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E. A. Gray

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Vol. 4.

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Apiary and Orchard of Mr. C. Campbell, Takaka, Nelson.

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

Oct. 1, 1920.]

N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' JOURNAL.

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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 10

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 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati

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EDITORIAL.

It will be remembered that the Standing Committee appointed at the last Conference waited upon the Minister of Agriculture with a number of requests, amongst them being the suggestion of the taxation of beekeepers of £1 a year. The Secretary has received a letter from the Director-General of Agriculture on this matter, in which Dr. Reakes states that whilst the Minister recognises the self-reliance of the beekeepers in suggesting the tax, he cannot agree to the proposal, as it would press too heavily on the owner of a hive or

two of bees. The Minister would be pleased to consider a proportional tax.

There is, we believe, a possibility of another deputation waiting on the Minister early in October, so the matter can be again discussed. It will be pretty difficult to convince the Minister that we are really out to protect the small beekeeper by securing for him a just and fair return from his hives. However, we hope the Standing Committee will again make strong representations, and get some satisfactory basis to work on.

In this issue we publish a letter from the gentlemen responsible for the advertisement that appeared a month or two

back relative to queens from the Isle of Wight. We are certain of this—that no statement, advertisement, demonstration, or anything connected with the industry of the recent years caused such a "flutter in the dove-cote." And yet what did it set out to do? Simply import queens from England, against which there is no law; but the advertisers pictured the actual results of the Isle of Wight disease, and brought the fact home to those engaged in the industry here what was easily possible to introduce. The letter herein explains the motive.

Whether we were right or wrong in allowing the advertisement to go through is probably a matter of opinion, but there cannot be the slightest doubt that we could not be the slightest doubt that we could have written on the subject month after month without anybody turning a hair; but the immediate probability of a person doing what he has every right to do, and advertising it, causes one of the biggest explosions possible: wires were flashing all over the country from the inspectors; meetings were to be called to discuss this matter and "indignante"; President and members of Executive wiring one another; letters of protest appearing in the public press; and the Editor getting a particularly rough passage. We learn that even the Director-General of Agriculture was moved to write the advertisers on the matter. We were certain from the wording of the advertisement that the object was not to sell queens, else it would not have appeared, but simply to draw attention to the case with which disease could be introduced into the Dominion. Did you notice in the Report of Conference where it was stated that Mr. Kirk has for five solid years been trying to get the embargo placed, but so far without success? Why didn't this statement cause a similar outcry?

We are not concerned with what other people think of our action in this matter, and we rather admire the men who were prepared to go to the expense of paying for a full-page advertisement for the sole purpose of focussing the attention of the beekeepers on what is a very real danger, and to try and rouse them to get the Department to move in this matter.

So much then for the advertisement. Now we would draw your attention to an extract that appeared in the British Bee Journal dated 19th July, 1906. It is headed thus:—

THE LATEST BEE SCARE.

"Amongst the various bee scares which have had a 'turn' in the columns of the daily press, none within our knowledge has been taken more seriously by leading papers than the most recent one regarding the disease known to beekeepers for over twenty years as paratyphus. This is stated to be a 'new and highly infectious disease,' which we find a so generally solid leading journal as the 'Standard' giving pro-

minence to in type as large as one expects to see notifying something of national importance. . . . We hope, however, to refer to the subject more fully next week by way of relieving the minds of beekeeping readers of any alarm that may be felt. Meantime, we hope Mr. Cooper, local honorary secretary of the Hants and Isle of Wight B.K.A., will forgive us for saying that he will have something to answer for if correctly reported as having 'estimated that quite half the bees kept in the Isle of Wight are now dead.' Also that the disease 'had not yet appeared on the mainland,' or that 'if it got a footing there it would probably mean the ruin of the bee industry so far as England is concerned.'"

That must be pretty rotten reading for the Editor of the British Bee Journal to-day when the full effects of the Isle of Wight disease have been noted.

Now, friends, who is deserving of censure? We have allowed a matter which we believe to be a very real danger to the industry to be brought out in the most forcible manner possible, and should the calamity befall us that Isle of Wight disease be introduced, we can truthfully say, "We showed you the danger."

Now we will give you something to think about. We have in our possession a letter from a beekeeper asking our opinion on a queen cage that he was having made for the purpose of bringing queens from England, where his brother was to do the buying. We wrote stating there was no help offering in this locality for that purpose; but as far as we know these queens may be now on their way or even landed here with whatever disease they may be bringing. The Department does not know that queens are imported, and there is nothing in the world to stop this man from getting the queens, providing they arrive alive.

Now, friends, the men who were advertising were not importing queens; but the man who is not advertising **IS IMPORTING**. Having that knowledge, you can if you like agree that the Editor's action in allowing the advertisement to go through is deserving of censure; and whether you do or not, we are quite easy in our mind that if you do strike the awful calamity of the Isle of Wight disease, it was not that we did not draw your attention to the danger of its importation.

During the last Conference many members of the Branches of the South Island approached the Executive with the idea of getting one of the gentlemen to attend their Field Days, there being quite a number of members who are not able to attend the Conferences and get the "personal touch" with the officials of the National. It will be understood that as all the members of the Executive are commercial apiarists, it is pretty difficult for any to be away many days in January

and February; but arrangements are now being made with the secretaries of the different Branches to hold the Field Days in sequence, at intervals of a few days, so as to allow time for travelling from place to place. It is hoped that a representative of the H.P.A. and the National will be able to attend each Field Day.

In connection with Field Days—which sometimes mean a big drain on the finances of the Branch—the Executive has decided to subsidise these expenses to the extent of one-half up to £7.

The apiary and orchard reproduced on our cover is on the same property as the famed Pupu Springs, which are understood to be the largest cold water springs in the world, the volume of water for 24 hours being over 457,000,000 gallons! "Some spring!" What!

We shall be pleased to reproduce photos of apiaries, etc., of our readers. Photos will be returned if desired.

We have a few specimen copies of the "Bee World" for free distribution which will be sent to those applying. Non-receipt after application would indicate the supply was exhausted.

We have received from the Alliance Box Co., Dunedin, their new list, which, as usual with this go-ahead firm, is right up to date with all supplies necessary for the progressive beekeeper. The only drawback is that the prices are not available this being due to the fluctuations of the exchange value, this altering from day to day. The firm states they will be issuing a price list as soon as the goods are landed and the cost known.

Journal subscription from Temuka. Is it yours? Slip not filled in.

Market Reports.

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

Auckland.—The weather in August has been mostly cold and showery, giving but little chance for the bees to gather from the early flowering shrubs. Brood-rearing has caused a severe drain on the stores in the hives, necessitating feeding. It is too early to attempt to predict the prospects of the coming season, but generally the feeling amongst the beekeepers is optimistic.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—The prevailing weather conditions throughout my district give

promise of a successful season. The growth of clover at the period of writing indicates good forage during the summer, and plenty of mild weather and sunshine will assure the success of the honey crop. Bulk honey is very scarce at present, and section honey is almost unprocureable. Prices are firm. Beeswax is selling freely at 2/6 per lb. when obtainable.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—The prospects of a good season look bright. Splendid rains have fallen in most districts. Indications at present point to an early season. Bees are opening up well, and as far as can be ascertained very few losses have been recorded. Prices are firm, and are on a par with last month's quotations. A few small lines are still arriving at the grade stores.—E. A. Earp.

Work for the Winter Months.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

72. The use of carbolic fumes emanating from a cloth saturated with a solution of carbolic acid is of very great assistance in manipulating a hive where as little disturbance as possible is desirable, as the bees simply get as far away from the fumes immediately. We are not sure whether the use of the fumes is as quick as or quicker than using smoke, but there can be no doubt the two combined are at times very desirable.

73. Nectar briefly described is saccharine juice of plants, flowers, &c., and as there is usually more stored than the plant's actual requirements, this is gathered by the bees and transformed by them into honey. The chemical action whilst the nectar is contained in the honey sac of the bee is the cause of the difference between nectar and honey. The specific gravity of nectar varies considerably—from 59 to 93 per cent. of water.

