

Registered at G.P.O., Wellington, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

*F. A. Sayf*

# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

VOL. 5.

MARCH 1st, 1921.

No. 3.

Subscription: 6/- per Annum in Advance.



Quite at home among the Bees.

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

March 1, 1921.]

N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' JOURNAL.

# Spring is Coming. **BE PREPARED !**

**Prices for Italian Queens and Nuclei, 1920 :**  
 Untested Queens to November 14th, 10/-; after November 14th, 7/6 Each.  
 Tested " " " " £1; " " " " 15/- "  
 Nuclei with Untested Queens to November 14th, Three-frame 30/-  
 " " " after " " Four-frame 30/-  
**Safe Arrival Guaranteed.** **All Orders Supplied in Rotation.**

TERMS.—CASH WITH ORDER. CHEQUES TO HAVE EXCHANGE ADDED.  
 Money Orders payable at Rangiora Post Office.

Postal Address: **M. SHEPHERD, Southbrook, Canterbury.**

## **NICHOLAS' FOUNDATION FACTORY.**

**BEEWAX WANTED in Large or Small Lots. Highest Cash Price Paid.**  
**Foundation Comb at Lowest Cash Price.**

The capacity of our Electric Power Plant has been greatly increased, and the adoption of the latest methods, combined with years of experience in making Foundation Comb, ensures a product unsurpassed by none.

Mr. H. C. Taylor writes:—"I am well satisfied with your Foundation. It seems to me quite as good as any imported I have seen. I fixed over 3,000 sheets without coming across a faulty sheet. You have saved the Beekeepers of the Dominion a large amount of cash."

Customers among the leading Beekeepers of the Dominion.

**NICHOLAS, 3 CALEDONIA ST., HAWERA.**

## **Don't Forget**

Our Store when anything is wanted in the shape of

## **BEE MATERIAL.**

Full supplies of all Beekeepers' Requisites kept in stock. Honey Tin Manufacturers. Agents for Alliance Box Co. and for Benton's Capping Melter.

**REMEMBER! If it's for Bees, we have it.**

**H. BEALE & CO., LTD.,** PLUMBERS, TINSMITHS  
 and IRONMONGERS,

P.O. Box 129. 'Phone 62.

**MASTERTON, WAIRARAPA.**

## **BAY OF PLENTY COMB FOUNDATION FACTORY**

**BEEWAX 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 8d. PER LB.**

**Excell & Hallam,**

**Comb Foundation Makers,**

**OPOTIKI**

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY  
 WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

**BAY OF PLENTY.**

# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 3

VOL 5

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/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

### OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1920-21.

President: Mr. W. WATSON, Geraldine.

Vice-President: Mr. E. W. SAGE, Ohaupo.

Executive: Mr. E. McKNIGHT (Domett); Mr. A. H. DAVIES (Pukeroro Rural District, Hamilton); Mr. A. R. BATES (Kaponga); Mr. L. IRWIN (Woodlands, Southland).

Secretary & Treasurer: Mr. FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

Editor of Journal: Mr. FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

Auckland Provincial Branch.—Sec., Mr. A. H. Davies, Pukeroro Rural District, Hamilton.

Sub-Branches:

Lower Waikato.—Hon. Sec., —

Te Aroha.—Hon. Sec., C. A. Grainger, Waihou.

King Country.—Hon. Sec., Mr. G. Laurie, Kata Street, Te Kuiti.

Rotorua.—Hon. Sec., F. E. Stewart, Rotorua.

Canterbury Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Miss MacKay, Middle Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Christchurch.

Southland Beekeepers' Association.—Mr. L. Irwin, Woodlands.

Wairarapa Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Mr. Y. H. Benton, Featherston.

Chiviotee Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., E. McKnight, Domett.

Clutha Valley Beekeepers' Association.—Sec., H. N. Goodman, Greenfield, Otago.

West Coast Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., D. T. Cochran, Clematis Apiary, Cobden.

Tairāpiti Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Mr. B. H. Howard, Mure Street, Mosgiel.

Poverty Bay Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Mr. J. E. Adams, Gisborne.

Hawke's Bay Beekeepers' Association.—Hon. Sec., Mr. J. P. Boyle, 400 Lyndon Road, Hastings.

Nelson Provincial Branch.—Hon. Sec., Mr. G. H. Sergeant, Motueka.

All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to

FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

### CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
Editorial	41	Waipa Bee Club	48
Market Reports	42	Beekeeping in England	50
Beekeeping for Beginners	42	An Explanation	51
Meeting of the National Executive	43	Bee Production	51
N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association Ltd.	43	Correspondence	55
Canterbury Tales	44	Subscriptions Received	57
District Reports	45	Beekeepers' Exchange	58
		Prosecutions under the Apiaries Act.	57
		Answers to Correspondents	57

## EDITORIAL.

Owing to the Editor not reaching home until the evening of the 23rd February, the publication of this month's issue has been delayed, hence the lateness of receipt. The tour undertaken was, we believe, productive of good results, and seemed to indicate the necessity of a member of the Executive making a similar tour every year. New Branches were formed at Balclutha and Rangiora, with the nucleus of another at Blenheim. It is impossible to give details of the tour in this issue, but a full report will appear in due course.

The general impression gained by the Editor is that our country is one of the best in the world for successful beekeeping, and the industry is capable of infinite expansion.

We understand that a Bee Club has been started at Te Awamutu, but until the air is cleared a bit we do not quite know whether it is to assist the National and H.P.A. or is ranged against them. As far as we can gather from the reports, the chief items indulged in are mutual recriminations, which lead nowhere. Ostensibly the object of the Club is to help both Associations to be of more assistance to the industry, which is quite good; but we sub-

mit that this will not be brought about by generally "slating" everyone who has been unfortunate enough to be elected a member of the one or director of the other. It is neither honest nor fair to ask a man to serve you in these capacities and not to credit him with doing his best, and that very often at a personal sacrifice of his own interests. If any member thinks he can do better, we in all sincerity ask him to come forward and offer his services. We want the very best men possible to carry on both Associations; and if anyone thinks he is a better man than any of those who now occupy the positions, let him come forward and prove himself. He will meet with a hearty welcome from everybody.

## Market Reports.

**Honey.**—There is no demand for this article at present. As far as Home demand is concerned, second hands are full up and cannot make headway. The Continental demand has been affected both by the exchange and by the fact that Cuban honey has been offering direct Continental ports at under 40/- per cwt. c.i.f. There are very large stocks in Liverpool, with no sales being made.

**Beeswax.**—The demand also in this article is very bad, and descriptions are offering at low prices, and are taking most of the few orders about. There does not look to be much hope for this article for some time to come. The only sales that have been made are 12 bags last month at £8 10s., and 6 tons this month at £7 15s.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 11th January, 1921.

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

**Auckland.**—The weather during January has been favourable for the storing of nectar. Extracting is in full swing, and good crops are general. The quality of the honey is excellent, being mainly from clover. Market conditions are steady. Sections, from 10/6 to 12/- per dozen; wax, 2/6 per lb.—G. V. Westbrooke.

**Wellington.**—With few exceptions beekeepers have secured good honey crops, and the plentiful rains just experienced will again stimulate growth in plant life, and further add to the store of nectar already on the hives or extracted. The quality of that seen is up to the usual high standard, and there is a preponderance of extracted honey over sections. Prices are slightly on the decline, but there is no fear of a big drop, despite the fact that the English market is very dull. Section honey is scarce. Beeswax is offering at 2/3 per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

**Christchurch and Dunedin.**—The recent rains have revived the clover pastures in many districts, and it is anticipated that there will be a good flow from the second growth. Generally the season has been good, and a fair average crop of honey will be taken. Extracting is general in most districts, and the quality of the honey is excellent, as is usual when there is good secretion from the clover. Prices are firm, and merchants are busy purchasing on this season's crop. Bulk lines for export: None forward. Section honey is coming in in fair quantities, and is being freely taken up at 12/6 per dozen. A few small lines in 10-lb. tins are now being offered. Beeswax is scarce, and in strong demand.—E. A. Earp.

## 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 extremes North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

March should see the close of active work in the apiary. All surplus honey should now be removed and extracted; but do not forget to save at least one good comb of honey (from hives that show no trace of disease) for every hive you are wintering. It has been well said that the best time for spring feeding is the autumn, which of course means that it is false economy to leave the bees with only sufficient stores to barely carry them into the spring. The insufficiency of stores is so often the cause of winter losses, and those that do not die out usually come through very weak, and require a lot of nursing to pull them through. Therefore, see that all the hives have an abundance, and you will find it has paid you well when opening the hives in the spring.

Robbers will be particularly active just now, so be careful not to do anything to start the ball rolling. Honey, when being removed from the hives, should be kept well covered up, else you will have a very trying time.

See that the hive covers fit well, and replace any brood chamber that is split and allows the bees to get in anywhere but the front entrance, so that the sentries can cope with any chance robber bee.

All failing and old queens should be killed and young ones introduced by the cage method, which I think is one of the safest.

F. C. B.

Send for Pamphlet on "BEESWAX."

6d. POST FREE.

W. B. BRAY,  
Barry's Bay.

## Meeting of the National Executive.

A meeting of the members of the National Executive was held in Christchurch on Wednesday, 9th February, when the following members were present:—Mr. W. Watson (President), Mr. E. W. Sage (Vice-President), Messrs. A. H. Davies, R. McKnight, L. Irwin, and F. C. Baines (Secretary). An apology was received from Mr. A. R. Bates, who was unable to attend through stress of work.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, a letter from Mr. H. Bartlett-Miller was read by the President bearing upon the refusal of the Editor of the Journal to publish certain statements contained in an advertisement submitted, and asking that the proposed advertisement be read by the members, and that a decision be made whether the refusal to publish was not unjustifiable. On the contents of the advertisement being read, it was unanimously agreed that the Editor's action be endorsed.

The proposed new grading schedule and the suggested sliding scale for the proposed apinary registration tax were deferred for further discussion with the members of the Standing Committee.

The Secretary stated that he had seen Mr. J. A. Campbell (in the absence of Mr. T. W. Kirk), of the Department, with reference to the proposals passed last Conference on the matter of the control of apinary boundaries. Mr. Campbell stated these were still under consideration, and we should hear further very shortly.

It was agreed that the next Annual Conference be held in Auckland on 8th, 9th and 10th June, and that the Secretary invite assistance in the matter of getting attractive and helpful papers for discussion.

