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The New Zealand *A. Luke*  
**Beekeepers'**  
**Journal.**

Vol. 4.

**JULY 1st, 1920.**

No. 7.

Subscription: 6/- per Annum in Advance.



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# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 7

VOL. 4

6/- 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/-; 15 to 25 Hives, 10/-; 25 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to

FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

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## EDITORIAL.

We think we can safely say that the Seventh Annual Conference, held in Christchurch on June 9th, 10th and 11th, of which a full report is sent with this Journal, was the most successful yet held. The attendance was large—rather larger than usual—and the atmosphere of the whole gathering was a business one. The visitors seemed to realise that our industry was in very great need of reform, and they were out to get the "forward movement" going at the very earliest opportunity.

The remits put forward by the Executive had evidently been thoroughly discussed by the Branches, as the delegates spoke in no uncertain voice on the various matters contained therein, and the remarks made by them evidenced that the fighting spirit had been roused, and would not be allowed to rest until at least the bulk of our much-needed reforms was carried out.

The strong point made for the increase of the number of field inspectors needs very little comment from us: we have again and again drawn attention to the need.

The necessity for the appointment of a Chief Apiarist has also been urged many times in this Journal; and, considering that

two years ago the Minister promised to make the appointment, we are unwise in allowing this position to be still unoccupied.

On the question of the salaries of the graders being raised, we can again claim that we have championed their cause, and as a matter of fact it was in this Journal where the inadequate salaries of these gentlemen were first pointed out, which was productive of getting them a slight increase.

On the question of facilitating the graders' work by the establishment of blending depots, where it should be possible for a vat of, say, ten tons to be graded at once, there is everything to recommend it, and with the many business heads now working to find a practical scheme, there is every reason to expect the matter brought to a successful issue.

On the question of Apiary Boundaries we are bound to make a few remarks, as Mr. Nelson (who apparently has taken the matter out of the hands of Mr. Ireland, who was the originator of the discussion at last Conference) hits us and our proposals pretty heavily. When the proposals formulated by the Committee and the Government officials were made public, the reception they received was —. They were publicly criticised by two men who stand considerably higher in the estimation of the beekeepers of the Dominion than any of the beekeepers who formed the Committee. Both these gentlemen—Mr. I. Hopkins and Mr. Jas. Allan—have been working for the good of the industry for many years—long before Mr. Nelson was a beekeeper. We are convinced that both these gentlemen are in every way just as keen as Mr. Nelson for the good of the industry, and had the proposals been, in their opinion, at least workable, they would have said so. But they examined them critically, and found they were a very weak foundation on which to attempt to frame (what will be admitted) very difficult legislation. Surely it is not a reasonable thing to put these gentlemen down as friendly to what has been termed "bee piracy."

It is contrary to fact that the Journal's columns were not open for free discussion on the matter: we invited all and sundry to do so, but beyond the members who formed the Committee there was practically nothing sent, and even their letters were simply explanatory of the clauses, that evidently could not be taken to mean what they read. It was only after the suggested clauses had been sent to the Branches for discussion that we closed the matter as far as the Journal was concerned, as it was obvious that the pros and cons of any suggestion could be better dealt with at a meeting than in print.

And lastly, the Editor of the Journal. He will not admit that he is one whit behind any other man in the Dominion as

regards the furtherance of the industry, and as long as he holds the position he does will not hesitate to speak his mind on any proposal brought forward, even though (as he has learnt) it means underhand methods being employed to make his position awkward.

However, we recognise that Mr. Nelson has gone through considerable trouble in getting the opinions of prominent beekeepers of the world as to the "moral right" of a beekeeper to a bee-flight from his own apiary. We think he went on wrong lines; he should have sent a copy of the suggested clauses, which would have meant the answers being much more interesting. What is the object of getting these opinions as to the "moral right" when you are championing a set of clauses that not only robs the beekeeper of a "moral right," but also prevents him from getting a legal right?

Clause 4 reads:—"In the event of a bona fide farmer desiring to become a commercial beekeeper, he will make application to the National Beekeepers' Association, who will recommend the license. NOTICE SHALL THEN BE GIVEN TO SUCH APIARISTS AS ARE NOT BONA FIDE FARMERS TO REMOVE WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME ANY OUT-APIARIES OWNED BY THEM WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE PROFITABLE WORKING OF THE FARMER'S APIARY." Good-bye, moral right!

A certain historical gentleman named Nelson is credited with putting his telescope to his blind eye when a signal was hoisted that he did not want to see, and he said, "D—n the signal; I can't see it!" We have been using a pretty wonderful glass to find the careful guardianship of the "moral right" in this clause, and (as Horatio said it, we can)—"D—n it all, we can't see it!"

But perhaps this, too, only requires an explanation! Mr. Ireland, when he read Mr. Nelson's paper, stated that he did not agree with this particular clause. So, so!

The Editor had the presumption of attempting to frame clauses to meet the difficulty when he found those submitted by the Committee were not being favourably received, and although criticism of them was asked, they fared only just a little better than the original clauses, being practically ignored. But the Executive thought they went somewhere on the way to meet the difficulty, and they were submitted to the Branches for consideration and report to Conference. The report will show that these have been accepted as suitable. If they cannot be worked on the lines indicated in the December (1919) Journal, no amount of explanations on our part will make them workable.

To close our remarks on this question, we would again point out that the number

of cases where "dumping" has been complained of does not number half a dozen. For the most part N.Z. beekeepers are as honourable as those in other countries, and, like them, we have run up against "snags" now and then, and we are sure that even if legislation is secured to govern this question, it would not prevent unscrupulous men from giving the established apiarist a very trying time. Mr. J. L. Byer indicates that this question is best settled by the adoption of the "Golden Rule" (not by deciding "moral rights," as he himself cites a case where the "moral right" is a bit obscure)—with which we most heartily agree.

We particularly liked Mr. J. Rentoul's paper on our industry, and we are convinced he has given us a lead which we can follow without hesitation, being sure that every step is in the direction of the increased prosperity of the beekeeper and the fairer treatment by the Government.

The Lyttelton Times says:—

"Mr. Rentoul made out a good case at the Beekeepers' Conference for better treatment by the Government. It is very difficult to understand why the Railway Department should charge nearly twice as much to carry honey as it does to carry butter; and the other inequalities mentioned by Mr. Rentoul seem equally absurd and unfair. If it is right to carry lime and grass-seed for nothing, it must be wrong to charge 26/6 to carry a ton of honey a hundred miles. But we think it is altogether improper for the Government to convey lime or grass-seed or anything else on the railways free of charge. It simply means that the people are taxed to subsidise certain classes and to increase the profits from certain industries. There is room for a thorough overhaul of railway charges. If this were done properly, it looks as if the free list might be cut out, and then reductions might be made where feasible—in respect of honey, for instance."

Mr. C. F. Ryland's remarks on how the usefulness of the National could be increased were characteristic of that gentleman—a clear-cut business-like platform that every member can recognise and help with. We appreciate Mr. Ryland's valued help in this direction.

The formation of a permanent Committee to look after the political side of the industry will, we think, commend itself to all. It is highly desirable that both the National and the H.P.A. should co-operate in bringing about reforms, as the organisation of the industry is not of very great importance if the selling end is not satisfactory.

We were rather glad that Mr. Brickell was persuaded to drop his intended motion for the continued use of benzine tins for the export of honey. Even admitting the

increased cost is considerable, we think it advisable to put our good honey in containers worthy of it.

The social evening was again a great success, and our thanks are due to all those ladies and gentlemen who helped to entertain us. There can be no doubt that a complete break in the business of the Conference by this enjoyable evening helps very considerably in making our annual gatherings the success they are.

The balance-sheet of the Association shows the finances to be in a healthy condition, the amount of subscriptions reaching considerably over the £100, and that without the returns from three Branches.

Our readers will notice the price of the Journal has been increased to 6/-. We sincerely hope this is only a temporary necessity. As soon as paper drops in price, the cost of the Journal will be reduced.

We are publishing the crop reports furnished by our readers, and we are sorry there has not been a more generous response to our request. The figures published are interesting, but they do not give any idea of the actual returns in honey from the different districts. There is not much work entailed in just filling up a post-card which has all details printed in; but the greater number of our readers do not take the trouble, so our return suffers.

The Editor is in want of May copies of the Journal; 6d. each will be paid for any supplied.

## Market Reports.

During the past month the market has been very quiet, with a limited trade. The following sales have been made:—170 barrels Chilian, chiefly Pilo 2, at 85/- per cwt.; retails of Pile X, at 95/- to 97/6 per cwt.; 60 cases Guatemala, at 92/6 per cwt. Other honey has been selling at late rates.