74. The bees cluster in a solid mass from the roof of the hive, and thus secrete wax with which they start the foundation of the comb.

75. We do not know any circumstances that would lead us to extract honey from the combs of the brood chamber; we would rather use the combs of honey and brood elsewhere, replacing these with empty combs, thus allowing more room both for storage and breeding.

76. Make sure you have not dislodged the queen by the fall; replace frame in hive, and leave it for a few hours at least.

77. (1) Two or three puffs of smoke at entrance. (2) Remove cover without jarring, lift one corner of the mat, give a puff of smoke, and peel the mat right off, following it with smoke. (3) A puff of smoke over the tops of the frames, prize the outer comb apart, and carefully lift out, placing this on the outside, usually

on its end. The combs in the hive can then be easily got at and examination made.

78. The sense of smell possessed by bees is absolutely marvellous. **Cheshire gives** the number of "small hollows" as about 2,400 on each antenna of the worker bee; 1,600 on the queen; and 37,800 distinct organs on the drone.

79. The sting of the queen is curved, and is used as a rule only to sting a rival queen. We have never heard of a beekeeper being stung by a queen, although we have frequently seen the sting protruded when handling queens for clipping.

80. Larva, five days; nymph, eight days.

81. It is estimated that a good strong colony will consume from 350 to 400 lbs. of honey for its own upkeep in a season.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

[As these instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland Districts, 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.]

As brood rearing will now be well advanced, the chief matter to concern the beekeeper is that of stores. It is very surprising the amount of stores used by an average colony if only a few days' bad weather comes along.

Shortage of stores means the curtailing of brood rearing, which at this time should be gradually increasing.

Sugar syrup, of the proportion of two of water to one of sugar, fed warm within the hive at eventide is one of the best methods for retaining the strength and stores of live.

Under normal conditions there will probably be some strong hives that will need extra room to hold swarming in check. Put an extra super on these without an excluder, and when doing so take out the outer combs of the brood chamber and place them above, putting empties in their place, but putting them the third from either side. This will give the bees an abundance of room, and will probably hold swarming in check.

The growth round the hives will now begin to accumulate, and hives very soon rot when always damp. Keep the grass and weeds down. Some do this by skimming the turf off for about a foot all round the hives; others use salt; but the best we have seen is where commercial weed-killer had been used, which killed all the grass.

If you have secured all your supplies—and if not, it is time you had)—get them all ready for use. Many swarms are lost by not having the hives ready to receive them.

Foul-brood disease will begin to show itself in the hives now that breeding is well on. Keep a sharp lookout for it, and mark any hive infected for treatment.

The Co-operative Marketing of Honey.

I feel it would be interesting to the readers of this Journal to submit a few facts and figures relative to the co-operative business owned and controlled by the beekeepers themselves, showing the very real progress being made in all directions, besides taking a very large hand in the development of the industry on the production side. In fact, it would appear that there are no matters affecting beekeeping in which the H.P.A. is not equally interested. In the early stages the Association necessarily had to fight for its very life, and all its energies were concentrated on bringing beekeepers into the co-operative fold. To this, of course, was added the business of collecting and marketing its members' honey.

To-day the Association has as members the bulk of the commercial beekeepers of New Zealand; scattered from North Cape to the Bluff, and also many hundreds of smaller beekeepers who do not depend entirely upon beekeeping as their means of livelihood.

The Association has now broadened its scope, and its energies are concentrated into three separate departments—A. Export Honey Department; B. Local Packing Department; C. Beekeepers' Supplies Department. The export department handles the surplus honey of each year's crop which is beyond the requirements of the packing department, and finds markets for such honey overseas.

The management of this Association is not prepared to put all its eggs into one basket and to consign honey to one market, but has searched the four seas, and wherever prospects have been at all favourable for the sale of honey, the N.Z. product is immediately offered. France, England, Canada, America, &c., have handled New Zealand honey through the efforts of the Association, although Great Britain, of course, has been its largest customer.

The local packing department, under the charge of Mr. W. J. Jordan, exists for the development of the sales of "Imperial Bee" honey in New Zealand. During the fifteen months that this special department has been in existence, it has packed and distributed to the merchants and storekeepers of the Dominion over 750,000 lbs. of honey, the larger proportion of which has been packed in 2 lb. tins.

The beekeepers' supplies department was brought into being at the wish of shareholders, who subscribed additional capital to make the undertaking possible on a small scale. The department commenced operations on August 1st of last year, and its sales of beekeepers' supplies for the first twelve months were over £6,000. The department sold at prices very much lower than those charged by competitors, and in addition to keeping down the prices of frames, hives, and appliances generally, was able on its transactions last season to return to shareholders a rebate of 5 per cent. on the value of supplies purchased.

The past season right throughout New Zealand was a poor one for honey production. In some districts, which usually produce large quantities of honey, practically none was gathered; in other districts—notably the Auckland, Poverty Bay, and Hawke's Bay Provinces—production was less than half of the previous year's total. The South Island fared rather better than the North, but not so well as was expected at the beginning of the season.

In spite of this fact, the Association has sold the whole of its 1920 stocks of honey at good prices, and it is confidently expected that all deliveries will be completed and payments effected by the end of November, which will enable the H.P.A. to render final account sales to its shareholders on the 1920 honey crop long before the next season's crop is harvested.

Beekeepers will be interested to know the way in which the local sales department and the supplies department are going ahead. For instance, the sales of "Imperial Bee" honey in New Zealand through the local sales department for the first eight months of this year show an increase of £9,500 above the figures of the previous year's corresponding period. This is largely due to the fact that in addition to packing a standard honey, a proper organisation exists throughout the Dominion for selling same, fifty of the largest merchants acting as distributors. The Association has also done yeoman service to the beekeepers of the Dominion generally by undertaking an advertising campaign, which has as its slogan the motto, "Eat more Honey," and the public of New Zealand are beginning to realise that honey is not only a useful food, but is one of the necessities of life. There is every reason to believe that the progressive policy adopted has been the means of enormously increasing the consumption of honey by the people of the Dominion.

The supplies department was evidently appreciated by beekeepers generally, because the sales this year to the end of

August show an increase of nearly £5,000, the total sales being nearly three times as much as for the corresponding period last year.

The main difficulty the Association has at present is to import or manufacture sufficient stocks to meet the demand. The beekeeper can now go to the H.P.A. and get pretty well all he wants for beekeeping, with the exception of the land; he can buy his bees and queens, as well as all his other requirements.

A few words must be said for the Association in connection with the supply of sugar to beekeepers throughout the Dominion. When the sugar cut came into existence, it appeared more than likely that no sugar would be available for feeding bees through the winter and spring of 1920. Owing, however, to the continuous representations made to the Government, the beekeepers were finally granted supplies of sugar on the condition that the whole business was organised by the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, and that they acted as distributors for sugar required by beekeepers in New Zealand. This duty has entailed an enormous amount of work and organising, and was undertaken solely in the interests of the people who own bees.

The supplies department is in the capable hands of Mr. W. Turbott, and beekeepers can rest assured that he is working for them all the time.

The main supplies depot is situated at Stanley Street, Auckland, which is the headquarters of the Association. Depots have also been opened at Greymouth, under the charge of Mr. A. Baty, and at Christchurch. The Christchurch Branch is situated in the Canterbury Orchardists' Association Buildings, Colombo Street, Christchurch, and is under the control of Mr. T. S. Winter.

From the foregoing, beekeepers generally will be able to realise how well this co-operative movement is serving them and the industry generally, and will also realise that its existence is to the beekeeper, no matter whether he is a large or small producer, a matter of absolute necessity.

The Association, as all beekeepers know, does not speculate in honey; makes no profits out of the beekeepers; and returns to the shareholders the whole of the proceeds from the sale of honey and supplies, &c., less the cost of running the business.