## N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association, Ltd.

### REVIEW OF LAST YEAR'S WORK.

We were in Auckland recently, and able to glean a few particulars on the work of the above Association during the past year, which we are sure will be interesting to our readers.

The total quantity of honey handled was approximately 500 tons. The total turnover was over £75,000. The shareholders have increased from 500 to 700. The subscribed capital has been doubled the last two years. The sales of "Imperial Bee" honey increased £15,000 last year. The supplies department has been a phenomenal success, the increase in trade being £11,000, or £17,000 against £6,000 last year.

To the writer, who was one of those who assisted in the launching of the H.P.A., and who remembers only too well the struggles in the early days—even as recently as 1913-14—the above figures make wonderful reading. Quoting from memory, we believe the first year's trading figures were about £2,000, on a paid-up capital of about £25. Surely the figures of the past year indicate the benefit those engaged in the industry have received by the co-operative movement. We are quite ready to admit that mistakes have been made by those who were responsible for the management from time to time; but these were almost impossible to avoid, as it must be remembered there was not a similar organisation in the whole world which we could take as our guide. The operations of the various co-operative associations that were in existence then were found to be of very little value to us in starting our organisation, which was formed with the idea of getting complete control of both the producing and selling ends of the industry over the whole Dominion. All honour to those who have done so well for us; probably we who are at times inclined to criticise and complain of results would not have made so good a showing.

We understand that a further payment of 1d. per lb. will be made on white and light amber A and B, and other grades in proportion. A substantial amount is being carried forward to form a nucleus of funds to make the business self-supporting and less dependent on the banks.

Regarding the market for this season's honey, the position is somewhat obscure. The overseas market is very doubtful, but the prospects for the New Zealand market are very good indeed if the beekeepers hold for high prices and preferably put their honey through the Association.

In the January issue of "Gleanings" the following appears in the remarks of the honey market situation:—"Sugar in car-lots can now be had at one-third or even one-fourth of the former inflated price. Honey, on the contrary, in car-lots has dropped scarcely more than a half from the prices that ruled during the war."

Our Association, we understand, intends to advance 5½d. per lb. for white and light amber A and B grades, so we are not dropping to more than one-half war prices, like our American friends.

The writer is convinced that the industry as a means of livelihood stands or falls with the existence of the H.P.A., and our attitude to the Association should be not to dwell on what mistakes have been made in the past, but each one to loyally support it to the utmost. If anyone is dissatisfied with the personnel of the directorate, there are vacancies occurring this year, and the holding of two shares is sufficient to qualify one to occupy the position of a director, so the opportunity to become part of the management is quite easy.

Since writing the above, the market report from Messrs. Taylor of Liverpool has come to hand. Just look it up! Cuban honey offered c.i.f. continental ports under 40/- per cwt. Whew! How are the mighty fallen!

## Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

As usual, I must first of all refer to the weather, and I am sorry to say in uncomplimentary terms. We have had an unusual amount of rain since the middle of January, and harvesting has been interfered with seriously. Conditions have improved within the last few days, and there seems to be a prospect of fine weather now, but I am doubtful if it will do more than help the bees to get their house in order for winter. I do not think there have been more than four decent days for honey gathering in the last four weeks.

I have heard quite a number of reports that bees have been unusually cross this season, and I can only suggest that the bees, like the beekeepers, looked forward to a good season, and the results are not up to expectations.

The annual Field Day of the Canterbury Branch of the National took place at Avonhead on 5th February, and was attended by about 100 people. The function was a success in every way and the weather perfect. Mr. Pope (the President) welcomed the visitors. Mr. G. Witty (M.P.) was present, and promised assistance in getting measures through Parliament in the interests of the industry. Mr. Earp welcomed everyone to the apiary, and was in his usual good form at demonstrations. Mr. Hight and his assistants (embryo beekeepers) helped wonderfully, and kept the visitors interested for a good part of the afternoon. Mr. Bray again did yeoman service in his technical talks, and backed up Mr. Rentoul and our energetic Editor in their efforts to show the advantages of co-operation. Mr. Barker's paper on the mason bee was listened to attentively, and the ladies were enthusiastically applauded for their exertions in the tea and cake department.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress one point which was drawn attention to by all those who spoke on the marketing of our honey. From various sources I learn that the liquidation of the Bristol and Dominion Producers' Association has caused quite a flutter among beekeepers. Those outside the H.P.A. are on the lookout for our downfall, and some in the ranks of the shareholders are talking about "cutting the painter." I want to hammer this home—there is no need for alarm. Now is the time to stand shoulder to shoulder and reap the reward of being the best organised beekeepers in any part of the world. I am not going to

criticise any of the business dealings with the B. and D., but will say this: Events have proved that those at the helm have shown themselves to be capable, farsighted business-men, and instead of being pessimistic, we have every reason to be the opposite. I would urge everyone to carefully read Mr. Rylands' letter in the January issue; it is interesting reading, and shows the position clearly, so that if anyone says, "Are we downhearted?" you can join in the chorus, "No!" The position in a nutshell is this:—We are about £8,000 better off than if the 1919-1920 crop had been sold through the B. and D. We have an established connection with those who have handled our goods under **our own name**; and our business is increasing by leaps and bounds. Our turnover has been nearly £80,000 for the season just ended, and there's plenty of room for expansion yet. Contrast this with what the position would be if each one "paddled his own canoe." Only recently I heard of one man, not a shareholder, who was offered 4d. per lb. for this season's crop! It should be clear to all thinking people that the greater the number of shareholders the more profitable our business will become, for the reason that many of the charges which now have to be borne by a few would be distributed over the many. I refer, of course, to management, rents, and overhead charges, which have to be met whether our turnover is large or small.

The orthodox belief is that normally only one queen will be tolerated in a hive, so perhaps the following will interest readers. Two colonies belonging to our secretary, Miss Mackay, swarmed at the same time and clustered together. She shook them into a box, but instead of taking up their quarters in one cluster, they divided and took opposite corners. Not wanting the bees herself, Miss Mackay gave them to a budding beekeeper friend, and he lived them in a double storey hive. They divided up again, and established themselves one in each of the supers, and have been working contentedly together for about six weeks or two months, all using the same entrance, and no excluder between them. Truly, as Dr. Miller said, "Bees do nothing invariably."

Many explanations have been given of the custom of making noises at swarming time. The Lancashire story is that when a swarm issued the owner followed it up, banging one of his baking tins to inform neighbours of the fact, and kept up the noise intermittently all the while the swarm was in view so that no one else could claim it.

Most beekeepers, I suppose, have been asked what they use as an antidote for stings, and have to reply, "I just grin and bear them," but the following true incident may point a moral, even if the treatment does not effect a cure. A certain lady had a little boy 18 months old, who was like many little boys in the respect that a hammer lifted him into the

seventh heaven of delight. One day he sallied forth bare-legged and bare-armed, and found his way into a neighbour's garden, where a hive of bees was located. His hammer came into play on the hive, and the result can be imagined. His screams brought his mother, and her treatment consisted in rubbing him all over with a paste made of vinegar and carbonate of soda. He was put to bed, and woke once in the night, when the treatment was repeated. Next day he was "right as pic."

## District Reports.

### TARANAKI.

During the past four weeks the weather has been very mixed, and there has not been a great deal of nectar gathered. Owing to the good weather experienced previously, most of us are finding plenty of extracting to keep us busy.

What a different way most of us have of "getting there." Our friend from Renwicktown prefers handling virgins to cells, and I prefer cells every time. I think introducing virgins is often the cause of balling.

With a little care I find nothing risky about moving cells either two or three days before they hatch, and do not lose one in a hundred.

I think the reason why a nuclei that has just been de-queened will more likely accept a ripe cell without a protector is that being so few bees, the news soon gets round that the old lady is lost.

With a colony, some irresponsible bee comes along and, thinking perhaps that her ladyship is upstairs, has a go at the cell. I always use cell protectors in colonies that have just been de-queened, and also in nuclei, unless I can leave them for at least some hours. We know from experience that cells moved into nursery cages two days before they are due will hatch, and are apparently no worse for it. If that is so, how a wire cell protector will hurt, I cannot see.

Talking about the price of honey: Do not let us hear any beekeeper say it is coming down. It is not that high that it needs to, and if we all stick to the H.P.A., instead of cutting one another on the open market, I guess it will not come down.

Okaiawa, 16/2/21.

### CLUTHA VALLEY: FIELD DAY AT AWAMANGU.

The annual Field Day and demonstration in connection with the Clutha Valley Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand took place at Mr. McArthur's apiary, Awamangu, on Saturday, 29th January. Unfortunately, the

day was cold and showery, so only one hive was opened; but every opportunity was taken by addresses and demonstrations inside to spend a profitable day.

Mr. D. S. Smollet, President of the Branch, extended a hearty welcome to the visitors. They had several beekeepers present from the surrounding district, and from Katea and Balclutha. Mr. F. C. Baines, editor of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal and secretary of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, and Mr. Rentoul, director of the Honey Producers' Association of New Zealand, and Messrs. J. Allan (Nelson Branch), Irwin (secretary Southland Beekeepers' Association), Brickell (Dunedin), E. A. Earp (Government instructor), and others were present.

Mr. F. C. Baines, on behalf of the National Association, congratulated the Clutha Valley Branch on the splendid attendance, considering the stormy day. He hoped the Branch would increase its membership as the result of the gathering. The Association consisted of beekeepers whose sole object was the betterment of the industry. Every industry had a union, and the Association was the beekeepers' union. He urged every beekeeper to join up with the local Branch and take an interest in its work.

Interesting addresses on foul-brood were given by Messrs. E. A. Earp and J. Allan. Mr. Rentoul gave a demonstration as to the rearing of queen bees, and Mr. Earp opened one hive and explained the work of the bees.

The honey extractor was set going, and Mr. McArthur threw open his workshop and honey-house, and inspection was made by all interested.

An abundant supply of refreshments was provided, and proved most acceptable, and the members of the local Branch, with Mr. H. N. Goodman as secretary, were most attentive to every detail, and did much to make the day profitable and pleasant.

Hearty cheers were exchanged at the close, thanks being given to Mr. McArthur and the local Branch and the visitors and speakers.

### AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

The annual Field Day of our Association took place at the State Farm, Ruakura, on 16th February. The weather was ideal for the occasion, and the bees were in their best behaviour—I did not hear of anyone receiving a sting. The attendance was the largest we have yet had. Motor cars and lorries began to roll up soon after 9 o'clock, and each train brought its quota, about 250 people being present. A pleasing feature of the day was the large proportion of actual beekeepers present. The visitors and members received a hearty welcome from Mr. Green (farm manager), Mr. Kirk (Director of Horticulture), Mr. J. A. Young (M.P.), and Mr. E. W. Sage, our President. The various demonstrations and lectures were gone through without a hitch; it is hard to say which was the

most interesting. Our old friend, Mr. I. Hopkins, is still very much alive, and answered a large number of questions in good style. Queen-rearing, by Mr. Tryhall and cadets, also claimed a lion's share of the interest; but I think the item most eagerly looked forward to was the melter demonstration, but unfortunately only one machine came forward. This was disappointing to a number of people that had come from North Auckland and the East Coast, where thick honey is plentiful. The melter demonstrated was Mr. Smedley's new invention. It is totally different from any other machine that has been demonstrated here. It is a simple machine, and by the way it behaved here, there would be no sitting down waiting for it to clear itself.

We were unfortunate in not having Mr. Baines with us on account of his southern tour; also Mr. Rylands, who was ill in Christchurch. Messrs. Brickell and Turbott and other directors spoke on the Company's behalf, and although some criticism was received from one member, the general opinion was that the Company was serving the beekeepers well, and deserved the loyal support of all.

A hearty vote of thanks to the departmental officials; the Farm Manager; those who assisted with the programme; and to the ladies who assisted with the luncheon brought a happy day to a close.

A. H. DAVIES, Sec.

#### WEST COAST: ANNUAL FIELD DAY.

The annual Field Day of the West Coast Branch was held at Gladstone Siding, Greymouth, on 12th February at Mr. Osmond Butler's apiary, there being a large number of beekeepers present, including Mr. F. C. Baines, secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association and editor of the Beekeepers' Journal, who kindly consented to give a demonstration on the handling of bees. Mr. Geo. Dixon (Vice-President of the Branch) in introducing Mr. Baines, stated that as that was Mr. Baines' first visit to the West Coast, he (the speaker) felt sure, judging by the manner in which Mr. Baines conducted the Beekeepers' Journal, they were that afternoon in for a good and profitable time.

Mr. Baines thanked the speaker for his kind remarks, and stepping up to one of the hives, gave it the usual one or two puffs of smoke, and with the assistance of Mr. Dixon removed the cover gable, to find that no mats had been used, with the result that the gable was filled chock full of honey, which gave those present a splendid opportunity of viewing natural built comb.

The next move was a frame from the super, and you should have seen Mr. Baines' eyes when he saw that frame. "Foul-brood?" No! The thought that went through my mind was: "This is beekeeping that will stagger Baines." The frame was a combination of extracting

and comb honey; if you wanted the latter, you simply took a saw and cut the top and bottom bar in two, there being a double bar of wood in the centre.

The next move was down to the brood nest. The same style of frame was there, and the centre bar had so completely shut out the queen as to restrict her to about half the brood nest. If any readers of the Journal would like a fuller description of these frames, please write to Mr. O. Butler, Gladstone Siding, Greymouth, who, I feel sure, would be only too pleased to send a sample. It is the opinion of the writer that for anyone wishing to keep bees these frames are just the thing; but as I want bees to keep me I intend to hang on to the Hoffmann. Mr. Baines, not being acquainted with this style of frame, could not see anything to justify him speaking in its favour. Mr. Butler, the owner and maker of these frames, being ill in bed, we were left to form our own conclusions.

Mr. Baines then answered several questions with reference to laying workers; how to find black queens; swarm control; and re-queening.

At this stage luncheon was announced, and as the apiary was a considerable distance from town, those present were in a splendid condition to do justice to the good things provided. This is where we do appreciate the efforts of our sister beekeepers and their lady friends. After luncheon Mr. Baines addressed those present on the work of the National Beekeepers' Association, in what it had done in getting various measures to the benefit of beekeepers placed on the Statute Book, and urged those present who were not members of some Branch to join up, as "unity was strength." The Journal was next mentioned, with the result that quite a number of new subscribers were enrolled. The advantages of being a shareholder and the benefits to be derived from selling the honey through the H.P.A. was next very ably expounded.

A vote of thanks for the able manner in which Mr. Baines had answered the various questions and on his interesting address was passed on the motion of Mr. Murdock of Ross, seconded by Mr. Colquhoun of Blackball. A vote of thanks to Mr. Butler for placing his apiary at our disposal, and also to the ladies for the manner in which they had carried out their part was passed on the motion of Mr. Airey (Greymouth), seconded by Mr. Riddiford (Blackball).

Mr. G. Dixon, on behalf of the West Coast Branch, thanked those present for the welcome they had accorded Mr. Baines, and for the manner in which the Field Day had been conducted generally, this bringing to a finish one of the best and most profitable field days ever held on the Coast.

At 7.30 p.m. Mr. Baines addressed the members of the Branch at their new place of meeting (Foresters' Hall) on the advantages of co-operation for the disposal



of their honey, the work of the National, and other things of interest to beekeepers.

Mr. Baines left for Nelson on the 13th February, being accompanied part of the way by the President and Vice-President, and while passing through a small town en route the Vice-President pointed to a box-hive on a verandah on the front street, which he knew had been there for at least two years; so it will give readers of the Journal some idea of the state of things existing on the Coast. On reaching Reefton we bade farewell to Mr. Baines, and would add, "Come back soon friend Baines."

G. R. D.

Brunner.

#### TAIERI.

Yes, it was 3rd February, 8 p.m. He arrived safe and sound from Invercargill, having had two punctures, one within ten yards of the other. Bottle? Oh, I really can't say! We had a great meeting to receive him, too, about 25, I think. I did not actually count them, but let it stand, F.C.B. From one end of the plain to the other, from Dunedin, from Waitati they came. See what it is to be great Panjandrum!

Mr. Clark, our President, introduced Mr. Baines, and Mr. Baines did the rest. For the benefit of everyone—strangers in particular—there was a forcible address on the aims, work and results of the National; for us especially a lecture on the desirability of keenness and vigour (merited!) By holding up to us the example of a Branch without a name, he showed us how much we could do to help the inspectors in their work in cleaning up the region.

For the remainder of the evening Mr. Baines occupied the position of village pump. He performed his task well for we pumped hard. We argued briskly in a circle for a while on the subject of the registration fee. No decision resulted, however, for the meeting was not of members alone. We shall see about that later.

We can assure Mr. Baines that there was not a word wasted. We have been thinking hard since his visit. Summing up, we may state that he spoke to beat the band. (N.B.—The band was upstairs.)

The meeting closed so very late that we won't say when with a vote of thanks, &c., &c. Of course, promises extracted under compulsion are not of very great value, but he really did say he would come back next year. Whether attracted by the beauty of the Taieri or the more material clover in Southland, it is beyond our power to say.

However, we here reiterate the Branch expression of thanks and invitation. Au revoir, not good-bye!

We shall now have to come down from the clouds, right down to ordinary matters. The season all round will have been moderately good, I think. Extracting is now under way. No one seems disappointed. Still, if the price of honey falls

this year, you will know why. One of us has already taken twelve 60-lb. tins from three hives, and—pray, wait till I finish—and intends to take fifteen before the flow ceases. Don't come too quickly! Accommodation is too limited! Aha! Harry, your record is done! Woodside has out-Munchausened Munchausen! Anyway, the Editor can now tell everyone why Harry raised 2ewt. per hive last season. But in case he should prove reticent, it's simply this: The family (including Harry) consumes seven 60's between seasons. I am inclined to think that visitors' consumption is included in the total. Mr. Ryland, I believe, is going to extend the N.Z. market. I hope he can take a hint.

A letter arrived from Donal t'other day. I studied the post-mark, but could make nothing of it. And (cunning beggar) he put no heading to his letter. I think you will see why when I tell you that he stated that walking is a matter of great difficulty on his farm. The nectar sticks to his boots! I believe it is almost as bad in Clutha Valley. Of course, you may take that or leave it. Only remember that jealousy is one of the deadly sins.

I see from the Journal that Dr. Abushady is having trouble in obtaining material for his metal combs. Here is a suggestion from mythology. Daedalus, alias Daidalos, the Edison of the very ancients, was an inventive wonder. To him we owe speaking statues, the plumb-line, the gimlet, glue, ship-masts and sails, woodworking tools, and finally the Turkish bath. (No, he was a Greek!) His pupils invented such things as the chisel, the saw, the compasses. Daedalus misbehaved himself, and had perforce to escape. To do this he became the first aeronaut. He flew away to Sicily on wings of feathers and wax. His son's fate is known. In Sicily he manufactured honeycombs of gold, which the bees filled at a great rate. But then he was in one of the great honey-producing centres, Sicily. Hybla in that island was always famed for its honey.

As I remarked elsewhere and before, there's nothing new under the sun. Many marvels of modern beekeeping are to be found in the germ or merely in suggestion in the old tales. But lest I be robbing a worthy man of credit due to him, I shall cease and leave you to consider in what tiny circles the mind of man works.

BASIL H. HOWARD.

9/2/21.

#### TAIERI BRANCH FIELD DAY.

Well, 'elab to goodness, I can't conceive why you other apiators— On my knees pardon, Editor, if I have forestalled you. I could not resist it. Moral: Never show your hand! Anyway, it is a better word than apiarist. There is a slur in the ending—ist. Take, for instance, "agribulturalists." Isn't he the type of man who starts farming by analysing the chemical components of the soil, by calculating the number of worm-holes to the acre, &c., &c.

Consider "Bolshevist," "Communist," "Socialist" (what is mine belongs to me, and what is yours is mine); "Anti-Free-Trade-Protectionist": Away with it, then. Your breath did not last through that, I know. So—I cannot conceive why you other apiarists want to know about a Field Day: they are all the same, but different.

Weather conditions were superb—especially in the extracting-house, Bob. There were present Mr. Earp and about fifty-six others—say, sixty. Now that was excellent, considering that the races were in full swing about two miles away, and that Dunedin visitors had to pass the place of temptation on the way.

Mr. Earp arrived as a "deus ex machina." We were lost without him, though we didn't know it till he came! He shed the light of his knowledge over the whole programme. The said programme covered a good deal, except (not, of course) foul brood.

An excellent afternoon tea was served by the ladies, whom we duly thank. We must not pass the episode of the condensed milk; apologies to all concerned. Chuckle-heads (that's we!)

