

E. A. Fay

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Apiary of Mr. L. Irwin, Woodlands, Southland

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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 11

VOL. 5

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

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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.

Owing to urgent business connected with the branches desiring immediate attention, the President felt it was necessary to call the members of the Executive together to discuss the position, so that not only the branches, but also all members should see that their elected body is doing its best in the interests of the industry.

The full report of the meeting will be found elsewhere, and we hope the conclusions arrived at will give satisfaction to all concerned.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution have been found necessary, owing to the increased activity of the National and its branches.

The alteration of the closing of the financial year from May 31st to March 31st was necessary, as the holding of the Annual Conference early in June did not give either the branch or the general

secretaries a fair chance to present their accounts in time. Under the proposed alterations this will be obviated.

The personnel of the Executive is also to be subject to slight alteration—the Secretary-Treasurer to be appointed by the Executive, and not at the Annual Conference, as under the existing Constitution, and will not vote as a member of the Executive; the actual number of Executive members to be six.

The proposed alterations as to the voting powers of members are very necessary. It may be democratic to have one man one vote, but we think that circumstances alter cases. We do not think it the best thing for the industry that a man owning one hive for a hobby should have the same power in voting as one owning three or four hundred, perhaps more, who is in the line for a livelihood. Foulbrood and the prevention thereof is not a very serious matter to the former, but it is the vital question to the latter, and in any question on this the man to whom the issue means most should have the greater power. The alterations even as they stand give the small man a very "square deal."

The delegates' voting power at the Conferences is clearly defined, also that of the direct members of the National. Of course, it is understood that this individual vote is not necessary with ordinary motions brought forward, but on any particular matter that calls for a vote of the individual members the actual voting power many be demanded.

The proposal to establish a Fighting Fund for the benefit of any member sued in Court for alleged damage done by his bees is left as a voluntary fund. Some branches wanted the fund established and some did not. To us this implies that a non-subscriber would not have the same call on the fund as one who had regularly subscribed—on the same principle as insuring against loss by fire, which is not compulsory, but prudent and desirable. The suggestion is that whatever funds are received will be placed in the P.O. Savings Bank and kept entirely separate for the one purpose intended.

On the question of the proposed Apiaries Registration Fee (which is now the title of the proposal), we are quite prepared for a howl of indignation to go up when it is seen that in the latest form to be presented to the Government the owners up to three colonies are to be exempt from taxation, but not from registration. Had you been outside the meeting room you probably would have heard groans similar to those issuing from a dental chamber—something being extracted under great feeling. We want our friends to realize that the members of the Executive fully appreciate what they have done, and put it forward as the very best possible solution of an extremely difficult question. There were two at least very strong arguments for the action taken. The first is that the cost of collecting the minimum and the three shillings of the three-hive man would, after deducting all charges against the return, result in a net gain of somewhere about £8, which made it

clear that as far as the actual means to attain our end wasn't worth considering. Then you have the attitude of the hobbyist protesting very strongly against paying any registration fee at all, and the consideration that would be given by members of Parliament to any objections raised by their constituents; therefore, by exempting these we sweep away one of the chief forces of opposition likely to be brought against the proposals.

It will, we think, be granted that even one hive, not to mention three, properly managed, will give the owner a profitable surplus to market. It is not, therefore, an injustice when he has increased his ownership to four that we ask him to pay a registration fee, as it will be in a certain measure due to the payments of other beekeepers of that number of hives and over to create a fund to supply additional inspectors, and thus keep disease in check, that he has been enabled to increase his number of colonies.

The proposal can now go to the Government as a measure that will not press at all on the hobbyist and small man, and will prove of benefit to them, although they do not assist in bringing about the improved conditions.

There is another aspect. Seeing that we have asked the Government again and again for the appointment of inspectors to control disease, they might without any suggestion on our part enforce a registration fee to enable them to meet our wishes. This the recent amendment to the Apiaries Act allows them to do, and should they take this step the National would not benefit by any financial help.

Now, supposing the proposals get carried through with the exemption stated, after, say, a year's working with increased inspection, it will be found if there is any improvement in the control of disease, and statistics should be available to find out where the chief sources of infection are. If, as most of us believe, the up-to-three hive man is responsible, we have a clear case to present to the Government for his inclusion in the payment of a registration fee, and the opposition have no case for argument.

Both Dr Reakes and Mr Campbell, of the Department, were very anxious to do the very best for the industry, and the Editor is confident that the proposal as it now stands is the best possible arrangement that could be come to.

There is one thing absolutely certain: with the financial outlook to-day there is not the slightest hope of getting any further appointments made in the Apiaries Division. The indications are altogether the other way, and it is quite possible that retrenchment and not enlargement of staff will be the order. The Government is looking all ways to find money to carry on. We are suggesting means for getting some.

We all, whether in favour of the imposition of a registration fee or not, are agreed that the staff employed to study our interests in the control of disease is not sufficient. We must all agree that

to go to the Government for an increased staff during the present depression would be foolishness, as the financial returns prove the expenditure greater than the revenue. The imposition of a registration fee gives both parties a chance of bringing about the desired end.

The Department is wanting a copy of the Report of the 1920 Annual Conference, which we are unable to supply. The Editor would be grateful for a copy from anyone who can spare it.

We have received the new season's price list from the Alliance Box Company, Ltd., Dunedin, and are pleased to note that the prices in most of the lines show a slight decrease. With the imported appliances, which come chiefly from America, the adverse rate of exchange keeps the prices fairly high; but we do not advise anyone to wait for a further drop. Now is the time to secure the season's supplies, or perhaps when you require them they may not be procurable.

Market Reports.

Honey.—Since our last report there has been a little movement in this article, 1,600 barrels of Chilean having changed hands at from 22s 6d to 52s 6d per cwt.

There are still a good many weak sellers about who want to get rid of their holdings, and are inclined to take low prices. Shippers abroad are, we understand, inclined to be firmer in their demands; but that, however, does not govern prices here.

The local demand is very poor indeed, and most sales that are made are for export to the Continent. Altogether the position of the honey market, as of all other markets, cannot be said to be brilliant, as the world is gradually settling down to pre-war prices in everything. After all, what has really happened to cause it to be otherwise? Most people have thought that everything should be appraised on a higher basis of value, but as to why it should be so no one can give you an intelligent reply.

