was last Saturday (August 9). Did I do right? Another question: When I want to re-queen and can't find the old one by searching, what is the correct method of catching her?—I am, etc.,

LEARNER.

Bunynthorpe, August 12, 1919.

[We should not have given the apparently queenless hive any brood, but should have united it with one of the others there and then. We should conclude the hive was queenless, and now most probably they have raised a queen which has very, very little chance of being mated. You will be able to tell this by the existence of completed queen cells on the frame of brood given. If you find these it will indicate that a virgin is in the hive, and before uniting she must be found and killed. This is most easily done by sifting the bees through a zinc queen excluder, as the queen is almost sure to be only a puny little beggar. This also answers your last question.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Unfortunately I was unable to be present at the opening of the Beekeepers' Conference, and so missed the discussion resulting from a remit from the Poverty Bay Association re apiary boundaries. Now, Sir, these conferences are intended to bring all beekeepers together in a closer bond of

comradeship, and to try to be of mutual assistance to each other. But on reading the discussion on apiary boundaries I find what seems to me to be a direct challenge to many of our craft. Some speakers urged that it was simply "the survival of the fittest." Sir, the use of such a phrase under certain conditions requires consideration by any thinking person. We are seeking protection so that all may survive. At a time like this, when so many men are returning to civilian life, some maimed and many broken in health, unfit to compete in the ranks of the toilers, and seeking some light and congenial occupation, to restore them to health, and also to provide a means of livelihood, we seek a protection for them. Then again, there are many of our oldest beekeepers who are fast travelling towards the setting sun; men who in the past have done yeoman service in the pioneering of New Zealand, and helped to make possible the industrial activities of the beemen in New Zealand. We want protection for them. We seek to protect the industry as a whole. And as in the near future there will certainly be more persons engaging in beekeeping, it behoves all associations which are in favour of this question to get busy and lay the position before the member for their district, so that what we are seeking may not be misunderstood. In conclusion, I may say that I notice in the apiary notes in another monthly journal that the writer of those notes will strenuously oppose any legislation in favour of this question. This question lies with the beekeepers alone—those who gain their livelihood from the work of their bees. In the earlier part of my letter I speak of a challenge. That phrase, "The survival of the fittest," brought back to my memory a korero with an old fighting Maori chief, Major Kopata, when he was old and no longer able to hold his own against the younger men. "Ah arami," he said, "When a horse, a dog, or a man is old, shoot him." Maori version of "the survival of the fittest." English: "Knock the old chaps out."—I am, &c.,

JAS. B. ADAMS.

Gisborne, August 4, 1919.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re Mr Sage's letter in last issue: Contrary to you, I believe we will have to come back to the old order of things, both with the H.P.A. and the National. Not because one set of men distrusts the other, but to get the best results for both and keep both thoroughly alive. Our shareholders and members are so widely scattered that it is impossible for our manager or National secretary to travel round and meet all, and this is where having your directors and executive fairly evenly divided assists both and tends to keep things working harmoniously. If the present system of electing the executive goes on and new Branches keep cropping up, we will soon have an unwieldy and expensive executive, and will be forced back to the old order of dividing it evenly.



Re policy of the Journal: Personally I cannot see what harm any advertisement has done us up to the present. If the Editor refuses an advertisement, any firm wanting to can reach all the beekeepers by circular and through the press, as has been done before; and we will lose a fair bit of revenue for the Journal. Judging by the way the H.P.A. contracts have been signed it does not look as though it has had much effect. I honestly cannot see why we should refuse any advertisement. I am glad to see the Journal being used by those starting apiaries to make the fact known. It certainly lets those looking for sites know where not to look.

Reports to hand indicate that bees have wintered well and are breeding up very early. Weeping willows coming off. Prospects are for an early spring.—I am, etc.,  
A. H. DAVIES

Hamilton, August 14, 1919.

Sir,—Yes, everything comes to those who wait, as R. B. mentions in July Journal; and now the seasons are normal the swamp country is rapidly going back to grass paddocks again.—I am, etc.,  
A. L. LUKE.

Awakeri, July 19, 1919.