It is confidently expected that the final payments for 1920 prime grade light amber honey will be between 7½d. and 8d. per lb.
C. F. R.

Send for Pamphlet on "BEESWAX."

6d. POST FREE.

W. B. BRAY,
Barry's Bay.

"Quid Pro Quo," translated pat.
Merely means—give this for that
And the glad content we feel
When we get an honest deal.
When the thing for which we pay
Does not confidence betray.
That satisfaction we assure.
When using Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

Concentration of Strength for the Main Honey Flow.

(From "L'Apicoltore," Italy, April, 1920.)

(Translated by Basil H. Howard.)

I discussed in past numbers of the "Apicoltore" the methods followed by Warren and Bebi in obtaining colonies of maximum strength at main flow. (Here follows a short remark on Warren's system, in which large shipments are rapidly made from the North to the South of the States, impossible in Italy by reason of slowness of transit. Bebi's system does not prevent swarming, and, moreover, there is a large loss of bees, due to the fact that a hive is queenless for at least three weeks. In any case the swarming ruins the scheme. "To avoid this one has to visit, weather permitting, all the queenless hives brimful of bees to cut out all the queen cells but one. I tried this once, and it was enough for me.")

But here is another system of concentrating the working force for the main crop which deserves the notice of commercial beekeepers. First of all, for greater ease in working, all the hives should be set out in pairs. If the hives are not so placed, a day or two will suffice to arrange them so by gradual shifting.

Then, at the time of the division for the main crop, take one hive and place it at the opposite side and somewhat to the rear of its neighbour, having blocked the entrance for a moment (Please God!—B.H.). This removal has the immediate effect of sending all the laden bees of the moved hive into the other. Repeat this operation with all the other pairs.

After a day or two examine the hive you moved, and look for the queen. As the hive population is reduced, and as the old bees are absent this should be an easy matter. If she be old or worn out, kill her. Otherwise insert her with a few young bees in a mailing cage with candy, and put her away in the honey-house for future use, for a queen may be kept in such a cage for a week or two.—(Don't know, in this locality. Ed. N.Z.B.J.)

When the queen has been taken, complete the hive that remained on its stand by inserting brood frames and bees from the queenless hive. Further, drive bees out from this latter by smoking and shaking; these, too, will pass into the strong hive after trying in vain to find their home. The queenless hive then sets about raising queen cells; it may be fed if necessary. But this raising of queen cells may also take place in the other hive.

Ten days later—that is, when the first new queen hatches—I remove the queenless hive back to its original stand. If the number of bees is not sufficient to look after the brood, I introduce a reinforcement of adult bees from the strong hive.—(It would be better not to deplete this hive

when making the first move. Ed. N.Z.B.J.) After this, if the honey flow is of short duration, or if it be unproductive, it would be harmful to give more brood to the young bees. But if the flow lasts sufficiently, a third and last removal of the queenless hive may be carried out when its queen has mated.

The system, then, consists of two or three shiftings of the hive and one dequeening. Its results are—the concentration of the working force; increase of the production; reduction of useless consumption; and the yearly renewal of all the queens.

The queen of the large producing hive is not killed or replaced; the colony becomes and remains strong and eager for work, being supplied with a multitude of workers; further, it is kept in a much better condition for the secondary honey flow.

The despoiled hive recovers its strength during the Spring and Summer flows, and the following year will be in a condition to be reinforced at the expense of its neighbour, whose queen will in its turn be removed. In this way the queens are renewed with great simplicity every two years throughout the whole apiary. (This by the way contributes not a little to an increase in the crop.)

In the meantime the consumption of honey in the maintenance of the brood is reduced by half. I have calculated (calculations based on average hives—B.H.H.) that the daily consumption is 400 grammes per hive; so that if I take away 50 queens in an apiary of 800 colonies, I save twenty kilogrammes per day.

And will all these 20 kilogrammes go into the hives? I feel sure that the greater part of them will, considering the great force of workers in the producing hive. But it must not be thought that the increase in crop consists wholly of this. It is brought about also by the increased capacity for production given to the producing hives by this system.

The queens set apart serve for introducing into queenless colonies that have not succeeded in raising another of their own, or for artificial swarms, nuclei, &c.

(Follows a comparison with the system of Bebi.)

This intensive system is of great use in localities where there are few flowering plants (where there is rarely a copious honey flow—B.H.H.), in good districts when the season is unfavourable and in districts overstocked with hives.

V. ASPREA

(Editor of L'Apicoltore.)

N.B.—It is of course understood that the hive that is removed and deprived of its queen should be left with sufficient bees to permit of recuperation. Therefore, its population is to be reduced with discretion. A single removal will at times be sufficient. . . . In the case of weak hives the dequeening part of the system may be omitted.

Swarming and Swarm Control.

Swarming can be attributed generally to two causes—(1) A natural increase of families of bees brought about automatically; (2) an increase arising from supercedure of queens. Swarms occur under other conditions, but these are only exceptional, and do not require consideration in this article. The swarming that is brought about automatically is probably due to there being more nurse bees in the hive than there is work for. These nurse bees, having no other employment, resort to building queen cells, swarming following as a natural result. This form of swarming can be controlled by different methods that produce conditions in the hive where-by the work of the hive bees is increased.

The swarming of supercedure, however, is difficult to control at a certain time of the year without reducing the strength of the colony to a very considerable extent, unless the system of control includes the replacing of the old queen with a young one. While this can be done in many ways, the desirability of a method that will enable it to be done without interfering with the continuous laying of the old queen and the progress of the colony as a whole is very evident.

The ideal system of management is one in which the honey flow, once started, the bees can be left to themselves till the autumn. It is a question whether any particular system will suit every locality, but anyone who knows his business and who has the "bee instinct" will soon learn whether such system can be adapted to the particular conditions of his locality or not.

The following system of working is practically a spring re-queening system, with certain manipulations that hold swarming in check until a young laying queen is installed. In outlining this method, I do not mention the time when operations shall start. This will entirely depend on the number of colonies to be dealt with and climatic conditions, and may vary from year to year, and must be left to the operator's knowledge and requirements.

Where the number of colonies is large, slow feeding early in the spring of those it is intended to use for queen breeding is advisable, so that the work of rearing queen cells can be started as soon as possible.

The method of working is as follows:—The bees are wintered in single brood chambers. In September a second brood chamber is put on, and the queen induced to take possession of this by putting up brood. In October—(arrange the time so that the job will be finished when the main honey flow starts)—rear queen-cells. When these are ripe, the queen-cells are shaken

down from the top brood chamber and an excluder put between the two. When the bees have returned to the top brood chamber, now minus the queen, a ripe cell is inserted. This top brood chamber is now taken off, put on a separate bottom-board, and a cover is fitted. A honey storing super is put on the remaining brood chamber, which has the queen, and the cover put on. The brood chamber with the ripe cell, now a new hive, is placed behind or on top of the parent hive, with the entrance facing the opposite way. On top is best, as sometimes, if placed behind, the field bees go into it instead of the parent hive. The hives can now be left as they are, until the ripe cells become laying queens. When the young queens are laying, the operator has the option of combining up straight away if a honey flow is on, keeping the two queens laying separately for a time to get extra strength, or of making increase. If making increase, put the parent hive in a new location, thus checking any tendency to swarm by the loss of field bees, while those hives being full of brood soon develop working strength. Also when combining up, strong and weak hives can be equalised by an interchange of the parent hives.

Combining up is done as follows:—The parent hive is lifted off its stand, and the new hive put in its place, with the entrance enlarged. The excluder is put on this hive with the honey storing super from the parent hive, bees and all, placed on top. The old queen is removed from the parent hive, and this is placed on the top of the storing super. In eight or ten days queen cells are cut out. At this stage, if desired, enough storing room can be given, and the hive left without further care till the autumn.

It is admitted that even with this system an occasional swarm is possible, due to imperfect young queens. But care in breeding will reduce this swarming to a minimum.