The meeting closed about 5.30, after expression of thanks to Mr. Earp and to Mr. Clark for the use of his apiary, for his lion's share in the work and worry.

We are not detailing the work done by members of the Committee. We seek no limelight's glare. Anyway, if we did give such details, there might be enquiry as to the secretary's proposed lecture on—well, ask Mr. Earp.

#### SOUTHLAND.

About 150 persons were attracted by the Southland Branch Field Day, held at Mr. F. Hemmingsen's apiary at Seaward Bush. Mr. Hemmingsen had gone to considerable trouble in getting everything ready to make the day instructive and pleasant, and Mrs. Hemmingsen and lady friends had a splendid array of refreshments provided. The weather was ideal. There were present:—Mr. J. Rentoul (Chairman H.P.A.), Mr. E. A. Earp (apiary instructor), Mr. J. Allan (ex-President N.B.K.A.), Mr. F. C. Baines (Editor of Journal), Mr. R. Stewart, Mr. R. Gibb, Mr. R. W. Brickell and many others well known to the bee-keeping world. Mr. C. Larsen, the genial President, welcomed the visitors, especially the officials from the North Island, "where the sun always shines and the honey always flows."

Mr. Earp gave a demonstration in the manipulation of the hive; Messrs. R. Gibb and Stewart talked queens to the very great advantage of the audience; Mr. Rentoul emphasised the necessity for supporting the H.P.A.; Mr. Baines spoke in the interests of the National Association and the Journal; Mr. Jas. Allan on the renewal of brood-nests every year; and Mr. Hem-

mingsen demonstrated efficient wax-rendering. Mr. Rentoul illustrated his system of swarm control; and then extracting was demonstrated. One visitor was so anxious to see the business that he did not notice a full tin of honey in the well by the extractor gate. He too had to be extracted!

A splendidly arranged programme, carried out with a vim, everybody pleased, and a rousing cheer for both Mr. and Mrs. Hemmingsen terminated a most helpful and pleasant day.

#### HAWKE'S BAY.

The month just past has been a busy one for all. Extracting has been in full swing; but while some honey tanks were full to overflowing, others were rather empty.

The season, in spite of better spring rains, has been drier than last season, and the lighter soils have become very dry. From this class of land the clover disappeared with the coming of the New Year, and the bees were left with but little fodder. So dry has the summer been that the autumn flowers do not promise as well as usual. On the heavier lands, however, the clover has done better, and the bees have been as busy as one could wish.

So much for the bees' activities: of the hive of beekeepers we need say less. Disappointment has been dogging every effort.

For one reason and another our Field Day has had to be postponed, and we fear our general meeting will meet the same fate.

J. P. BOYLE.

22/2/21.

## Waipa Bee Club.

"Help to see the ship safely home."  
—C. Smedly.

A meeting of beekeeping enthusiasts was held on the 11th February in Victoria Park, Te Awamutu, the object being to help man the ship of glorious co-operation.

Mr. Bartlett-Miller was elected President; Mr. C. Smedly Vice-President; Committee—Messrs. Bert Holmes, E. L. Jones, T. Clark, W. and F. Leinham. The fact that reporters on behalf of the Waikato Times and also the Waipa Post were present added an official atmosphere to what was really an informal gathering, exhibiting the happy comradeship which exists between beemen in the Te Awamutu district.

Generosity of words was not missing. But every word spent at random at every "picnic" is merely a punch helping to rivet or wear away what should be the

"endless chain" of united effort. That was the object of the meeting, but after what was said at the annual Field Day at Ruakura on the 16th February, the elected secretary (Mr. Hugh C. Jones) will be very pleased to be relieved of what appears to be the carrying out of impossible duties.

[Say, Hugh, you've soon got your fill of secretarial work, and you've hardly started! Well, well! Take our advice: stick to it for a twelvemonth, and you'll find it's the beekeeper who stings, not the bees!—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In enclosing a report of the meeting of local beekeepers, will you allow me to point out that the creation of a local bee club was most decidedly not done with any intention of antagonism to any of our associated interests, but with the undoubted desire to help matters along to foil dissension. Unhappily, unfair criticism was most bitterly propagated at yesterday's Field Day at Ruakura. Kindly meant criticism is good for all of us. We must fail in life's work if we are ashamed to openly encounter our own reflection in the looking-glass. But be fair!

It would be better at a happy garden party gathering to cut out financial matters altogether. The baw-bees interest us all—gents as well as ladies; but the Field Day held annually at Ruakura should be an advertisement of kindly comradeship generated by the National Beekeepers' Association. Vicious criticism on trading matters should be left entirely to meetings arranged exclusively for that purpose.—I am, &c.

HUGH C. JONES.

Pirongia, 17th Feb., 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Herewith we hand you report of a meeting held at Te Awamutu on February 11th, over which Mr. Bartlett-Miller presided. I may mention that a somewhat similar report appeared in the Waikato Times of February 11th under the heading:—

"BEEKEEPERS CONFER."

"DISSATISFIED WITH H.P.A."

"LACK OF BUSINESS ACUMEN."

Reading the report carefully, it would appear that the dissatisfaction which certain of these gentlemen feel is mainly on account of—

- (a) The handling of our produce in England;
- (b) The personnel of the directorate of the H.P.A.

Apparently the beekeepers at this meeting are well satisfied with the management and conduct of the H.P.A. in New Zealand, therefore it is a very unfortunate thing that the newspapers should issue long paragraphs in connection with this small sectional meeting of beekeepers, and head such reports with the words of "Dissatis-

fied with H.P.A." This conveys an entirely wrong and harmful impression to the beekeepers of the Waikato, who would hardly be cognisant of the fact that the meeting, so well reported by the Press, was attended by about twelve persons only, and that these persons were hardly in a position to form an accurate idea of the operations of the H.P.A., nor had sufficient knowledge of recent events to enable them to correctly size up the position.

One of the matters which apparently is troubling the conveners of the meeting is that some of directors of the H.P.A. are also on the Executive of the National Beekeepers' Association. It is not for me to enter into a controversy on this point, but my own opinion is that in the interests both of the commercial developments of the honey industry and the political side, which has been so much neglected in the past, it is highly desirable that directors of the H.P.A. should be linked up with the National Executive and vice versa. While they are two separate bodies, the two Associations need all the assistance they can give each other.

There was one statement made at the meeting to which, however, I take very strong exception, and that is the statement made by Mr. Jones that producers every day were falling away from the H.P.A. This is a statement which is absolutely contrary to fact. In the natural course of events, a certain amount of disloyalty to the co-operative principle is found amongst beekeepers, just the same as amongst other classes of producers, and there are always a few who are out for the uttermost farthing, irrespective of the welfare of their own Association or fellow beekeepers, and a few who fall aside by reason of personal grievance, &c. So far as we can judge—and we are better able to judge than individual beekeepers—producers generally in New Zealand—and the commercial beekeepers almost in a body—are loyal to the H.P.A., because they know that without this organisation there would be very little opportunity—this year of all years—of receiving anything like a profitable price for their honey.

When the writer joined the Association nearly two years ago, the shareholders of the H.P.A. numbered 411; to-day they number 700. During that period the subscribed capital of the Company has practically doubled, and in every respect the Association is on a very much sounder footing. Its local marketing scheme has saved the situation for beekeeping in New Zealand. Its supplies department has done an enormous increase in business, and now ranges close up to £20,000 per annum, goods being sold at very low prices, the beekeeper reaping the benefit, while financially the H.P.A. has proved of great assistance to many producers.

So far as Great Britain is concerned, the B. and D. have gone down, and it is very difficult for us in New Zealand at present to ascertain what kind of a deal

we have been getting during the past two years. Beekeepers, however, can rest assured that a full and thorough investigation will be made, with the probability that we shall send our own representative Home to go fully into matters, and at the same time to make full and satisfactory arrangements for the marketing of our honey in Great Britain on lines which will satisfy all producers, and will enable us to get the maximum prices for our produce, and to ensure that the whole of the net proceeds find their way back to the H.P.A.

The balance sheet of the H.P.A. will be available very shortly. Further substantial payments are being made on last year's honey; but the present season is fraught with great difficulties on account of the failure of all overseas markets; and this means that beekeepers in their own interests, if they are going to maintain remunerative returns for their produce in the future, must co-operate more fully and completely than they have done in the past.

A meeting of the shareholders of the H.P.A. will be held probably at Hamilton towards the end of March, and this will be an opportunity for our friends at Te Awamutu and other interested beekeepers to voice their difficulties or grievances, and to obtain from the management and directors of the H.P.A. a full statement of the position of affairs both in New Zealand and at Home.—Yours faithfully,

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

C. H. RYLAND,  
General Manager.

Auckland, 21st Feb., 1921.

[We refuse to publish the report of the meeting. This can be read by those wishing to do so by getting a copy of the *Waikato Times* of 11th February. We do not care to publish a lot of vulgar abuse, apart from statements that look very interesting from a legal point of view.—Ed.]

## Beekeeping in England.

It has been patent to everybody in this country that generally of late years beekeeping on the surplus point has gone more and more out of business, with 1920 winding up with a most depressing record. Nobody has got any honey which they did not have to feed back or else to feed for in sugar syrup. As autumn approached brood chambers got emptier and emptier, until many were at the emptiest! In the case of myself, the bungling of the sugar supply by the County Council emptied every hive, and in several instances the colonies starved to death. In many hives heaps of dead had already dropped from the combs before a morsel of sugar could be had—one more instance of the bungling

of official interference. I am more than ever opposed absolutely to any official interference with the bee industry in this country by legislative measures, either through Parliament or Orders-in-Council. It is very strange to colonial ideas, I dare say, but it is no more so than to us who can turn to endless inaptitude of Government Departments to understand or control industrial matters in the way any person of common-sense demands. Government Departments never have to foot a balance sheet; they spend their time spending other people's money; never have to earn any, and frankly I would almost say deem the man who has to a fool.

This was the situation:—C. Council had the job of certifying an applicant's requisition for sugar (limit 14 lbs. per colony for winter store, autumn feeding). I applied. Four weeks passed; no response. Repeat; no response. Repeat again, and copy to Board of Agriculture, Whitehall. No response from C.C.; Whitehall replied: "C.C. instructed to certify immediately. Four days passed; no C.C. response to that. Reported by letter and wire to B.B.J. in London all particulars; bees dying (87 colonies on the brink, weather consistently bad throughout, and for a period of three months in all, July, August and September). Immediately on receipt of letter, Jr. Editor, I. H. Henshall, went over himself to Board of Agriculture, and eventually the murder was out. Trunk telephone to Norwich replied: "C.C. Education Dept. Office closed; all responsible officials on vacation for five weeks then, and would be another week." That's a fine state of affairs. Not only mine, but many more throughout all Norfolk were in a starving condition, but none so badly off as me, and the whole gang of thriftless officials away on holiday. D—n!

