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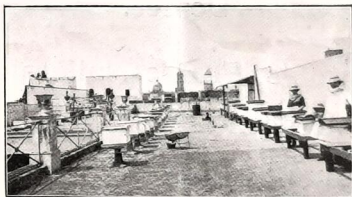
The New Zealand
**Beekeepers'
Journal.**

Vol. 5.

OCTOBER 1st, 1921.

No. 10.

Subscription: 6/- per Annum in Advance.



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 10

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.

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All matter for publication must be in the Editor's hands NOT LATER than the 20th of the month previous to publication. Address

FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

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EDITORIAL.

We expect that most of our readers were getting anxious during the last month as to what was really going to happen with the continued absence of rain. It certainly was getting very serious, particularly for the dairy farmers, and when they are having a bad time the beekeeper is usually keeping them company. But the beautiful soaking rains in mid-September, which seemed to have spread over the whole Dominion, have com-

pletely altered conditions for good, with every promise of a good season. In the Editor's district the first white clover-head was seen on 19th September, which indicates it is going to be an early season. We hope it will start early and leave off late, and prove to be one of those seasons you sometimes read of but do not often experience, when the very fence posts seem to exude honey. So mote it be!

* * * * *

We are very much inclined to think that the proposed Apiaries Tax will fizzle out.

When a Minister gets a request from one body asking for a certain thing, and another from a different quarter asking that this certain thing be not granted, there is every possibility of nothing being done.

We are exceedingly sorry that our friends of the Poverty-Bay Branch have felt it necessary to withdraw their support as a branch of the National. As there can be nothing gained now by discussing the merits or demerits of the tax, we shall not publish any further correspondence than appears in this issue on this matter.

The Executive and Standing Committee have the question again under consideration, and as soon as a line of action has been decided upon we shall publish it.

The absence of our usual "Canterbury Tales" is due to the fact that our friend, Mr E. G. Ward, has been busy shifting his apiary from Lakeside to Rangiora. We are sure all his friends wish him good luck in his new location.

Obituary.

We very much regret to record the death of Mrs Emily Hopkins, the wife of our old friend, Mr Isaac Hopkins, which took place on August 14th, in her 78th year.

On behalf of the National Association, we tender to Mr. Hopkins our sincere sympathy in his severe bereavement. We are sure all our readers will join with us in this expression of condolence.

Market Reports.

The market has been very much easier since our last report. There is a fair export demand for Chilean, Pile 2 and 3 selling down to 25s and 24s. There are sellers direct to the Continent at 28s per cwt, c.i.f., and buyers at 26s and 27s c.i.f., for July-August shipment.

Beeswax.—African and other kinds are offering at £3 10s to £5 per cwt. There have been retail sales of Chilean at £7 10s, and a little business has been done for shipment at £5 15s, c.i.f. This price, however, cannot now be obtained.

TAYLOR & CO.
Liverpool, 6th July, 1921.

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

Auckland.—The past month has been fairly mild and dry, enabling the bees to gather nectar from the early spring blossoms. This has resulted in increased brood-rearing and

the consequent diminishing of stores. Prices of both honey and beeswax remain unchanged.

G. V. WESTBROOKE.

Wellington.—There is every hope that the forthcoming honey crop will be equal to the average in the past. Pastures are well forward for this season of the year. Prices are still remaining firm, and there is nothing fresh to report from last month.

F. A. JACOBSEN.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—The mildness of the season has started the bees breeding much earlier. This had affected the supply of stores considerably, and many beekeepers have had to resort to feeding. In the warmer parts of my district the bees are busy on the fruit bloom and early bush flowers. Generally the winter has been too dry in the Canterbury district. A few good rains have fallen, but next season's crop will be again below normal unless more rain is experienced. A good snowstorm would save the situation. There is a shortage of bulk lines of honey offering. Sections are scarce. Pat honey is in short supply. The market for beeswax is dull. Prices ruling range from 1s 6d to 2s.

E. A. EARP.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

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

As indicated last month, the season this year is going to be an early one, as the mild weather continued all September, and in my district some beneficial and much needed rain came, so that, with another spell of fine weather, the bees will be well ahead for this time of the year.

Personally, I have never known such an early season. I had to put supers on the strongest colonies in August, and found when opening these in September that in two about 50lb of honey had been stored in the supers and the brood chamber blocked with honey, so that I had two three-decker hives at the beginning of September. Drones are fairly plentiful, and I fully expect some hives will be attempting to swarm during the month. The chief system of swarm control is known as the Demaree plan, and as there are many who have never read the originator's method, I am reprinting this from the American Bee Journal, of May, 1921. (See page 181.)

F. C. B.

Queen Rearing.

By THOS. H. PEARSON.

Our method of queen-rearing is as follows: The home yard is run exclusively for queen-rearing. At this yard we keep from 40 to 60 nuclei in the season, and about a dozen full-sized hives. Early in the spring, about August 1st to 15th, we choose about six of the best hives we have, both for

colour and work, etc., and feed them with syrup, putting a frame or two of drone comb in the brood chamber of each hive or frame with starter only and let the bees draw the comb out at will, and usually a good amount of drone comb will be the result. This is to get early drones; these hives should have a goodly number of drones, say, at the end of September, a constant supply of syrup being given all the time. We started feeding for queen-rearing about August 1st, feed being given by placing an empty super on the hive with a 10lb tin turned upside down, the lid being perforated in a number of places with an inch nail. These thus rest on two pieces of steel to keep them off the mat and to allow the bees to get at the syrup through the perforation.

About the end of August the remainder of the full-sized hives, "which should also be fed early to get up the strength," are divided in this fashion: A special bottom board made of thin benzine box timber, with a few inch holes in the centre, covered with wire gauze, is placed on the ground alongside the hive to be divided. The hatching brood, without the queen but with as many bees as possible, is placed in an empty super placed over the bottom board. The old brood chamber with the queen is then filled with empty frames; the new bottom, with super and bees, is placed on top with the entrance to the back of the hive. These top boxes are then kept strong in bees by putting frames of hatching brood from the drone-rearing hives, and later from the bottom chamber of each respective hive. By this method you soon create a strong queenless colony over the lower brood chamber and which gets the heat of the lower chamber through the holes covered with gauze, feeding, of course, going on all the time in both top and bottom boxes.

Now we have the hives prepared for cell building, and work in earnest can be gone on with. Six hives are rather many for cell building and can be cut down to two or three and which number, if worked regularly and well and a good supply of young bees kept in, will raise all the cells that are needed. The object of starting with six or so hives is that one can pick out the hives which raise the most and best cells. We put batches of from 12 to 20 in a hive at one time, sometimes more according to weather, strength of hive, etc.

Cells are only kept in these hives till sealed over; they are then transferred to another nursing hive and a fresh batch put in. By useful handling, a constant supply of cells can be raised in this way, both to supply the nuclei and to spare.

As the batches of cells are ready—that is, within a couple of days of hatching, we create nuclei by bringing strong hives from the out yards and split them into six, eight, or ten and a ripe cell given to each; in this way 40 or 50 nuclei are soon created and the work goes on with a swing. Starting early, one must expect many cells to be rejected, many underfed, and a goodly number not accepted by the nuclei, while a number will not get mated or will be lost on account of the weather, etc.

We like to start queen-rearing early for two reasons at least. Often you will catch

a good spell of weather in the latter part of September and October and then obtain good results; while if such is not the case you are in good working order for the late spring or early summer rearing.

Secondly, young queens in October are the ones that are going to build your colonies up in time for the honey flow, and no trouble about swarming, while later queens often "miss the bus" if the flow cuts off early and must then be classed as second year queens the following season. With this system we can keep our out-aparies well supplied with fresh young queens and have all the detailed work at one's back door.

As soon as the queens are laying they are examined, caged, and taken in batches to the out yards, while the following day or often at the time of catching a ripe cell is given in her place.

We find a good method of marking is by using a half brick or a piece of wood and place this in various positions about the nuclei—viz.: No queen.—The brick is placed at the back of the nuclei on ground. Ripe cell.—In front of nucleus. Virgin queen.—Hatched on right side.—Laying queen.—The brick is placed on the top of the nucleus. Somehow there is a great fascination in having a young queen laying in a nucleus; whether you are rearing one or a hundred the fascination seems to be the same, or nearly so, and then the thought continually comes to mind how many have we laying? and a glance over the apiary will tell you. One is proud of the results, and chiefly for this reason, I think, we place the brick on top when the queen starts to lay.

A handy method of shifting bees early in the spring when not too full of bees.—Secure well the bottom board, block up all holes, cut sacking (manure sacks will do), tack over the top of frames. If you set the hives one on top of the other, nail two pieces of wood, say, 2 x 1, across the hive so as to allow an air space and to keep the matting from rubbing through. If the frames are self-spacing, it is not necessary to nail them down. If the boxes are handled carefully and the roads to be taken over are not too rough, the covers will be carried separately if gable; if flat, they can be used instead of the bottom board.

Claudlands, 10th August, 1921.

Many novel ideas have been acted upon in regard to the hiding of money for safe keeping, but perhaps none so unique as that adopted by a farmer not many miles from Auckland. This person had a tidy pile of notes, and, dubious about leaving it in the house during his absence from home, elected to place it in a beehive. He had a shrewd idea that the improvised safe would never be expected to hold such valuable contents, and, further, that a stranger approaching the hive would meet with a bad time; hence his selection of the busy little workers to safeguard his wad. A person who was present when the money was extracted by the owner, working without any protection from the bees, was much struck with the whole scheme.