A few points require special notice:—

When the parent hive is split, see that the queen-mating portion has enough honey to carry it through.

See that the entrance to the queen-mating colony is not any larger than is required.

Do not attempt to combine up when the bees are cross and inclined to rob; wait until they are working and contented. This also means that the work cannot be done in the early morning and evening.

When rearing cells, take a lesson from the bees, and rear a lot more than are required, but use only the best.

The sun has gone, my darling one,
The gentle night has come;
The mother sings her lullaby—
"Tra-la-la-rum-tum-tum."
No danger threatens you, sweet one,
You're tucked in quite secure;
And on the nursery mantelpiece
Is Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

When inserting cells, split some of the stronger brood chambers, and make extra queen-mating colonies, so that failures to mate can be replaced by the extras.

As an aid to working, a light three-leaf screen to put round the hives when inserting and taking off cells in cool winds is useful. Also wool-padded boxes for carrying ripe cells in cell-cups and in bars, that for cell-cups having a platform with holes to take cups.

J. RENTOUL.

Cheviot, N.Z., 18/7/20.

District Reports.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

This being the month in our district that we have to get to work in earnest to overhaul our stock, it is looked forward to anxiously to see how we have fared as regards losses and that scourge foul-brood. The winter has been a severe one for these parts, a succession of heavy frosts cutting all growth. The pastures are very backward for this time of year. We have had much rain, being the most for four years, and 15 in. more than last year. This is good, as when the warm days come the clover comes away fine.

On the whole, the bees have wintered well, colonies with young queens and sufficient stores being well up to average season; and I think although the season will be a little later than usual, that with some warm days and a little rain we can confidently look forward to a fairly good season.

A meeting of our Association was held on the 16th September, about a dozen members being present. Mr. Sage, our Conference delegate, gave a brief report on the remits sent down by our Association. The principle of an apiary tax was endorsed, although some members contended that the fee suggested was a bit high. The Isle of Wight disease caused a good deal of discussion, and it was eventually proposed by Mr. T. H. Pearson, seconded by Mr. Hobbs, Palmerston—"That honey be added to the list of prohibited articles, provided it can be proved it is a carrier of the disease." A long discussion took place on foul-brood, and a resolution is being forwarded to the Department asking that their promise of a resident inspector for the South Auckland District be carried out; also that a thorough inspection of the district be made once in the spring and once shortly after Christmas, and a list of inspections made supplied to our Association; also that the Department's attention be drawn to the necessity of the attendance of one or other of the inspectors at our meetings. The Field Day arrangements were left in abeyance for a while, the meeting being of the opinion

that if arrangements could be made for the Conference, which is to be held in Auckland next June, to have a trip to the Ruakura Farm, that we make that our effort for this year. The great Waikato Winter Show is also held in June, and would be an added attraction.

A. H. DAVIES.

September 16th, 1920.

HAWKE'S BAY.

This has been an interesting month, especially to the novice. The element of the unknown has made the opening of the hive like the opening of a lucky packet. Some, alas, were not worth the handling, but others exceeded all expectations.

A heavy flow is coming at present from the willows. The combs are glistening with honey recently gathered. As the willow honey supply falls off, that from the fruit blossoms will come on.

Our Association has been favoured by a visit from Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, who delivered a most interesting illustrated address. We are finding the meetings of the Association well repay the coming to them. The following afternoon, at Mr. Shepherd's Apiary, Mr. Jacobsen gave a demonstration. The weather was ideal for the handling of bees. Several points connected with spring management were shown and discussed. We have an early honey flow, followed by a dearth until the clover blooms. Several matters were demonstrated, until finally interest focussed on a wingless queen. Did she lose her wings before or after mating? What slight evidence there is suggests that her courtship was quite orthodox. The whole afternoon proved exceedingly profitable.

The Committee discussed with Mr. Jacobsen the holding of further demonstrations. He is willing to help us to a very large extent, and so the Committee propose holding these afternoon meetings in due course at Taradale, Clive, and Waipukurau.

J. P. BOYLE.

September 16th, 1920.

NELSON.

Bees are toiling, rejoicing amid the green of the graceful weeping willows, the white bloom of the plum trees and the beautiful pink of peaches, and the glorious yellow of the despised gorse; bush flora is also yielding its quota to our little friends; good rains have fallen during every month of the present year; following a dry season and a mild winter, all combine in bidding us prepare for big crops. An unusual number of frosts have caused things to be a bit late, at no disadvantage to beekeepers.

Bees, where free from foul-brood and well supplied with stores, have wintered well. Unfortunately, not many of us have so far combined these two very necessary conditions. A few cases of starvation are

reported, and many colonies are in a critical condition. What a suicidal policy to follow, taking this risk every year.

Thinking winter packing may be beneficial if not necessary, I packed 60 colonies last April. They opened up well; another 70 wintered in the usual way, ten-frame brood chamber well supplied with sealed stores came through equally as well; 40 others, left with a super of honey on, wintered best of all. The only attention the latter received was to take away supers where not occupied by the bees at the end of the season. Enough experimenting for me! The bees will pack themselves with honey in future. Something very unusual in the way of packing is used by Miss Shepherd, and judging by Mr. Ward's remarks she is more than satisfied with the results. Others may be interested in hearing of it. Sorry I have not permission to tell, but ask Miss Shepherd.

Since writing the above, Mr. Young has arrived in our district, and as there does not appear to be anything of the drone about him, we expect good results from his visit. Now, beekeepers in Nelson District, this is the time to help yourselves by seeing that Mr. Young visits all beekeepers around you. He will be here for a month or so. I was able to hand on a good few names to him, apart from the 250 names he already had—250 beekeepers, and this is probably not half who keep bees here, yet no Beekeepers' Association! What think you of this matter?

P. MARTIN.

Umukuri, 17/9/20.

[Now, friend Martin, why not get a Branch started? Miss Shepherd, we shall be pleased to hear from you.—Ed.]

TARANAKI.

We are experiencing the most backward spring on record. Frosts continue, and the farmers are losing cows from starvation. Two farmers have lost as many as a dozen dairy cows, and others are buying trussed hay from other districts at £10 per ton. So I guess the beekeeper's troubles are small as yet.

On account of sugar shortage I have all my colonies shut down with division boards to four and five frames; this is no new plan in Taranaki, and as the clover flow seldom starts until December, will save me no end of sugar during November.

Too many personal arguments going on in the Journal. What the bulk of the readers want to know is something about bees.

I got "some" shock a few weeks ago. I was paying my first visit to a yard since April, and I found dead bees at the entrance of about ten colonies. I thought they had all starved out, but it turned out that these being colonies with a division board in, the odd combs with scraps of honey in them had been left in, and the weather being so cold, the bees outside

the division board had preferred starvation instead of crossing over the division board. I usually weaken my colonies down in autumn by the cell plan of re-queening or make nuclei from them, but in this case I had not done so, and had also left the extra frames in, which is a bad plan, not only for the reason given, but they go mouldy.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 17/9/20.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

I wonder if history will repeat itself in Canterbury this season. The weather this spring has been so similar to that of the spring of the season 1913-14 that I feel inclined to prophesy that it will. The season referred to was the best experienced for at least twenty years, and the quality of the honey the finest ever produced in Canterbury. It was at this time that Canterbury beekeepers exported honey through the firm of Montgomery and Co., and Government grading was introduced. The idea of a co-operative trading association also had its birth, although, to be strictly correct, the old Canterbury Beekeepers' Association had discussed the matter before, and had even obtained an estimate of the probable cost of running a small company to handle the honey of its members. The Waikato Beekeepers' Association were also working on much the same lines, and then the Taranaki Association, with Mr. Gilling at the helm, took the wind out of our sails by actually forming an Association on the lines Canterbury had been thinking about. This, of course, is ancient history, but is interesting when we see what a splendid co-operative concern we have now established. Those who have had a hand in it are justly entitled to be proud of their work, and the beekeepers who do not join up do not deserve to share in the improved conditions which the H.P.A. has made. I want to stress this point, because the more honey handled by the Company the better for all concerned, and the more shareholders there are the more profits there will be to divide. I know all the arguments about being able to get "as good or better than the Company's price"; "Too long to wait for the cheque"; "Too much trouble to pack for export," &c., &c.; but the fact is that it is your DUTY to fall into line, and do it now.