Beeswax.—The market for this is also quiet; 230 bags of Chilian have been sold at £11 to £11 15s., with retails of fine yellow to bleached at £11 17s. 6d. to £12s. 6d. Other beeswax has been selling at late rates.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 31st March, 1920.

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

Auckland.—The past month has been one of the stormiest and wildest experienced in the Auckland Province, so that bees

mostly were confined to their hives during the whole month. Present indications point to a very cold winter. Prices of honey remain unchanged, but there are indications of a rise soon, as the demand is growing.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—By this period the honey crop throughout my district has been gathered, and I have definite information to report:—Poverty Bay and Hawke's Bay, very light crop; Taranaki, average crop; Manawatu, light crop; Wairarapa, average crop. There is a demand for beeswax at 2/- per lb. No section honey offering.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—The market is firm for all lines. Large consignments are now arriving at the grade stores for export. Now that the petrol tins have been discarded, the packages present a much more attractive appearance. Generally, beekeepers are recognising that new tins are less costly to handle. Bulk honey is quoted at 8½d., and is in strong demand; section honey (choice), 10/- to 12/- per doz.; 10 lb. tins, to 8/6. Pat honey is coming forward, but it is in short supply. Beeswax is scarce, and is quoted at 2/3 to 2/6 per lb.—E. A. Earp.

## Work for the Winter Months.

62. How may drone breeding be kept under control?
63. Compare the cappings of honey cells with those of drone and worker cells.
64. To what extent may the cutting out of queen cells be relied upon to prevent swarming?
65. Describe chilled brood, and state the circumstances which may occasion it.
66. Account for the interval of 17 to 21 days which elapses between the issuing of a prime swarm and the first laying of eggs thereafter in the parent hive.
67. If a cast is to be returned to the parent hive, what should be done to prevent the issue of a further cast?
68. Assuming that a queen's cells placed in a nucleus does not hatch, what should then be done?
69. Why do bees swarm?
70. What determines the output of eggs by the queen?
71. Explain the fanning of bees at hive entrances.

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

42. Approximately 7,000.
43. Parallel with the frames.
44. Providing the hive is free of disease, the best way is to shake the bees off the frames, and use them amongst the other hives. Bees in laying worker colonies are usually old and useless.

45. It is difficult to explain why some swarms will not stay after hiving; very often the ventilation given is not sufficient; and if a swarm is hived before the cluster is really settled in a compact mass, we believe the restless flying bees are the cause of the swarm coming out again and re-settling.

46. Assuming that it requires from 7 to 12 pounds of honey to be consumed by the bees to secrete 1 lb. of wax, the economy of supplying full sheets of foundation is apparent, without computing the loss of nectar, owing to the bees being engaged within the hive instead of foraging.

47. We believe the colour of the pollen being gathered and used governs this considerably.

48. There are two varieties of wax moth in New Zealand—the large (*Galleria mellonella*) and the smaller (*Achroa grisella*). The pests will very quickly ruin combs they have access to, the grubs boring tunnels right through the cells near the septum, that within a short time the whole comb falls to pieces in a mass of powdery cocoons.

49. Just previously to the swarming season. It may be taken as pretty certain that until a hive has a number of drones hatched out there will be no preparations for swarming.

50. Her first act after emerging is usually finding a cell of newly-gathered honey and enjoying a meal. Then she will look over the combs for any other queen cells containing matured queens, which she will destroy.

51. We have found in districts where *Pinus insignis* trees are fairly abundant, propolis is gathered in very large quantities. We believe the eucalypts and acacias yield propolis to the bees.

## Crop Reports

### AUCKLAND.

No. of Hives.	Increased	Crop.	Season.
16	25	0 11	Poor.
45	60	Nil.	"
30	79	0 14	Very good
400	410	4 10	Poor
200	dec. 180	11 0	Fair
100	110	3 14	Poor
7	14	Nil.	"
11	12	0 2½	"
30	60	1 10	Fair.
23	26	0 5	Poor.
15	27	0 8½	"
15	25	0 1	"
11	13	0 5	"
1	10	Nil.	"
180	185	6 7	Fair.
32	52	1 2	Poor.
113	123	3 10	"
69	85	2 10	Very good.



AUCKLAND—continued.			
No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
90	160	1 8	Poor.
17	70	Nil.	"
240	254	7 15	Fair.
1	2	Nil.	Poor.
1	4	0 1	Good.
5	12	0 2	Fair.
155	200	2 0	Poor.
106	112	1 2	"
27	44	0 17	Fair.
32	84	0 18	Poor.
50	75	1 2½	"
48	58	1 5	Very poor.
100	150	1 13	Poor.
55	90	1 18	Fair.
65	66	0 1½	Very poor.
93	132	4 7	Good.

(Average yield per hive on increased number: 45.41 lbs.)

WELLINGTON.			
No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
90	118	3 6¼	Poor.
4	7	0 3¾	Fair.
28	32	0 13¾	"
50	125	2 0	Poor.
23	26	0 3½	Poor.
650	700	30 0	Fair.
2	3	0 1	Good.
13	17	0 6	Fair.
291	410	11 8	"
60	105	1 16	Good.
4	6	0 1½	Poor.
500	500	18 0	Good.
180	200	6 0	Fair.
5	13	0 9¾	Good.
126	dec. 118	0 11¼	Very poor.
26	36	0 10½	Fair.
275	400	9 10	Good.
6	8	Nil.	Poor.
18	24	0 12¾	Fair.
17	20	0 10	Good.
18	dec. 5	0 1	Very poor.
3	6	0 2½	Good.
16	30	0 10	Fair.
27	33	1 3	Good.
98	98	3 2	Fair.
5	7	0 4	Good.
13	23	0 11	Very good
4	4	0 1	Fair.
14	18	0 9	Poor.
6	7	0 2	Good.
9	18	0 10	"
23	22	0 5	"

(Average yield per hive on increased number, 66.21 lbs.)

CANTERBURY.			
No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
45	70	1 12	Fair.
9	14	0 5	Poor.
15	20	0 1	Fair.
150	200	8 2	Good.
4	9	0 1½	"
12	17	0 5	Fair.
35	40	1 10	"
6	10	0 3	"
24	36	0 9	"
38	43	1 5	Good.
7	11	0 1¼	Very poor.
124	135	5 10	Good.

Increased			
No. of Hives.	to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
30	39	0 12	Fair.
8	16	0 3½	Poor.
40	120	0 10	Very good.
40	60	1 1	Fair.
20	24	0 14	"
40	47	0 18	"
15	28	0 8	"
28	39	1 0	"
38	58	1 0	"
dec. 50	2	9	Good.
21	25	0 5	"
80	80	1 15	Fair.
10	50	0 6	Poor.
36	48	0 10	Very poor.
60	72	2 5	Fair.
30	47	1 0 2-3	"
300	300	0 1	Very poor.
4	5	0 2¾	Fair.
30	50	0 13	Poor.
54	60	0 4	Poor.
80	115	4 3	Fair.
10	13	0 5¼	Fair.
146	146	4 0	Poor.
200	200	1 12	"
5	6	0 1¾	Fair.
90	135	1 5	Poor.
27	31	0 8½	Fair.
90	115	3 2	"
13	24	0 18	"
33	43	0 8½	Poor.
36	45	1 1	"
30	42	1 15	Fair.
12	18	0 4½	Poor.
12	13	0 11	Good.

(Average yield per hive on increased number, 44.55 lbs.)

OTAGO.			
No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
3	7	0 2	Fair.
10	14	0 9	"
40	46	2 8	Very good.
14	27	0 12	Good.
16	23	0 8	Fair.
40	45	1 10	Good.
20	30	1 5	Fair.
7	9	0 5½	"
37	52	1 0¼	Good.
280	290	2 2	Poor.
1	1	150 lb.	Very good
3	6	0 3½	Good.
93	119	3 2	Fair.
12	17	0 12	"
72	87	3 13½	Good.
16	dec. 15	0 3½	Fair.
30	57	1 0	Fair.
11	13	1 1	Very good.
20	20	1 1½	"
9	28	0 10	Poor.
14	19	0 6¼	Fair.
15	21	0 15	Poor.
67	74	3 10	Very good.
75	86	2 16	Fair.

(Average yield per hive on increased number, 58.46 lbs.)

O! Zeus! When you ring my knell,  
Decree of me not a frozen bell!  
For if to thee 'twill be the same,  
I'd far prefer a hell of flame.  
But if thy unrelenting hate  
In that alone its lust can sate,  
Grant me, to make my fate allure,  
A gross of Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

MARLBOROUGH.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
1	2	0 4	Fair.
4	7	0 4	Fair.
130	130	1 8	Very poor.
15	20	0 6	"
95	150	1 10	Poor.
48	60	0 13	Poor.

(Average: 24.65 lbs.)