Breeding for More Honey.

By J. IRVING, Albury.

Many apiarists recommend renewing all queens every year. I think this is a great mistake, and that longevity is one of the most desirable characters to breed for. No doubt most beekeepers will have noticed some colonies that have always a large amount of brood are not so strong as they should be, while other colonies that raise only a moderate amount of brood are always strong, indicating that the workers of that colony are longer lived. It is these colonies that keep strong without raising an excessive amount of brood that produce the largest amount of honey. When renewing queens, more care should be taken to renew the queens of poor quality regardless of their age. To remove a queen that is doing well simply because she is two or even three years old is folly. The late Dr Miller has said that he would never destroy any queen simply because of her age. In regard to old queens swarming more than young ones, a young queen just commenced to lay will seldom swarm the same season; but by the time we can have sufficient young queens laying the worst of the swarming trouble will be over, and I could never see that a queen one year old was any less likely to swarm than an older queen.

Keep a record of all the honey taken from each colony, and let this be the main guide in judging the worth of the queen. Have all queens clipped and use tin tugs as recommended by Mr Alexander to indicate the age and quality of the queens. The shape of the tag indicates the age, a different shape being used for the queens reared each year. The quality of the queen is shown by the position the tag occupies on the hive. When introducing a young queen to a colony I tack the tag on the back of the brood chamber just under the hand hole; if the queen proves to be purely mated the tag is moved half-way over to the right, and if otherwise it is moved over to the left. The quality of the queen in other respects is shown by moving the tag higher up or lower down. Then, by walking along the back of the hives, it can be seen just which colonies require fresh queens. During the honey flow, or as early as you have your young queens to spare, renew all queens that are in any way defective, also all mis-mated queens. If this is done every year there should not be many hybrids, as there will be no mis-mated queens over one year old.

I keep a record of every colony, and know the mother of every queen in the apiary. The last item recorded for the season will be the amount of honey the colony produced. The records of each extracting are kept in a separate book. If the queen has been in the colony all the season and the production is below the average of the apiary, the tag on the back of the hive is moved down to show that the queen is to be renewed as early as possible, always renewing the poorest first. If the production of the colony is above the average of the apiary, and there is no fault with the colony, the queen is kept for another year or until she shows signs of failing. Queens that produce

above the average for three years are used as breeders, and I seldom use any queen as a breeder until she is two years old. Any extra good queen that has proved good for breeding is removed to a nucleus to lengthen her life. By selecting the breeders in this way and killing all queens that do not come up to the average, there is a much better chance of improving the strain than is the case where queens are all renewed at one year old. With me most queens are at their best for honey production at two years old; queens reared the previous season are inclined to breed too fast early in the spring. I rear most queens by the Doolittle method in the strongest colonies that show a tendency for cell building, removing the cells to three frame nuclei on the tenth day.

To make nucleus hives, take an ordinary bottom board having the bee space strips along the sides and back; nail another strip along the front, and have the inside of both front and back strips come flush with the inside of the hive body. For entrances, cut one inch out of the centre of the front piece and one inch of the back end of each side piece; also nail a small block at each of the back entrances for the bees to alight on. Place an empty super on this bottom board, put in three frames to one side, and fit a half-inch division board against them, leaving enough room to remove the frames easily. Be sure and fit the board tight to the bottom and round the rabbit at the top leaving no space that a bee can pass. Place three more frames in the centre, fit another division board, and then three more frames on the outside. Have a separate mat for each division and an ordinary hive cover over all. The boards should be properly fitted in place with empty frames before forming the nuclei. I use two frames of mostly sealed brood and one frame about half full of honey, all with adhering bees for each nucleus, closing the entrance with perforated zinc till evening of the following day. If at an out-apiary, the entrance is closed with green grass, which the bees will remove in a day or two. When the nuclei are to be united all that is necessary is to remove the extra queens and division boards, and after a day or two close up the back entrances.

District Reports.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

Our district is suffering very severely from heavy frosts and want of rain; unless we get good soaking rain very shortly the position will be serious, only about half the usual amount having fallen to date. On account of the prolonged dry spell and the early fruit and willows yielding a small quantity the bees have bred up very strong, and I am afraid it will mean heavy feeding later on if rough weather comes.

A very instructive field day was held at Pearson Brothers' apiary, at Claudelands, on September 10th, about 20 beekeepers being present, and as these were mostly sideliners looking for knowledge the meeting was very

successful. The subjects demonstrated were: Foul brood, by Mr E. W. Sage; queen-rearing, by T. H. Pearson; and section-raising by C. Smedley. Unfortunately Mr Smedley had to leave to catch his train before he got through his subject. Not the least enjoyable part of the programme was the afternoon tea, looked after by the ladies.

We were very sorry to hear of Mr T. Hopkins' bereavement in the loss of his wife, and we tender to him our sincere sympathy.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

A business meeting of our branch will be held on October 13th, at 11 a.m., in Bath Hall, Hamilton. As this will be the last meeting before the busy season is on and is to arrange for our annual field day, etc., a good attendance is requested.

A. H. DAVIES.

15th September, 1921.

TARANAKI.

We have just experienced a dry spell, and were beginning to think it had forgotten how to rain, until the last few days the elements have been striving hard to soak the ground and so lay the foundation stone of our honey crop.

This winter has proved beyond all doubt to quite a few of us that the system of wintering on six frames is a success.

It is generally understood that winter losses are more likely to be heavier among medium colonies than strong ones, but I have just completed my spring overhaul, and my total loss at all my apiaries amounted to one colony, which had a drone layer.

Lots of these colonies only averaged four or five frames of bees in the autumn, and were left with from 15 to 20 pounds of honey only.

I have not commenced to feed yet, and will not need to in any quantity for some weeks.

A most noticeable difference in these medium colonies is the handling in the spring.

One can overhaul and inspect them in about one-third the time it takes with a brood nest full of bees and with less stings and a better temper.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 18th September, 1921.

HAWKE'S BAY NOTES.

From all over the district come reports that hives are opening up well. There are not many disappointments, and the few there are can easily be explained. The amount of stores in the hives have surprised many, but the winter days have been fine and sunny and the bees have had gums in flower nearby.

We are having very favourable weather for the flow from the willow, and early fruit bloom. A few inches more rain, however, would gladden the hearts of those who look for the clover yield.

The weather has been fine, the honey has been coming in, and foul brood, too, has been active.

We are pleased to have the H.P.A. represented in the district. We wish to remind

members that Edmundson, Fisher and McDonald, of Napier, have been appointed agents for supplies. May success be theirs!

J. P. BOYLE.

14th September, 1921.

POVERTY BAY.

Sir,—I am instructed by the members of my association to tender to you our resignation as a branch of the National Association. This is a result of a notice of motion held over for three months. There was only one dissentient in the feeling that the National had been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Under separate cover I forward to you all National stationery on hand. I enclose cutting.

Personally, I consider the step taken to be the best rather than long criticisms per medium of the Journal. Life is too short for wrangling. Hoping you will have a bumper season.—I am, &c.,

JAS. B. ADAMS,

Sec. P.B.B.A.

GISBORNE.

The quarterly meeting of the Gisborne branch of the National Association of Beekeepers was held in the Labour rooms on Saturday. There was a full attendance of members, Mr Wm. Fear being in the chair. After routine business, a subject of the utmost importance to local beekeepers was discussed—viz., the proposed apary tax. It was decided to protest against the imposition of a tax on apiaries, and a committee was appointed to visit apiarists and obtain signatures to a petition to be handed to Messrs W. D. Lysnar and K. S. Williams, M'sP., for presentation before Parliament. The Association also decided to sever its connection with the National Association of Beekeepers, and in future be known as the Poverty Bay Beekeepers' Association.

TAIERI TALK.

We told you our opinions of the Conference last month; or, rather, we told you our opinion of the Conference for taking advantage of a faulty constitution in a manner which hardly crowns it with glory. You may think that once the principle of the tax is affirmed, there is nothing more to be said. There lies the error. We want satisfaction for the affront offered to us. Apparently it is not forthcoming. In that case we set out on the war path to gain it, at pistol point, if need be.

Mr Bray tells us why we were so affronted. Because we only play at beekeeping; because we, therefore have no right to express any opinions. The opinion of Mr Bray (or of any other commercial beekeeper) is always fraught with all the wisdom of the ages. Why? Because he owns more bees than any of us, than all of us. Amateurs, we take it, are merely tolerated in the Association. We are to pay our subs. cheerfully to serve the ends of the big men. We are the 'Commercial Beekeepers' Aid Society.'

A further argument is that we don't attend Conference. The reason is as above. We are amateurs. We are all engaged in earning our living. Employers are not sufficiently

benevolent to allow us a fortnight to visit Auckland, even if we could find the money.

We joined the National under the impression that it was in existence for the furtherance of the industry. "The National is your friend whether you keep bees for a living or for a hobby." We pass that on to the marines. We have been hoodwinked. "Once bitten, twice shy," is an old saying. We won't give it the lie! We demand protection from further bites, or . . .

To avoid a repetition of the last Conference, the constitution must be amended. The logical outcome of a refusal to amend the constitution is the withdrawal of protesting branches from the National. The National then devolves into what it really is even now—a commercial beekeeper's association. 'Twould hurt us to do that, to break pleasant ties; but you leave us no alternative.

Commercial beekeepers will have to cast out the idea that they are the darlings of the hour. The future of the industry will owe little to them. We, the amateurs, are the future commercial men, unless, of course, commercial beekeepers are born as such with an A.B.C. and X.Y.Z. under their arms. Crush us and you crush the industry.