#### NORTH v. SOUTH.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—A chance note of mine seems to have started the discussion on the above question, so it is up to me to try and pour the oil. Your remark that there was only one nomination for the North was not quite correct. Mr Gilling and Mr Wedde were both nominated, and Mr Gilling did not withdraw until the eleventh hour. Incidentally I was asked by some of the Taranaki beekeepers to stand, but did not think it advisable against two such suitable men. I just wish to point out a reason or two why a board consisting of a representative from each district is superior to—shall we say, for argument's sake,—a wholly Southland board. Like a district needs a representative in Parliament, so a district needs one on a honey board, not because a man from another district may not do his best, but because he is unable to do his best, as he is not conversant with the conditions of that particular district or the quality of honey produced in it. Every shareholder likes to know personally some of the men he is trusting with his affairs (they don't all get to conference), and it is very nice to meet a director personally and have a talk periodically. In conclusion, I think, although the matter is not likely to come to a split, as Mr Sage says, and need not be taken quite so seriously, yet each district should have a man with enough brains to represent it; and while a board coming all from the same family might do well, a board representing each district would do better; and a director in each district would have a big influence and help keep the H.P.A. together.—I am, etc.,

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, August 13, 1919.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I suppose that silence upon my part with reference to the queen breeding (please note that word "breeding") matters referred to in Mr E. G. Ward's column in the August issue will be misconstrued by many as giving consent to his expressed uncertainty as to whether or not I was sorry that I promised last year (not two years ago yet, friend Ward) that I would make public the results of breeding queens by means of controlled mating. There is no call for silence on my part. With very keen grief, but unmixed with at least a modicum of disgust and contempt, I must here and now report that I am indeed sorry—very sorry!—that I made any such promise. Because of the paucity of results? Not at all. The results have been almost unbelievable. (Perhaps I might have truthfully stated that to the majority of my readers, so rightly wedded to the colour phenomenon, actually unbelievable.) In a word, readers in toto have evinced such an unanimous indifference to everything but the novelty and sensationalism of the results of such wearying, painstaking research as the practical application of the science of genetics to the breeding of bees entails that I have no intention—at least at present—of placing the results of my experiments before our readers, to endure the criticism of scepticism, the offspring of ignorance both utter and complete, upon a subject they not only know absolutely nothing about, but, as proved by two appeals through our pages, of which they have no desire to learn anything. I would have paid Friend Ward a modest five pound note for that "cuddling" queen and drone, dropped, as he found them, into a chloroform bottle. It is by just such rare experiences we gain much of our progress along the road of scientific research, one result of such progress being that we have learned that under certain conditions queens may be reared from laying workers' eggs. This statement will meet, as a matter of course, with nothing but derision from those who know so very much better (?) So, Mr Editor, cordially thanking Mr E. G. Ward for his interesting report, I conclude with, *verbum sapientia*.—I am, etc.,

H. BARTLETT BARTLETT-MILLER.

Kihi Kihi, August 16, 1919.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have been requested to attend a meeting of the Auckland Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, to be held at Hamilton on September 25th; and, all being well, "I shall be there," and will speak a few words on "The H.P.A. and its Marketing Policy." Perhaps you would care to make a local of this in your next issue of the Journal; it might help to bring a few extra folk along.

You will be interested to know that I have just finished a visit through the Dominion inspecting depots and grading stores, meeting a number of shareholders here and there, and in particular arranging an organisation consisting of the largest mer-

chants in New Zealand to properly market our produce in this country, and that over 150 tons have been sold to merchants for delivery from now to February, 1920, at prices equal to approximately 1½d per lb better than present Home guaranteed price. This means £2000 extra, or more, in our shareholders' pockets for their 1919 honey, and it also means that no longer shall we allow the chap outside the Association to have control of the Dominion market. He can, however, join in with his brother beekeepers in the co-operative movement and benefit by our organisation.

I was not able, owing to the weather and lack of time, to hold meetings of shareholders, but hope to get round again in a month or two. My journeying has convinced me that the H.P.A., given a year or two of loyal support by the producers, and with efficient management, can be made a bright example of the benefits of co-operative effort. There is much to be done, however, and a little patience on the part of our folk will do things no harm.

From the beginning of September I want all our shareholders to become commercial travellers, and boost "Imperial Bee" honey to their friends, enemies and neighbours. We can double the consumption of honey if 600 or 700 folk will talk "Eat more honey" all the time.