Well, the Board of Agriculture promptly put in 2½ cwt. of sugar for a start same afternoon, and sent their local food officer out here to see to it. I planted him amongst the hives to show him the empty-bellied bees crawling away for good.

That game has ruined my next year's prospects certain. Bees are only half-colonies now, 5, 6, and 7-frame, which on a cold morning are difficult to see at all in cluster! In nearly every hive where any brood was going at all, very few, bees had devoured it; not a cell of food in their combs, &c., &c.—a disaster.

Am I in favour of legislation and bureaucratic administration? I don't think!

M. ATKINSON.

Fakenham, Norfolk, England.

Remedy for Stings.—Keep a small bottle of tincture of iodine in your pocket; touch the spot with it immediately you are stung.—American Bee Journal.

## An Explanation

These lines, my disappointed friend,  
Which humbly now to you I send,  
And which in meekness I have penned,  
Will truly say  
Why to your home I failed to wend  
My way to-day.

I am a bee-man, as you know;  
One of the chaps that to and fro  
Among the hives can come and go  
With careless ease,  
And gaily scoff at folks who show  
A fear of bees.

One of the chaps who laugh at those  
Who don so many extra clothes,  
And muffle so from eyes to toes  
Their timid forms  
That they resemble Esquimaux  
When living swarms.

Well, yesterday, with dauntless air,  
And honey tools, did I repair  
Unto the shrub-fringed regions where  
Our hives are set,  
To take such surplus store as there  
Should be to get.

"As merry as a marriage bell"  
The work went on. "This year 'tis well—  
Plenty to eat and some to sell;  
Yes, quite a lot,  
Whereas last year a decent smell  
We hardly got."

'Twas thus I murmured as I plied  
My smoker and my brush, and eyed,  
With honest apicultural pride,  
Upon the board,  
The well-filled sections side by side,  
With sweetness stored.

But sweet and joyous thoughts must flee,  
When most my bosom throbbled with glee,  
Up rose a "busy little bee"  
From out the lot,  
And made a lightning pass at me.  
(I heeded not.)

Again it came. (I feared no foes.)  
And then again. (Still all repose.)  
And then upon my dainty nose  
It lit and hung;  
Then it dug in its little toes,  
And then it stung.

You should have seen me claw the air,  
And drop my tools and brush my hair,  
And through the currant bushes tear  
With steps not short;  
And rub my nose with vigour rare,  
And sneeze and snort!

Enough! This is no joking sham,  
But true as your name isn't Sam;  
I've told you why I'm where I am,  
And not at ease:  
My nose is bigger than a ham—  
Away with bees.

F. H. S.

## Bee Production.

[Note.—The following article is part of a lecture given by Mr. M. Atkinson, of Fakenham, Norfolk, England, to the Cambridge Beekeepers' Association. The question of lateral or vertical expansion of the brood nest is a very interesting one, and we should like to see the result of experiments in this direction. Of recent years the Americans have been advocating a system of wintering the bees on the ordinary Langstroth frames, but in an enclosed space and stood up on end. If, as it has been contended, this is a better way of wintering, then it shows that Mr. Atkinson is working on right lines.]

(1.) The subject of my paper and the demonstration which will accompany it concern bee production, a detail in beekeeping to-day no less important than honey production. We say the ultimate aim of all beekeeping is honey production. The present immediate aim of beekeeping must also include bee production as a matter of national importance, and until we have a better balanced industry in the shape of a greatly increased bee population, it is a matter for special effort and attention. Purely local conditions, however favourable, do not alter the wider outlook.

The point I wish to emphasise here is the necessity of bee production for honey production, for replacing wastage, and for increase as a definite programme every season. If you have enough bees, others are short, and under the circumstances there is economic waste if a full season's programme is not carried through by every beekeeper with the opportunity.

I see no reason why a beekeeper's plant should not include supers for the "bee harvest" as well as supers for the "honey harvest." But who ever hears of the "bee supers?"

For a good many years to come the product of the "bee supers" will be in great demand, to judge only from the circumstances of to-day. To peer into the future, when bees have once again come into their kingdom—this time welcomed by a far greater, more enlightened, and interested fraternity than ever before—who can estimate the demand for bees which is certain to come?

(2.) Needless to say, the share of the work the beekeeper will need to put in will be something more than is required to fill the bill of merely honey production. In spite of a good surplus honey average—the only outstanding aim of the beekeeper of to-day—I still regard that as only "let alone" beekeeping.

The season's opening calls for some skill on the operator's part for some ten to twelve weeks, varied and complicated in districts which may give an early and more

or less generous May flow, or where May can at times spell critical periods for the bees, pending the advent of clover bloom. The beekeeper who can negotiate that ten or twelve weeks to the best advantage is the man for the work of the "bee harvest." A close acquaintance with the most intimate domestic economy of the bees is the all important qualification, for every scrap of knowledge will be given a job. It is the beekeeper of patient and habitual observation who will harvest his "bee surplus most surely"; such an operator as can dissect the contents of any hive and with due calculation for everything he finds—weather, outer and inner conditions, time available, &c.—rapidly reaches decision and does the only correct thing the situation needs. He will be conscious always that he works against time; that a blunder here and its repetition there will have just as inconvenient results to his bee harvest as any blunder in his honey harvest routine can have to his honey surplus. That beekeeper who robs his bees of all their honey, and feeds them 10 lbs. of Government rationed goods on which to slide through winter is not the bee harvester.

There must always be the novice; indeed, without him there would be no skilled workers. To the novice, then, I have to say, "Do not hesitate to put in early effort, for in the work of bee production along specialised lines you will find the surest foundation for all there is in practical beekeeping from A to Z. If you blunder here and there, the habit of observation will always ensure your benefiting by every mistake—never a loss without a profit."

The bees can be just those you have or feel you can best depend upon. The man of wide experience is fairly sure to prefer prolific bees. And for bee production none can be better. To particularise, I would not favour Dutch or their hybrids, as so far as my experience goes those bees when swarm-smitten cannot be relied upon to work with the beekeeper. Swarms or casts by cupfuls are not "breeding forces."

(3.) We have a short bee season if we consider only honey production. On the other hand, the inclusion of a "bee harvest" gives us quite a different thing. The bee harvesting can run from mid-March or April until we pack down for winter, and that may be as late as November, some eight months in all. However, the premier bee production period of the whole year is April 1st to about end of July. In that period of some 16 weeks well-wintered colonies can be doubled, trebled, and quadrupled, aye, and more than that by the man who "knows bees" and not merely "honey." And to this period, by the system of the "double six" hive, you can add from two to four weeks before April 1st, when every bee brought on then is as four to one brought on later.

Granted the beekeeper is secure for stores, the intermittent character of our

weather will occasion no trouble further than perhaps some occasional delay in the mating of young queens. The provision of young fertile queens is, of course, a very great advantage, and pays well.

Taken altogether the consistency of our inconsiderate climate brings the compensations that it sharpens the wits and quickens the movements of the earnest and enthusiastic worker, and that if the United States of America and other favoured regions can produce a vast bulk of profitable produce in bees, queens, and honey—not so much a matter of exceptional skill alone as of conditions and the opportunities favourable weather must always give to earnest workers—our British beekeepers who are minded to keep abreast of the times can rank with the best anywhere. Our climate alone forces the genuine beekeeper to master a great deal a sunnier region would smooth over for him. And that is the kernel of it all. The qualifications enforced by our climate enable me to say I would back the British beekeeper to make good anywhere and everywhere in bee land.

(4.) A review of current practice in respect of the breeding chamber and its manipulation will be a useful preliminary to the chapter on its improvement.

We begin the spring with a depleted colony, frequently a decimated stock in point of numbers. It is housed in a veritable barn, which, like all barns in cold weather, will take a deal of warming. Now that condition is all wrong, and what is a worse feature has been all wrong for far too long a period; a condition which should not be imposed upon a colony of bees as a condition covering the final weeks of the wintering, the bees being at their weakest in point of numbers. Nor is it right that it should have persisted from the period when the queen starts laying again in the New Year up to our first manipulations.

But let us first consider the situation as we find it. The Bee Manuals advise first examination of colonies about 1st April, at which inspection we are to readjust the brood chamber and close up by the division board to the colony's covering power. It may be six frames, or it may be anything from four to ten. Usually, it is more often the smaller than the larger figures. But at best it is a bad start, and we are wide-eyed enough to tacitly admit it in an anxiety more or less impatient to bring about a radical change. If our beekeeping is on the "let alone" plan of the non-resident beekeeper, we say it pays best to give plenty of room, and the bees will occupy it as they gradually increase, the main object here being to avoid any but the barest personal attention. Needless to say, the thing is a hardship on the bees, and as progressive beekeeping to-day stands condemned in a country like ours, if not also in every other. Though a measure of success may be attained, it will not justify the great waste of opportunity and bee effort.

Passing on to the conditions of the resident beekeeper, orthodox practice invites us to reduce comb space and add comb later as needed, calling for some care in judging the circumstances. This means more personal attention, and in that service the bees are decidedly better off than in the previous example.

Gradually, but very slowly at first, a full brood chamber is secured, and it becomes necessary to add a second chamber, of equal dimensions usually, and in consequence of its great size, all sorts of makeshift arrangements will need to be fixed up to "make the punishment fit the crime" of natural development. It may be below or it may be on top, but I care not if it is anywhere near the colony; it is out of place when a better thing is to be had.

Something is needed to be done to give more room and nip swarming notions, and I will grant the beekeeper does what he can, which means an additional big chamber. It only indicates poverty of practical equipment.

Now, before I progress too far away from the earliest operations, I will return to the brood spreading programme and the gradual building up from the contracted chamber. To a spring strength of six frames we look to add four or six more as quickly as the bees can accept them, so that our design means adding to their house room—a slice of space 6 in. or 9 in. x 14½ in. x 9 in. deep, and the less knowledge we possess the greater haste to thrust this on the bees will be the result. Now, the wintered colony will more often than not be far from covering those six combs efficiently; but the operator will find that to further reduce space will withdraw useful if rather scattered stores, and it is just as well to leave it at that.