SOUTHLAND.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
44	50	0 15	Fair.
25	80	Nil.	"
14	18	0 8½	"
5	16	0 5	"
40	65	1 6	"
2	2	0 0¾	"
5	8	0 7	Very good.
4	dec. 2	20 lb. F.B.	"
8	14	0 5½	Fair.
38	52	2 5	Good.
15	23	0 13¾	"
40	64	1 16	Fair.
13	20	0 12	Poor.
40	62	1 10½	"

(Average: 53 lbs.)

NELSON.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
25	30	0 9	Poor.
18	45	1 11	Very good.
10	16	0 10	"
4	8	0 4 1-3	Good.
33	33	0 5	Poor.
26	26	0 15½	Very good.
17	24	0 15	Fair.

(Average: 55.28 lbs.)

WESTLAND.

No. of Hives.	Increased to.	Crop. ton cwt.	Season.
19	36	0 17	Poor.
9	9	0 4	Good.
8	20	0 12½	Very good.

(Average: 57.72 lbs.)

## Conference Impressions.

By E. G. WARD.

The strongest impression left on my mind after attending the 1920 Conference of the National is that these annual gatherings are of the greatest value, for the reason that they foster that feeling of brotherliness (and sisterliness) which is so essential if we are to all pull together for the common good. All previous Conferences have paved the way for what I consider is the best ever held. Both Mrs. Ward and myself had a feeling of regret when the time came to say good-bye to the many new friends we made and the old ones we were so pleased to meet again. Such expressions as the following prove how valuable these meetings of the members of the craft are:—'Wouldn't have

missed it for any money.'—'Best holiday I ever had.'—'Learned more in three days than I would have done in three months on my 'pat.'—Even the 'old buffers' can't afford to stay away, because if they do they deprive themselves of the pleasure of giving a helping hand to the embryo beekeeper, and must also have a feeling that they may have 'missed' something good.

The attendance exceeded that of any previous Conference, and I am quite sure the interest taken in the deliberations was equal to, even if it did not exceed, that of any previous gathering. We did not have a Minister of the Crown to open the proceedings and make a long speech of a non-committal nature; but we had what I consider was infinitely better, and that was the attendance of Mr. Campbell. He opened the Conference with a few words, and in effect said, 'Now, get to work and let me know what you want, and I'm the boy to help you on.'

We settled down to solid work without more ado, and I am convinced that the 'powers that be' will soon find that the National is a live body, and intends to be taken notice of.

When I supported the proposal last year to hold the Conference in Christchurch, many people thought I had made a mistake. 'You won't get the North Island men to attend,' they said. 'Better keep to Wellington, and get them from North and South,' and so on. Well, I think I did right after all, and I am going to say that I have such a feeling of satisfaction now it is over that I hope it will not be the last function of the kind that will be held here.

I was sorry to miss the familiar faces of some of the North Island folk, notably Mr. Nelson. I am sure everyone will join me in offering sympathy with him in his trouble. Mr. J. B. Adams is another I would have enjoyed a 'crack' with, but he too added a little to my disappointment.

The social evening is a feature which has come to stay, and although the 'talent' perhaps did not rival, say, Melba in the singing or Paganini in the instrumental, or Henry Irving in the dramatic, the applause was sufficiently hearty to prove that the visitors appreciated the efforts of those who tried to do their little bit towards making the evening a success. The efforts of our worthy Secretary and Editor (Mr. Baines) stand out prominently, and as I heard one gentleman say, 'you'd hardly think such a 'noise' could be produced by such a thin 'instrument.' ' Good for you, P. C. B.

Those who attended the demonstration evening should feel that the time was not wasted. Mr. Clayton had a 'walk-over' with his melter, so there was no chance of making comparisons. I think his method of treatment of foul-brood is about the 'last word,' and as he has promised to write it up for the Journal, I will take



the opportunity of advising anyone who is not a subscriber to at once send 6/- to Mr. Baines, and he will get full value for his money in one issue.

I was particularly pleased at the almost unanimous support of the proposal to raise the price of the Journal from 5/- to 6/-, and although my sub. has been paid, I am sending along an extra "bob." It is quite evident the Journal is appreciated, and I congratulate our Editor for the efforts he makes to make it popular.

Although the National and the H.P.A. are two separate bodies, they are inseparably bound together. All members of the National are not members of the H.P.A.—I wish they were—but I cannot conclude without saying a few words in appreciation of the work which the responsible officers are doing to make honey production a safe commercial proposition. The Standing Committee which was appointed was, I believe, a master stroke, and is composed of men who will leave nothing undone which ought to be done to see that the industry gets a fair and square deal from the authorities.

The number of returned soldiers who attended shows the interest taken in the industry, but let me once more emphasise what I have said more than once. Beekeeping is not a get-rich-quick scheme. It requires energy, close application, and lots of experience to become successful. The members of the National pledged themselves some years ago to give all the help in their power, and will redeem that promise, but they are quite unable to give any of those essentials I have quoted above.

In conclusion, I would say I have never crammed as much real enjoyment into one week as I have done during the 1920 Conference. I have enlarged my circle of friends, and added to my stock of knowledge, and am looking forward to a good season, to which I think the indications are favourable.

## District Reports.

### AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH: FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The year has been a disappointing one for beekeepers, the crop throughout the Province being the lightest experienced for many years.

Our sub-branches, with the exception of Lower Waikato, are all in a thriving state. Unfortunately we lost Mr. Millett as secretary of the Lower Waikato, and so far have not been able to replace him.

The annual field day was held at Rukuru State Apiary on 4th February, and, being an ideal day, the success of the function was assured.

The secretary reported that the library was now in working order, but we are sorry to say it is not being utilised to the extent we had hoped.

We are glad to report that our finances are still on the right side, but not so great as last year, chiefly on account of heavier expenses incurred in Field Day, library books, and honorarium to secretary.

Our membership is not nearly as large as it should be, taking the number of beekeepers in our Province into consideration. We would like to see all join hands.

We are sorry to report the loss from our district of Mr. Young, our field inspector, and look to the Department to either return him or replace him as soon as possible.

A. H. DAVIES, Secretary.  
Hamilton, 4th June, 1920.

### HAWKE'S BAY.

There is a high rate of mortality in Hawke's Bay beehives. With no nectar in the summer and no sugar in the winter, it has been necessary to reduce considerably. Also, in these circumstances there has been no economy in "treating" a diseased colony, for it must surely die. The result is that some apiaries are diminished to less than half their strength.

Beekeepers and Southerly Weather.—Neither bees nor beekeepers delight in the south winds, but both have been fated in this respect. Many of the gums are flowering profusely, but the bees are shut in their hives by the storms. The beekeepers likewise have been shut away from good things. On the one hand, it was from a most interesting field day; and on the other from the annual meeting. Even adjourning the meeting did no good, as the wind came again.

The following office-bearers were appointed to further the interests of the Association for the coming year:—President, Mr. Arch. Lowe; Vice-President, Mr. H. Shepherd; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. J. P. Boyle; Committee—Mrs. Shepherd, and Messrs. McCulloch, Harker, Ross, and Hill.

We received one day a copy of "The Australasian Beekeeper." It was of special interest to us, as it contained competitive essays on a branch of the industry that was then uppermost in our activities. Some of our members have wondered if it would not be possible for our own Journal to arrange similar competitions. It must greatly assist the Editor in matter for the Journal, though he would not make the mistake of printing every essay.

J. P. BOYLE.

June 12, 1920.

When Betty Brown first came to town  
She had but one plain gingham gown.  
But now she's draped in crepe-de-chine,  
And lolls back in her limousine.  
She's married to a millionaire,  
And cherished with the greatest care.  
In winter months, of course, she's sure  
To have her Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

## TARANAKI NOTES.

My Journal arrived to-day, and although it does not give me much time for thought, I must first answer Mr. James Allan's two questions contained therein. Before doing so, however, I would like to state that I had no idea at the time I wrote that criticism of his depot system that it would become a political issue.

Firstly, I would like to draw Mr. Allan's attention to the fact that I referred to Taranaki only. My honey, for instance, is of such quality that, although I have recommended by friends at times to buy H.P.A. brand, they have always been disappointed (this season no exception). This may seem to be drifting from the point, but what I wish to make clear is that in my own case I have a margin over and above a first-grade honey which the present system encourages me to maintain. Now, supposing I was out to beat the Company. Under the suggested depot system, I could extract my honey in a somewhat green condition, just good enough to pass the Company's tests. This honey would certainly granulate, and would probably pass the grader in that state, but instead of a nice smooth dry grain would be inclined to be coarser, more moist, and would not have the keeping qualities of a well-ripened article. Under the proposed system the honey would lose its identity, and shareholders would not take the same care with their product, as under the present system, where their number goes on the package, and it may be twelve months or two years before it is sold.