Supplies.—A temporary price list has been prepared, and we can supply a number of hives, mostly from Auckland. A copy has been sent to each shareholder. Shares for this business are being taken up slowly, and we cannot get things going properly until more capital is in sight; and I am not displeased, because I am carrying a very heavy load at present—400,000lb of honey to pack, and the supplies business on top of a complete reorganisation of the Association's methods of business in every department, with travelling thrown in.

Fermentation.—Some of our honey has arrived Home in a fermented condition. Our people stand to lose money unless they extract carefully, and until they make certain that the specific gravity of their product is up to standard. This is a subject upon which there could well be a discussion through your Journal.

Yours faithfully,  
C. F. BYLAND,  
General Manager.

Stanley Street, Auckland, 20/8/19.

• • •  
"CUDDLING!"  
(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Mr. E. G. Ward's experience, page 124 August issue: "How sweet the sunlight slept upon those golden combs!" Behold a virgin queen and a beautiful golden drone "cuddling" each other! No wonder that the happy spectators took keen notice. But while they are thinking for the moment, might I suggest that the explanation of this gallant episode may be that, when poor golden drone retired from the hive, the amorous lady followed, and having lost her life consequently they both died happily ever afterwards!—I am, &c.,

H. C. J.

## Answers to Correspondents.

C.M.S., Hope.—Many thanks, but for Heaven's sake, if you must use a pencil, use one that makes a mark, and don't write on both sides of the paper, please.

J.M., Cheb.—Oh, yes; he's already on our list, and has fulfilled his promise. You'll probably fix the articles now. But we are going to ask for more.

G.R.D., Taylorville.—Many thanks. Journals have been sent.

J.B.A., Gisborne.—The contents of your letter were quite satisfactory. Thanks.

## Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

I came home from the conference on such good terms with myself and everyone I met there that it came somewhat of a shock to read Mr Sage's letter in last month's Journal. It was laid down as a law some 2000 years ago by the wisest teacher the world has known that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Now, if the cry North v. South is raised it will be the greatest mistake that could be made, and it will not be long before there's a split in the camp. The Editor's comments cover most of the ground, but I would just like to appeal earnestly to all shareholders in the H.P.A. to stand shoulder to shoulder. Let us be one united association embracing the whole Dominion. If we squabble among ourselves we shall be playing straight into the hands of those who would be delighted at our downfall. Let us be united and loyal to each other, and I make bold to say we shall have the best beekeeping organisation in the universe.

Now that so many returned soldiers and other people are taking up beekeeping it will perhaps not be out of place if I refer to an article in July "Gleanings," headed "Does Beekeeping Pay?" I should like everyone who contemplates launching out in the industry to read it, and also the opinions and experiences of a number of the leading lights in American apiculture which accompany what I consider to be a comprehensive review of the whole subject. Boiled down, it amounts to this: It is not a "get-rich-quick" scheme. You must be prepared to take the good with the bad, and don't imagine that it's "all play and no work," or you'll fall in badly. Don't start beekeeping for the sole purpose of making money, for unless you are an enthusiastic lover of the bees you are not likely to succeed. I was written to some time back for advice on this sub-

ject. In closing I said, "Look before you leap." I'm convinced that's sound advice.

It is somewhat early to talk about prospects for the coming season, but I should have liked to be able to report a heavier rainfall than we have had. The total to date since January 1 is 13.044 inches. For the corresponding period of 1918 it was 22.232. This means that we have had eight inches less rain than at the same date last year. I'm hoping it will not be followed by a dry summer, or our orders for honey tins will not be so big as last season.

Here are a couple more "experiences" which were related to me by letter from a friend who has no desire to bask in the limelight. In examining his hives, he found one containing two queens. While holding the frame, queen No. 1 backed down into the cell, deposited an egg, and moved on. This, of course, is quite orthodox, but the action of No. 2 queen was more of a cannibalistic description, for she made it her business to put her head into the cells where No. 1 had been laying and pull the eggs out in her jaws, and deliberately destroy them. He says the hive was not making much headway, which can hardly be wondered at.