Beeswax.—The market for this is very quiet, and little business is being transacted. We quote Jamaican £7 10s to £8, and West African £4 10s to £5 per cwt. Of course summertime is always a very quiet time for everything. We should hope, however, to see a brighter state of things in the course of two or three months. There is plenty of room for it.

TAYLOR AND CO.

Liverpool, 3rd August, 1921.

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

Auckland.—Good rains recently have brightened the prospects for the coming

season. Bees are now building up well. Early sections of ti tree honey are now on the market, prices being from 11s to 12s per dozen. Beeswax is realising up to 2s per lb.

G. V. WESTBROOKE.

Wellington.—There is every indication that the coming season will be a dry one. The past two months have been warm and bright and more devoid of moisture than usual, the general effect being early brood-rearing and colonies in a forward condition. It is to be hoped the summer will be showery to keep the flora in good heart, and thus assure a surplus crop. No more honey is coming forward for export. Beeswax is quoted at 2s 3d per lb. Section honey is scarce. Prices for extracted honey are firm.

F. A. JACOBSEN.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—Generally the conditions have greatly improved since last month's report. Excellent rains have been experienced, and the prospects in North and South Canterbury are good. Fine weather has enabled the bees to work the early spring blossoms. In the willow districts a fine flow is being experienced. Colonies are building up well. Bulk honey is scarce. Sections, few offering. Pat honey is coming forward, and the demand is good. The market for beeswax is quiet. Small parcels are being quoted at 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.]

November is a very busy time for beekeepers, as the hives are now (or should be) full of brood and bees ready for the flow which in the north commences during this month, either about the middle or the latter end, according to the season, and this promises to be an early one.

If you want to increase by natural swarming allow the bees to get a little crowded, and in all probability you will find queen cells started. It is generally understood that the old queen leads off the swarm on the sealing of the first queen cell, which takes place on the eighth day from the laying of the egg in the cell, so it will be necessary to watch out for the swarm about that time.

As a rule the old queen doesn't fly very far, and the swarm will settle close at hand. Some people still believe in "tanging," and as far as I can see no harm can be done in making a "roisy noise," even if it has no effect in causing the bees to settle quickly.

The swarm having settled, it is best to get them hived as soon as possible, particularly if they should settle in the sun, as they probably would soon decamp.

Secure a light box, hold it under the swarm, and with a fairly smart blow dislodge the bees into the box. Turn the box gently upside down in a shady spot, putting blocks under the sides to allow plenty of ventilation, and leave them till sundown, when they can be shaken into a hive fitted with full sheets of foundation and placed on their permanent stand.

To prevent after swarms it is advisable to go through the hive that swarmed and crush all the queen cells except one, the finest looking, long and fat, as it is by the virgins hatching and leading out swarms that causes these after swarms. By leaving only one cell the virgin usually becomes the mother of the hive without further trouble.

This is a splendid time for treating foul brood disease, as the bees will very soon recover the shock, with the honey coming in as it probably will be.

If you do not want increase manipulate the hive on the Demaree principle, as explained in last month's issue.

"Please give directions to beginners how to proceed with section raising. I always look for and appreciate 'Beginners' Notes' in Journal."—Mrs A. H. Tompkins, Tukikaramea.

Although raising honey in sections gives one the article ready for market as soon as finished, it must be understood that it calls for more attention than when working for extracted honey.

First, you must have particularly strong hives, almost at swarming point, and yet without allowing them to swarm. The late Dr Miller, one of the most successful men at raising sections, aimed at getting a two-storied, eight-framed hive full of brood and bees, then he would shake every bee down into the lower brood chamber and place his section boxes on, and the bees, if they wanted to be inside at all, were compelled to occupy these; and thus he got over the difficulty often met with of the bees not going up into the sections. One is often asked why the bees won't work the sections, and the answer in nine cases out of ten is that the hive isn't strong enough in numbers. For one must recognise that with sections a large number of the bees must stay at home clustering to work the foundation into comb, and that calls for another large number being out in the fields gathering sufficient for this and the general upkeep of the hive, with its thousands of larvae to be fed; therefore it can easily be seen why raising section honey is not exactly an easy thing to do successfully.

So the first essential is to have your hives very strong, this being accomplished by allowing the queen two brood chambers, which when well filled the upper one should be removed after shaking the bees off, and the hatching brood can be placed in any hive that needs a little help. Having done this a queen excluder must be put on over the brood chamber, else the chances are that the queen will come up and lay in the sections, putting them

right out of marketable form. Now put on your sections, and if the hive is very strong put on two supers, because if your manipulation cramps the bees for room they will immediately prepare to swarm, which is just what you want to avoid. As soon as the bees are occupying the centre sections well and honey is coming in freely, place another super between this and the brood chamber, and shift some of the well-filled sections to the sides of the hive, placing those from the sides in their place. As soon as the rack of sections is completed, remove and place in a warm dry atmosphere until marketed. A damp atmosphere will cause the sections to "weep" and spoil the appearance. F.C.B.

Meeting of the Executive.

A meeting of the members of the Executive was held in Wellington on Monday, October 17th. There were present: Mr T. W. Kirk (President), Messrs Barker, Irwin, Bates, Hutchinson, and Baines. An apology was received from Mr T. G. Clark, who was, owing to pressure of work, unable to be present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

The Secretary gave figures indicating a small credit balance in funds.

The correspondence from the branches dealing with the question of the proposed Apiary Tax was read.

Mr L. Irwin stated that he had addressed a meeting of the Taieri Branch on this matter, and had been able to clear up certain misunderstandings.