Well, the filling up of that chamber means doubling the space by lateral expansion, which the bees must keep up to a substantial temperature if our motives are going to have real value. There can be no escaping the position this manipulative procedure of lateral expansion involves—viz., that every added comb means a dispersion of heat, and much of it will be dissipated in consequence until the colony can draw level again. All the time this building up of the big chamber is going on, the spring conditions are very much against the bees. Clearly, lateral expansion is a defective or only partially successful method. For myself, I say it is sadly wrong. The larger the big chamber and the wrong is proportionately greater, and we might proceed to investigate something of better promise.

(5.) What we now have to find is something to give greater comfort to the depleted colony, to conserve the precious brood nest warmth, and stop the waste of it; to enable the bees to feel they can depend upon the fruition of all early spring's sacrificing efforts, and rely upon that fruit contributing its share; that in the aggregate the colony shall "pull its weight," instead of less than its weight.

We speak of putting bees in "good heart," and invariably the reference revolves around the matter of stores. Now, I want to make it plain that at no time of the year can the "good heart" patter have the value and the meaning it has at the break of spring.

And what is the meaning then? Not merely plenty of sugar syrup, candy, or honey and pollen, but inclusively a plump and cosily warm compact nursery, bringing on brood in all stages; assured of all the essential needs to maintain, carry on, and improve that nursery; heat never failing in constancy, increasing in volume and covering power with the advent of every young recruit to the family; stores of honey and pollen reinforced by the invigorating fresh supplies of early foraging; security from unfavourable external conditions at all times; full opportunity to push on with rapidly increasing haste, their one intense and natural desire to generate and reconstitute their forces on a real business footing for the good and still busier times surely coming; and finally a feeling of self-reliance built on and fortified by a knowledge possessed by every unity of the family, that every chink leading to trouble is locked, barred, and bolted.

Now that is "good heart," but not so idealistic that it cannot be realised, for it can. But we need to scrap some notions, and some other things personal and impersonal, and come to a realisation that the honey bee, taken in the lump, is pretty much as human as ourselves in its own line of effort; understands its business and needs quite a little, and will reward our understanding that no less some help and attention also at the right time and in the right way.

Nevertheless bees can manage somehow if you give no hand at all; but on a co-partnership basis it is up to us to realise its responsibilities as well as its profits; all very obvious, no doubt, but we need not overlook it.

With a realisation of the innards of the "good heart" definition, we prepare to supply our share of the necessary details to ensure it in as full measure as we can devise.

First and foremost, scrap the big brood chamber until its proper application comes at another period. Replace it with two half-capacity chambers tiered, and in doing so, exchange and abolish the wintering barn and lateral expansion for depth and vertical expansion. See the colonies are stored in the autumn sufficient to carry them to end of April in these half-capacity chamber tiers. Not merely stores just to keep them alive, but in addition to bring to life new brood, to rear more and more brood, and keep it alive and well also. When that has been done, your colonies are ready for business before April 1st, and only need the active interest of the co-partner at that date to go ahead. But you can get to it before April 1st, when experience has taught you what nothing else will, nor half so well and thoroughly.

I firmly believe that with the adoption of half-capacity brood chambers, and the further step of twin colony work in a hive of one colony dimensions, the live wire will produce a result nearing 2 and 3 to 1 of any large brood chamber work in the production of huge honey gathering forces and substantial increase of colonies, and I will now give some attention to some special features in the work of the half-size brood chamber.

Not less than two such chambers should be in use for a colony of normal size. We will start away, say, April 1st, and will find a satisfactory brood nest going and bees in sufficient force to cover six frames moderately well. Select all frames with brood and eggs, and make up to a total of six frames with store combs, bruising a portion of capped honey. Give these six combs to a top chamber, and the remainder of the colony's combs to a lower chamber also made up to six frames; store combs, if any, in this lower chamber being placed centrally and a portion of the caps bruised also.

With this arrangement of two tiered six-frame chambers, lateral expansion is at an end; but opportunity to force the brood rearing is not only as good as before; it is better and of far more value, because every manipulation to that end conserves and does not dissipate the colony's warmth. You displace and add, or exchange, vertically—i.e., you make use of depth.

The time for the first application of brood spreading requires to be most carefully selected in this as in any other method. Within the confines of the top chamber, useful manipulation can be accomplished by comb reversal, to extend the brood area in well covered combs, until the upper chamber is in a substantially good condition. The next point to be noted is an appreciable overflow of bees needs to be apparent on the combs of the lower chamber, and when that condition has arrived, vertical expansion for brood forcing can early be commenced. Probably also the queen may have taken possession of a lower chamber central comb and eggs be present. However, having gauged this important stage correctly for vertical expansion, there can be no set-back to the progress of intensive breeding in the colony.

To proceed, one comb containing the oldest sealed brood is moved down from the top to the bottom chamber, and placed centrally therein, an empty from below being lifted up above (an egged comb if present) and placed between two selected brood combs, ensuring the queen taking immediate possession. In doing this you have not robbed the bees of anything to handicap them in putting their nursery area in compact going order again. You have not spread the nursery's warmth, a fault you must always commit in lateral expansion, hence you have dissipated or lost none. Any heat which comes from the "downed" brood comb is radiation, which must go

back to the nursery above it. In its central position in the lower chamber, it will attract all overflow bees, and will be traversed by all foraging bees and flyers. In this way it will be well cared for, and the radiated warmth of the covering bees is also returned to the nursery above.

Other suitable maturing brood combs are treated to vertical disposition in exchange for empty comb from below from time to time, and on these lines the development of the breeding work is very rapid.

The height above the floor board at which the important nursery work is carried on is appreciably more favourable to the bees' comfort than it could be confined to a single chamber on floor level, and development of the nursery downwards is in unison with the seasonal progress, if not also in advance of it. A floor board of planed wood, more or less polished by much use, is a particularly cold proposition in early spring or during any cold period, and the bees in a high tiered nursery chamber are advantageously placed in respect to it, also strong entrance draught; whilst they are well away from any surface dampness.

Soon a third chamber must be added, and later a fourth, and it is in the disposition of these and a special queen excluder that the beekeeper's knowledge and experience will be drawn upon again. Because of valuable opportunities, I would rather work up with 4/6 frame chambers than 2/12 frame chambers, though it might appear that, having arrived at a prosperous 12-comb stage, the colony might well be arranged at that point in the big single chamber, and any further additions in a second big chamber. I do not agree. To begin with, the season at that stage of the colony's progress is still early, and much cold weather may be expected. For that reason alone the policy of deep, narrow formation is quite the best. Furthermore, the facility afforded of parting the queen from all the brood or as much as desired, and at a good intervening distance, is useful; and this matter of distance is a very decisive factor to the bee mentality. The experienced worker can use that to advantage in the rearing of early queens in every such stock, and the forced acceptance of drone breeding also at an early date. By this young queens can be laying while clover is still a long way off. And until clover flow is on, bees will do all you can wish for in the matter of breeding, and be never so generously minded at any other period of the year. What the beekeeper fails to secure in brood production before June is in, he cannot make up later on. June's advent is high noon in the beekeeping world. The very least he should be satisfied with is two good strong colonies at clover flow for every wintered one, and the production of the necessary young laying queens for the increase by early May.

A striking instance of the deep narrow formation comes from Canada in an article



in the American Bee Journal for October, 1919, by Mr. C. F. Davis—the only reference I have yet seen in the bee press to this matter of vertical brooding. The substance of it is as follows:—

“Finding 10-frame hives not large enough for brood space, I made up last winter 10 large 13-framers, veritable barns. They accommodate 13 frames with an entrance running full width of the hive as a means of ventilation. I waxed enthusiastically. With more than sufficient brood space according to the Dadant calculation, I ought certainly to have the minimum of swarming, and the queens would stay below without the use of excluders.

“But the anticipated results failed to materialise. Far from it. As a swarming preventive the barns were an egregious failure. As a means to keep her ladyship out of the supers they were equally futile. The first swarm of the year went out of one of my barns. Curious, thought I, 13 frames below and a super of 13 shallows above could not possibly be filled by the end of May. And this conjecture at least was true. There was nothing in the super, and several outside frames below had still untouched foundation. The second swarm of the year went out of one of my barns. And it was some swarm. . . . There were two supers on this hive. I opened up and found the foundation in four outside frames below, untouched, and brood in the central part of the two supers.

“Having now found the facts, let us apply the law. I stated that, according to the Dadant calculation I had more than sufficient brood space. But I had half of this space in the wrong place. That brood space should undoubtedly be in the centre of the hive, not branching out sideways. Her ladyship will branch sideways for a matter of five or six Langstroth frames, after which, if not excluded, she goes upstairs in preference to leaving the centre of the house.

“Even with an excluder, I fancy I could not get all that row of 13 frames occupied by the bees, let alone the queen, unless perhaps I spread the brood every little while. In my experience, therefore, the barns do not justify their existence, and the practicability of the Dadant hive with deep frames to accommodate an amplitude of brood space in the centre of the habitation becomes significant.”

From this it will be seen that “let alone,” the bees themselves adopted the deep formation and scorned the lateral space of their big brood chamber. The absence of excluder and presence of comb foundation in the brood frames were contributing factors; but in spite of that it seems noteworthy to me as bearing upon my own conceptions of the deep formation and vertical expansion, instead of a shallow formation and lateral expansion.

## Prosecutions Under the Apiaries Act.

By F. A. Jacobsen.—G. McLennan, Halcombe (box hives), £1 and costs (7/-); J. Matthews, Mount Stewart (non-registration), 10/- and costs (12/-); W. H. Aslop, Feilding (non-registration), 10/- and costs (7/-); E. Sinclair, Cheltenham (non-registration), costs (12/-); H. Reid, Makino (non-registration), 10/- and costs (7/-); L. J. Trass, Feilding (non-registration), 10/- and costs (7/-); Mrs. A. Banks, Kiwitea (non-registration), 10/- and costs (7/-); R. N. Christensen, Cheltenham (non-registration), 10/- and costs (12/-); J. Aitken, Feilding (non-registration), 10/- and costs (7/-).

By A. P. Young.—J. Viggers, convicted and ordered to pay costs; J. Baker (failure to register), 10/- and costs (7/-); R. Jamieson (failure to register), 10/- and costs (7/-); T. McDowell, J. McDowell, T. Cavill (box hives), 10/- and costs (7/-) each; G. Sheat, 1/- and costs; H. Bilbrough (failure to register and box hives), 40/- and costs.