His second experience is unique, I think. The orthodox teaching is that queens mate only once, but his "tale" casts grave doubt on the matter. He had received a queen from a friend, which had been laying in a baby nucleus hive. He put her into a baby nucleus again, intending to make use of her in three or four days' time. This friend paid him a visit, and they had the curiosity to examine the nucleus, and were surprised to find eggs and larvae, but no queen. Now comes the remarkable part. While hunting the hive to make sure they had not overlooked the queen, her ladyship alighted and went in with the organs of a drone attached to her body. I expect someone to rise and say: "Oh, that was not the same queen; she must have cleared out and another queen took possession." I'm going to console myself with the thought that "there's more strange things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

Evidently all honey producers have not heard of the H.P.A., or surely we should not read advertisements of honey for sale by auction in 60lb. tins. I saw six tins were advertised in a local paper for sale by auction on August 6. On August 14 three tins were to be offered, and I am not very sure but five tins were advertised by the same firm about a month ago. Here's where we are up against a "snag." How can we get into touch with people who evidently don't belong to a beekeepers' association or subscribe to the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal? or if they do there must be something which needs explaining.

Mr Editor, you've "let the cat out of the bag." Already I have had one letter asking if I have succumbed to the charms

of "Elizabeth." Well, I might as well plead guilty, but with extenuating circumstances. Really I couldn't help it. I've had my eye on her for a long time, and on the strength of last season's good crop took the plunge. Least any embryo beekeeper should imagine it's all plain sailing, and all he has to do is to establish an apairy, I'd just like to say that with "your's truly" it's been "a long, long way to Tipperary."

I had the pleasure of a visit from Mr C. F. Ryland on July 25th, and had a long chat on H.P.A. matters. He had hoped to have had an opportunity of meeting Canterbury shareholders while here, but was not able to do so, partly on account of disorganisation in railway and boat traffic, and the fact of shareholders being widely scattered. He expects to be down again in October, and hopes to address a meeting then. He tells me that he met with a cordial reception by all the business people he came in contact with, and has done splendid business with the merchants. Those who attended the conference and heard his suggested line of policy will agree with me that he is a "live wire."

[Your remarks re the apparent second mating are very interesting. We think friend Nelson was going to give us something on the same subject at conference, but was prevented by illness. So, Robert, you've got to "out with it."—Ed.]

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Must congratulate you unreservedly on the Beginners' Handbook. 'Tis just what beginners need.—F.E.S., Rotorna.

The failure of co-operation lies not in co-operation itself: it lies with the individual.

And the individual is learning to co-operate by doing it in Government, in church, in secret societies, in unions, in trusts, in business relations, and, most of all, in family relations.

The gist of co-operation is this: To have a common cause, and then to work the other fellow's way when he won't work yours.

The best co-operator is the man who can get the most pleasure out of doing things in the other fellow's way.

The won't-play fellow is no co-operator: he is an untutored savage.

—Elizabeth Towne.

If each subscriber would find another one it would mean a better Journal. Don't forget, the Beginners' Handbook and the Journal for a year, post free, 6/-.

We expect you to "do your bit" to increase the number of subscribers to the Journal. Beginners' Handbook and Journal, 6/-.

# CAPPING AND COMB MELTER.

## I Offer For Sale my Melters.

THEY WILL BE MADE BY A GOOD TRADESMAN, AND PUT ON THE TRAIN  
AT TE AWAMUTU.

With Separator . . . . . £6 10s.

Without Separator . . . . . £5 10s.

### DETAILS.

The Melter is made with two sets of Tubes, one above the other, steam passing through both sets. The lower set is movable up and down, and fit between the spaces of the top set to regulate the space as desired. Both sets are triangular in shape. The top set is 5 in. deep, 2 ft. 8 in. long; lower set 1 1/4 in. deep, same length as top. The hopper is made of wood. Across the middle of this is a board that can be turned over from one end to the other. With this you press down the combs, cut them up, and leave the board covering them while you fill up the other end. By that time the end with the board over it is emptied. The board is turned over to the other end (in the same manner as a leaf in a book). You can thus see your Machine is free of blockage. No matter how old or bad your combs may be, you have the means or correct method of melting them without a blockage all day. There is no boiler with the machine. If you want fast work (and most Beekeepers do), then the lamps must go. On the 13th of August I put through 50 bad old combs (granulated honey and cold) in one hour. In summer this would mean 100 per hour full-depth frames of honey. I had a job to keep up with the Machine. Of course, the cutting out was slow, and so was the melting compared with the speed in the right season.