Amendments to Constitution.—The following alterations are suggested:—Clause 6 to read: "Subscriptions to the Association are due and payable on April 1st in each year, and must be paid within two calendar months from that date. Members who do not resign by notice under their hand on or before May 31st in any year shall be deemed to be members of the Association for that year, and their subscriptions shall be due and payable." Clause 10.—This is to read as follows:—"Prior to the Annual Meeting every branch may nominate a representative to serve on the Executive, which shall consist of not more than six members, including the President and Vice-president. From the nominations so made the meeting shall elect four members. Should not sufficient nominations be received, the quota shall be made good from members attending the Annual Meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be a permanent officer. His appointment, remuneration, and removal being entirely in the hands of the Executive, subject to three months' notice on either side." Clause 17 to read:—"At the Annual or Special General Meetings delegates may represent the District Branch and vote on the following basis:—One vote for every financial member owning up to 25 colonies, and one additional vote for every

25 or part thereof thereafter. The official delegate shall exercise the total voting power of the branch. In the event of a branch not being able to send one of their own members as a delegate to the Annual or Special General Meeting, it may appoint any member of the National Association to act. (Note.—The delegate's certificate from a branch must state—(a) The number of members who are financial; (b) the total number of hives owned by such members; (c) the number of votes to which the delegate is entitled.) The certificate to be signed by the Branch President and Secretary. Members of the National who are not members of a branch shall have the same voting powers—i.e., one vote for every 25 colonies or part thereof, and such votes may be exercised by a duly authorised proxy."

On the question of a postal ballot for the election of the Executive.—In view of (1) the opposing view of the branches and (2) of the Executive's recommendation to amend Clause 17 of the Constitution, which amendment the Executive is confident will meet the views of the branches, it was decided not to proceed further with the matter of a postal ballot.

The proposals offered at the last Conference by Mr W. B. Bray for the acquisition of apiary sites.—It was resolved that—"In view of the pressure of work before Parliament this session, it was decided it would be more politic to defer action on this matter until after next election."

The Establishment of a Fighting Fund.—The Executive, realising that urgent cases may arise when assistance may be demanded from this fund, and in view of a considerable amount of opposition to this fund being made compulsory, the Executive recommends that a voluntary contribution on the scale suggested of one shilling per apiary per year be made, and the branches are recommended to support the proposal and invite subscriptions. Any application for assistance in fighting a case must be made to the Executive through a local branch.

Apiaries Registration Fee.—The Executive, after discussion with the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture (Dr Reakes) and the Director of the Horticultural Division (Mr J. A. Campbell), decided that the proposals for this fee be modified as follows:—(1) That all owners of three colonies of bees and under be exempt from taxation, but not from registration. That the following registration fees are suggested:—Up to 10 colonies, 5s per year; 11 to 25 colonies, 10s per year; 26 to 50 colonies, 15s per year; 51 to 75 colonies, 20s per year; 76 to 100 colonies, 25s per year. An additional 10s for each 50 or portion thereof above 100.

Prevalence of Foul Brood.—That, in view of the prevalence of foul brood disease throughout the Dominion, the Department be asked to post its leaflet on this disease to every registered beekeeper.

Place of Conference:—The next Conference to be held in Christchurch on June 7, 8, and 9, 1922.

Mr W. E. Barker kindly offered to meet the members of the Canterbury and Rangiora Branches and Mr L. Irwin the members of the Clutha Valley and Taieri Branches on their homeward journey to lay before them the decisions of the Executive on the matters contained in their correspondence.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

Prosecutions Under the Apiaries Act.

George McKay, of Te Houka, charged with assaulting G. P. Brogan, Apiary Instructor, in the execution of his duty, was fined £6 and £2 17s costs at Balclutha.

Lye Bow (a Chinese) was fined 10s and 7s costs at Alexandra.

A. Rodewig, W. Beccord, and J. A. Cruickshank were each fined 10s and 7s costs and expenses (15s) for breaches of the Apiaries Act.

District Reports.

TARANAKI.

Since my last notes we have had most sorts of weather, commencing with some really fine mild weather, accompanied by a light flow which has put the bees in good heart, and lately rain and more rain has been the order. Therefore we look forward with greater hopes to a successful season.

It seems a pity to me that there is such a split in the ranks of the National. It looks to me as though in certain quarters a difference of opinion has led to the trouble.

Now, discussion on a certain subject is barred, but I would like to say that I was not at the Conference when it was discussed; but if, as our esteemed correspondent from Taieri tells us, his Association has been affronted, then surely if our Secretary and Executive are the men I feel sure they are he can get the matter settled amicably.

If it is a matter of difference of opinion, surely we can agree to differ and work on for the good of the industry.

Now, I do not think the commercial men are the "darlings of the hour"; but I do think if we want to improve the industry by Government assistance that it's to the commercial men that the Government will look. The amateurs will certainly get nowhere, and the commercials will not get so far on their own. United we stand, etc., and then we might get somewhere.

I don't agree with B.H.H. that the amateurs of to-day are the future commercial men. They certainly have been

in the past (lacking a better system); but to-day the bulk of commercial men are going straight in per medium of a period of apprenticeship, and what few amateurs build up usually owe their success to that horrible commercial man, who with all his faults will go out of his way to help the small man and give him advice, often help, and all his time-saving methods gratis.

Of course they make mistakes, but at least the mistakes bring greater hardship on themselves than anyone; but, generally speaking, they don't go far wrong, and many an amateur in about ten years' time may say: "They knew after all." So let us pull together, and if we do want most of the pie, guess we provide the most plums.

An amusing incident happened at the dinner at the Conference in Auckland. One gentleman was asked if he was going to join the National again. "I get nothing out of the National," was the reply. On inquiry from our Secretary I found he had paid one year's sub., of which the National got 1s 3d, and he was at the time enjoying a 1s 6d dinner free.

Now that fellow did not think. We'll some think, but don't know. Others don't even bother to think what the National has done for them.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 16/10/21.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

Since our last report our district has had a bountiful supply of rain that has made a wonderful difference to the pastures. The prospects for a honey crop are now very bright; may it be so. A business meeting was held on the 13th October. A vote of sympathy was passed to Mr Hopkins in his bereavement, members standing. A letter was received from Mr J. A. Campbell, Director of the Horticulture Division, stating that it was not the intention of the Department to appoint a Chief Apiarist at present. Mr Gilling's claims would be considered amongst others when the appointment was made. The Secretary reported having interviewed the Winter Show Association re altering their show schedule for honey to put in a class for competitive districts exhibits, space allotment for each exhibit to be 6ft x 4ft. We are hoping the different districts will take this matter up and make a show worth while. Schedule will appear in December Journal.