Therefore, if the National does exist for the furtherance of the industry, let it look to itself. The arguments of Mr Bray, if supported by other commercial men, spell dissolution. No more.

We have had a marvellous winter. I do not know what has happened to Otago's reputation. It's gone by the board. Things are indeed bright when we can find brood all the year round. But 'tis so. It may augur a dry summer, which heaven forbid! It may be the forerunner of a damp one. May Mr Bates be propitious! A moderately damp summer is the Taierian's joy. . . . In beekeeping, understand.

EASIL H. HOWARD.

14th September, 1921.

(Apropos of above the following cutting from the Otago Daily Times of September 10 was sent us.—Editor.)

The following telegram was sent yesterday to the Minister of Agriculture by the local members of Parliament—Messrs Sidey, Statham, Dickson, and Kellett:—"The Taierian Beekeepers' Association strongly protests against the proposed taxation on apiarists. The association claims that the constitution of the National Beekeepers' Association does not secure effective representation of branches, and consequently the latter association is not competent to speak for New Zealand apiarists. We trust the proposed legislation will not be brought down."

WAIPA BEE CLUB.

It is a great satisfaction to all members of the club to know that this week Mr Geo. V. Westbrooke, Government Apiarist, has carried out a thorough inspection of the district.

They were pleasant days, and he was accorded a hearty welcome in every quarter. His diligence in carrying out his work so faithfully is appreciated by all beekeepers.

There were few bad cases and no sad faces, and we now go cheerily on our way, feeling

confident that as long as our spirit of comradeship keeps at its present level we shall soon have a district clean of disease, hoping always to retain the privilege of the guidance of our present inspector.

HUGH C. JONES, Hon. Sec.

(The following notice, printed on a post-card, was sent round previous to the inspector's visit. Good idea!—Editor.)

WAIPA BEE CLUB.

The District Inspector will be visiting the neighbourhood on 6th September, 1921 (and days following). Will you kindly do all you can to accommodate, and be prepared at that date to help him in your location?

The Proposed Apiaries Tax.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Many of those who have a weak case to support have recourse, as your correspondent, Mr W. B. Bray, has in September issue of the Journal, to exaggeration, mis-statements, and insinuations.

May I say here that I have not at any time, although opposed to the principle of the proposed apiaries tax, taken any active part in opposition to it. Referring to your correspondent's letter, notice please that myself, the only straight-out opponent (the others are apparently all underhand) had almost persuaded Conference to vote against the tax, when the champion rushed into the ring, late, and the position was saved. (Thereafter I was silent.) Naturally, having said all I had to say it seemed quite unnecessary to repeat myself for the benefit of one late arrival, whose principal arguments were personal. Does it not appear that the arguments used in opposition to the tax must have been forceful if one straight-out opponent could almost persuade Conference that the Taierian and other branches are right?

This proposal to tax is one of the most important which has yet been brought before any conference. It first saw the light of day in June, 1920, at Christchurch towards the closing hours of the Conference, and was carried without a dissenting voice. Within an hour or two of the passing of the resolution the objections to it began to appear. I submit that before this important matter had been brought under the notice of the Government, the wiser course would have been for the standing committee to have made quite sure that the proposal had the support of at least the majority of the members of the National. If the arguments in favour of it are sound, it would have been quite an easy matter to persuade the branches to throw themselves heartily in support of the proposal. Apparently no attempt has been made to overcome or explain away the objections which some of the branches have, and the result is that there is now an organised opposition both in the North and South Islands.

After listening to and reading all that has been said and written in favour of the proposed tax, I must confess that I have not yet heard one logical argument in its favour. That the ravages of foul brood are a serious

menace to our industry is admitted on all hands. Since the passing of the Apiaries Act, the staff who have administered this Act has increased from one to seven or eight at the present time. This increase is due in large measure to the unceasing persistence with which the National Association has placed the necessities of the industry by correspondence, deputation, and personal interview before the Government and the Department of Agriculture. The improvement in the conditions under the increased staff is very marked.

Suppose the Government did impose this tax and asked for suggestions for an effective scheme. Has any scheme for foul brood control within the Dominion yet been formulated? Is the money which is proposed to be raised to be used in educational or propaganda work, or are we only to have a few extra inspectors? Are the beekeepers who supply the funds to have any voice in the administration of the funds, or do we just hand the money over to the Government and trust to luck how it is spent? The whole scheme appears to have been launched without any clear ideas or scheme at the back of it, except that we want more effective control.

At Auckland one speaker from the Hauraki Plains stated that he and his neighbours had to treat their large apiaries annually because of the ravages of the disease. In the district is a number of holdings on which there are hundreds or maybe thousands of hollow fallen trees, and in large numbers of these trees are diseased colonies. The speaker gave it as his opinion that as settlement progresses these hotbeds of disease will gradually disappear.

I shall be very glad indeed to throw in what little weight I have in favour of the tax if one supporter will come forward and show us an effective scheme whereby the imposition of the tax will mean effective control, and I am quite sure that every branch and every beekeeper in the Dominion will give his hearty support to it also.

Yes, I did accompany the Secretary-Editor on his southern trip. The party consisted of Messrs Baines, Rentoul, Earn, Brogan, and the writer, and a right good time we had, too, as guests of a number of enthusiastic beekeepers.—I am, &c.,

R. W. BRICKELL.

Dunedin, 12th September, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice a good deal of criticism in your columns re apitary tax. Well, I suppose that is a matter of opinion, but I will give you some of my experiences. Two years last February I thought I would increase my stock of five hives, so bought 25 hives from a farmer selling out. I will pass over the journey home, but some boiled down. Of course, I got the honey in, all sections; unfortunately few had separators so there was plenty of straining; still the bees were a cheap lot. By next spring my 30 were down to 25. Then the inspector called, who said I had bought a bad lot. He had ordered treatment the season before, but had not been able to call again. I knew that, but was told they had been treated successfully. The inspector said he would call next day,

so I decided to have a look before he came. The hives were in splendid condition; the willow flow was on and they were in need of supers; but, alas, 21 hives had foul brood and two were queenless. When the inspector called I was preparing to treat, and as he saw I was down to it we got on all right, and I haven't seen him since (though some round here have, to their sorrow). Now, I had to be pretty quick, treating half of them during dinner time one day and the rest the next; result—when I came back I found they had gone in for a bit of amalgamation; the same thing happened on the second treatment, so I ended up with 16, and two of them queenless again. A month later I examined every comb and not a diseased cell. Some time after I was having a swarm, when a gentleman came up (my bees were on the main street), and after talking for a while he remarked, by the way, "You will have to give me two or three of those boxes of honey, my wife is always feeding your bees on sugar and jam and honey." (Oh, only honey once.) The good lady used to put sweets on a saucer at the window and watch the bees take it away. I have now decided that a dozen hives are as much as I can manage, and so far this season they are all clean.

Now, with efficient inspection, I would have been saved all that work; the inspector is not for the expert—he can look after himself. The other day I was on holidays, and called on a friend with bees. The first morning when I looked out the window the bees were very active, and the cause was easily seen. I strolled out, but was soon back; it was hotter than France. Now, of those eight hives, one robbed out, one with about 50 bees, two little better, and all in the advanced stages of disease. The owner had never disturbed a brood nest, and, of course, was dumbfounded. Those bees were not examined last year, and I doubt if they ever had been. Does that man grudge the tax? Not him. I advised him to make two hives, and sent along my A.B.C. I hope the inspector will be able to see him this spring.

Now then, have your neighbour's bees been inspected? Is he registered? Take note of every hive you see, and see that the inspector knows about it. Near me lived a man who declared positively that his bees were inspected, and clean. They were full of disease all the season. He is away now, no bees.

As an expression of my opinion I am enclosing membership subscription fee for the National, and if any small man thinks he cannot pay the tax (which is cheaper than foul brood), let him buy his supplies from the H.P.A. and he will save enough. I know it.—I am, &c.,

NOVICE.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I had hoped that my remarks in the August Journal would be followed by the little ventilation on the subject under discussion. I had hoped that some responsible member would attempt a justification of the Conference action. So far, nothing serious has resulted.

A solitary and sorry champion of the tax has appeared in Mr Bray. What he has to say on the subject amounts to a single argu-

ment, and that negligible. I discuss it elsewhere.

Doubtless Mr Bray realises the utter deficiency of his arguments; doubtless he has discovered that justifications are difficult to seek. For he attempts to veil his impotence in the face of facts with a tissue of disgusting insinuations which exclude him finally from the field of respectable controversy. I have no words to qualify his letter. It speaks for itself in noisy tones to any right-thinking reader. But, as the ungentlemanly innuendoes of the letter involve Mr Baines, "another gentleman," the Taieri Branch (to say nothing of other branches opposed to Mr Bray), and myself in an underhand conspiracy subtly concocted to thwart Mr Bray, I feel in honour bound to reply. Not otherwise would I so far demean myself as to be aware of Mr Bray.

He rightly regards my remarks as a challenge, but being unwilling or unable to refute them, he resorts to the red herring (un-savoury red herrings, Mr Bray's) to throw unthinking beekeepers off the scent. I attack the action of the Conference. Mr Bray replies:—

(i) That myself and the branch were not opposed to the tax. We were spoon-fed, force-fed, worked upon by insidious suggestion. All this by innuendo, of course. This was engineered by a member who works for a man who lives not far . . . or (note the safety of the position) by Mr Baines. If the one allegation fails, the other holds, he hopes. We wish him luck.