To sum up: Under the suggested system anyone desirous of beating the Company would have far more chance than they have at present.

Having missed Conference this year, I am behind the times.

Extracting is not yet quite completed owing to the tin shortage.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 15/6/20.

## TAIERI TALK.

An I write not something under this head, I fear I shall be invested with the Ancient Order of the Sack.

As I remarked before, the season has been exceptionally good. The crop average, so far as I can make out, is between 70 lbs. and 80 lbs. per hive. One bravo there is who claims to have harvested a hundredweight per hive; though this smacks of the reptile, or suggests "snake yarns," it may still be true. Indeed, it is true, isn't it, Harry?

This year's honey is all A grade, I should think. Our old friend Eucalyptus Gummi left us severely alone this season, thank Heaven.

Winter has set in now in real earnest. This week saw the first snowfall of the year. It did not stay long on the ground, but its effects remain. Even now Maun-

gatua is draped in white right down to the plain's level. Need I say that when the wind whistles from that direction, we hunch our chairs closer and closer to the fire till the front legs project over the fender. YOU never do that? Well, come to these parts for a while: we'll teach you how!

The "Imperial Bee" is certainly hustling. It is the topic in these regions. When you sit in the cars you see beaming at you Cleopatra or her cousin german, I don't know which attracts most—the lady or the tastefully labelled honey tin in the foreground. "The queen was in her parlour eating 'Imperial Bee' honey," says the legend. "Yes," says a car-fare, "that's why the king was in the counting-house counting out the money. Fifteen blanky pence the pound!" I thought it my duty to annihilate the aggrieved one with some of Mr. Ryland's cogent arguments. 'Twas easy! But the cars furnish only one aspect of the business. I was recently in a tiny shop in a tag end of Dunedin—(between ourselves, Dunedin is all tag end). There she was again, beaming down on all-comers. Again I was in the ante-room of a barber's shop seeking a cheap 'phone communication. Above the 'phone hung a calendar which talked much of "Imperial Bee," and told, further, how to make "Cambridge padding" and sundry other articles of food. Of course, the said padding is made with honey! Yes, without a doubt the H.P.A. is striding ahead.

The annual meeting of the Branch was held recently. The attendance, all things considered, was good. This year our roll will hold about 18 names. Officers for the year are—as follows:—President, Mr. W. Clark; Vice-President, Mr. R. Dowie; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. B. H. Howard; Committee of five. You wouldn't be interested in the rest of the business. But we have an egregiously wonderful scheme in hand. No! Your powers of divination could never compass it.

BASIL H. HOWARD.

May 22nd, 1920.

## SOUTHLAND.

The annual meeting of the Southland Beekeepers' Association took place at Invercargill on Saturday, 22nd May. As a snowstorm was working at full pressure, the attendance was not large (eight beekeepers). Mr. R. Gibb presided, and as usual carried out his duties in a very happy manner.

After the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, a very animated discussion took place on the various remits sent down from the Executive of the National. On the question of foul-brood there was a unanimous roar, one beekeeper stating that as far as he was aware no inspection had been carried out in his district for four years. Another told of an instance of where the inspector had paid several visits and compelled a clean-up, but one alleged

beekeeper removed the diseased combs from the hive and threw them on the ground alongside. There was no further visit from the inspector, and the neighbouring bees got the benefit of this piece of lunacy. All present agreed that there was no hope of getting the disease under control unless more men were appointed, and a Chief Apiarist put in charge who would be able to keep an inspector long enough in one locality to secure effective measures being carried out before he moved on to the next district. With the present number of inspectors no improvement is possible.

**Grading of Honey.**—The present system of grading was generally approved, with the proviso that we would prefer that one grader should be appointed to carry out the work for the whole of New Zealand, thus securing a uniform standard of quality. At present there exists a very decided belief in Southland that the grader for the South Island demands a higher standard than that set for the Northern beekeeper. This, of course, may be a belief that is not borne out by a full knowledge of the facts, but is very pronounced among some of our folk. The meeting was of the opinion that the rest of the graders would be more usefully employed in stamping out disease.

In regard to Mr. Allan's scheme for packing honey for export, the feeling was that it was desirable to make haste slowly, and that the plan indicated in his letter in the May Journal of trying out the new scheme at Auckland and Timaru was as far as should be ventured on during the coming season.

What was looked upon as the greatest objection was the danger of unripe honey being accepted by the depot managers, and also the greatly increased expense of handling the product, with no great prospect of an increased price to compensate us for this extra expense.

As regards apirary boundaries, the question has not yet become a burning one in Southland; but for all that we quite recognise that if there are others suffering injustice in other parts, it is up to us to help in effecting an improvement—if that be possible. We decided to endorse the two clauses proposed by the Editor in the December Journal.

In the educational field we succeeded in extracting a pledge from Mr. Gibb that he would send in at least one article during the coming year. We are hopeful of a modest effort from some others, but would not like to promise that Southland will contribute a fair proportion of the interesting items in the Journal during the coming year. All present agreed that "the Journal should be supported; it is really first rate, and no Editor can carry on without contributors; but ———. Oh, you know I cannot write!"

When it came to election of officers, Mr. Gibb pleaded to be allowed out of harness for a year, and on the assurance

that next year he would come back, he was allowed to stand down, Mr. C. Larsen being elected President for the next term.

This concluded a most interesting meeting.

L. IRWIN.

## Adjourned Annual Meeting of the N.Z. Co-op Honey Producers' Association Ltd.

The above meeting was held in the Concert Hall of the Y.M.C.A., Christchurch, on Tuesday, 8th June, at 2.30 p.m., and was attended by about sixty shareholders.

The Chairman (Mr. J. Rentoul), in his report, dealt with the congestion of stocks both here and in England owing to the shipping difficulties, pointing out that it was chiefly due to the lack of shipping space that we had not been able to avail ourselves of the very high prices that at one time were ruling in England. Whilst this was regrettable, it had the effect of turning the attention of the management to the development of the local market, which the high export prices had rather taken our attention from. However, Mr. Ryland, the General Manager, had made a careful study of the position, and by making a tour of both islands and interviewing the merchants, showing them the sample of "Imperial Bee" honey and guaranteeing a uniform colour and grade, had been successful in securing orders that amounted to about 1,000,000 lbs. of honey, and that at a price that showed an advance of 1d. per lb. over and above the export value ruling to-day.

Mr. Rentoul was emphatic that the grading as at present carried out left a great deal to be desired. He was not going to blame anybody, but the fact was evident that one could never tell when their honey would be graded, some suppliers getting their returns within a few weeks, others waiting months. He felt sure that some system of grading in bulk would have to be devised, and the directors had framed a scheme that he believed would be of very great assistance. They had intended to have had this in working order during the past season, but difficulties cropped up, and it would be during the coming season the scheme would be tried.

Mr. Rentoul gave a brief outline of the progress of the Association, which in 1913 handled 10 tons, and in the year just passed handled 634 tons, with a turnover of nearly £50,000. The Association started its operations by advancing 3d. per lb.; this year the advance was 6d. per lb., with the probability of further payments coming along.

He mentioned that at the last annual meeting, the shareholders asked the Association to take up the supplies business,

which they agreed to do on condition that the shareholders took up contributing shares to supply the necessary capital. Although these were not taken up as largely as the directors hoped—only £1,500 being subscribed—he was glad to be able to record £6,000 worth of business had been done, and the purchasers had been given a bonus of 5 per cent. on all their dealings under this heading.

He drew attention to the confidence of the Bank in our Association in allowing a big overdraft, but it was necessary in view of the increasing business that the capital of the Association be increased by the issue of another £5,000 worth of shares.

Mr. Rentoul appealed to the shareholders for continued loyalty, as it was only by sticking together we should succeed.

The motion for the adoption of the report and balance-sheet was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. G. Ward proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and general manager, stating that he was sure he was only speaking the minds of the shareholders that they were to be congratulated on having such a splendid lot of men on the directorate. He would like them to express their appreciation of Mr. Rentoul's work in a tangible form, and he proposed an honorarium of fifty guineas be made to him.

Mr. P. C. Baines seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously with acclamation.

Mr. Rentoul thanked the shareholders, stating that the bare expression—leaving out the more substantial part—of their appreciation made up for a very great deal of work and inconvenience the position entailed. He appreciated their confidence, and if re-elected would continue to do his best for the industry.

The election of directors resulted in Mr. J. Rentoul 235 votes (Mr. J. Allan 215) being elected by a considerable majority over the other candidates.