Our annual Field Day has been fixed for February the 8th, permission to be asked from the Department for it to be held at the State Apiary, Ruakura, as usual, and it is to take the form of a basket picnic, tea and soft drinks only to be provided. The Department of Agriculture is to be sent the following resolution:—"That they be asked to appoint a Resident Inspector for the Waikato district; also that six temporary Inspectors should be appointed for a period of three months to work in Auckland province."

A. H. DAVIES.

16/10/21.

HAWKE'S BAY.

It is reported from all over the district that the hives are strong in bees and in stores. The winter has been a sunny one, and exceptionally free from severe storms, so there has been nothing to retard brood-rearing or the gathering of the early honey. This came in great abundance from the willows, and also from fruit bloom. Bush shrubs flowered profusely, and hives in bush districts have fared equally as well as those on the plains.

Rain has been general during this last week throughout the province, and a great growth of clover is assured. May the spring showers continue to come frequently, even into the honey season!

There has been a great clean-up in this locality during the month. Mr Jacobson, on inspection work, found several cases of disease; but the owners of these unhealthy hives are realising at last that our Apiary Instructors intend their notices to be followed out. We are pleased to be able to report the gradual lessening of foul brood, and hope shortly to have our district free.

JAMES P. BOYLE.

17/10/21.

RANGIORA.

This branch held a pleasant afternoon's demonstration of the McEvoy treatment of foul brood at Mr Manning's Apiary on Thursday, September 22nd. Mr E. A. Earp officiated, and he had a very attentive hearing. There was an attendance of eighteen beekeepers, and they were all very keenly interested in what Mr Earp had to say and show them. It is a great pity that the branches cannot get hold of the casual beekeepers to attend these functions, and demonstrate to them the way to get rid of foul brood, and also to increase their supply of honey.

Mr Earp was accorded a vote of thanks for his address and demonstration, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr and Mrs Manning for the use of their Apiary and for the kind hospitality that was accorded to all present.

We intend to hold another demonstration in November on swarm control and spring management.

J. G. COOK, Hon. Secretary.

26/9/21.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

It is a common saying that one can have too much of a good thing, and Canterbury is experiencing the truth of this axiom at the present time. After a particularly good winter and early spring we are now having the wettest September and October I can remember in my beekeeping experience. Rain set in on September 17th, and since then till the time of writing (October

15th) we have not had three consecutive fine days. Out of 13 days in October, from the 3rd to the 15th, there was rain on 10 of them, totalling a few points short of 2in. The rainfall to date is 20.586in, compared with 21.544in during the corresponding period last year. Fears were expressed before the weather broke in September that we were in for an early spring and dry season; now it looks as if the bees will not be able to build up to their best form if warm, sunny weather comes on soon. I have seen the statement that if the hive contains plenty of stores that brood-rearing will go on in spite of bad weather conditions. Well, I can only say in reference to this (and I expect I shall have some of the veterans after my scalp for saying so) that it does not tally with my experience. Quite a number of my colonies have queens reared last year and more than the usual amount of stores, and yet there is not the amount of brood I should like to see. My theory on the subject is this: If the weather is fit for the bees to gather pollen, then, if there is plenty of stores, brood-rearing will go on. During the period under review the willows were blooming (they are nearly over now, worse luck); but as the foregoing will indicate the bees were not able to fly, and herein I think will be found the reason why brood-rearing is backward.

The editor mentioned in last month's issue that I had moved my apiary from Lakeside to the Rangiora district. The job was done by motor pantechnicon (four big loads), and everything went without a hitch. It will take a good while to get the apiary into apple-pie order, but I should just like to say here that a call from any of the "craft" in the Rangiora district will be appreciated and a hearty welcome is extended. The apiary is on the old creamery site which belonged to the Central Dairy Company, alongside what is known as the drain between Ohoka and Flaxton. As the site is freehold I contemplate establishing out-apiaries as soon as I am properly settled, unless I find that the district will carry my present number of colonies. If I were 25 years younger I should not hesitate; but I can't put back the hand of time, so must make the best of my remaining years.

Reference has been made to sweet clover as a honey plant in the pages of the "Journal" lately, so it will be in order if I say what I know about it. About five years ago I got ½b each of the yellow and white biennial varieties from America. I sowed it broadcast at one end of my garden after digging in the ordinary way. After sowing I just raked it in and awaited developments. We had a spell of dry weather at this time, and I began to think it was a failure; but eventually, after rain, it came away all right, and I got a splendid strike. I saved the seed, and several beekeeping friends got some from me; but whether they did any good with it I am unable to say. Perhaps if any who got seed from me would give their experience it would be of interest. For about a year there has been a good

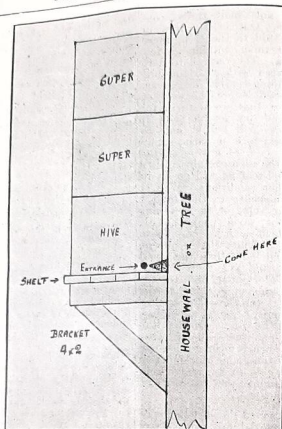
deal of interest taken in America in a new variety of sweet clover. It is an annual, and is known as "Hubam." The pages of "Gleanings" contain a great deal of information about it, and I wrote to the A. I. Root Company for some. They sent me a small pinch to try, which I sowed in rows on August 31. I'm afraid it is a failure. However, about a fortnight later I received from the De Graff Food Company, who are handling the seed commercially, sufficient to sow about one-sixteenth of an acre. I am having enough ground cultivated at the apiary to sow the seed I have, and intend to give it a good trial. It is said that it will flower in from three to four months after sowing, and remain in bloom longer than any other variety known. I will keep readers posted as to my success or otherwise from time to time. I intend to try to interest neighbouring farmers in this matter, and if they take it up as enthusiastically as is done in some parts of America it should be a good thing for beekeepers.

I picked the first white clover bloom on October 6th, and a few days later noticed a bee working on another head. It is now showing up conspicuously, and if the weather should warm up there should be "something doing" after such an abundant rainfall. Fortunately there has not been any cold weather in spite of the rain and dull grey skies, so we will keep on smiling. The late Dr C. C. Miller says that he planned to put on supers about 10 days after the appearance of the first clover bloom. That may be all right at Marengo, but it would not suit Canterbury conditions.