To this I give emphatic denial. It is a rank insult to the President and to myself as Chief Executive Officer to insinuate that we are so far lacking in individuality and brain as to be the tool and instrument to any comer; an insult to the branch to insinuate that they are so feeble as to be swayed to unanimity by one man.

(ii) That our remits were not original. This thought seems to exercise Mr Bray strangely. I might pause to ask by what right or prerogative he dare enquire into their creation, but . . . Their elaborateness worries him, it supplies the handle to an insinuation. Our mental nonentity, by previous hypothesis, precludes the possibility of our having drawn them up. They were prepared beforehand by "the man who lives . . ." given into my hand by "the man who works for the man who lives . . ." All this by insinuation. As before, Mr Bray has two arrows to his bow. If this be not so, well then Mr Baines prepared them for us in February. I can take no other meaning from the hint in the second column of the letter; the insinuation seems the more clear in that Rangiora is included in that slur. The remits were written by myself after the meeting in accordance with the instruction of the branch. Of course, Mr Bray's remarks now apply to me alone, not to the branch. But I let the case stand on its merits there.

(iii) That Mr Baines' tour of January-February was undertaken to seduce the branches and cajole them into opposing the tax. Yes, he visited us, Clutha Valley, Rangiora, and Poverty Bay. I am inclined to believe that Mr Bray forgot that Nelson, West Coast, and Balclutha were visited by the General Secretary. And if I mistake not

Balclutha Branch was started by him on that "memorable trip." The piping of Mr Baines at our meeting in February was very non-committal. I refer Mr Bray to a report of the meeting in the March Journal, which was fortunately written before Mr Bray thought of our opposition.

Business indecency. Let me give an example of it. Mr Bray states that no two remits were alike. A rather barefaced attempt at deception. No one, except Mr Bray it seems, could expect the remits from various branches to be identical in wording. They are not; but the purport of four is identical. I refer those interested to the agenda paper of the Conference. Mr Bray stands convicted of a ludicrous attempt to hoodwink simple-minded beekeepers to the prejudice of our case!

We were asked to sign a petition to further the cause of the tax. If all those branches had done so would Taieri Branch now be accused of playing at beekeepers? The signed petitions from each branch would have been treated with great respect. But we could obtain no names for the petition. We forwarded a signed remit, altogether against the proposal. The two have the same value, I take it? The remit went to the W.P.B. If "business indecency" requires any explanation, there it is.

When Mr Bray can enter controversy without taking up the egotistic attitude that opposition to his opinions is personal hostility, when his pen can function without spattering mud, perhaps he may receive some heed of attention. While his controversial tactics remain at the level of insinuation I shall treat them with the silent contempt they deserve.—I am, &c.,

BASIL H. HOWARD.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—If I correctly interpret the remarks of Mr Bray in last issue as meaning that the Editor of this Journal told the Taieri Branch what to do regarding the proposed apiaries tax, I must, as one present at the meeting, give the statement a flat contradiction, as it is contrary to fact.—I am, &c.,

BALAAM.

Mosgiel, 8th August, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—What a plaintive note Mr Ireland brings into the discussion on the apiaries tax. Regarding beekeepers taxing themselves, if Mr Ireland will only look around he will find the same principle being applied almost everywhere. Take our school committees. Do they not tax themselves as regards time? Also in working up concerts and such like to gather funds for purposes which the Education Board should furnish?

In the Wairoa district a bridge was burned; the Government was tardy in replacing, so the settlers and sawmillers offered the timber and cartage free. Is not that taxing themselves? Then, again, the fruit-growers asked for the orchard tax, and when fire-blight threatens they are offering to tax themselves up to 4s per acre.

Now, Sir, I think these examples show that at least some good must come of voluntary taxation. As regards Mr Ireland's con-

tention that two or three men would make up the laughing stock of the world, I would point out that at the Christchurch Conference the tax resolution was carried unanimously (Mr Ireland attending), and at the Auckland Conference it was unanimously affirmed.

As regards the branches' opposition, I am sure that now the subject has been discussed more fully there would be a marked difference if the vote were taken again.

In conclusion, I would like to say that, given two visits of an inspector annually, I would gladly pay double the proposed tax.—I am, &c.,

H. SHEPHERD.

Hastings, September 10, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I would like to say a few words concerning Mr W. B. Bray's letter, which appears in the September number of your journal.

In the first place, I can well repeat Mr Bray's first sentence (except the first two words). I am one of the many who support Mr Howard in his "anti-tax" crusade, and, although you say "the easiest way out of any trouble is to say nothing." I believe Mr Bray's "braying" needs a little "pepper and salt" to flavour it.

Mr Bray suggests that Mr Howard and any members of his branch who agree with him (and I take it that that also includes members of other branches who are also anti-tax-ites) should attend a conference, etc., but he forgets that all beekeepers are not so fortunate (or financial, I should imagine) as he is.

And another point in our correspondent's "bully-ragging" letter. He says that had he not got to the conference when he did, the Taieri and other anti-tax remits would have held good, yet he turned all the "bread and butter" and those who are most entitled to decide right round to his way of thinking—by this I take it that the "unanimous" (?) vote for the tax was really due to Mr Bray's early arrival at conference.

I have known Mr Bray for some years, and I can well remember the time when he came to my dad's apiary at "Kilburnie," Christchurch, to learn the art of beekeeping, and it surprises me to read in some of his letters, most particularly his latest, how he thinks of those who are eager to learn what he himself learned not so many years ago and has learnt since.

Mr Bray asserts that some of the branches danced to the piping of the Secretary, Editor, etc., and names two—Taieri and Rangiora. I would like to inform Mr Bray that he is wrong when he asserts that Rangiora Branch was started by Mr Baines while on his southern tour, as it was decided by a gathering of beekeepers who attended one of Mr E. A. Earp's demonstrations to form an association in the district, and it was a happy (to my mind) happening that Mr Baines was in Christchurch the week when a meeting to elect officers was to be held, and I asked Mr Baines at the C.B.A.'s field day at Avonhead if he would come up to Rangiora on the night of the meeting and lay before the gathering the benefits of

becoming a branch of the National, and right well he did it, for I believe had it not been for Mr Baines and Mr Earp the meeting would not have joined the National and enjoyed Mr Bray's "braying."

I also heard Mr Witty's remarks at Avonhead, and believe they were meant seriously; and if Mr Bray thinks the Government will lift the proposed tax off just when it suits those who think they are going to get it put on, he will, later on, find that he is slightly out in his reckoning.

I have paid the orchard tax now for five years on an orchard which is only now proving profitable, and so far I can see nothing for my "hard-earned," and I doubt very much if anyone else has either, unless it may be Mr Bray, and if he pays a bee tax perhaps I may see something for his "easy-earned."

I would ask Mr Bray to state through the Journal his ideas as to how he sees "there is considerable room for improvement" with the journal. Perhaps a few "remits" from him would be favourably considered and not ignored.—I am, &c.,

H. AMBROSE JOHNSTONE,

President Rangiora Branch.

"Atholhurst," Rangiora,
September 12, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Mr Ireland's letter in the September issue gives a very one-sided view of the proposed tax. Many of the statements made are mere assertions, without any backing, as, for instance, "that two or three men, in spite of the unanimous disapproval of all the branches, are determined to force it (the tax) down our throats." Although not altogether in favour of the principle involved, hundreds agree that the tax would be a good thing. The vote taken on this matter at a meeting of the Nelson Provincial Branch was unanimously in favour of the tax, and a remit to that effect was sent to Conference. I would like to ask Mr Ireland what the lack of efficient inspection is costing beekeepers today. Individual beekeepers have estimated their losses at £1000; the loss of crop in one province alone was estimated at £2000 for one season, while another beekeeper estimated his loss last season at £200, all through the ravages of foul brood. We had local inspection as a remedy. What did this cost the beekeepers who acted in this capacity, in loss of time, &c.? What does it cost us year after year to buy up the neglected bees that are always a menace to our apiaries? We have not yet forgotten the tale of woe we were told at Christchurch Conference of these things. There appears no hope of getting more thorough and efficient inspection unless we can find at least part of the cost. Let us find it; it will be money well spent. It can not, as Mr Ireland terms it, be considered "unjust or oppressive," being as it is for the benefit of beekeepers alone as a particular class. Therefore, beekeepers should be, and I think will be willing to pay it, who have still left in some of us that sturdy independence that so strongly characterised New Zealand's grand old pioneers.—I am, &c.,

P. MARTIN.

Umukuri, 19th September, 1921.

Correspondence.

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

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re acquisition of apiary sites. My location is rented, and as this is not a satisfactory tenure I have been looking for a small freehold not too far away. The opportunity came a year ago, when a creamery site was to be sold by auction, but there were some financial giants competing for that small holding—Mr George Gould, who has a farm near and comes to look at it occasionally, also Messrs Todhunter and Fulton, who paid cash for a nearby farm, as a sideline—and the latter secured the section to add to their block. The bidding of such wealthy firms soon left me lamenting. Probably the accumulation of large parcels of land is not encouraged, and that makes the feeling no pleasanter when a case comes home to one in such a manner. If your agitation helps such as myself to find a site for about 100 hives it will earn the gratitude of the individual and be doing good for the country.—I am, &c.,

E. PARKIN.

Contra Island, Kaiapoi,
6th September, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Dear Sir,—Please send me a specimen copy of your New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal. I am sending you herewith two photographs of my apiary as a present to you.—Yours faithfully,

JOSE RIVERO CARVALLO.