## Correspondence.

[The publication of any letter does not necessarily imply our agreement with the subject matter, and we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir.—Are we to take Mr. J. S. Cotterell seriously or not when he states in his letter published in your June issue that honey is selling in England at 3/- per lb., or £336 per ton? This statement is absolutely misleading and false. He evidently gleaned his information from Mr. Stockmar's letter, which appeared in your March issue. We would like to draw Mr. Cotterell's attention to the market re-

ports published in your June number, in which the High Commissioner quotes: "Honey market very dull. . . . Broker's idea of value of New Zealand honey is 80/- to 85/-," which is very different to 336/-. Then in the report from "The Chemist and Druggist," as quoted by you, it states: "Of New Zealand, 320 cases offered, and 20 sold privately at 105/- for white set"—still showing a very wide margin between Mr. Cotterell's figures and those actually ruling. "Market weak; no demand" has been the verdict of the brokers for some months past.

In view of this, how can honey be selling at 336/- when the best New Zealand honey can be bought at from 80/- to 105/-? Who is going to pay 3/- per lb. for a bread spread when jams can be purchased at from 1/7 to 1/9 per 27 oz. tin? Grocers and others who bought large stocks of honey in the days of exorbitant prices—viz., latter end of 1918—have made such huge losses on their purchases that they have got absolutely "fed up" with honey that it is a very difficult thing to get them to stock it again, even at low prices. There are probably some who are endeavouring to sell at the old high prices, so as not to make a loss, but at 3/- a pot they would not sell a pot in a week or even a month. We ourselves have made offers of H.P.A. honey at as low as 90/- per cwt., but could not get buyers, simply because there is no demand by the general public, which can only pay a moderate price for it. Just think a moment, and imagine how many people in England or elsewhere could afford 3/- per lb. for honey in these days of increasing cost of living! It is one thing offering honey at 3/-, but it is quite another getting customers to buy it. To create a continuous demand, the price must be such as will attract the "millions" and induce them to eat honey every day, and not to look upon it as a luxury.

There are certain statements which we take strong exception to, such as Mr. Stockmar writes:—"But I certainly object to others making 200 to 300 per cent. out of the proceeds of my labour"; and Mr. Cotterell says, "I think the members are entitled to know the costs per ton of honey from the time it leaves New Zealand until it reaches the retailers' hands in England per medium of the B. and D." Now, both of these beekeepers are by insinuation leading the shareholders to believe that we are exploiting the H.P.A. and filling our coffers at their expense; and we say again, we take strong exception to these innuendoes. Those are the thanks we get from these two members after the time, trouble, and expense Major Norton has given to building up a market for their honey—from nothing up to the position it holds to-day in England.

Apparently these correspondents know nothing of the trials and troubles which we have been through during the past four or five years, due to shortage of shipping, labour troubles, congestion at docks,

&c., coupled with the ever-soaring railway rates, labour charges, cost of cases and containers, &c., nor have they given one thought of what these factors mean in regard to the costs of marketing their honey.

Ask any of those beekeepers who were away with the N.Z.E.F., and who visited Bristol, what we are doing for the H.P.A., and what they saw for themselves, and also ask them whether they think that the B. and D. are fleeing the H.P.A.!

We have at all times done our best for the beekeepers, and studied their interests, took great risks on their account when we entered into contracts with the H.P.A., arranged finance for them when no other firms or banking institutions would advance one penny-piece against honey in store at the time when shipping was scarce, and we nursed them through the trying years of 1918 and 1919, and then we receive insults for our pains. Where would the beekeepers be to-day had it not been for the contract which we made with the H.P.A. in 1914? Probably in the hands of the merchants, and getting about 3d. or 3½d. per lb. for their honey! We are thankful to know that all of the H.P.A.'s shareholders are not of the same mind as your correspondents, and do not agree with the wild statements made by them.

When Mr. Stockmar's neighbour was Home in November, there were thousands of tons of honey, of all kinds, which could be bought at from 60/- to 80/- per cwt. It was not so good as New Zealand, of course, but still it was honey. We sold some New Zealand at as much as 115/-, but it was only a small quantity, as the average price obtained was approximately 100/-.

With regard to appointing some bona fide responsible person to peruse our books, we may say that we would gladly welcome the inspection, and have on several previous occasions invited the H.P.A. to appoint such a one. We have nothing to hide, our dealings being all above board, and therefore we have no fears as to the result of any investigation made on our books. How many other firms would be prepared to make a like offer?

Our managing director, Major A. E. M. Norton, arrives in New Zealand about the 20th instant, and if meetings can be arranged through the H.P.A. on suitable dates, we feel sure he would be only too pleased to give addresses, and seeing that Messrs. Stockmar and Cotterell have made such grave insinuations, we would specially invite them to attend at least one of the meetings, as Major Norton will be able to enlighten them on any matters which they are in doubt about; then perhaps they would not be so keen to belittle the work done on behalf of the producers.

In conclusion, we would add that if your correspondents think they can do better than the B. and D. has done for

the H.P.A., then why not both of them enter into partnership and offer to take over the export business, as we think Major Norton would be prepared to cancel the existing agreement, and thus give them the opportunity of showing how they would conduct the business and what they can do. It is all very well to figure as "arm-chair" critics, and to criticise the doings of others at the other end of the world, whose business it is to study the markets, but could they do better? Criticism is good for all at times, provided it is fair and just, but when malicious statements are made against the Association, which has given a helping hand on several occasions when the beekeeping industry urgently needed it, we think it most unreasonable and unjust.

Hoping we are not encroaching too much upon your valuable space, and thanking you in anticipation for any consideration shown us by kindly publishing this letter,—  
We are, &c.,

THE BRISTOL & DOMINIONS PRODUCERS' ASSN. LTD.,  
T. A. CLARK,

Acting Manager.

Wellington, 8th June, 1920.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Please hear my grievous complaint. I have lived in this district for a good number of years, and have now started beekeeping for an honest means of a living. I have not seen a bee inspector (destroyer of box hives) here for over eight years, and box-hives are doing well—nothing to molest them. Some boxes are perched on a stump, with a sheet of galvanised iron on top, and a great stone to hold it on, while others are hidden from the inspector's eye by being covered with blackberries or fern, &c. Nearly every "cookie" has an old butter-box hive in the orchard. Some laugh at the idea of a frame hive: "a box hive will do us," they say. I wish I was an inspector—I'd make some bonfires. When the honey is robbed, some is spilled on the ground, and who knows but what my Italian bees are getting their share of it, and perhaps bringing home the germs of that dreadful enemy, foul-brood.

I see in the Journal that Mr. Dick, apiary inspector, paid a visit to the West Coast, and had ordered several box-hives to be destroyed. I wish he had paid Karamea a visit. It needs a man with a sharp eye to see them under the blackberry bushes. I think it is about time something was done. I have gone to a lot of trouble for several people, and have transferred some box-hives. I have seen a few cells of foul-brood. I am out to fight foul-brood (and any man who stands in the way), so cannot the Government assist by sending out another apiary instructor.—  
I am, &c.,

LESLIE H. JOHNSON.

Arapito, via Westport, 25/5/20.

## (TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Your correspondent J. E. Yeoman expresses pleasure that the National is taking up the question of foul-brood in earnest, saying it is high time somebody did something in the matter. I wonder if Mr. Yeoman ever heard the old saw, "the Lord helps them that help themselves"? If so, let him bestir himself. A line to Mr. Young ought to accomplish something, he having just visited this district—and what a clearance of box-hives, foul-brood, &c! In my opinion he should have gone one further and prosecuted the offenders. Let Mr. Yeoman communicate with him, and I am willing to bet there will be something doing, and that before long.—I am, &c.,

Darfield, 8/6/20.

WORKER.

## (TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In your February issue you published a letter from Mr. J. S. Cotterell in regard to "Spur" brand honey, and on referring this letter to Major Norton, he has written us to the effect that it was a label he adopted when he was unable to obtain any New Zealand honey, but he was, however, able to get the best Californian. He says there is no word whatever on the label to indicate that it is New Zealand honey, and that we can assure our beekeeping friends that the honey referred to never saw New Zealand. When the armistice came, and he was able to get supplies of New Zealand honey, he was still left with a quantity of this Californian. Therefore, Mr. Cotterell's friend was entirely wrong when he stated it was New Zealand honey.—We are, &c.

THE BRISTOL & DOMINIONS PRODUCERS' ASSN. LTD.,

T. A. CLARK,

Acting Manager.

Wellington, 15/6/20.

## (TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In the June issue of your Journal appeared a letter from Mr. J. S. Cotterell dealing with matters affecting our Association, and in particular the sale of honey upon the English market.

Mr. Cotterell states: "It is common knowledge that members of the H.P.A. are only receiving a small advance on honey supplied, whilst H.P.A. and other honeys in England are fetching from 2/6 to 3/- per lb. retail."