But go back to the weather. The month of August was exceptionally cold, and up till the middle of September it has been very changeable, with some occasional warm days. Plum trees are coming into bloom, but spring flowers are very backward. Sunday, 12th Sept., was so warm that a few people indulged in surf-bathing,

but Wednesday, the 15th, threatened snow. As an American visitor once said, the weather here is all samples.

I plan to visit my apiary about the third week in September each year. As a preliminary I had a trip to Irwell with Mr. Bray (who has bees there) and Mr. Earp in the early part of the month, but it was too cold to open hives. Apparently the bees have wintered well, and in one or two cases had taken boarders (mice upstairs). It is a long time since I rode "pic-a-back," but had that pleasure at the expense of brother Bray on the way home. His "Lizzie" jibbed two yards from shore in crossing a creek, so there was nothing for it but to get out while brother Bray coaxed her back into a good humour.

We had a "packed house" on September 4th in the Trades Hall, when Mr. Earp gave a very interesting lecture. The Canterbury Branch of the National invited by advertisement "all interested" to roll up, and so they did. I have not seen so many people in the room before. Mr. Earp first of all dealt with beekeeping in a historic sense, and then as a means of making a living. Following on, he proceeded to show the importance of good queens, and gave a general outline of the various systems of queen rearing, and explained in detail how to succeed in raising the best queens. Quite a number of questions were asked and answered. The foul-brood question was well ventilated, and it took pretty considerable talk to convince one visitor that the scourge is not more prevalent among queen breeders than the rest of the fraternity. How he got the notion puzzles me, but I think he was convinced in the end that foul-brood does not pay. In the end the whole audience of something like seventy people went home in a good humour, and we hope to see as many on September 18th, when Mr. C. A. Pope will lecture on "How I Manage My Bees."

Has anyone used carbolic acid for destroying foul-brood germs in beeswax? I had some wax to make into foundation some time ago, which had been treated thus, and after being made up the 'aroma' was strongly in evidence. I pointed out to the gentleman who sent me the wax that it was not necessary to disinfect it, and that I felt dubious as to the behaviour of the bees when it was given to them. Perhaps when separated after being fixed in the frames, the fumes will evaporate; but I should be interested to learn if anyone has had any experience along this line.

Mr. "Dabbler," you have reached the "dizzy limit" when you use cow-dung for smoker fuel. Ye Editor says you deserve a "scare." I think you ought to be made to eat all the honey out of that hive at a meal. Perhaps it would be just as well to point out here that honey can easily be tainted with the smoke used when taking off at extracting time. This

is one reason why bee-escapes are so useful. Do not use much smoke at any time—it demoralises the bees, and they are a prey to robbers till they recover.

I made the acquaintance of our new inspector (Mr. Young) recently, and have no doubt he will "make it hot" for any law-breakers. He struck me as being particularly "keen." Shake hands, Mr. Young! Pleased to know you!

My Experience with the Honey Pump.

By A. L. LUKE, Awakeroi.

On December 24th extracting room was reconstructed with concrete floor, four-frame and eight-frame extractors firmly fixed with pulleys, all ready for the engine, which also drives the circular saw, milking machines, pumps, &c. Our new honey pump, which received the honey from a small vat from the extractors was looked upon to do great things by lifting the honey 7 ft. up to our 2½-ton honey vat. Inch piping was used in fixing up this pump, as it is supposed to work much better than anything smaller.

Everything in readiness, we decided to give a trial run, so "Lizzie," the ton truck was set in motion, and away we went to our out-yard, some 14 miles away, and situated in the famous Oporirua Valley. Arrived there, we found the hives overflowing with bees and honey. Eighteen supers, the average weight being 80 lbs. per super, were put on "Lizzie" from six colonies, and within an hour we were on our way home again, and calculating how quickly our new arrangements were going to make things for us this season. But wait!

Arriving home, "Lizzie" was run right in beside the extractor. Lunch is ready; someone sings out, "Lunch can wait; we are going to try the honey pump." Capping knives were speedily put on those snowy white slabs of honey, extractors and engine oiled up, and the start was made. "Buzz! Rum!" and she's away, twelve frames of honey moving around. Speed up the engine, but there is no honey coming out. At last full pressure was on, and after about twenty minutes we stopped the extractor to examine the combs, and found 80 per cent. of our nice combs badly broken, with the honey still there.

"Hello, Central! Get a move on!
Put me on to nine-O-three.
Thank you, girle! Who's that speaking?
Alright, Night Dispensary.
That you, Druggo? D'ye get me?
Much obliged, old Top, I'm sure.
Send it now, yes, send it quickly!
Good old Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

The famous honey pump, about which I had made numerous inquiries in America and New Zealand, and which all assured me would handle any class of honey—(satisfied some people do not know what thick sticky honey is!)—was going to save us a lot of work and inconvenience; but the wretched thing would only pump or force up about 10 lbs. per hour; so we put the pump from the "go-slow" policy to quick march. No good whatever, and do what we could we could not get the honey pump to shift our sticky honey satisfactorily. The large honey vat is 6 ft. to the top, and the extractor on the floor, and as we had no time for alterations, we had to form a bucket brigade. We had all classes of honey brought in from the various outyards, but the pump is still for sale.

[We do not know whether our honey is so different to that obtaining in other countries; but we have yet to learn where the pump is a success. At last Conference it was stated that the elbows in the pipe were the cause of the trouble, and that a curved pipe would make all the difference. We should appreciate any remarks from our readers who have used the pump successfully.—Ed.]

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,—Re our advertisement concerning queen bees imported from the Isle of Wight.

First of all, it is needless to say that our names are not Schroeder and Schmitt, and also that our advertisement was not intended as a practical joke, as many seem to think it to be.

We considered it to be the most forcible and efficient way of bringing to the notice of New Zealand beekeepers the very urgent and vital need of having laws in operation governing the importation of queen bees from infected countries.

We are, of course, not importing any queen bees from the Isle of Wight. It is the very last thing we should think of doing, as we ourselves are in the honey-producing business, and have the interests of the industry at heart.

When the Isle of Wight disease started in 1904, most of the influential beekeepers in England laughed at the idea of there being any serious danger to the industry

even if it should spread over the mainland, just as the 'knowing ones' here pool-pooled the idea of the risk we are running in not using every endeavour to keep it out of New Zealand. In the first case, within four years it spread over the whole of England, and wiped out 90 per cent. of the apiaries. In the second case, although New Zealand is 14,000 miles away from Great Britain, in these days of quick transport it may easily be carried to this country. Many advocate importing queens from Australia to improve our strain of bees over here. Who knows what risk we may be running daily of introducing the dreadful "disappearing trick"? Other beekeepers, with the same object in view, are importing queens from America, where European foul-brood is spreading. This we consider, from personal experience in England, is a far greater scourge than the American foul-brood, which we have here at present. We have had experience with both diseases, and know which we prefer to deal with. The European foul-brood will spread like wildfire through any apiary; the American, in comparison, is a very simple thing to deal with.

We know the authorities do not trouble whether disease infected queen bees or any other bees are brought in by mail or not, otherwise the Department of Agriculture would not have written asking by what boat this special consignment from the Isle of Wight was coming!

Now, what is to prevent us or anyone from importing queen bees, honey, or anything liable to increase our diseases from infected countries without advertising the fact in the Bee Journal or any other paper? As far as we know, at the present time there is nothing.

Should either of these diseases get started, what methods could the beekeepers adopt to control them? No method known to science in the affected countries has yet been proved a success.