By E. P. Brogan.—D. Wight (failure to register), 20/- and costs (5/-); G. Hannah (failure to register and box hives), 60/- and costs (5/-); J. Finlay (failure to register), 20/- and costs (4/-); J. Hillis (failure to register), convicted; W. Clark (failure to register), 20/- and costs (2/-); R. J. Irwin (failure to register), 20/- and costs (5/-); Alex. McDonald (failure to register), 20/- and costs (6/-); K. McLennan (failure to register), 40/-; Jns. Milne (failure to register), 40/- and costs (5/-).

## 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,—I should like to give my experiences concerning the swarming season and its relation to the queens, and ask you if you are agreeable to invite correspondence from other districts in New Zealand on this subject so that we may know how far these facts affect the industry as a whole. My remarks are based upon careful observations and notes taken over a period of five years.

The willow flow ceases here about the middle of October, and the main flow commences in December, according to the weather. Between these two honey flows there is as a rule some honey to be gathered when the weather permits, but not much, and little or none between the middle of October and end of November. If the weather is fine when the willows flower and the bees do well, all goes smoothly till the honey ceases; then most hives com-

mence queen cells, and continue to do so irrespective of strength or other factors till the main flow commences. My notes show that queen cells are general in most hives about the last week in October, and these I destroy every nine days, having the old queen's wings clipped to prevent her swarming. Most hives build fresh cells, which are likewise destroyed before hatching. Generally speaking, this tiresome struggle continues till the middle of December, when very few hives will be found with queen cells in.

I have always noticed the first batch of cells is the best; subsequent batches of cells are smaller, and built in most extraordinary places, as if the bees wished to hide them. I have several times been deceived by a cell built in the lower corner of the comb in such a way that only the point was visible, and I have never seen that it was a queen cell till I noticed the door standing open after the exit of the princess. Often in these later batches of cells one will find some sealed over with a tiny larva in only a few days old, the cell itself being merely a cell cup sealed, without being drawn out. During the later batches of cells the old queens as a rule become very small like virgins, and nearly cease laying altogether. When the bees cease building cells, the queens fill out again, and lay as well as ever. This is doubtless due to their wings being clipped, otherwise they would swarm. Throughout this period when the bees are trying to swarm, I have found it well nigh impossible to introduce a laying queen; even hives which have no queen cells in, if their old queen is removed, will start cells at once, and on liberating the new queen from her cage will make her as small as a virgin and not allow her to lay. In many cases they kill the new queens, and in others ball them and ill-treat them.

Last spring I made divisions from 15 hives on 20th November. Each division consisted of three or four frames of brood and some frames of honey; a new laying queen was caged in each and the bees confined, and the same day removed to an outyard and liberated.

On the 25th November every hive was found to have commenced queen cells, and only four queens were laying; in these four cases the bees had themselves destroyed the queen cells; I destroyed them in the remaining eleven hives. On the 4th December six more queens were found to be laying, and five were found to have been killed—five lost out of fifteen. These five were given fresh queens, and three were accepted, two of the hives destroying their second queens as well as the first.

Contrast this record with 29 divisions similarly made in the previous February, when only one queen was not accepted and no queen cells built at all. This has been my experience every season, and I never think of trying to re-queen a hive between the end of October and late in December; and in cases of hives which I know are queenless, I always wait till

most of the brood has hatched and all is sealed, so that they cannot possibly make any queen cells.

In making divisions during November now, I cage the queen among queenless and broodless bees, and keep them confined for 48 hours, liberating after dark.

The first season I tried re-queening in November, I remember I was very puzzled over the fact that most of the young queens I introduced laid only scattered brood, and the bees built queen cells. Naturally I blamed the queens, and replaced them with other queens, but the result was in most cases the same. The fault was not in the queens.

I have never seen this subject mentioned in the N.Z. Fruitgrower, written, I think, by Mr. Hopkins, deals with the early sending of queens through the post before the warm weather commences. The writer states that many queens are thus chilled and ruined; they after being introduced only lay a few eggs, and are superseded by the bees. This is just my experience, except that my queens were certainly not chilled, and I am convinced the whole trouble is due to the season of the year—the swarming season.

Two or three years ago I made two hives queenless for raising queen cells, meanwhile introducing their queens to nuclei. About the time the cells hatched I re-caged these queens in their own hives, and in both cases only a few eggs were laid, and the bees commenced building queen cells, the old queens being as small as virgins. Eventually, after destroying the queen cells, these queens came back to their old form and laid well. This happened at the end of November.

It certainly cannot be due in any way to the temperature, because I have found queens quite easy to introduce in August and September. I have often changed queens from my queen-rearing yard to an out-apiary for the sake of having a good queen at home, and last season on 5th August I so changed 22 queens, only losing one. The same thing done in November would have resulted in heavy losses, I am sure. However, after Christmas nearly every queen can be safely introduced without the bees building any queen cells, and such queens lay well as soon as they are liberated from the cages.

Since writing the above lines I have examined several hives which I thought were queenless, and to which I introduced laying queens a week ago. Before introducing these queens, I put a queen excluder over the bottom box, caging the queen in this box; above the queen excluder were two supers with a good deal of honey in them. There was no brood at all in the hives. On examination, I find one of these hives has the introduced queen laying very well below the queen excluder, and also another fine young queen laying very well in the two supers above the excluder. Both these queens are young ones reared about the same time.

Evidently, I put the excluder on between the time the virgin was mated and commenced laying, and by chance shut her in the two top boxes. The age of the brood shows that the queen in the supers commenced laying about three days before the one in the bottom box. When I discovered this happy coalition, I put another super of foundation above the queen excluder, and a second excluder on top of this, with the two supers of brood on top of all, thus ensuring a super free from brood between the two queens. I am interested to know how long the coalition will last, and will report developments later.—I am, &c.,  
J. H. TODD,  
Renwicktown, Marlborough, 13/12/20.

## Answers to Correspondents.

H. H. Fairlie.—The removal of bees from the walls of a house is always an unpleasant job, and the only way to get rid of them is by the removal of the rusticating boards. Now the flow is over is a good time for doing the job. Before starting, give the bees a good dose of smoke at every place they get in, and then set to work. To prevent bees again taking possession, clear the old hive thoroughly out, taking all comb and honey right away. Sprinkle carbolic acid solution liberally so as to neutralise the scent of the hive, and well nail up the rusticating boards when replacing.

C. C., Cabbage Bay.—We cannot see how the strong hive of bees could be killed by the weaker one in uniting. It seems rather a case of suffocation. The strong hive above got over-heated by the lack of ventilation caused by the sheet of newspaper. The manipulation of the hive you mention would be to take off all supers of capped honey. "Sky-scraper" are very nice from a photographic point of view, but are very awkward to manipulate.

An extraordinary incident is reported from Tipapakuku. It appears that Mr. H. Fredericksen's teams were engaged in ploughing on his farm when they were suddenly attacked by a number of bees from some hives which were in an adjacent paddock. The bees attacked in such numbers that the horses were literally covered with them, and were so terrified that they were with difficulty released from their harness. However, two were so badly stung that they died; and another, though it was taken to the river in the hope of saving it, is still in a very bad way. The fourth, which galloped off, escaped more lightly, and is considered to be safe. The men in charge, including Mr. Fredericksen himself, were also attacked by the bees, but the horses seemed to be the chief object of their venom. Perhaps it was because they were sweating freely, the day being very warm.

## Subscriptions Received.

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

G. Hall, Hawera, to Feb. 22  
H. C. Preece, Palmerston North, to Jan. 22  
D. Gedye, Timaru, to Dec. 21  
G. Larkin, Greytown, to Jan. 22  
C. G. Stuart, Kamo, to Jan. 22  
T. Mackie, Oamaru (10/-), to Sept. 22  
Miss C. P. Baird, Clevedon, to Jan. 22  
H. E. Harris, Te Aroha, to Jan. 22  
Mrs. E. Yandle, Stratford, to Jan. 22  
Miss H. Suckling, Christchurch, to Dec. 21  
C. W. Shotbolt, Pukekohe, to Jan. 22  
A. W. Ogilvie, Romahapa, to Jan. 22  
J. Currie, Thames, to Feb. 22  
T. Furniss, Ruwara, to Feb. 22  
L. P. Bloxham, Roxburgh, to Feb. 22  
J. Campbell, Rakaia, to Feb. 22  
H. Taylor, Claudelands, to Jan. 22  
J. G. Stevens, Invercargill, to Jan. 22  
W. H. Whitaker, Dipton, to Nov. 22  
J. Evans, Dipton, to Jan. 22  
A. McDonald, Temuka, to Feb. 22  
W. G. North, Pieton, to March 22  
G. L. H. Drew, Pahiatua, to Jan. 22  
J. Corrigan, Dunroon, to Feb. 22  
L. A. Betten, Waimate, to Feb. 22  
D. S. Shaw, E. Tamaki, to Dec. 21  
J. Budd, Masterton, to Feb. 22  
E. Manktelow, Ngatea, to Dec. 21  
A. R. Diekie, Rotherham, to Jan. 22  
A. R. Clark, Christchurch, to Jan. 22  
H. Hitechoek, Waimatuku, to Dec. 21  
T. Collins, Otaki, to Feb. 22  
Miss I. H. Watson, Lochiel, to Jan. 22  
Miss F. I. Britten, Cambridge, to Jan. 22  
E. J. Manson, Little River, to Jan. 22  
G. Chaillet, Panmure, to Jan. 22  
A. Costello, Dargaville, to Dec. 21  
F. Gilbert, Papatowai, to Dec. 21  
W. J. Henry, Mereu, to Dec. 21  
Miss N. O'Kallaghan, Ruakura, to Jan. 22  
H. Fraser, Waitakaruru, to Jan. 22  
J. R. Anderson, Te Puke, to Dec. 21  
D. Douglas, Gisborne, to Feb. 22  
W. Clark, Mornington, to Jan. 22  
E. E. Collier, Dunedin, to Jan. 22  
H. I. Furness, Kaihere, to Feb. 22  
C. T. Alington, Seafield, to Jan. 22  
G. Nimmo, Brunner, to Feb. 22  
W. Hamer, Devonport (10/-), to Oct. 22  
A. J. Middlemiss, East Gore, to Jan. 22  
O. Butler, Grey, to Dec. 21  
J. A. Moreland, Blenheim, to June 21  
G. R. Dixon, Brunner, to Feb. 22  
J. Pritchard, Waikivi, to Jan. 22  
J. Cochrane, Edendale, to Jan. 22  
W. McDowell, Mosgiel, to Jan. 22  
W. A. Sillifant, Christchurch, to Jan. 22  
A. M. Johnstone, Cheb. (12/-), to Jan. 22  
B. E. Stanton, Rangiora, to Jan. 22  
W. Nichols, Christchurch, to Jan. 22  
H. Brickell, Temuka, to Jan. 22  
G. Parkes, Temuka, to Jan. 22  
H. T. Oates, Rangiora, to Jan. 22  
V. H. Pulley, Rangiora, to Jan. 22  
A. Beveridge, Christchurch, to Jan. 22  
F. Rowe, Cobden, to Jan. 22  
A. Davis, Grey, to Jan. 22