I have been wondering how the fruit crop will fare this season. At the risk of being thought "ratty" I must refer to the weather again. There have been very few good bee days during fruit bloom, and I should imagine that the effect will appear when harvest time comes. This is a preliminary to the introduction of the following extract from "Gleanings" for August, 1921:—"There is one orchardman in this State [New Jersey] who is planning to pay him [a beekeeper] 500 dollars [say £100] next year to have him place 100 colonies of bees in his orchard." This will simply be a rental, and Mr Horner (the beekeeper) will have the bees returned to his own place after the three weeks' blossom time is over. This shows the value of bees in Agriculture. The orchard referred to covers 60 acres.

Our little "Journal" will have a world-wide reputation before long, surely. It must be gratifying to the Editor to get letters of appreciation from such widely separate countries as England, America, Mexico, and South Africa. I am always interested in reading over the names of subscribers, and we have one or more in each of the countries named I see.

[We are also trying the "Hubam" sweet clover.—Ed.]



To get Bees out of a House or Tree.

I wish to finish the article on this subject in the "N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal" for July 1st, 1921. It is all right as far as it goes, excepting that a Porter Bee Escape is much to be preferred to a wire cone, as bees will often find their way back through it. The Porter Bees Escape is in general use in the United States for emptying supers of bees when removing comb honey or extracting.

Make a strong bracket shelf, with bottom of hive which rests on it close to the escape. This shelf should be capable of supporting 200lb weight or more. Put

on this the hive containing queen and bees. This is to be left 30 days or more, so that all the brood is hatched.

Now remove the escape and blow into the cavity the fumes of burning sulphur, and a smoker may be used for this purpose. When the queen and remaining bees have been killed smear a little honey where the escape was, when the bees will carry out the honey and store it in the hive outside.

There may be a hundred pounds or more of honey in the cavity, which is why the shelf must be made strong enough to support a heavy weight. The writer knows of one case where 400lb of honey was secured from a house wall.

A. F. BONNEY.

Buck Grove, Iowa, U.S.A.,
8th August, 1921.

Foundation Making.

Would you oblige by setting one right with a few hints on foundation making through your "Journal"? Re the slab method recently published, the trouble I meet in the slab method is that bubbles appear on the surface, or, in other words, the wax does not join up too well, leaving when finished holes in the foundation, though fairly pliable foundation. As for the dipping method, when finished and cold the wax is very brittle. Is it possible

to make up foundation with only the embossed machine, owing to the excessive price of machines?—I am, etc..

J. PERRING.

Mr H. Bryans, the writer of the article on the slab method, replies as follows:—

—Comb Foundation: Slab Method.—

The melted wax when poured into the mould refusing to join up and form a complete slab of wax is caused by using too small a quantity of wax in proportion to the size of the mould. This method is not suitable for use without smooth rolls.

—Dipping Method.—

Mr F. C. Baines, in an excellent article appearing in the "Journal" for February, 1919, page 25, describes this method so fully and clearly that there is really nothing to add, except perhaps in the description for removal of the sheets from the dipping board. If they are immersed in a vat or vessel containing water at a temperature of 112deg. F., and as much higher as is found workable, the brittleness of the sheets will be considerably reduced. Our friend would be well advised to stick to the dipping method, at least until such time as appliances have been considerably reduced in price.

Beekeeping as an Occupation for Women.

By E. G. WARD.

(Note.—The following was given as an address before the members of the Canterbury Branch.)

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It was my original intention to have given an address on this subject at the last Field Day of the Canterbury Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association held last February at Avonhead, but time did not allow of its being included in the programme.

Mr Pope, our worthy President, who has a good memory, reminded me at our last meeting of my promise of an address on the subject, and having also, like Father O'Flynn, "such a way wid him," I simply had to bow to the inevitable.

The choice of a subject to give an address on was a matter of no small difficulty when you remember that the whole occupation of beekeeping has been written about, talked about, and I might almost say squabbled about, till it seems sometimes as if the last word had been said.

However, some ladies visited my Apiary at Lakeside last summer, and one of them, who contemplates taking up beekeeping for a living, turned me pretty well inside out with questions. I may just say here that it always gives me genuine pleasure to be of service in this direction, and I nearly had an attack of "swelled head" after the ladies left; but Mrs Ward has an antidote for that.

Well, then, to come to the point. The visit of the ladies suggested the subject for the address to which you have been invited to listen to-night.

It is stated in almost all text books on beekeeping that "women can keep bees," and I'm not going to dispute it for a moment; but there are a good many erroneous ideas afloat on the part of both women and men that perhaps the little

I have to say will help to enlighten them. If you keep bees for a hobby there's lots of fun in it, but I take it for granted that some of my listeners are concerned chiefly with the commercial aspect of the question. I will deal with the matter from this standpoint.

The first essential for success in any industry is a love for the work. If money-making is your sole object, I am afraid there are so many obstacles that you will say "the game isn't worth the candle." That universally known and beloved friend of all true beekeepers, the late Dr C. C. Miller, said that he had no doubt he could have made more money at other occupations, but he would not have had half the fun. He loved his work if ever man did.

Granted, then, that you have taken a liking for the work—in other words, that you have got the "bee fever"—it is necessary to get some experience before launching out "on your own," to use a common expression; and if it is possible for you to get a season with a successful commercial beekeeper, I don't think there is a better line of conduct open. You will then find out that text books do not contain all that is necessary to know. During this term of apprenticeship you will find there is plenty of hard work, plenty of stings, plenty of fun (sometimes); and if the season proves a failure, plenty of disappointment for the apiarist, which you need not share unless you intend sharing the profits.

Let us suppose you have now decided to strike out for yourself. You will have to find a suitable location, and, contrary to the belief of many, bees cannot be made to pay everywhere. The securing of a location is not always an easy matter. Many people have such an aversion to bees that as soon as you mention the word they fly off at a tangent. Here is a situation where a lady should have an advantage over the mere man. She is usually credited with a good share of the persuasive quality, and might succeed where the opposite sex would fail. The best locations are not as a rule found near the town; so if you are fond of the attractions of the town you must be prepared to make a sacrifice if you are really in earnest in your desire to adopt beekeeping for a living. If you only want to keep a few lives—say, up to 10 or 12—then, provided you are living well in the outskirts, you ought to be able to succeed in getting a fair return.