We have been out to do the beekeepers a good turn by creating a stir, and not to play a practical joke, "for which we should be punished." (L.H., Fruitgrower.) We do not wish to see the bee industry in the same plight as the fruitgrowers are with the fireblight menace.

Yours for the time being,

SCHROEDER & SCHMITT.

• • • • •
 AUSTRALIA, AND THE SUGGESTED
 EMBARGO ON BEES AND QUEENS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In regard to a resolution passed at the late Conference re prohibiting the importation of queens from Australia, and reading in the Report that it was unanimously carried, the Poverty Bay delegate reports that this is not the case, there being 16 votes against. I have been instructed by my Association to collect

authoritative information in regard to disease, &c., in Australia. My first report from New South Wales is to hand; copy enclosed. As they arrive I will forward them on to you for publication.—I am, &c.,

J. B. ADAMS,
Hon. Sec. P.B.B.A.

Gisborne, August 24th, 1920.

[We think your delegate is mistaken on the matter of the motion requesting the embargo; no division was taken.—Ed.]

[Copy.]

Government Apiary, Wauchope,
23rd July, 1920.

Dear Mr. Phillips.—Your letter, also papers from New Zealand, to hand. Needless to say, I am very pleased to hear from you, and also very pleased to have a word to say re the matter of disease referred to in the New Zealand papers. I understand that a report has already been forwarded from our Department, giving a clear denial as to the presence of a mysterious disease, or Isle of Wight disease, in New South Wales. If diseases as mentioned had made their appearance, it would certainly have been brought under my notice. There is, in my opinion, nothing in the disease line in New South Wales—or as far as I know in Australia—that would be likely to make us consider that the action contemplated by a section of New Zealand apiarists is justifiable. We have competent inspectors here, and, with reference to queen-raising apiaries, it has never once come to my knowledge of disease being present.

It seems to me that there is either some misunderstanding in New Zealand re disease here, or that the information, as mentioned in the papers, has been started to prejudice trade. The latter would be very poor spirit, and such information to be spread about is likely to unfairly retard the progress of our industry, both inter-State and in other countries.

I feel sure that, in fairness to the industry here, the New Zealand authorities will not proceed with the matter in that spirit relating to disease.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. A. GOODACRE.

Per J. B. Adams,

Hon. Sec. P.B.B. Assn.

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W. B. BRAY,
Barry's Bay.

IN REPLY TO Mr. NELSON.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I certainly had reasons for believing Mr. Nelson had seen my reply to his queries, but as he says that he did not accept his disavowal. His denial of all knowledge of my views on the boundary question, however, needs some explanation. In the first place, I presume Mr. Nelson reads his "N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal," and being a leading advocate for apiary boundaries, I further presume he would not have missed reading my "Comments on Proposed Legislation" (apiary boundaries) (page 197, Dec. 1919 number), and previously in several 1918 numbers. Although these latter appeared under a nom de plume, the writer was generally known. However, I give Mr. Nelson the benefit of the doubt in these cases.

Mr. Nelson admits receiving the last April "Fruitgrower." I am tempted to ask how it was he did not learn my views from the article on apiary boundaries in that issue? The one and only crucial test to decide the need of legislation against any proceedings of a suggested harmful nature, is to show conclusively that the evil exists in an aggravated form, and is already doing much mischief. The question of how many cases of dumping our enthusiastic advocates of apiary boundaries are aware of has frequently been put, but for some reason has not been answered but by one individual quite recently—Mr. C. Smedley—for which I thank him; his reply appears in the September "Fruitgrower." I now ask Mr. Nelson to favour your readers with a reply to same query.—I am, &c.,

I. HOPKINS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—By your report of the last conference, you make me as seconding the second clause of your two proposals on apiary boundaries, which you proposed, instead of those six framed by the Committee appointed for that purpose. I did nothing of the sort. I spoke against it, as barring me from keeping bees without getting permission to do so, which I thought quite wrong, and still think so.—I am, &c.,
A. IRELAND.

August 17th, 1920.

[We are sorry you are credited with something that you are not responsible for, and cannot account for the mistake. The proposed clauses (or any other) would not be retrospective in any case.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—On reading the September issue of the Journal, one cannot help regretting that Mr. Ireland has allowed the perhaps "thoughtless sentence or the fancied slight to destroy long years of friendship." I

cannot allow the letter to appear without attempting to correct what may create in the minds of some of your readers a wrong impression, particularly in connection with the early years of the H.P.A., to which Mr. Ireland refers. Some months ago a series of meetings were held in various parts, in which the same misrepresentations of Mr. Allan and his actions were placed before the various meetings. Mr. Allan has been blamed in that he did not supply his whole crop in the early years of the H.P.A. movement, and it may be as well to quote the facts, which can be borne out by reference to the circulars and advertisements of the H.P.A.

When the Bristol contract was first entered into, it was necessary that the Board secure a minimum quantity for the period of the contract, and all beekeepers in the Dominion were circularised and asked to take up shares, and to guarantee a minimum quantity. You, Sir, will remember the circular, which was headed "A Great Achievement," with share application form attached. On making application, each beekeeper undertook to supply a minimum quantity per annum, and only undertook to supply his whole output should the crop be less than the amount he guaranteed. Mr. Allan, with a large number of others, fulfilled their legal and moral obligations. It was not till some years later, when the H.P.A. had grown stronger, that it attempted and demanded the whole crop. Mr. Allan on several occasions offered the Board his whole output on condition that they carry on and develop the particular style of package which he invented, and which he believed would solve the packing problem, at this end of the Dominion at any rate. That he was longer headed than most of us subsequent developments have proved. I have sat upon the Board of Directors for some years, and I state positively that the Board has known and approved of all Mr. Allan's dealings in honey since he joined us, and the letter referred to is a misrepresentation of the facts. In Mr. Allan the co-operative movement and beekeepers generally have a loyal and sympathetic supporter, and I am pleased to be able to say that he enjoys the respect and confidence of the present and past members of the Board.—I am, &c.,

R. W. BRICKELL.

Dunedin, Sept. 16th, 1920.

Answers to Correspondents.

- C. C. (Te Hope), G. W. K. (Pahiatua),
H. C. W. (Raurimu), G. H. M. (Sefton),
Mrs. C. A. (Heriot).—Thanks for stamps.
B. and B. (Drury), R. A. M. (Lower Hutt).
—Many thanks for Journal.
Miss A. J. R., Oamaru.—Goodwill much appreciated.

F. P. L. Hawera.—Friend L., your letter has acted as the last straw which gave the camel the hump! You surely are not serious. Eggs and egg circles! Great Scott! Have we not got enough to do with Bees, Boundaries, and "Bounders"? Now, look here; you just lay your little scheme before Ryland; he has sold all the crops to date, and is sitting in his office waiting for next season's output to come along; and we feel sure he will be most happy to talk "eggs." He is quite a nice chap in his office.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

[Advertisements on this page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 38 words per insertion. Cash must accompany order or will not be inserted. Addresses care Editor 6d. extra to cover cost of postage of replies.]

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EDITOR.

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TERMS: Nett cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

P.O. Order Office: Edendale.

Tested Queens for delivery from October 20th; Untested from about November 20th to end of March (weather permitting)

NOTE.—Having bought out the whole of Mr. Robert Stewart's Breeding Stock, I have decided to again enter the lists of Commercial Queen Breeders till that gentleman should establish a new apiary in another location.

Postal Address:

ROBERT GIBB, MENZIES FERRY, SOUTHLAND.

BEE SWAX.

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.

YOUNG MAN desires EXPERIENCE on an Apiary during January; any part of New Zealand, but South preferred; wages optional.

A. ABERNETHY,
24 Lonsdale Street, Dunedin.

Subscriptions Received.

[NOTE.—Should there be found any discrepancy, please write the Editor.]

W. Bray, Christchurch, to August 21.
J. Froggart, Southland, to August 21.
W. H. Winter, Maxwelltown, to July 21.
R. Major, Rawhitiroa, to August 21.
A. T. Dougherty, Tiran, to September 21.
S. J. Hunter, Dunedin, to August 21.
J. C. Naismith, East Taieri, to August 21.
W. Whit, Mataura, to September 21.