This is not the first occasion on which a statement has been made through your Journal that our honey is at present being retailed in Great Britain at approximately 3/- per lb.

Immediately we heard the statement made, enquiries were instituted both from Major Norton and from independent sources, and from the replies now to hand it is quite certain that our New Zealand honey, under our own brand, is being offered in unlimited quantities to retailers

in Great Britain, in paper pots, at approximately 1/1 per pound, and in bulk at from 10d. to 1/- per lb. Therefore, if retailers are selling at 3/- per lb., they are making enormous profits, and are liable to prosecution for profiteering.

Then again, the choicest American and foreign honeys have been offered in the "Grocer," which circulates amongst retailers in Great Britain, at approximately the same prices as have been asked for our own honey, this proving that there have been unlimited supplies of all kinds of honey in Great Britain for the last 12 months, which retailers could purchase at less than 1/- per lb.

In a letter to hand from Mr. J. H. Heath, one of our shareholders from the Waikato, who is visiting England, he states:—"I have read in the Journal correspondence re the price of honey in England. I am enclosing a label taken from a 1-lb. glass jar of honey with a screw-capped top. We have bought several lots at 1/10½ per pound pot."

Our members should bear in mind that this price is for glass, and glass is at present very expensive in Great Britain, and if the same honey were packed in 1-lb. paper pots, it would probably be retailed at 1/6. Further evidence comes from Mr. Hooper Teed, who states that our H.P.A. honey is retailed at Home in the stores at 1/6 per pound, and that it fetches more than other honeys. This should completely clear the air of the idea that our N.Z. honey is being sold below its value, or that retailers are making large profits. As a matter of fact the honey market has been in a very dull condition in Great Britain since the conclusion of the war, and the efforts of the Association and all beekeepers must be directed towards assisting our agents in helping to re-establish the demand for honey in Great Britain.—I am, &c.,

C. F. RYLAND,

General Manager.

Stanley Street, Auckland, 19/6/20.

## (TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Thanks to the valuable services of the Journal I have received a large envelope full of Linden seed from Mr. C. Unwin Winchester (old pupil of the Horticultural School, France). The seed sent is *Tilia vulgaris*. He tells me in his letter that he has visited most of the Public Gardens from Auckland to Dunedin, but did not come across a single specimen of *Tilia Americana* (American Linden).

Since writing to you last, someone told me he had tasted basswood or Linden honey. He said it was as bad as taking medicine. I think he had got a sample of honey-dew from the Lindens. Basswood or Linden honey could have no ill taste but for the honey-dew.

Last season I planted a patch of turnips (bulbs) to grow turnip seed for my own use, and it provided a good supply of pollen and honey for my bees just when



it was most wanted. It will pay any bee-keeper to grow turnip seed to sell wholesale at the price now obtainable. But strictly keep to one sort only. I also planted a lot of sunflowers, and the seeds are now very useful for feeding the hens. Now is the time to select the turnip and plant out. The sunflower seed can be planted in the spring in beds or boxes, and when the plants are 3 in. high can be put permanently in any odd corner where protected from the cattle. They are very hardy, requiring little attention, and furnish good bee feed. When the seed is ripe, pull up by the root and give them to the hens—it makes them lay. Give some plants to your friends.

I am erecting a plant to make frames on a large scale, and am taking out a patent. I will submit a sample to you for inspection as soon as I am ready to supply. I would like to send you a complete hive, so that you could run it for a season, and publish the result. I have made several improvements in producing section honey, as well as a new device for frames for extracting where the honey is too thick for extracting from the Hoffman frames.—I am, &c.,

OSMOND BUTLER.

Kahikatea, May 16.

[We would suggest that you send a complete hive to the Ruakura Apiary, where Mr. Trythall could give it a good trial.—Ed.]

## Flowers that Bees Like.

(By "An Old Hand," in "Garden Life," England.)

Both for the sake of the honey—always one of the most wholesome of foods, and now, in these days of sugar shortage, doubly valuable—and for the important part the bee plays in pollinisation of our fruit and other blossoms, it is worth while for every gardener to see to it that his beds and borders contain a proportion of honey-giving flowers. For it is a well-known fact that certain flowers supply more honey than others, and where these are plentiful there will the bees be found. Beekeeping may be made a most profitable "side-line"—indeed, many gardeners realise a quite respectable income from these industrious insects.

The following plants are all easily raised from seed, and have the merit of bearing, in most cases, attractive and showy

flowers, which will contribute much to the beauty of the garden.

Sweet Alyssum (*A. maritimum*) is the favourite hardy annual, a pretty, dwarf-growing plant with white flowers, which, as its name implies, are sweet-scented.

The sweet-scented Candytuft, in many fine shades of colour, makes a delightful plant for beds and borders, and can be sown where it is to flower.

### FLOWERS FOR CUTTING.

Calliopsis or Coreopsis are highly decorative, giving a wealth of flowers for cutting. In their favour, too, is the fact that they will grow in any soil, and that they are excellent plants for town and suburban gardens.

Clarkias are another group of hardy annuals that are wonderfully effective, and flower profusely during the summer. For early flowering they can be sown in the autumn.

The Cornflower (*Centaurea Cyanus*) needs no description, but when sowing it is well to get seed of a good strain.

Collinsia bicolor is a graceful little hardy annual, which can be sown in autumn for spring flowering, and in March and April for summer.

Godetias are remarkably fine, with a good range of colours, including all shades of rose and crimson, also white, in many cases blotched or margined. The habit is dwarf and bushy, and the satiny flowers are of large size.

Gilia tricolor is a hardy annual, with flowers of a lavender shade. The biennial species are taller, and much more effective, but should be sown in heat.

Leptosiphons are tiny plants which make admirable edgings, and are also useful for the rockery. The colours vary from yellow to rose, also white.

Limnanthes Douglasii, and especially the variety grandiflora, is another good plant for edging and rockwork, also for filling small beds. The flowers are yellow, edged with white.

Lupins have many pretty forms among the annual species, the colours ranging from yellow to rose, crimson, and sky-blue.

Mignonette is a universal favourite, and should be extensively planted.

Nasturtiums, both tall and dwarf, are noted for the brilliance of their blooms, and they continue to flower from July until frost cuts them down. They do best in poor soil, and should have full sun.

Nigella, otherwise known as Love-in-a-Mist, with its quaint-looking flowers of a lovely shade of blue, is a plant that never fails to attract notice.

Silene pendula is a compact and dwarf-growing hardy annual, suited for small beds, rock-work, and edgings. Pink, rose, and crimson are among the colours.

Send for Pamphlet on "BEESWAX."

6d. POST FREE.

W. B. BRAX,  
Barry's Bay.

Sweet Peas, of course, should not be omitted; and Sweet Sultans are likewise beautiful.

All the foregoing can be sown at any time this spring, and will flower this year. Then there are a number of perennials which are good bee flowers; nor must herbs, such as borage, hyssop, sage, and thyme, be omitted.

March, 1920.

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## Winter Care of Bees.

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By J. S. COTTERELL.

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In the genial climate of New Zealand, where the winter is not severe, it may be held that little care is required in wintering bees, other than confining them to one or two brood boxes with mats and restricting the entrance, a waterproof cover or roof being, of course, indispensable.

At one time such was the belief and practice of the writer, with various results as to good wintering. For some years a wood inner cover was used, dispensing entirely with mats of sacking or eurlap, as it was observed that the bees devoted a lot of energy to pulling the latter to pieces, or coating with wax and propolis; besides which the mats would absorb moisture, due to drip from condensation on the cover.

The wood cover used had a bee space between it and the top of brood frames, the edges being sealed tight by the bees. To further conserve the heat of the colony during winter, the writer has placed a half-super on this inner cover, together with several folded newspapers, and filled up with dry planer shavings. A better plan is to use a sheet of linseed oiled American duck (Alexander method), this, when dry, being placed directly on the frames and overlapping on all sides about one inch; then apply the half-super and fill up with three or four folded newspapers and planer shavings, the Christchurch Weekly Press being one of the best of winter overcoats for this purpose.

These oiled sheets have been in use for the past three winters, and are still in good condition, despite the fact of a hole being cut in the centre to admit of using a can-feeder in spring if necessary. The wood inner covers before mentioned are also provided with an opening for taking the can-feeder. Feeding directly over the cluster can thus be carried out in any weather without exposure of the bees or combs. Now, as to the effect of this top packing, if the cover is removed on a cold morning and the hand inserted in the packing, the warmth of the hive or cluster of bees is perceptibly felt, showing that the natural heat has been conserved,

with a consequent lessening consumption of winter stores. In addition, the packing will absorb a certain amount of heat from the sun on the cover during a fine day, and give off this heat at night. Some may claim that a tight cover or sealed cloths (oiled) are detrimental to the health of the colony in winter, but the writer has not found it so, as there is an absence of condensation over the cluster of bees, for the simple reason that the top packing prevents such a lowering of temperature to cause or induce condensation. There may be condensation inside at the sides and ends of hive in very cold weather, but the same thing will occur in any strong hive of bees not provided with side and end winter packing, such as our American apiarists adopt; in any case this side condensation is immaterial compared with the advantages of the retention of the warmth of the colony provided with top packing as outlined. Since adopting the foregoing winter top packing, colonies have opened up in spring in good condition, and without any mouldy combs, which used to be the case.