Puebla, Mex., 7th July, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I was surprised to see you permit such stuff (by way of advertising) to be published in the Journal. You ought to know the history of the development of the melter since your own invention in connection with melters. Who is the original inventor of movable spacing which is responsible for the melters of to-day being so effective and doing away with the greatest trouble and difficulty we had to contend with—namely, blocking between the tubes? You know who, and yet you permit Miller to insinuate in advertisements that I, sneak-like, am following in his tracks. Now, let me tell you it is too ridiculous for me to waste time and ink over, so, to make this as brief as possible, I want to point out that my present melter is the outcome of time, thought, and money spent by me for the benefit of beekeepers in this Dominion, and you control the Journal on their behalf. It seems to me a thankless attitude shown by publishing such an advertisement against me, for it will not be more than my money back when my time is up and the patent rights become the property of the beekeepers, this enabling them to obtain it cheaper. Now, if Mr Miller proves that I am not the original inventor of my present circular melter I will give £50 to the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, and another £50 to prove the melter

had more steam or heat than it could absorb on the occasion of the last demonstration, and another £50 to prove it did not melt up more comb on that occasion than his melter did, which was worked with the same steam supply.—I am, &c.,

C. SMEDLEY.

Te Awamutu, 8th September, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have now taken the Journal for a year, and find it very interesting and instructive, and enclose another year's subscription. I started bee-keeping five years ago by taking two small stray swarms and hiving them together, and since then have made increase my chief aim, and have not got any very big crops of honey, but from now on I shall go in for less increase and try to get more honey. I now have between 30 and 40 colonies. Nearly two years ago I bought an Italian queen, and since then have Italianised, or rather hybridised (as most of the colonies appear to be hybrids), most of the hives. There is, however, one hive stronger than any of the others and which appears to be pure Italian but seems to have a touch of paralysis, as I often see several bees crawling about the ground near the entrance and which afterwards die. If it was not for that I should have no hesitation in rearing all my queens from that colony, as, judging by last season as well as this, it appears to be the strongest, best honey-gathering, and purest Italian hive in the whole apiary, but I am afraid if I did so the new queens might be subject to paralysis too. I might mention I lost the queen I bought a few weeks after I got her, so cannot rear queens from her. Could you please give me any advice on the subject?

The season here is an early one (I have had to super eight hives already), and the present indications are for a good honey crop. This district is about 17 miles north of Auckland, and the main honey flow starts in October or early November if the weather is any way fit, and ends about the end of the year. The ti-tree blooms for 10 or 11 months in the year and is a good help to the bees in winter and early spring. I think it would be called a bush district, as the chief honey producing trees and plants are black wattle, ti-tree, and native bush. As the honey would be too thick to extract properly, I have got a melter and boiler, but have not been able to try them properly yet, but hope they will be better than heating the honey and squeezing it through a bag by the hands, like I did before.

I make all my hives, covers, and bottom boards of benzine cases and tins, and find it most convenient and straightforward to knock the cases completely to pieces for a start. The covers, which are good and watertight, I find it best to make of two thicknesses of benzine tins, lapped and lined with the side of a case.—I am, &c.,

A. CHAPPELL.

Redvale, 11th September, 1921.

(Paralysis is best checked by getting rid of the queen, although in your case it cannot be very serious, as you state the affected hive is the strongest, both last season and this.—Editor.)

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am right with Brother Watson in that we should try and introduce some new nectar plants. Last season I tried to procure Bokhara clover seed from three of our leading seed merchants, but without success. Now, what about our H.P.A. trying a small line, putting a small advertisement in the Journal, and catching the honey when it comes along?—I am, &c.,

S. C. SMITH.

Patea.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have for some time past been taking great notice of your appeals to honey producers to join the co-operative movement for the mutual benefit of all engaged in the industry. I have also regretted more than once that such good advice is occasionally ignored and that some of our producers are so selfish as to sell their honey in competition with the H.P.A. and our more loyal producers. I have wondered that those same loyal supporters of the H.P.A. have so silently witnessed this selfish competition, which tends to undermine the market and keep the local price unstable, and not cry out in no uncertain voice against this cut-throat business.

It is quite possible that a case in point is not an isolated one, for only a short while ago I saw a quantity of honey in the auction room for sale on behalf of a certain beekeeper, a shareholder of the H.P.A. Now, it is quite possible that the directors of our company know how to deal with a defaulting shareholder, as I believe the articles of association give them certain powers quite sufficient to rectify such a wrong as this, but as yet I have not seen any means of dealing with those beekeepers who, from thoroughly selfish motives, refuse to join us and share the varied fortunes of co-operation, put forward by any of our members. It is quite conceivable that these latter are a source of worry to our loyal supporters; maybe, too, that our directors are somewhat perplexed, but however that is in reality, one thing is certain: if they continue to compete with the H.P.A. then the time has come for the H.P.A. to compete with them. Now, I wish to make it quite clear that I am not an advocate of dumping or encroaching, in any shape or form, and believe a beekeeper should have his moral rights respected, but in the present case, where a beekeeper produces honey year after year and sells it in competition with an established selling organisation, then he does not deserve that organisation to respect his rights and freedom of action, for both must be recognised.

Now, I honestly believe that the management of our co-operative organisation has endeavoured with all sincerity to bring those few producers who are not shareholders to realise the necessity for their supporting the movement; but quite possibly, through their avaricious characteristic, these latter have steadfastly refused to do so.

Now, I, for one, think the time has arrived when our loyal shareholders should give our directors a lead as to how these shareholders should be dealt with, and so let them understand that we are not prepared to accept the present position much longer. To that end I would suggest that in the event of any pro-

ducer selling his honey this coming season in competition with the H.P.A. then we demand that the directors consider the advisability of securing an apiary site near these said producers and establish an apiary thereon for the purpose of competing with them for the honey crop, which they previously have sold in competition with them. This could be easily done, and may be a means of bringing those short-sighted individuals to see the error of their ways. Now then, you loyal shareholders, "roll up" and give your opinions on this very important matter, which is so vital to us all, and not let a few reap the benefit of a market which we, by our unity, have created. The fact that we, through the medium of this paper, voice our opinion individually, when taken collectively will strengthen the hands of the directors, who, perhaps, have a certain amount of diffidence in facing the matter without knowing they have the backing of shareholders.

In conclusion, Mr Editor, these are briefly the opinions of one producer who is loyal to the backbone, and who would like this matter freely discussed, but who prefers being the originator of an expected frank discussion, to remain for the present,

AMATEUR.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. P. Kumara.—We have referred your letter to the writer of the original article. Will reply next month.

Mrs A. H. T., Tukikarame.—Will reply fully to your first query next month. You can paint the hives whilst the bees are in them, but it is rather too late in the season now.

Pickings from L'Apicoltura Italiana.

(Translated by BASIL H. HOWARD.)

WHAT REES SHOULD BE USED IN QUEEN MAILING CAGES?

Success or failure in mailing queens to great distances (e.g., Italy to America.—B. H. H.) depends on a multitude of varying causes, so much so that the individual importance of one of these causes (in our case the age of bees accompanying the queen) can not be seen without long and careful experimenting. Often we attribute success or failure to the condition of the accompanying bees, whereas other causes may have brought about the one or the other result; for example, the position of the cage in the mail bag or the method of transport. As far as I can see, this is why the opinions of trustworthy people on the subject are so much at variance. In such delicate questions as these, it is preferable in argument to give weight to facts derived from actual experience. I have been led by experience and reasoning to adopt a course practically midway between the above-mentioned opinions.

(Dadant says: "Italian queen breeders use either bees recently hatched, or fairly aged bees, or young active bees. The last are the most successful." Asprea, Ed. Apicoltore, says:—"My experience is exactly the opposite. When I send my disques abroad, even to the greatest distances, the bees that resisted the voyage best were bees that had never flown." These are the two opinions mentioned.—B.H.H.)

The preference given to the latter opinion is certainly due to the idea that bees which have not flown can the better adapt themselves to enclosure for a long period, and to a timely recognition of the well-known fact that young bees usually accompany the queen in the interior of the hive.

Those who fix their choice on young, active bees no doubt base this choice on the consideration of the fact that such bees are at the summit of their development and of their powers of physical resistance. Therefore, they think that they can support the rigours of a long voyage better than bees which have not yet flown.

It is therefore evident that the ideal bees for our purpose will be those that combine the above-mentioned qualities. Bees which have made their first flight approach the closest to that state of development. To show more clearly what I mean, I shall add a few words upon the development of bees, and of the various activities they show in their stages of development. These remarks will be based on personal observation from day to day, and on the teaching of competent authors.

Upon hatching, the young bee wanders slowly and doubtfully on the comb, seemingly intent upon realising its own existence and upon taking stock of the surroundings. On the second day its movements are more graceful; it frequently stops to dip greedily into the cells for honey. On the second or third day it begins to assist the older bees to take care of the brood; on the fourth or fifth it takes part in the preparation of food for the larvæ. During the first week its youthful appearance, together with the white downy hairs on its body, give rise to the name "biondina" ("the blonde"), a title given by breeders. Between the seventh and tenth day it takes its first flight. During the second week of its life the physical characteristics of youth are still fairly visible. But the bee has suffered a change quite evident to the experienced eye. From about the fifteenth day it is at the height of its usefulness as far as the production of wax is concerned. Moreover, it does good work as a pollen gatherer. After the twentieth day it joins the ranks of workers, and at the age of one month it reaches its maximum efficiency as a honey gatherer.