T. P. Petersen, Morrinsville, to Sept. 21.
H. F. Becroft, Henderson, to August 21.
S. P. Parsons, Rotorua, to July 21.
A. Selwin, Peel Forest, to August 21.
G. McL. Hendry, to August 21.
T. G. Kitchingman, Greymouth, to September 21.
J. Flakie, Spar Bush, to August 21.
T. Barr, Tuapeka, to July 21.
Miss A. J. Reid, Oamaru, to Sept. 21.
G. V. Gow, Waiharo, to September 21.
S. Jodett, Wellington, to December 21.
W. McKenzie, Mangapehi, to Oct. 21.
J. H. Todd, Blenheim, to September 21.
J. Paterson, Hokitika, to September 21.
J. Walton, Oruru, to September 21.
C. V. Hart, Cambridge, to September 21.
H. Speary, Cambridge, to September 21.
W. Ranstead, senr., Matangi, to Sept. 21.
G. W. Whitcombe, Auckland, to Aug. 21.
T. C. Horner, Whata Whata, to Sept. 21.
V. J. Toll, Westport, to September 21.
E. P. Karl, Pukeroro, to July 21.
F. P. Lea, Hawera, to August 21.
A. Billstone, Tuatapere, to September 21.
F. Saunders, Rakaiia, to August 21.
C. J. Fisher, Carterton, to September 21.
D. McGregor, Browns (5/- sent), to June 21.
O. E. Sim, Clinton (5/- sent), to June 21.
Miss Strawbridge, Albany (5/- sent), to June 21.
A. J. Jackson, Hunter (5/- sent), to June 21.
W. H. Cartwright, Pleasant Point (5/- sent), to June 21.
Mrs. T. C. Farnie, Woodbury (5/- sent) to June 21.
W. Clark, Mosgiel (5/- sent), to June 21.

Do not Work with Obsolete Knives.

HAGERTY'S PATENT No. 40726 STEAM CAPPING KNIFE.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO THE APIARIST.

Steam Knife, complete with Can & Tubing, posted to any part N.Z. Price 40/-

Or send your Bingham Knife and I will convert it for you. Price 30/-

Can and Tube 5/- extra.

WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED.

WILLIAM HAGERTY, Electrician, WINTON.

OWING TO LACK OF MATERIALS, NEW KNIVES CANNOT BE SUPPLIED TILL NOVEMBER. OLD KNIVES CAN BE CONVERTED.

Honey Production and Bee Supplies.

There is no question which is exercising the minds of the statesmen of to-day more than how to meet the enormous financial burdens caused by the War. They all agree, however, that increased production in all branches of industry is essential, and will do much to ease the burdens which press so heavily. Particularly in our own Dominion is increased production an urgent necessity if we are to meet the heavy burden of post-war taxation. The sugar shortage is becoming increasingly acute: so serious is it in fact that a number of jam factories are closing their doors, and it looks as though no sugar will be available for jam-making in the homes this year. This means that there will be a very large demand from all classes of the community for honey, and it is predicted by those in a position to know that 10d. to 1/- per lb. will be the ruling price in the Autumn for fair average grades.

Herein is the opportunity and the obligation of Beekeepers everywhere to advance the standard of their own business. With the demand for honey greatly increased and its price greatly advanced, the Beekeeper should respond with the largest and best production of honey possible. The more there is produced the more there will be consumed and the market widened and steadied. It is up to the Beekeepers everywhere not only to help hold the advanced ground now won, but to enlarge the field and extend the popularity of honey as a food in every market.

The way to do this is to do better Beekeeping, and better Beekeeping means (in most cases) better equipment for the Apiary. Just at this point enters the Alliance Box Co. Ltd. Their Beekeeping Supplies are recognised everywhere as standard. They are as good as can be made. The pages of our Catalogue carefully studied will prove that Alliance equipment is more complete than any other, and that higher quality materials are used. Maintenance of quality in its goods is its first concern always. Leaders in the past, this Company will remain leaders in the future.

We wish our Friends a prosperous and successful season, and desire to express our sincere thanks for their favours.

ALLIANCE BOX CO., LTD.,

Telegrams—"Brickell," Dunedin.
Post Office Box 572, Dunedin.

R. W. BRICKELL, *Manager.*

New Season's Illustrated Catalogue

sent free on request.

Just drop us a line when in doubt about choice of equipment. We maintain a service department for your information.

New Zealand Beekeepers!

This is your opportunity to secure a strain of Queens that will pay. Cannot be equalled or excelled.

The Beecroft Apiaries, Berrima, W. Abram & Son

ESTABLISHED 1881.

THE FIRST IN THE FIELD AND THE FOREMOST EVER SINCE.

NOTICE.

Owing to the ruthless destruction of timber in and around Beecroft, and also to the district getting too residential, the carrying capacity for a large number of hives is now not assured. We have, therefore, been compelled to shift our Apiaries to Berrima, six miles out of Mossvale. In choosing this District, we are sure that it is amongst one of the best in Australia for the raising of Queens and Bees, and just as successful for honey production. We have now the whole plant re-established in working order, and are making immediate arrangements for a large extension to our Queen-raising Apiary to enable us to cope with the increased demand for Queens.

Now Booking Orders for this Season's Delivery. Queens Ready during September.

The recent drought has proved the worth of our strain of Italian Queens. Secure some of this strain, which will not only guarantee the highest yield of honey, but efficient breeding, and will come out on top during reverse conditions.

ITALIAN QUEENS

There is only one class of Queen—The Original, the Unequalled, the Dependable.

All Queens reared from direct Imported Stock from Italy.

UNTESTED, 7/6 each. A Reduction for 10 and over up to 50 of 6d. each. Over that number, 1/- each.

	One.	Three.	Sx.
Tested	12/-	30/-	54/-
Select Tested ..	17/6	45/-	82/6
Select Breeders	20/-	52/6	97/6
Extra Choice ..	30/-	81/-	156/-
Extra Breeding	40/-	114/-	222/-

**WE GUARANTEE SAFE ARRIVAL
ANYWHERE OF ALL QUEENS
AND BEES.**

DON'T HESITATE! Re-Queen your Apiary with a strain that has proved the best for over 50 years. **THE BETTER QUEEN AT THE BEECROFT APIARIES.**

BEES BY THE POUND A SPECIALITY; with or without Queen. BEES, 4/- lb.

Also **NUCLEI, SWARMS, FULL STOCK HIVES, &c.**

Our Reputation is your guarantee of satisfaction. Re-stock your Apiary the right way, the cheapest way, the best way, with the right strain.

Queens bred from Disease-Resisting Stocks. No order too small and none too large.

NOTE.—All communications to be addressed to Berrima, N.S.W. Payments in M.O. and P.N. payable at Berrima. Please add exchange on cheques.

All goods delivered free on rail, except Queens in mailing cage, which are sent free by post. Both Leather and Golden Strains supplied. Price List on application.

W. Abram & Son, The Beecroft Apiaries, Berrima,

Via MOSSVALE, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

Reducer Competition.

IT APPEARS TO OUR FIRM THAT BY OUR SILENCE UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED COMPETITION FOR COMB HONEY REDUCERS, WE WERE INDICATING A RELUCTANCE TO SUBMIT OUR PATTERNS FOR PUBLIC COMPETITION.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE ANNUAL FIELD DAY OF BEEKEEPERS AT THE STATE FARM AT RUAKURA, THESE REMARKS WILL NOT APPLY; BUT TO SUCH PERSONS WHO HAVE NEVER ATTENDED ONE OF THE RUAKURA FIELD DAYS, THE FAILURE OF OUR FIRM TO MAKE ANY MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF A PUBLIC COMPETITION MIGHT REASONABLY BE REGARDED AS AN INDICATION THAT WE WERE NOT IN FAVOUR OF TESTING OUR INVENTION.