The melted mass drops into the catch tray. This is pyramid shape upside down; no wire screen (which is more nuisance than service); the tray has a hole 1-in. diameter. Over this a few upright tubes; they allow of a quick escape of the honey to the bottom and escape through the hole. When the slum-gum reaches up the side about 6 in. deep, it is drained off through an opening provided, and caught in a separate tin. A higher percentage of wax is retained in the slum-gum, but that is no fault, as the slum-gum must be put through the press after.

This tray is held in position by two parallel pipes, one on either side, through which the steam passes after it has been through the two sets of tubes; it then escapes through the floor, or for preference the wall of the honey house. As it requires more pressure to drive it down through the floor, steam is easily raised upward, but requires pressure to send it downward. These pipes keep the wax from cooling in the tray, the honey, being heavy, goes to the bottom, and quickly too. Five minutes after stopping work the honey stops running. Left in the tray next morning is a solid lump of slum-gum, easily got out, as the shape of the tray will show, the tubes mentioned being lifted out of the tray as soon as work is stopped.

Anyone purchasing one of these Melters will be sure of the following points:— Quick work; no blockage; no harm to the

wax or honey; and full control of the Machine.

REMEMBER, this Machine is Constructed to be controlled by the Operator; it cannot boss you! Get one and end your troubles. If this is not a true description of the Machine, return it, and your money will be refunded.

P.S.—Understand me: I am not going to depend on Melters for a living. I still have Bees to work (250 hives); but as I have worked out a good Melter (not without heavy expense to myself), I offer you the same at a small profit.—C. S.

## How to Make a Boiler for Use with Melters.

Take two oil-drums, one large enough to go over the other loose. Cut out the bottom of the larger one. Knock out the bung, put over the hole a piece of iron plate, with a hole to suit the pipe you now get, about 9 in. long. Drive in bung-hole of the smaller one a good solid piece of wood; bore hole to suit the pipe mentioned. Now, bore hole about 6 in. from top of larger one, opposite side to where bung is, to suit 1½ in. to 2 in. pipe, 18 in. long, which has a bend screwed on one end. This goes through the wall of shed from outside into larger drum, and makes the chimney. Now, put the smaller drum into the larger, screw the short piece of pipe into the bung-hole. Now prepare the fire-box. Lay down on the floor a square piece of corrugated iron; put in the middle a shovelful of earth; then take and cut off the end of another drum (larger than both of the others), leaving about 4 in. of the side on this end, and knock some holes in the end and a few around the top edge when you have turned the mouth of this short end on the floor; then set it on the earth, mouth down, on three bricks, edge on, to support the smaller drum or boiler.

Now cut an opening in the larger drum for a fire opening or door. After cutting out, flatten out the burred edges, and keep it for a door, either hinged on or lean against. Now put the drums on the bricks; the larger one must be about 5 in. longer than the smaller, and rests on the rim of the grating, while the inner one rests on the bricks. Then attach to the upright piece of pipe a socket, then a bend to suit the hose to be used; this bend should for preference be ½-inch. To fill boiler, unscrew this bend, after taking hose off. To economise in fuel, put a large tube or two low down inside of boiler. This boiler will give satisfaction for use with Melters and the temperature of the shed lowered. If another drum over the two mentioned is used, this would have to be a carbide drum.

## I Also Offer For Sale.

3 dozen DIVISION BOARD FEEDERS, used only one season. Price, £2.

3 dozen ALEXANDER FEEDERS. £2.

1 Reversible MELTER, without Boiler attached, £3 10s. Large enough for an Apiary up to 200 hives. Directions given to Purchaser how to use it, and one month's trial given.

## C. SMEDLEY, TE AWAMUTU.

## 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, 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 "zackly" what Mr. Bumble once styled English Law. What's that? Why, "The Law," says Mr. Bumble—"the law's a hass!" 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 "langwidge" 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 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.

---

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

**No. 1 Custom St. West, Auckland.**

**Telegraphic Address—'ASPASIA,' AUCKLAND.**



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

Head Office: Stanley Street, AUCKLAND.

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**H.P.A. BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLIES.**

Price List of Requisites for Beekeepers can now be obtained on application.

Become a member of the Co-operative movement and get the benefits of the

**National Honey Marketing Programme,**  
**Foundation and Supplies Business.**

**BEESWAX.**—We are Cash buyers of Beeswax.

**ORDERS FOR NEXT SEASON.**—

Shareholders requiring Export Tins, Foundation, etc., should place their approximate requirements with the Association at once. We can do better for you if you order early.

Full particulars from

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