From the foregoing it will be seen that one can quite reasonably claim that bees from 10 to 15 days old are sufficiently balanced in development to realise the

ideal we require: The physical constitution is robust enough; their qualifications as nursing bees have not diminished; they do not yet feel strongly the need for liberty, nor the impelling desire for work. Experience teaches one to recognise bees at this stage at a glance, as I have shown above.

Although the remark may seem unnecessary, I must point out that in actual practice the ideas above mentioned serve as guides, as recommendations. For it would be absurd to pretend, even taking zeal into consideration, that ALL the bees chosen to accompany the queen have the exact age which I consider ideal for the purpose.

E. PENNA.

Maybe this will interest some of you. If it doesn't—why, say so. Now, here are some more titles I find in "L'Apicoltore":—Queen Excluders, by E. Penna; European Foul-brood, by Gaetano Piana, who also writes *Beginners' Notes* (a recommendation?).

Also, the peasants in Italy keep bees in skeps and a host of other weird containers. Of course, to obtain honey, they simply suffocate the bees in the old barbaric fashion. Now, one shrewd beekeeper goes all round the district and takes all those bees for himself, leaving the honey to the owner. No stings, little trouble, bees gratis. How? Sulphuric ether? Yes, sulphuric ether. Of course, bees suffering from heart trouble never recover, but still he brings a good number of bees round again. Maybe the idea would be worth trying on bees in weird corners and rummy trees? Would you like to hear about it?

Further, I would like to point out that the Federation of Italian beekeepers found 1,338 new members in 1919-1921. That they offer a prize to members for roping in additional members. Big prize to the man who finds the greatest number. That the price of "L'Apicoltore" is 10 lire to members, 12 lire to non-members. Are these ideas worth anything, I wonder? I have a recollection that we tried the prize idea, but that was before I was a subscriber, I think.

[The above items are very interesting and helpful to those mailing queens. E. Penna, the writer of the article, is one of the largest queen bee exporters in Italy, so he should be able to speak with authority.—Ed.]

Extracting Time.

By L. C. TONKIN.

Extracting can be done, as at dental parlours, painlessly, but our first few seasons were not at all pleasant, as you will learn. Before we bought an extractor, we used to cut out the combs from the frames and strain the resulting mess. One soon becomes an adept in guiding a six-pound slab of honey through the mouth of the straining bag.

At last came the purchase of the new-fangled machine. The bee books say, "the honey will commence to rain pleasantly against the sides." Our rain was more like a drizzle, or more like a thunderplump when uneven baskets started the extractor a-rocking. The honey had got too cold, of course, so, after that, up went the temperature and the coal bill. By placing the frames near the stove, the warm honey centrifuged out a bit better and a good bit faster. Some honey came out too quick, for, when the fire became too hot, a whole slab would gently slide out of its frame as quietly as the movement of a glacier. Speaking of glaciers reminds me—working at 212 degrees Fahrenheit (or thereabouts) is hot work, and, added to the gentle rain, which we had now obtained, was the drip, drip of honest sweat. It seemed to me similar to the Chinese water-drip torture. However, New Zealand's honey is high in sugar content, so we were not charged with watering the honey.

A season's extracting was not done all at one time, so leaving the honey room one day, to clear the air, we pulled down the window blinds and—opened the window!

This is what no doubt happened. One of the "aces" of the apiary's squadron of spies, having no respect for a room with the blinds drawn, flies on a voyage of discovery into the room and finds itself in a wonderful Cave of a Thousand Delights, where honey is in quantities undreamed of. After a real decent feed, this explorer, belonging to a socialistic body, must tell its cobbers. The glad tidings having been whispered throughout the colony, all bees with a sweet tooth set out to this new Eldorado, where everything that is sticky is honey. When a few hundred have been bogged in the Slough of Despond (the few inches on honey in the extractor) and when a few more hundreds are thinking of committing hari-kari by joining them, this is where I come in.

Down goes the window and up goes the blind. Straight for the light turn hundreds of bees, and then commences that never-ending climb up the window-panes. Our American friends recently trained a young stud bull to work a treadmill, the power from which worked a milking machine. Now, there was energy going to waste! An endless glass pane, a few million bees, and enough power to drive a two-frame extractor! Ever felt the strength of a queen held between the thumb and index finger when clipping? A South African forward isn't in the running. Back at the room the shades of night are falling, and so the robbers are directed towards their homes with vigorous sweepings. Allowing robbers to go back to their hives is not recommended, but you can't kill thousands of innocents. It was your fault—theirs.

Next day shows determination as one of a bee's characteristics. In the key-hole of the door, up the window-sashes, the siege of the citadel is carried on for a day or two. Bees like blue colours best, and red the least; but when robbing they not only see red but paint the whole neighbourhood that colour.

A bedroom was next to our honey room, and a few stragglers must crawl in, probably to escape the excitement, and, when disrobing for the night, resolving to put your foot firmly down on robbing next season, right

then you put your foot down on a bee. You get used to stings on the hands, but a sting on a delicate part of one's foot is not too good. It feels like a summer chilblain. However, like a true bee-keeper, never grumbling, you say, "Well, I won't get rheumatics anyway," and lay your head on your pillow at peace with the world and your bees.

How to Prevent Swarming.

By G. W. Demaree.

When discussing this subject the temptation to argue the question, rather than to rely upon a simple description of the manipulation resorted to, to accomplish the object in view, is very great. So many apiarists have imbibed the idea that some sort of contraction of the brood-nest is essential to the production of comb honey, if not the extracted article, that any new discovery that runs counter to this idea of contraction meets a deaf ear, if not open opposition.

Let me say, once for all, that when a new discovery is applied to an old system it often becomes necessary to revise the old system to accommodate it to the newly-applied discovery. These remarks apply not exclusively to the old system of bee-culture, but to all systems pertaining to all industries. Those persons who are determined to stick to the old paths of the past are not in position to profit by any new discovery; and this essay is not written for that class of readers.

When your apiary is as large as you want it, what would you give to be able by a simple, practical manipulation at the beginning of the swarming season to hold all your colonies in full strength of working and breeding force steadily through the entire honey harvest? You can do it beyond a doubt by practising my new system of preventing swarming; and if you have the ingenuity to apply proper management to suit the new condition, your surplus yield will be larger than by any other method heretofore made known to the public.

I have practised the new system largely for the past two seasons, and my surplus yield was never so large, though it is well known that the past two seasons were not above the average as honey-yielding seasons.

As I have already intimated, my plan of preventing swarming, and entirely preventing increase, is accomplished by one single manipulation right at the commencement of swarming. Only one hive and its outfit is used for each colony. Any system that requires a divided condition of the colony, using two or more hives, is not worthy of a thought.

In my practice I begin with the strongest colonies and transfer the combs containing brood from the brood-chamber to an upper storey above the queen excluder. One comb containing some unsealed brood and eggs is left in the brood-chamber as a start for the queen. I fill out the brood-chamber with empty combs, and I have a full outfit for my apiary. But full frames of foundation may be used in the absence of drawn combs.

When the manipulation is complete, the colony has all of its brood with the queen, only its condition is altered. The queen has a new brood-nest below the excluder, while the combs of brood are in the centre of the super, with the sides filled out with empty combs above the queen excluder.

In 21 days all the brood will be hatched out above the excluder, and the bees will begin to hatch in the hatcher out above the excluder, and so a continuous succession of young bees is well sustained.

If my object is to take the honey with the extractor, I tier up with a surplus of extracting combs as fast as the large colony needs the room to store surplus. Usually the combs above the excluder will be filled with honey by the time all the bees are hatched out, and no system is as sure to give one set of combs full of honey for the extractor in the very poorest seasons; and if the season is propitious, the yield will be enormous under proper management.

The great economy of this system is all the colonies will produce as nearly alike as can well be—a condition of things that never occurs in any apiary swayed by the swarming impulse. If my object is fancy comb honey, I tier the section cases on the super that contains the brood, and push the bees to start all the combs they can; at the close of the season I extract the honey from the combs in the super, and feed it back to properly prepared colonies to have the partly-filled sections completed. The nicest honey in sections that I ever produced was obtained in this way.

To feed back successfully requires as much experience as any other work connected with the art of producing honey, but the theme is too broad for a place in this connection.

The system above described works perfectly if applied immediately after a swarm issues. The only difference in the manipulation in this case is that no brood or eggs are left in the brood-nest, where the swarm is hived back.

Subscriptions Received.

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

H. Manning, Rangiora, to August 22.
 W. Watt, Mataura, to September 22.
 J. Hunter, Invercargill, to August 22.
 W. J. Jordan, Auckland, to September 22.
 F. Discombe, Hautapu, to August 22.
 C. V. Hart, Waimate, to September 22.
 A. Rillstone, Tuatapere, to September 22.
 J. Paterson, Hokitika, to September 22.
 T. C. Horner, Whata Whata, to Sept. 22.
 A. A. Down, Spotswood, to September 22.
 G. Gibson, Rotomanu, to September 22.
 T. G. Kitchingham, Greymouth, to Sept. 22.
 A. Chappell, Redvale, to September 22.
 T. J. Mannex, Waihou, to August 22.
 A. H. Renwick, Dunedin, to August 22.
 Miss E. A. Walsh, Hamilton, to Sept. 22.
 H. Mitchellmore, Geraldine, to August 22.
 J. A. Moreland, Blenheim, to June 22.
 Miss H. M. Thompson, Foxton, to August 22.
 J. Walton, Oruru, to September 22.
 W. Bray, Greenpark, to August 22.
 E. R. Hayes, Koterangi, to August 22.
 W. B. Richards, Pukeawa, to Sept. 22.
 Barrett & Bray (5s), Barry's Bay, to Mar. 22.