For a commercial apiary a dairying district will generally be found the best. Clover is plentiful in most parts of Canterbury, and if you can get near some native bush it will be found an advantage for spring feed. A good many people think that there is no hard work in beekeeping, but when you go into the business seriously you will find this idea is a fallacy. Keeping 10 or 12 hives as a side line is quite a different matter to running 100 to 150 for a living. In handling the crop from a small number you can go leisurely to work and handle a few frames at a time. When you work

the larger number this would be too slow a process. You must handle supers, and supers full of honey are a good solid proposition. Suppose, for illustration, you have a crop of five tons to extract, tin off and pack ready for market, you will find that you have had to lift five tons quite a number of times before you can lift the cheque in payment for it. If you cannot do the hard work you must employ labour, and that is not always easy to get when wanted, and, of course, costs money. My chief desire in drawing attention to these matters is not to discourage ladies who have a fancy for the keeping of bees, but to point out some of the difficulties which a woman has not so good a chance of overcoming as a man. As far as the technicalities of the occupation are concerned, there is no reason why a woman should not succeed equally as well as a man; but there are quite a number of things which crop up where a handy man is much better than a hardy woman. There is a good deal of scope for the use of carpentering tools, and occasionally plumbing tools; and although I have heard of ladies who are reported to be quite experts in the use of both these kinds of tools, I should hesitate to entrust one with a good many of the jobs which must be done by the beekeeper or someone paid for his services.

Let us suppose that some one of you has got the "bee fever" so badly that you feel you really must take up the business. If you have the commercial instinct—and I might just as well say here that you will find that L s d. must be kept in view all the time—then your first thought will be, What will it cost to establish me in an apiary out of which I can make my living? You will consider, How much per annum can I earn on the average? Suppose you say I'll be content with £150 per annum. Then to secure this income you will need enough bees to give you an average crop of three tons per annum, at a net value of £50 per ton. Now, let us estimate the number of colonies required. You perhaps have read of phenomenal crops having been harvested, and that may have had a good deal to do with you having got the "bee fever" so badly; but please keep the old Scotch advice well in mind—"Go canny." It is perfectly true that large crops have been obtained, and specially good colonies have stored very large quantities, but it is the average you have to depend on. Probably I could astonish some of you by telling you what some of my colonies have done, and so can every beekeeper who has been in the business, say 10 to 25 years; but I could also send your spirits down to zero if I told you some of the crops they have not gathered. I am trying to give you both sides of the proposition.

I should say, then, that if you were to establish a 100-colony apiary and get an average crop of three tons per annum you were doing well.

Now, let us work out the cost of an apiary of this size. We will suppose you have secured a location. By the time your bees were in position they would be

worth £2 per colony in one storey hives. You would need at least two extra supers of combs for each, worth 15s a super; a honey tank holding a ton, £5; extractor, according to size, £15 to £40; engine, say, £30, unless you use a hand-power extractor. Uncapping box, knives, oil stove, and quite a number of sundries too numerous to mention, as the auctioneers' advertisements say, running into, say, £15. Here you have a total outlay of—

	£	s.	d.
100 colonies of bees at £2 each	200	0	0
200 super of combs at 15s each	150	0	0
Extractor	15	0	3
Tank	5	0	0
Sundries, say,	15	0	0
Honey house	15	0	0
Total	£400	0	0

If instead of a hand extractor you used an engine and four-frame power extractor, you would need to add about £50 to the above. Therefore to go into an apiary estimated to return £150 per annum on the average you must spend about £450. As a business proposition your £450 is worth 6 per cent., and you should allow 4 per cent. for upkeep and depreciation. From these figures you will see that your expense of running an apiary of 100 colonies is £45 per annum, so that really speaking your net income would be £105 per annum if everything pans out as estimated. From the experience I have had I really think these figures give rather an optimistic view of the situation. If they mean anything, they mean that there is a return of a little over £1 per colony per annum, and one of my chief regrets is that I have not kept accurate accounts of my income and expenditure, so that I could tell you definitely how my beekeeping business has paid. Therefore, to go back to our first proposition, if we base our calculation on a return of £150 per annum, and we get a return of £1 per colony per annum, we must have about 150 colonies of bees, and be prepared to put about £500 into the business.

I am quite well aware that there are plenty who will be ready to challenge these figures, but I want to say that I am sneaking of everything being new and the best of its kind. If you want to economise you can do so by buying second-hand goods; but I am not trying to show you how to go to work in the cheapest way, but in such a way that you will not be working in the dark.

I have only dealt with the subject from the financial standpoint. As for the practical part, if you have gone the right way to work you will have read everything you can lay your hands on and visited all the practical men and women you know or hear of in search of advice. There is one branch of the business which I think is particularly suited for ladies, and that is queen-rearing. It is the most fascinating occupation you can find in the whole range of beekeeping, and does not entail great physical labour. Of course it is necessary that you have a thorough understanding of the scientific side of bee-

keeping to excel as a queen-breeder and queen-rearer. I merely mention this to show you that there is always an ideal worth working for, and which will pay for your trouble not perhaps so much in cash as in the enthusiasm and love of the work.

The practical part of the subject would, of course, require many addresses longer than the one you have listened to; but I will take the liberty before sitting down of offering some advice which may help to solve one difficulty. I said a short time ago that a handy man was better than a handy woman for much that crops up in the course of a season's work. Now, then, my advice is go into partnership with a handy man and let the partnership be one which will last for life. In other words, if you can find the right man take advantage of the custom which I think allows the lady to do the proposing in leap year, unless you can manage to induce him to propose before.

Correspondence.

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

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have been a subscriber to the "New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal" for many years, and always find it interesting and instructive. In the June number, under correspondence, I see illustrated a bee veil. As I made one like it some 14 years ago, I should like to suggest that the wire should be piano wire. This enables the veil to be folded up and put in the pocket. I find it most useful for carrying about.