Our Real Reason.

The actual reason for our indifference in this matter of competition has been that all our rivals had produced such palpable defects in their Machines that there was—at least from the trained engineer's point of view—no need for any such competition. Where to-day is there one of the Reducers advertised that competed with the first **BARTLETT-MILLER REDUCER** at Ruakura in 1915, or that has ever so competed since? Our Invention is the sole survivor, thus abundantly proving its claim by the law of the survival of the fittest.

Again, at least the only other party putting out a Reducer to-day in competition with ours is placing a Machine no more like his Reducer exhibited at Ruakura last February than onions are like peaches! Naturally, the prospective purchaser asks himself (or herself) if the present pattern is to be final because deemed perfect, or whether the one he is now advised to get is so imperfect that in a few months longer it too will be discarded, as the same inventor has discarded in the last twenty-seven months some half-dozen other patterns, each of which, while the furor of the new idea lasted, was to knock off their perches every Reducer under the sun!

When ?

The thought will intrude itself into the mind of every person deciding to risk money in the purchase of a piece of extracting-room machinery that may reasonably be expected to need an outlay only every twenty years or so:—"Am I getting a proved affair, or merely the extravagantly enthusiastic result of a mere novice's zeal in a belief in his own inventive genius?"

Is it reasonable to expect any such prospective purchaser to place so implicit a confidence as that which the **BARTLETT-MILLER REDUCER** has earned so conclusively during the seven years of its unaltered pattern, in a new and as yet publicly untried pattern, which is so radical a departure from the same maker's Machine which he exhibited and demonstrated in company with ours at Ruakura last February that it is hard to believe that the same individual planned them both?

We ask ourselves, as we ask our readers,—Is it worth while arranging a competition with a pattern that may in a few months go the way of the half-dozen other discarded patterns placed by this same competitor?

We think that every reasonable person will agree with us when we demur that when our present competitor has proved that his present invention commands his own confidence (which confidence in his present pattern we much doubt), it is then time enough to talk about public money-prize competitions.

Haphazard *versus* Expert Opinion.

We have the fullest confidence in the Manager of the H.P.A.. As a business expert, precisely the right man in the right place, Mr. Ryland is a goal-send to the New Zealand beekeepers. Exactly because of this qualification he is absolutely nowhere as a beekeeping expert, and thus, when in the price-list of the H.P.A. he states that our competitor's Reducer "answers all requirements," we very respectfully ask Mr. Ryland to "wait a little bit," until he learns what our beekeepers require when thick honey comes their way: to state upon the mere ONE short demonstration he saw—with clean combs at that too—that this new and otherwise untried invention will answer all requirements, is at least to arrogate to himself a capability for judging where he cannot possibly—by the mere nature of his previous employment—possess any claim to pass any such eucnemion (or reflection) upon any Reducer. In any event, no prudent purchaser will buy with confidence a Machine with no more reliable recommendation than that of the inexperienced opinion of the Manager of the Firm which happens to have the Agency for the sale of it.

Therefore

To enable our readers and clients to pass a reliable judgment upon the matter, we will make our arrangements for a Public Competition, and as nearly as possible to exclude any and all favouritism.

The Competition shall take place either in the honey rooms of each respective inventor, or we will lend our own Factory for the purpose, seeing that we are so well fitted for such a demonstration.

Each Competitor shall provide such sufficient quantity of black combs as will keep his Reducer working a full four hours continuous run.

Each Competitor shall select one of the Judges; these two shall select one other. (In this regard we reserve the name of one individual, which will be submitted to every Competitor before the selection, and which person we will not permit to enter upon our property.)

No Foul-brood Combs shall be brought upon any property upon which this Competition shall be held.

The Judging Points shall be

(With the reservation that others, previous to the trial, may be substituted) as follows:—

QUANTITY OF HONEY MELTED	40 Points
Temperature of Honey on leaving Reducer—to be taken every quarter of an hour, averaged throughout the trial	15 Points
Clarity of Honey on Leaving the Separator	5 Points
Ease of Operation of Reducer	10 Points
Cost of Reducer, from the point of view of its possible purchase by the small Beekeeper	20 Points

Clarity of Honey we place lowest, because any Honey can be afterwards settled in the tank. Price we value highly, as it is easy enough to invent an expensive Machine, of no use to any but the big men.

All slungum to be weighed, and every pound to count as five pounds of honey. This is necessary, because it is impossible to calculate the amount in the combs, and that competitor having the most might thereby lose the Competition.

The Competition shall take place during March next, and all Entrants shall submit Reducers that have been on sale for not less than six months.

One month's notice to compete shall be given from each to each Competitor.

NOW THEN, BOYS, WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ON THESE TENTATIVE RULES ARE SUGGESTED? NO DOUBT THE EDITOR WILL PERMIT OF THEIR PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL IF YOU WRITE AND ASK HIM, SEEING THAT THIS IS MORE OR LESS A PUBLIC MATTER. OUR FIRM WILL ALSO BE GLAD TO INSERT ANY GOOD AND REASONABLE PROPOSALS, SO LONG AS OUR SPACE WILL PERMIT.

NOTE.—WE HAVE LEFT OUT THE MATTER OF ANY OTHER PRIZE THAN THE REPUTATION GAINED BY THE RESULT OF THE TRIAL. ANY OTHER REWARD IS FOR OTHERS TO ARRANGE.

The Thoroughwork Apiaries Company

KIHIKIHI.

[ADVT.]

Honey for Export

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.

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

TINS AND CASES.

Shareholders and Clients should send orders
immediately for approximate quantities Tins
and Cases required for next season.

DEPOTS HAVE BEEN OPENED AT :

Christchurch—Canterbury Orchardists' Assn. Buildings,
Colombo Street, in charge of Mr. T. S. Winter.

Greymouth in charge of Mr. A. Batty.

Dunedin—Mr. G. W. Herrick, Stafford Street, will accept
orders for supplies on our behalf.

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

BENTON'S QUEEN-CELL NURSERY- INCUBATOR (Patent No. 43259.)

THE MOST MODERN IMPROVEMENT IN QUEEN-CELL NURSERIES.

Its advantages are such as to lessen the Cost of Producing Virgin Queens by fully one-third. It saves time, labour, and trouble, and many of the risks incurred in handling Cells; hence you cannot afford to be without one.

Do not forget, it is often poor economy to continue using out-of-date and inferior Appliances, when up-to-date and efficient Appliances are procurable.

THE BENTON QUEEN-CELL AND QUEEN NURSERY can be had in two sizes. The small size provides for the care of 16 Cells, and holds 6 half-depth Frames. The large size provides for the care of 48 Cells.

Send for descriptive leaflet and price of this proved success to the

SOLE AGENTS:

N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Assn., Ltd.

BOX 1203, AUCKLAND.

1920-21 PRICES OF ITALIAN QUEENS.

One or Two: 7/6 each.	Three or Four: 7/- each.	Five or more than Five: 6/6 each.
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All orders accepted last season and during the winter months at last season's prices will be filled as agreed.

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 at original address replaced Free if Cage is returned unopened.

NOTES.—Owing to the increase in the price of sugar, postage, and all materials, No Reduction can be made on large orders.

All orders filled in strict rotation. Beekeepers should order early and avoid disappointment. In the best interests of Customers no Queens will be sent out later than the second week in March. This will enable Queens to be raised for wintering in the Nuclei, thus ensuring early Queens the following Spring.

Customers can rely on getting the best of Queens, and are assured of Absolute Freedom from Disease.

Inspection of the Apiary cordially welcomed at all times.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

J. H. TODD, Renwicktown, MARLBOROUGH.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Dept. of Agriculture, Industries & Commerce,
Blenheim, Sept. 15th, 1920.

Mr. J. H. Todd, Renwicktown.

Sir,—Having examined every hive at your Apiary at Renwicktown, I have found no evidence of Foul-brood.

(Signed) A. P. YOUNG,
Apiary Inspector.