If packing is applied in March or April, the extra warmth is likely to induce breeding freely; but if applied in May, such has not been observed to be the case.

It may be asked, what quantity of stores should the hive contain to winter successfully under the above conditions? My answer to this is, the more the better within reason if you want a good hearty colony in the spring; the amount of stores will, of course, depend on locality and the shelter provided from strong winds.

In my locality, with ample shelter, 40 lbs. of honey or sugar stores is none too much for wintering and early spring breeding. As to the possibility of winter feeding and spring feeding of nuclei, there is nothing in my experience to equal the dry sugar feeder placed next to the cluster, and in the absence of this convenience a pound or more of sugar poured in at back and side of hive will be readily taken up by the inmates if short of stores, without its being pulled out at the entrance, or robbing induced if fed in a liquid state. This method of feeding is only a make-shift; in an emergency a proper dry sugar feeder being far preferable; of course, if combs of honey are available, there is nothing better for feeding purposes.

The winter care of bees may, therefore, be thus summarised:—Ample stores; protection; shelter and warmth. These are the four cardinal points to be kept in view for a successful wintering.

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Send for Pamphlet on "BEESWAX."

6d. POST FREE.

W. B. BRAY,  
Barry's Bay.

## Honey Plants.

By C. UNWIN.

As regards honey plants, we are exceedingly fortunate in New Zealand, as we have not only our native flora, many of the shrubs and trees of which are not found in any other country, but we can grow all the best nectar yielding plants of the other temperate countries of the world. Mr. Wrago has demonstrated to the people of Auckland what can be done in their climate, for he has palms growing in his garden that he has raised from seed sent to him from all corners of the tropics.

Mr. Pender, in his article on beekeeping in New Zealand, commented on the absence of trees, and there is no doubt that the output of honey from the Dominion could be greatly increased by planting suitable varieties. To-day almost all the honey that is exported from the Sandwich Islands is derived from the Mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*), a tree that was introduced by seed in 1828.

The day before the Conference I went to Messrs. Nairn and Sons' Nursery with a list of some twenty different kinds of bee trees, but was successful in obtaining only eight. Others might be more fortunate elsewhere. The following is a list in alphabetical order:—

*Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle): Flowers in September, and also furnishes an abundance of pollen. Large areas of it are to be seen by the railway between Christchurch and Chertsey.

*Acacia decurrens* var. *mollis*: Black wattle.

*Acer pseudo-platanus* sycamore: Maples, spring flowering.

*Amelanchier Canadensis* (syn. *A. Botryapium*): Grape pear; a small tree with a profusion of white blossoms in early spring; belonging to the same family as our principal fruit trees—almond, apricot, peach, cherry, plum, apple, pear, quince, all of which yield nectar.

*Cytisus proliferus* Tagasate: Sometimes erroneously called tree lucerne.

*Eucalyptus coriacea*: White gum.

*Eucalyptus robusta*: Swamp mahogany.

*Eucalyptus rostrata*: Red gum.

*Eucalyptus viminalis*: Manna gum.

(The above four varieties are growing in the Christchurch Botanical Gardens.)

For the North Island, where there are no frosts, the following may be added:—

*Eucalyptus corynocalyx*.

*Eucalyptus leucocylon*.

*Eucalyptus mellilodora*: Yellow box.

The Tasmanian bluegum, *E. globulus*, common throughout New Zealand, yields an amber honey of inferior quality.

*Oxydendron arboreum* (syn. *Andromeda arborea*) Sourwood: A small tree of the heath family, propagated by imported seed from America; thrives in a moist, peaty soil.

*Robinia pseudo-acacia* (false acacia): Flowers like the laburnum, only white; November, December. The largest number that I have seen growing on the site of the buried Maori village near Mount Tarawera. It seems to be scarce elsewhere, but should be widely planted. Besides giving good honey, it is ornamental, and the timber is useful for fencing purposes.

*Salix*: Willows; plentiful in most parts of the Dominion.

*Sophora Japonica*: Allied to our kowhai; creamy white flowers, that appear in March.

*Tilia Americana* and *Tilia heterophylla*: Lime or basswood. I have not come across either of these American species in New Zealand, and they should be raised from imported seed.

*Tilia argentea* (silver lime), *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Tilia vulgaris*, *Tilia cordata*: European; the three latter are placed in the order of flowering, from December to February.

*Tilia vulgaris* is the usual one found in this country. There are some fine specimens in the churchyard at Peel Forest, and no doubt they contribute towards putting the honey of that district at the head of the list in the recent competition. Lime trees do better with shelter from other trees. The native trees for the most part have small thick leathery leaves that are well adapted to withstand the nor'-westers, but trees with thin-bladed leaves, such as limes and horse chestnuts, cannot stand full exposure without being badly torn and scorched.

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## Beekeepers' Exchange.

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[Advertisements on this page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion.]

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**WANTED**, Person to TAKE CHARGE of 100 Colonies of Bees for coming season, and receive portion of crop in return.—“BEES,” c/o F. C. Baines, Kati Kati.

---

YOUNG MAN (19 years of age) anxious to learn Commercial Beekeeping. Address  
G. R. TURNER,  
40 Ethel St., Morningside,  
Auckland.

### BAY OF PLENTY COMB FOUNDATION FACTORY.

BEESWAX WANTED in any quantity to keep our modern Foundation Factory going.

We are offering 2/6 per lb. spot cash, or we will make your Wax up for you at 5d. per lb.

EXCELL & HALLAM,  
Comb Foundation Makers,  
OPOTIKI, Bay of Plenty

### FOUNDATION.

WE OFFER the Finest Quality FOUNDATION, MANUFACTURED FROM N.Z. BEESWAX; also American Foundation made by Dadants.

Order early, and beware of purchasing foreign Foundation without consulting the Association.

N.Z. CO-OP. HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION LTD.,  
Box 1293, AUCKLAND.

I am ESTABLISHING an Apiary on the Patetonga Tram Line, Hauraki Plains.

Miss C. F. NEWHOOK.

### FOR SALE, THIRTY-FOUR FRAME NUCLEI.

A. H. DAVIES,  
Pukeroro Rural, Hamilton.

**YOUNG LADY** would like to arrange to Receive Thorough Training in Beekeeping on Good Commercial Bee Farm; season 1920-1921.—Write

BOX 52,  
Whangarei.

### NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I am ESTABLISHING an Apiary at Waharoa, and an Out-yard in the vicinity.  
G. V. GOW.

POSITION of CADETS in Commercial Apiary required by two Young Ladies (Trained Nurses) wanting outdoor life; Canterbury District preferred; and if possible to work together.—Write

EDITOR.

### BEESWAX.

We are Buyers of BEESWAX from anyone and from anywhere. Cash directly Wax is received.

Beekeepers are reminded that our policy is to keep Prices down, and it is therefore to their interests to send all Wax to us rather than to others who are interested only in making money out of the Beekeepers.

N.Z. CO-OP. HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION LTD.,  
Box 1293, AUCKLAND.

WORK in exchange for Board and Nominal Wage WANTED for Season starting August or September by Single Man (36); fair experience bees, desiring improve experience view to start on his own.—G. HALL, c/o Mrs. Melville, Ohaupo Road, Hamilton.

WANTED, STRONG ITALIAN COLONY OF BEES for fruit blossom; in hive; high price paid.

FRANK KEGHAN,  
Fairdown, Westport.

FOR SALE, 60 COLONIES BEES, 12-Frame Lenz Hives, complete with Supers; guaranteed free foul-brood; young Queens. Further particulars and price on application.

H. R. PENNY,  
Okaiawa.

### WEED PROCESS FOUNDATION AT PRICE OF LOCAL MANUFACTURE.

Send for quote and Descriptive Leaflet. EXTRACTORS equal to American at far less cost.

It will pay you to inquire.

H. W. GILLING,  
Selkirk Road, Mt. Albert.

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

#### REGISTRATION OF APIARIES.

#### NOTICE TO PERSONS KEEPING BEES.

In compliance with the Regulations under the Apiaries Amendment Act, 1913, gazetted on 12th July, 1917, as to the Registration of Apiaries, every person keeping one or more hives of bees is required to make application to Register same during the month of June, 1920.