Whitcombe & Tombs, Ltd., Dunedin, to September 22.

J. H. Heath, Waiuku, to September 22.
 A. T. Rainbow, Wairoa, H.B., to August 22.
 C. F. Gee, Whakatane, to August 22.
 F. J. Coombe, Hastings, to August 22.
 A. G. Lennard, Waihou, to August 22.
 J. Naismith, Mosgiel, to August 22.
 Miss A. Allison, Wanganui, to July 22.
 F. Karl, Pataruru, to March 22.
 Adolph Staf, Stockholm Sweden, to June 22.
 H. Weenink, Pareora, to August 22.
 Pryor Bros., Ross, to August 22.
 F. P. Lea, Hawera, to August 22.
 J. Blakie, Spar Bush, to August 22.
 A. H. G. Wood, Glassel, Aberdeenshire, to September 22.
 J. W. Crossdale, Taradale, to August 22.
 J. Wright, Blackhall, to August 22.
 H. R. Carwardine, Te Aroha W., to Aug. 22.
 P. V. Webber, Dannevirke, to May 22.
 G. Stevenson, Gisborne, to July 22.
 C. Reese, W. Oxford, to September 22.
 G. McMaster, Waikouaiti, to August 22.
 H. H. Tindall, Matakana, to August 22.
 W. E. Barker, Peel Forest, to July 22.
 Miss S. J. Hunter, Dunedin, to August 22.
 C. Waines, Paeroa, to August 22.
 M. Dent, Ashburton, to August 22.
 C. A. Grainger, Te Aroha, to July 22.
 F. G. Parkes, Pahiatua, to September 22.
 W. H. C. McKenzie, Huntly, to Sept. 22.
 M. Stevens, Kakahi, to August 22.

TONGUE AND STING LENGTHS.

"I know little, and care less, about the tongue-reach of my bees, but I care a lot about their sting reach. . . . One of them stung me on the turned-up tip of my poor nose, for, not expecting such activities, I had omitted to don even an old lace curtain. I didn't measure that bee's tongue-reach, nor ever her sting-reach, but I calculate the latter an inch and a-half! I don't want to buy queens guaranteed to produce workers with a 27-100 of an inch tongue-reach; I want to buy queens that will produce shorter stingers. That would be beginning at the right end, indeed!"—(R. Stanistreet, in Irish Bee Journal.)

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.]

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 TO PURCHASE, APIARY AND PLANT suitable for two Returned Soldiers.—Apply, stating particulars, to
 MR E. DIAPER,
 170 Oneupu Road,
 Lyall Bay, Wellington.

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.

FOR SALE, 50 4-FRAME NUCLEUS BOXES, 1 Baines Capping Melter, 1000 Frame Wedges.

HUGH FRASER,
Waitakaruru.

WANTED, Your Order for COMB FOUNDATION. 3a 11d per lb, in 25lb cases. Smaller lots on application.

EXCEL AND HALLAM,
Opotiki, Bay of Plenty.

FOR SALE, A1 ROOT EXTRACTOR, 2-Frame 10-inch Baskets, Slip Gear and Break, in perfect condition; a snip, £4 10s, f.o.b. Patea.

AITKEN & SMITH,
Patea.

1921-22 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/-			
Breeders	30/-				

QUEENS GUARANTEED FREE FROM ALL DISEASE, and bred from Pure Stock, which have been selected for hardiness, disease-resisting, good-working & non-swarming qualities.

Ninety-five per cent. of Untested Queens guaranteed purely mated.

Delivery—Tested, from 15th October; Untested, from 20th November (as weather permits) to 20th March. All orders to be in by 1st MARCH.

TERMS.—Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

P.O. Order Office, Heriot. Orders filled in rotation.

NOTE.—Owing to high cost of all materials and postage, no reductions can be allowed on list prices for larger quantities.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

R. Stewart, Crookston, Otago.

Crown Bee Supplies

314 Durham St. (near Victoria Street)
CHRISTCHURCH.

Makers of Hives, Frames & Other Appliances.

Hives or Parts made to any Pattern or Design.
Stocks of Hives, Frames, &c., always on hand.

1921-22 PRICES OF ITALIAN QUEENS

UNTESTED

DELIVERY IN ROTATION OF ORDERS MID NOVEMBER TO MID MARCH.

1 or 2.
7/6 each.

3 or 4.
7/- each.

5 or more.
6/6 each.

TESTED

DELIVERY IN ROTATION OF ORDERS FROM THIRD WEEK IN OCTOBER.

12/- each.

TERMS.—September to March—Cash with Order; Cheques to have exchange added. April to August—Orders for the following Season may be booked; payment at time of delivery.

Any Queen arriving dead at original address replaced Free if Cage is returned unopened.

REPORT OF LAST OFFICIAL INSPECTION:

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.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

J. H. TODD, Renwicktown, MARLBOROUGH.

After considerable experience the demand for our Foundation Comb has grown to such an extent all over Southland and Otago that we have decided to supply all Beekeepers with our own Foundation Comb, or make up their own Wax.

Local Foundation always in stock.

Also Makers of Hoffman Frames, etc.

Samples and Prices on request.

Address:

Butler & Hemmingsen
83 Teviot Street, INVERCARGILL.

A. ECROYD

Manufacturer of

Acorn Comb Foundation

A Product of the Highest Quality supplied at Reasonable Rates. Clients own Wax made up at short notice.

WRITE FOR QUOTATIONS AND SAMPLES.

P.O. Box 850, Christchurch
Telegrams: "OAKCLIFFE."

Factory: 157 Cranford Street,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Beekeepers' Supplies.

Reduction in Prices.

We have pleasure in announcing a considerable reduction in the price of Beekeepers' Supplies. An improvement in the foreign exchange rate and a fall in the price of timber and other lines make this reduction possible. New Season's List now ready. If you have not already received our List, it will pay you to write for one.

Hives and Supplies.

The "Alliance" Dovetailed Hives and Frames, which have given universal satisfaction in the past, still maintain their excellence of quality, fit, and workmanship. The very largest Beekeepers in the Dominion year after year specify "ALLIANCE" Goods, because of their dependability. We guarantee every article sent out from our Works to be of the very best quality. We back up our guarantee with an offer to replace, free of charge, any article which proves unsatisfactory.

Comb Foundation.

One of the important factors which contribute to success in beekeeping is Comb Foundation, of which there are scores of makes—good, bad, and indifferent. Good Foundation has several outstanding features—immunity from disease, toughness, clearness, and perfect cells which, when drawn out, are all worker cells. Many of the lower grades of Foundation produce large quantities of drone cells. "Airco" Foundation is absolutely pure and very tough, and all the cells are perfect worker cells. It is a little more costly than other makes, but it is worth the money asked for it, in that it saves the time of the Bees tearing down and reconstructing imperfect cells. A large user says:—"I have used over 200 lbs. of "Airco" Foundation this season. The Bees accept it quicker and draw it out with less labour than other makes I have used." The Foundation has a perfectly natural basis, which the Bees do not need to re-design; the Foundation is more ductile, and at the same time tougher and less easily broken than other makes. We recommend "Airco" Foundation to the Beekeepers of New Zealand.

We can also supply Foundation made in our own Works. The Wax is specially treated, ensuring absolute purity. Each sheet is packed between thin sheets of paper to prevent damage. We consider paper between each sheet necessary to prevent damage and strain, the strain having a tendency to produce drone cells, particularly in hot weather.

Queens.

A good Queen in each colony is absolutely essential. We supply Queens of the famous Robert Stewart strain. Tested Queens ready for delivery from the end of September onwards; Untested from November onwards. **ORDER EARLY.**

A FULL STOCK OF ALL APIARY APPLIANCES READY FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY AT HEAD OFFICE AND AT OUR AGENTS' IN ALL HONEY-PRODUCING CENTRES.

SEND FOR OUR NEW SEASON'S PRICE LIST.

BIG REDUCTION IN PRICES.

Alliance Box Co., Ltd.,

MASON STREET, DUNEDIN.

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

Calling his Bluff.

KNOWING Mr. SMEDLEY FOR THE PAST NINETEEN YEARS, we were not exactly surprised to read on page 654 of the last issue of the N.Z. FRUIT-GROWER, in a letter over his name, the following:—

"I am sorry the demonstration of smelters was a failure, and it is time beekeepers interested in smelters should have a chance of seeing these appliances tested side by side under varied conditions—that is, in the method of heating. Now, let me tell you, although my machine is smaller in size, it is equal in capacity to Mr. Miller's Glutton, and at the same time did prove that it would work with less heat."

Now then Mr. Smedley!

I HAVE YOU WHERE I HAVE BEEN LONGING FOR THE PAST WHOLE YEAR TO GET YOU!

First, let me call the attention of my readers to the fact that I have ever refrained from mentioning by name any of the rival inventors of Reducers, for to do so reflects anything but business credit upon the person doing so;

B-u-t,

As Mr. Smedley has not failed to violate this golden rule, he must take what is coming to him.

That Demonstration at the H.P.A.

I am still waiting to be thanked for the loan to Mr. Smedley of the Hose and Boiler with which he fully demonstrated—that, so far from proving that his Reducer would equal my GLUTTON, I had to call the attention of the reporter to the fact that large pieces of Unmelted Foundation were escaping into the gutter of the Smedley Reducer, as were also other bits of Unmelted Comb.