I did not send you a copy of the papers on Dr Rennie's discovery, published by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, as I understood a copy was being sent to you; but in case you have not received one I am sending a copy, under separate cover, which I hope you will accept. I enclose herewith a copy of our Association report which may interest you. I expect you know that I received a copy of the resolution passed at the New Zealand Beekeepers' Conference; also a letter from Mr I. Hopkins, the President. It is very gratifying, indeed, to me, and also to Dr Rennie and his associates, to know that the work being carried on by them at Aberdeen University is so much appreciated, even in far-off New Zealand, and encourages them to work harder to discover either a cure or preventive, knowing that such a discovery would benefit the whole beekeeping world at large. I saw Dr Rennie the other day, and he holds out great hopes of being able to publish something further before next spring which may help towards a cure or preventive. It is a very difficult problem, as no doubt you will understand, as the mite is in the bee; therefore it is

difficult to kill it without destroying the bee. At any time, if there is any information I can give you, I shall be pleased to do my best if you will let me know.—I am, etc.,

A. H. E. WOOD.

My stocks have averaged over 200lb of clover honey this year.—A.H.E.W.

Glassel, Aberdeenshire, Scotland,
16th August, 1921.

[We shall be pleased to loan the copy of report to any of our friends.—Ed.]

Sir,—I have pleasure in forwarding the reply received by me from Mr A. H. E. Wood, to whom I was deputed to send a copy of the resolution (vote of thanks) passed at last Conference for his magnificent gift in the interests of bee culture.—I am, etc.,

I. HOPKINS.

22 Owen's Road, Epsom, Auckland,
October 15, 1921.

"Dear Mr Hopkins,—I received your letter of June 14th conveying to me the resolution passed at the Annual Conference of New Zealand beekeepers, at which I understand there was a most representative gathering from all parts of the Dominion. I was very pleased to receive this expression of gratitude from beekeepers at the other side of the world, and to know that our efforts to solve this vital problem are so much appreciated, even although you are not faced with this dread disease. The discovery of the cause has done much already to ameliorate conditions, for we now know what we are up against. Dr Rennie, the Fellow of the research has been steeped in this problem since about 1912, and he and his assistants are now expending their united efforts in trying to find some remedy. He assured me the other day, with a certain amount of confidence, that he hoped to offer to the public something effective before next spring.

"I shall be grateful if you will kindly convey my best thanks to those who sent me this helpful recognition of our united services to beekeeping.

"I should like to add that I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Dr Rennie and all the others helping in the research. I know that they will appreciate this recognition of their work as much as I do myself.—I am, etc.,

(Signed) A. H. E. WOOD.

Glassel, Aberdeenshire, Scotland,
"17th August, 1921."

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have just read through my "Journal" and have boiled over it and then laughed at it. You have shut down in the meantime on the Tax Question, so I will not reopen it. But I do wish you could get Mr Bray converted into being a gentleman, and writing in a more gentlemanly way. He has got what we want in energy and go. He has a facile pen; but there is a want somewhere, and I am not even

going to guess at it. As one who also saw something of your trip down south, I wish to add my testimony to the good work done. I was with you at Greenfield and also at Invercargill, and I can only say that we want more of that kind of work and a good deal less of what Mr Brickell calls misstatement, exaggeration, and insinuation—and especially the insinuation. I hope our Taieri friend will realise that there are men and things that we have to bear and simply put up with, and will not let the effect disturb his position in an Association which if it does not mean brotherhood means nothing. I have not sent you much copy lately, but that is not because my interest is any less than it has ever been; but I am engaged in a business that has required all I had to give. My sympathies have been with you in much of the hard statements that have been made about the "National," and I have regretted very much that our old friend at Epsom has not been above pulling down methods. He is I by name and I by nature; but we do not object to that, it is only what we expect. He is and has always been a force for good in beekeeping, but lately there seems to be an acidity in his criticism that is not natural to our genial friend; and I think, and I want him to know that I think, it does far more good to build up than to pull down, and that we have had enough criticism, especially of the acid brand, to serve for some time. Let us have the old-time spirit that has made our "National" what it is to-day, and given us as beekeepers a list of friends that extends from Auckland to the Bluff. I am for the tax, or, to call it by a far more appropriate name, the registration fee, principally for these reasons: It will give us registration and all that that means; it will give our "National" an income that will enable it to carry on and do successful work; and it will give us a standing with the Government that will be worth far more to us than the cost. Now let me tell you something that probably has escaped beekeepers' attention. The fruitgrowers have done exactly what some of us are contending for. They have a registration fee. It, too, is called a tax; but that is a misnomer. They have registration and realise its benefit; they have a Federation corresponding to our "National," but on a far more solid basis; and they have an influence with the Department that would be impossible in any other way. Take as an example what happened at the last Conference in connection with fire-blight. It was unanimously resolved to ask the Government to treble the tax for one year, and to add £2 for every £1 so raised in order to create a fund to fight the blight, and this was very favorably received by the Minister. Now, that is being done in a year when to collect a fee at all it is necessary to reaffirm the Orchard Tax Act in Parliament. Surely if precedent or example is wanted we have it here. However, I am trespassing. What I started out to say was that though in favor of the registration fee I bear no grudge to those who are not. Rather I feel the need to educate them for their own benefit, and

I would like to do it along the lines of a more brotherly discussion. Again, with regard to the "National," nobody pretends that it has reached the end of its development; but for an organisation without visible means of support it has been wonderful, and it has done wonders. And I feel that more than to any man within its borders we owe this to our Secretary-Editor. He is a fair representation of the fact that "guid gear goes in sma' bulk." If he were as big in body as in mind and spirit we would be able to see him at a far greater distance. Fight on, old man, friendship is far deeper than appears on the surface sometimes.—I am, etc.,

JAMES ALLAN.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice in last issue of the "Beekeepers' Journal" a letter over the nom de plume of Amateur. It has always been my habit to ignore anyone writing under a nom de plume, but this writer, who to my mind is no Amateur, makes statements which demand a reply. Sir, Amateur is not helping the H.P.A. by voicing the proposals he desires to put in operation against those beekeepers who do not see their way to join up. He practically tells all beekeepers outside the H.P.A. to examine their business methods, and whether they suit them or not they are to cast them aside and accept the organisation of the H.P.A., the penalty of non-compliance being an effort to jeopardise their means of livelihood, according to his proposals. Amateur advocates co-operation, but has still a lot to learn. My dear man, your proposals are not co-operation, but monopolisation, and monopolisation in its worst form backed up by the threat of coercion.