J. Coulson, Grey, to Jan. 22  
 E. D. Hastilow, Teu Marina, to Jan. 22  
 R. Clarke, Blackball, to Jan. 22  
 J. Gilbert, Kumara, to Jan. 22  
 H. Butcher, Grey, to Jan. 22  
 C. Johnson, Grey, to Jan. 22  
 J. Hart, Brunner, to Jan. 22  
 R. M. Hankinson, Dunedin, to Jan. 22  
 C. Kendrick, Otahuhu, to Jan. 22  
 H. Dunlop, Invercargill, to Jan. 22  
 Miss Anderson, Cambridge, to Feb. 22  
 C. Neilsen, Kakahi, to Jan. 22  
 A. Jamieson, Cambridge, to Jan. 22  
 A. P. Godber, Hutt, to Jan. 22  
 — Reeve, Auckland, to Jan. 22  
 Mrs. Aitchison, Heriot, to Feb. 22  
 Miss Farr, Waikari, to Feb. 22

Send for Pamphlet on "BEESWAX."

6d. POST FREE.

W. B. BRAY,  
 Barry's Bay.

## Beekeepers' Exchange.

[Advertisements on this page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion. Cash must accompany order or will not be inserted. Addresses care Editor 6d. extra to cover cost of postage of replies.]

B E E S W A X

I am Buying BEESWAX in any quantity at 2/3 per lb. cash f.o.b. Christchurch.

Rail to me at the undermentioned address, and a cheque will be forwarded by return.

A. ECROYD,  
 157 Cranford Street, Christchurch.

## NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I am ESTABLISHING an OUT-YARD on Adam Bros. Property on the Miranda-Waitakaruru Road.

H. FRASER,  
 Waitakaruru.

FOR SALE, 25 Strong Colonies Italian and Italian Cross BEES (young Queens), and all Appliances.

A. S. OLSEN  
 South Norsewood,  
 Hawke's Bay.

## THE APIS CLUB.

Port Hill House, Benson, Oxon., England.

Two of the chief planks in the platform of the above Club are—the stimulation and conduction of research work in Bee Culture and the creation of International scholarly relations amongst progressive apiarists in all countries.

Membership fee, 10/6 per annum, which includes one year's subscription to the "Bee World," a paper that has by sheer merit come right up to the front rank of Bee literature. ENROL NOW!

Dr. A. Z. ABUSHADY,  
 Secretary.

COMMERCIAL APIARISTS willing to assist Returned Soldiers who have had a Course of Instruction in the industry are requested to communicate with

CHAPLAIN CAPT. HARDIE,  
 Trentham Camp.

WANTED (by Returned Soldier established in Waikato Township), a PARTNER with a capital of at least £500. Replies to state experience, age, and whether married or single. Address

"APIS,"  
 C/o Editor.

## 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.

# HONEY.

We intend to enter into the Honey business next season and will require large quantities of South Island Honey early in the New Year. Our arrangements will enable us to offer to beekeepers a better price for their crop than they can obtain elsewhere.

**Fairbairn, Henderson Ltd.,**  
**Importers, Exporters and General Agents,**  
**238 CUMBERLAND STREET,**  
**DUNEDIN.**

P.O. Box 502.

Telegrams: "Fairhand, Dunedin."

## 1920-21 AMENDED PRICE LIST

of

# ITALIAN QUEENS.

### PRICES:

	1	2	3	4	5
Untested .. ..	7/6	14/6	21/-	28/-	35/-
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
Tested .. ..	12/-	23/-	33/-	40/-	50/-
Select Tested .. ..	17/6	34/-	45/-	60/-	75/-
Breeders .. ..	30/-				

Orders for Full Colonies booked up for the season.

Tested Queens booked up till 21st December. Untested, about 20th November.

TERMS: Nett Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added. P.O. Order Office, Edendale.

All Bees and Queens Guaranteed FREE FROM DISEASE, and bred from good working stock.

Postal Address:

**ROBERT GIBB,** MENZIES FERRY  
 SOUTH LAND

# Honey Crop

As the Honey Season is now drawing to a close, those Beekeepers who have not yet purchased an Extractor, Uncapping Knives, Melters, &c., will be wondering where the best can be obtained. We have all the Appliances—the best the world produces—ready for immediate delivery.

Two-frame Reversible Extractors, with either 9½-inch or 12-inch baskets.  
Four-frame Automatic Friction Power Machines, with either size cage.  
These Machines have, in addition to ball-bearings, every possible improvement.

Bingham and Lea Steam-heated Honey Knives, Uncapping Melters, Honey Pumps and all other Appliances which will enable the Beekeeper to handle his crop, whether large or small, cheaply and efficiently.

We shall be pleased to quote prices for any Appliances delivered to any part of New Zealand.

## Export Honey Tins

The necessity for a strong, well-made Export Honey Case has been proved conclusively during the past two seasons. Honey shipped in cheap cases has arrived in Great Britain in a very bad condition, and very large quantities of honey have been lost, with the resulting claims against shippers running into big figures.

In your own interests you cannot afford to take any risk of breakages. Use "Alliance" Export Cases, made from thoroughly dried, dressed, sound timber, with the ends, tops and bottoms in one piece. They make a strong packing case, and are guaranteed sufficiently strong to carry their contents to any part of the world.

The price charged is a little more than that charged for lower grade cases, but "Alliance" Export Cases are well worth their slight extra cost.

## Beekeepers' Supplies

There are no Supplies offered which can compare with "Alliance" Goods in quality. The Price of them, whilst a little higher than some other makes, is more than compensated for by the Superior Quality of the materials used, and the greater care taken in their manufacture. In fact, our goods are the cheapest in the world.

### **Airco New Process Comb Foundation.**

Surpassed by no other makes;  
New Refining Process;  
New Milling Process;  
No Imperfect or Blemished  
Cells.

This New Foundation is made of clearer, cleaner Wax, possessing the true waxy aroma, and is made on mills which are without a spot or blemish. As every cell is perfect, no drone comb will be built, thereby effecting a considerable profit to users of Airco Foundation. Nicely packed samples sent free on request. Secure one for comparison.

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 Co-op. Honey Producers' Assn., Ltd. (H.P.A.)

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

Telegraphic Address: "Bees, Auckland."

## Open Letter to Beekeepers.

DEAR SIRS,—

There are at present indications that the New Zealand Honey Crop for 1921 will be considerably greater than the quantity produced during 1920, and if these expectations are realised, there will probably be available for sale not less than 1,500,000 lbs. of Honey in excess of the amount required for domestic and other uses in New Zealand.

The disposal of this enormous quantity of surplus honey is the vital question in honey production. The disorganised condition of the world's markets to-day, the world-wide financial chaos, is already affecting the primary producer in this Dominion. For example, our surplus wool is practically a glut in the world's markets, and growers are being forced to accept prices less than half of what they confidently anticipated, and are even being forced into the position of having to hold crops in order to obtain something approaching payable prices at a future date. In other countries, in connection with cotton, wheat, sugar, etc., the markets have broken down, buyers are completely demoralised, and sellers are faced with enormous financial losses.

In most countries there is a strong public opinion at work in the so-far successful attempt to lower the prices of foodstuffs in particular. This has caused us to carefully examine the position of honey, world-wide, and to issue a note of warning to the N.Z. Beekeeper.

Our Association fortunately had foreseen the present troubles and the necessity for educating the N.Z. public as to the value of honey as a food, and made it possible for the people to obtain a standard brand of honey all the year round. The efforts of the Association and its members to extend the "EAT MORE HONEY" campaign has led to the consumption in New Zealand being enormously increased. Our brand "Imperial Bee" Honey is to be found in every corner of the Dominion, and the sale is increasing by leaps and bounds. During the past twelve months we have distributed in New Zealand over 500,000 lbs. of this brand. This is a very unique record, and points to the fact that our Home Market will absorb still more Honey.

On the other hand lies the fact that a great number of people, including returned soldiers, are going into beekeeping, and this will result in a very large increase in production from 1921 onwards; thus we shall always have to find Overseas Markets for a fairly large quantity of N.Z. Honey.

During the present year our Association tried out many markets in various parts of the world, and were successful in selling large quantities of honey in America and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, all markets to-day are in a precarious condition. The price of Honey in America has dropped considerably, consequent upon the heavy production, the breakdown of the sugar market, and the inability to export owing to adverse exchange conditions.

For the coming season Great Britain will doubtless receive a large proportion of our Honey, and new markets, if they compare favourably, will be utilised in addition.

Beekeepers from the foregoing will be able to realise that the question of prices for the coming season will entirely depend on how the whole of the N.Z. Honey Crop is marketed. Our Association stands in the position of being able to market to the best advantage. It has its fingers upon the pulse of the New Zealand market as well as upon the pulse of Overseas Markets. It can estimate the quantity of honey which can be consumed in New Zealand, and by taking steps to prevent a glut in the Dominion can stabilise prices here as a first thing.

Its experience of foreign markets will enable it to successfully undertake the disposal of the surplus Honey. The Association stands for the Beekeeper all the while. It is truly co-operative, owned by the Beekeepers themselves, and concerned only with the matter of obtaining for the N.Z. Producer a permanently good return year in and year out for the Honey which he raises.

To achieve these results, to prevent a slump in the Honey Market in N.Z., it is absolutely imperative that every Beekeeper in the Dominion who has Honey to sell should co-operate by joining the Association and by placing his Honey with the Association for disposal. Any other policy at the present juncture would be suicidal.

All Beekeepers can become members on the easiest possible terms, and full information and all particulars can be obtained from Head Office.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. RYLAND,

General Manager.

# 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 1293, 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.

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.