Applications will be received by the Director of the Horticulture Division, Box 888, Wellington.

Registration is free of charge; the penalty of non-registration is a fine not exceeding £5. Forms of application for registration are obtainable from the principal offices of this Department, or from the Director of the Horticulture Division, Department of Agriculture, Wellington, or from any of the larger Post Offices throughout the Dominion.

The saints are always nearest sin.  
This world of wickedness within;  
And though they claim to be the best,  
They're just as wicked as the rest,  
Though Pharisees with every breath  
Declare they have no fear of death,  
When colds are rife they're always sure  
To rush for Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

## Isle of Wight Disease!

The coming menace to Commercial Beekeeping in New Zealand (generally known in Australia as the Disappearing Trick.)

This disease has already rendered beekeeping almost an impossibility in Great Britain. ;

The Disappearing Trick is now VERY SERIOUSLY affecting the industry in Australia.

With the importation of Honey, Queen Bees and Foundation from Australia and other affected Countries (at present there is no law to prohibit this), it will not be long before this—the greatest scourge which has ever struck the industry—will be in our midst.

The only way to prepare for it under present conditions, is to stock your apiaries with a strain of Bees that has successfully withstood the disease. Such a strain is said to be evolved from the I.O.W. itself—the very home of the disease. It is a cross between Dutch Bees and Italians.

We are re-queening our apiaries with this splendid strain! We are expecting a large shipment in August, direct from the I.O.W. and shall have a limited number to spare.

BOOK YOUR ORDERS NOW!

Price : 37/6 each. £8 10/- for five.

Address :

**Schroeder & Schmitt,**

c/o. Bee Journal Office.

## Our Own Paper for Good Results.

Already we have had enquiries from persons in Egypt and England in reply to advertisements in our Bee Journal.

First, we had replies about our enquiry for other races of Bees, for which we advertised in the December issue. These replies came from Egypt and Japan, as well as from England. Then, too, the "Bee World" of the British Apis Club gave our N.Z. advt. a splendid boost by calling attention in its pages to our intention to apply the Science of Genetics to the Breeding of Queens.

But as a trade puller our Journal has done even better than this, for by the last American mail we received an order from no less important a Client than the Firm of Dadant and Sons, the world-renowned Makers of Foundation, and Publishers of the American Bee Journal.

THEY WANT A "BOON" REDUCER & WAX HONEY SEPARATOR AS SOON AS WE ARE ABLE TO SHIP IT, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.

This firm does not purchase Bee Material merely for the fun of owning a new invention! Not much! The Dadant firm are first and foremost business people, and when they order goods on their merit you may rest assured that the same goods are quite good enough for you.

### Furthermore!

If the Dadant firm thought they could obtain as good a Reducer in the U.S.A. they would not send away to what (to America) is a mighty small set of islands somewhere away in the far off Pacific!

### Now Then!

If this big firm thinks our Reducer good enough to send away this distance (and heaven help them about the freight) to obtain the world's best machine, for Dadants are too old a business firm to bother about



anything else. What in the name of common sense is holding you off ordering yours before the continuous and everlasting H.C.L. runs the price of them still higher?

You know just as well as we do that you really ought to have a Reducer in your Honey Room, AND ALSO JUST AS WELL YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ANY REDUCER OF BETTER DESIGN THAN

## The BARTLETT-MILLER MACHINE

WHICH HAS REMAINED UNALTERED EVER SINCE IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED, EXCEPT FOR THE ONE ALTERATION OF THE PATENTED DROP-DOWN BOTTOMS BETWEEN THE TUBES, WHILE A FEW COMPETITORS HAVE BEEN SO CONTINUOUSLY REDESIGNED THAT NOBODY CAN RECOGNISE ANY DISTINGUISHING FEATURE BETWEEN ANY TWO SUCCEEDING PATTERNS WITH A MICROSCOPE,

THE TROUBLE IS THAT ALL OUR COMPETITORS ARE MERELY EXPERIMENTING! AND WHAT YOU WANT IS A SOUND AND PROVEN INVENTION! WHICH MEANS—

**You need a BARTLETT-MILLER REDUCER  
and SEPARATOR**

THE VERY SAME THING THAT THE DADANT FIRM ARE PINNING THEIR FAITH TO! THEY WILL NEVER BE DISAPPOINTED! THEY KNOW TOO MUCH!

**The Thoroughwork Apiaries Company**

**KIHIKIHI.**

# Honey for Export

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## WE ARE CASH BUYERS

Of New Zealand Government Graded Honey,  
packed according to Regulations, at

## FULL CASH PRICES

equivalent to the highest values obtainable in  
the Overseas Markets.

Payments made within 48 hours of the  
time the Honey is graded.

Write, telegraph, or call on us for further  
particulars.

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

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

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

# New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Assoc., Ltd.

(H.P.A.)

Head Office :                      Postal Address : Box 1293, Auckland.  
Stanley Street, AUCKLAND.

Telegraphic Address : "Bees, Auckland."

## BEEKEEPERS' SUPPLIES.

There are already expectations of a favourable season for the next season's honey crop, and with many beekeepers extending their operations, the demand for beekeepers' supplies is likely to be very much heavier than last year. We would therefore recommend beekeepers to order their requirements early, those beekeepers in distant districts we should recommend to bulk their orders with others ordering and send them along to us. This may probably mean a saving in freight and other charges.

The new catalogue will be out in July, but we should be glad to quote **now** for anything which you may require.

## BEES.

Last season we supplied several hundred Colonies of Bees, and the demand was greater than we could cope with.

For the coming season we have made special provision for breeding Bees for sale, for delivery from end of September.

**Nuclei** can also be supplied if ordered in ample time. Send for leaflet and quotation if interested, and do it now. Every transaction in Bees carries the guarantee of the Association.

## BEESWAX.

Send us your Beeswax. We receive it at Lyttelton, Hawera and Auckland. Write us stating quantity available and we will advise you where to send.

**Note.**—There is keen competition for Beeswax at present which will inevitably result in prices for foundation being much higher than those ruling last season. We therefore strongly urge all beekeepers to send their Wax to us because **we are not a profit-making concern**, and our only interest in the purchase of Wax is to enable us to turn it into foundation to retail to the beekeeper at a lower price than that charged by our competitors.

We stand to give the producer the whole benefits of co-operative trading, and in supporting the Association you are benefiting yourself.

New Zealand Co-op. Honey Producers' Assn., Ltd.  
AUCKLAND.

## HIVES and SUPPLIES.

The new season is rapidly approaching and with the return of Spring beekeepers will be up and making those very necessary preparations for a maximum crop. Amongst the first things to be done is a stock-taking of appliances, and a decision as to the quantities required for the swarming season and the increase which has been planned in view of the high prices obtainable for honey.

All statesmen of the world are urging increased production. The whole world is calling out for sugar or a substitute. Honey takes its place, in fact is a better food. Good appliances help increased production more than any other single factor. 'Alliance' supplies are right and give universal satisfaction. The largest bee man in the Dominion will have no other, for the simple reason that 'Alliance' goods are absolutely accurate and help him in his work. You cannot do better than follow his example and equip your apiary with supplies manufactured by

### ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD.,

P.O. BOX 572 - - DUNEDIN.

New price-list and illustrated catalogues are now in the course of preparation and will be sent on request to anyone interested.

**BEE SWAX.**—We still require a quantity of this, and up to and including July 20th, for any which has arrived or been advised, will pay 2/6 per lb. at any part of the Dominion. Send for address tags and shipping instructions, and take advantage of the highest price that has yet been offered.

1919-1920

## PRICES OF ITALIAN QUEENS.

One or Two.	Three or Four.	Five or more than Five.
7/- each.	6/- each.	5/6 each.

Colour Range of Workers Guaranteed Leather Three-banded to Golden Four-banded.

**TERMS.**—Nett cash with order; Cheques to have exchange added.

Any Queen arriving dead replaced free if cage is returned unopened.

**NOTES.**—Experience in this district shows that it is risky to introduce fertile Queens while swarming cells are general in the hives. Many are killed by the bees, and the majority are reduced to the size of virgins, not being fed by the bees or allowed to lay for many days. Some Queens during this period are ill-treated by the bees, and, though eventually accepted, may be injured. Before and after the swarming season most Queens are accepted at once, and laying freely very soon after being liberated from the cage.

In addition, Customers can rely on getting the very best of Queens after the general swarming season is over.

All Queens reared from carefully picked Breeding Queens, in hives specially selected for the building of good queen cells, no such hive being allowed to feed more than 16 cells at a time.

No Queens from indiscriminate swarming cells are sent out.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

### J. H. TODD, Renwicktown, MARLBOROUGH.