Furthermore, the amount of heat supplied by the boiler was far and away more than sufficient for his Reducer, for many standing around the boiler saw the bubbling of water OUT OF THE SYPHON-SUPPLY TUBE, and this is a physical impossibility unless the Reducer was getting all the steam it could use and the surplus was causing back pressure in the boiler.

So this is positive proof that any failure of Smedley's Reducer (which you will notice he himself avows) was certainly not caused through lack of steam. It was not until the end of his job that the fire was inadvertently allowed to go nearly out—that the steam supply was insufficient. By that time Mr. Smedley had had ample time to show us all that his invention was capable of doing. **A-N-D** he **DIDN'T** show us that it would prevent Unmelted Comb from escaping from it.

Still Further.

It amuses me to learn what ideas some persons have of the most ordinary laws of Physics.

So far from the statement being true that Smedley's Reducer is capable of reducing Black Combs as fast as the B.M. GLUTTON, such arrant nonsense only emanates from a mind utterly ignorant of the real laws governing such matters.

The capacity of the B.M. GLUTTON is three tons per eight-hour day when reducing ordinary Combs; and from my experience, in collaboration with the late Rev. F. W. Clarke when Vicar of Te Awamutu, in his honey-room (only a-quarter mile from Smedley's Apiary), with a Reducer embodying exactly the same principle as Smedley's present Reducer, I am positively certain that you cannot in eight hours put three tons of any kind of Comb (to melt it) through Smedley's Reducer, even with a hydraulic press.

When Parson Clarke and I invented the model which Smedley now makes, we thought we had what we termed "A BOBBY DAZZLER!"

We worked night and day over that Reducer, which we made out of large milk-dishes, both steam jacketed. The invention worked all right (except for not being speedy enough) so long as no large amount of pollen and no black combs were put into it; but as soon as we got it full of black combs, such as the ordinary brood-nest consists of, the bally thing blocked up, and we had to take it apart and empty it.

After using and coaxing it for three weeks, and often working until the dawn of day at it, we very reluctantly admitted ourselves beaten once more—and the Reducer went the way of the scrap-heap.

One Man's Idea of Fair Play.

Mr. Smedley states that "It is time beekeepers interested in Smelters should have a chance of seeing these appliances tested," &c.

Now, he cannot possibly have forgotten that in this very Journal we for five consecutive months, and at an expenditure of ten lovely sovereigns, advertised a Challenge (only last season) to all and sundry to a Reducer Competition, even offering to alter the tentative rules we suggested in the event of any competitor considering either of them oppressive. **DIDN'T WE?**

Although Smedley lives and has his Apiary only two and a-half miles from THOROUGHWORK, did Smedley even let out one mouse-squeak about that Challenge, issued, as it were, right under his nose. **DID HE?** Not he! Yet he now whines about the necessity of just that very thing!

What are we to think of such a person? I know what I think of him!

Now that I have sold out every vestige of comb I possess, and have also sold the most perfectly furnished honey-room in the Dominion, Smedley thinks it is time to have that competition.

Well, if I have no combs to supply for the Reducers, Smedley has!

If he thinks he can dodge that Competition because it is now impossible for me to supply the combs, he is making a big mistake.

I CHALLENGE HIM TO THE SAME COMPETITION AGAIN, and if he is sincere in his whining about the need for a demonstration, he can supply the combs; and if he now refuses, readers will know what to think about the matter.

The Challenge.

THE COMPETITION IS TO BE FOR A FOUR HOURS' RUN; and ONLY BLACK COMBS ARE TO BE MELTED.

Readers may say that I am betting on a surety because, nine years ago, one who had been Assay Chemist at Sydney University, and could analyse most things on earth, had, in collaboration with myself, proved the INCAPACITY of a Reducer of Smedley's pattern. Well, Smedley backs (on paper only) his Reducer against the B.-M. GLUTTON. It is of no use his drawing any red herring across the scent by discussing the relative amounts of heat, &c. The boiler he used at the H.P.A. Demonstration supplied more heat than his Reducer could assimilate, and that in the very worst place that could have been chosen—the loading entrance of the H.P.A. Depot, in a nasty wind, in the depth of winter. I regret that my interest in seeing Unmelted Foundation and Comb run from his Reducer took my attention from the fire; but the fire was Mr. Smedley's affair, not mine! He neither asked me to attend to it nor did he thank me for so doing, but seemed to take for granted that it was my job, and never put hand to either fire or boiler when it was my turn to demonstrate (which was impossible) with a boiler meant for a Reducer only as small as Smedley's, and which could never have been expected to keep at melting point of beeswax a surface of twenty-seven square feet, of which surface the two bodies of comb I had could not more than half cover, so that the heat radiating from the uncovered portion of the tubes was wasting. Of course, Smedley's Reducer has a much larger outside surface in proportion to its melting surface than the GLUTTON, which has only the two outside surfaces of the two outside tubes, whereas Smedley's Reducer has the whole of the largest circumference of the whole Reducer exposed to waste its heat. If he should argue that such surface could be lagged, then that argument applies to any pattern—only the GLUTTON would require a vastly smaller proportion of such lagging—only a little under one-sixth of the whole reducing surface, Smedley's requiring the largest of the three surfaces lagging, and that an awkward circular-sloping one; therefore Smedley's Reducer has over 40 per cent. of heat-radiating surface, while GLUTTON has less than 16 per cent. **Mind! you can work GLUTTON with Primus Stoves if you rather would; it is made either way.**

Summarising this Matter.

Cappings could (if necessary) be melted in a frying-pan, so that any Reducer capable of melting cappings only is a waste of hard cash.

The same argument applies to clean combs.

The perfect Reducer, which, like the B.-M. PATTERN, cannot be blocked up, must be able to deal with every black comb which foul-brood compels the unfortunate victim of that disaster to reduce.

We claim that when it comes to a Reducer having to accommodate and melt such black brood-nest combs, Mr. Smedley's Reducer will fall down worse than merely letting Unmelted Foundation and Comb run away not reduced. We claim that the GLUTTON (or any other size of our Reducers), having regard to its advertised capacity and price, will run rings around Smedley's Reducer. In fact, we THINK Smedley's Reducer is practically useless for black combs when black combs only are being melted. We will not have any "truck" with capping or

clean comb reduction. We are out to supply beekeepers with a Reducer which is not a mere "Fair Weather Friend." Our Reducers will handle whatever about an apiary may need melting.

If our GLUTTON does not do with the same one-horse-power boiler which Mr. Turbot and I arranged to be supplied at the H.P.A. Demonstration—and which did not turn up—more than Mr. Smedley's Reducer, which he states "is equal to Mr. Miller's GLUTTON in capacity," then we forfeit another ten pounds (£10) to the funds of the National Beekeepers' Association.

What is more, Smedley can have the same 1 h.p. boiler to use for his Reducer. When reduction of combs with a gigantic Reducer such as GLUTTON has to be done, to talk about economising by using a boiler which supplies only a little more steam than Smedley's Reducer can use, is the method of a bungler.

How any man can make so egregious a mistake as to state that a Reducer having 27 square feet of melting surface is only equal to one having about 7 square feet passes my comprehension.

However, Smedley has balked our five solid months' advertising for a competition, but we think we have him now where he must put up a fight, or for ever hold his tongue.

Do not Forget.

FOUR HOURS' RUN. ONLY BLACK COMBS.
£10 to the National funds if GLUTTON Loses!

Our Only Agency.

Persuaded of the superiority of the BARTLETT-MILLER REDUCERS, the N.Z. Honey Producers' Association is now stocking most of our sizes.

Customers may send to either location, as freight may be savable by their distance from either warehouse.

The H.P.A. have price-lists and literature treating of the use and capacities of the various sizes.

Young Queens.

Having sold out our Honey Production Plant, we have for immediate delivery FIFTY (ONLY) QUEENS reared for us from the stock supplied by the H.P.A. in December last year. As we have not got one square inch of comb to put these queens upon, we have to sell them.

At this time of year, when queenless colonies might be worth a couple of sovereigns if only a queen were available for them, the opportunity to obtain them will be snapped up at once, so that if you can do with any or all of them, you would be well advised to wire both cash and order if you expect to obtain them before they are all gone, for they are offered only subject to previous sale, and orders will be executed in strict rotation, and for cash with order only.

Do not Mistake.

These Queens are from H.P.A. stock. They are NOT our GENETIC strain, of which it will be (at present calculations) some four or five years before the full experiment is concluded.

The price of the fifty we offer is eight shillings each—for one or the whole lot, and that beekeeper who cannot make eight shillings out of a colony worth saving from queenlessness at this time of year had better give beekeeping best.

We have not sold our Foundation Rollers yet. At present disparity between prices of Wax and Foundation, there ought to be a real good thing in making one's own Foundation; and the cost of the outfit would be made up in one batch.

Both Plain and Embossed Rolls. £25 f.o.r. Te Awamutu. Cash or order on H.P.A.

Loyal Work by the Waipa Bee Club.

Per medium of its President (Mr. Bartlett-Miller), the Waipa Bee Club is enclosing in all THOROUGHWORK advertising matter an appeal for subscriptions to this paper.

We believe in proving that we can show other Branches of our beloved Association something worth emulating. The National prints the appeal; we post them.

We mention this fact so that any present subscriber receiving a copy of the appeal may not feel offended, for it would entail too great a pressure of work in our office to go through the mailing list of the Journal, and tick off the name of every present subscriber from our private mailing list.

We feel sure that, though advisable, it is scarcely necessary to advise our friends of this. Still, better do so than give offence where only assistance is intended.

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