Sir, speaking as an industrial unit, I claim for every individual, be he or she whosoever they may, engaged in any legitimate business the absolute and perfect right to carry on their business in their own manner if they consider they possess the necessary business ability. If they succeed the reward is theirs; but whether success or failure attend their efforts the onus falls on themselves alone. Self-reliance is one of the finest qualities of man, but Amateur is not built that way. He has no time for the self-reliant man—try to put him down and out, and so more firmly establish the post that he may lean against.

As I have said before, the advocating of proposals such as Amateur puts forward is damaging to the H.P.A.; but it may be part of the programme, as I have heard

similar statements before, and they form part of the unrest among our beekeepers, and were a potent factor, with other causes, in the Poverty Bay Branch severing its connection with the "National." Let me explain. At the 1920 Conference one of the prominent members of the H.P.A. delivered an ultimatum to the Poverty Bay Branch through our delegate thus: "If your people, the Poverty Bay Branch, do not come to your senses and join us it shall be our business to put the honey in on top of you and try to put you down and out." That may be the wild statement of an enthusiast of dire necessity or vindictiveness; but from whatever cause it is not one to inspire confidence in the maker or the object he may seek to attain. So far as I am aware no spirit of antagonism has been shown to the H.P.A. by Poverty Bay to warrant a threat as above. Day by day we see their advertisement in our tramcars and their honey in our warehouses and stores. We make no protest. We recognise their right to conduct their business in whatever way they choose. We ask that the same business courtesy be given to us that we extend to others. Proposals such as Amateur proposes only tend to create antagonism and discord. Finally, I do hope that when next Amateur takes the field he will not prove the exception but the rule in the "Journal" by signing his name.—I am, etc.,

JAMES B. ADAMS.

Gisborne, October 10th, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—We had a very welcome visit from Mr Sargeant, the newly-appointed temporary Apiary Instructor of Christchurch, and I only wish I could have written of Westland. His visit proved conclusively that we do need more instruction in beekeeping in this out-of-the-way place. Our isolation will not be felt so much as soon as we have the Otira Tunnel open for traffic, when East and West can exchange their surplus produce for our coal and timber.

Mr Sargeant arrived here last Wednesday by the 11 o'clock train, and got to business at once. I am sorry to say that in two or three cases he found more foul brood than was pleasant to those concerned. In most cases he said it was caused by ignorance of the condition of the brood chamber. Some had never seen the inside of the brood chamber, but were content to extract from the supers all

the honey they could get. One lady stated she did not intend putting foundation in the brood chamber, as she did not intend extracting it, as the bees would need it during the winter.

When one comes across such crass ignorance is it not a wonder that we are able to get any surplus crop? A one-box-hive man was called on, and he promised to transfer. The next day the Inspector heard he had said "I'm blown if I will," so he called round and found the box-hive man had taken all the honey, scattering the comb about the hive, which on examination proved to have foul brood. Bees were licking up the scraps, so, although we cleaned up this month, next time we examine the brood chamber we may find the results of this raid.

The Department have the matter in hand, but as his box hive was burnt and he is a returned man, what he did was in ignorance, so I trust a warning will be sufficient. When I commenced beekeeping here nine years ago there were about 40 colonies within a radius of three miles. Mr Sargeant visited 286 during his visit, and I expect next January when he calls he will find 500. On Friday we went round the road through some fine bush country to Ruatapu and examined every hive there. Six beekeepers have commenced in a small way, the largest having fifteen colonies. I am pleased to say the Inspector gave them all a clean bill of health.

On Saturday night, in the Coronation Hall, Mr Sargeant addressed the local branch, his subject being "The Natural History of the Honey Bee and Its Diseases." He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks at the conclusion of his address. He was well plied with questions, and if E. G. Ward, of "Canterbury Tales," had been present, I doubt if he could have asked any more.

A resolution was moved that a letter of thanks be sent Mr Earp for extending Mr Sargeant's time on the Coast so that he could visit Ross. An urgent request was made that Mr Sargeant be sent back in January to see that his instructions were carried out, and you will readily agree with me that this is absolutely necessary when you hear his report of our visit to Hokitika. "I found things in a deplorable condition, foul brood rampant. In every case it was found necessary to serve notices to destroy colonies. Your district should take every precaution to prevent the importation of bees from this locality to Ross." Unfortunately this ad-

vice came too late. One of our local beekeepers, in ignorance of the ravages of foul brood, brought four colonies from near Hokitika, with the result that we all have to suffer.—I am, etc.,

JOHN MURDOCH.

Ross, October 10th, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—You will no doubt be interested to know that we are having success here in treating European foul brood (*Bacillus pluton*) with sodium hypochlorite. The bees are shaken off the combs, which are then sprayed with a solution of eight ounces to one gallon of hot water, to which four teaspoonfuls of oil are added. When the bees are flying freely two sprayings appear to be sufficient to effect a cure.

Sodium hypochlorite can be made as follows:—Dissolve two pounds of Sal Soda in two gallons of hot water, and one pound of Chloride of Lime in one gallon of cold water. Pour together, and allow to settle. The resultant clear solution is used as above—viz., eight ounces to the gallon of water.

Mr W. H. Lewis, of Edmonds, B.C., was the first to try this treatment and to call attention to its efficacy.—I am, etc.,

W. J. SHEPPARD.

Nelson, N.C., August 22nd, 1921.

[Perhaps some of our readers would like to try the experiment, although up to the present chemicals and drugs have been found to be very little help.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—“Go on, I'm not going to play with you any more—that is, unless you let me be the pirate king.” Well, well, children carry on like that, but we do not expect grown-up men to do so. Now, really, don't you Poverty Bay men think you should consider things a little before you pull out of the “National” altogether? Would it not be better to stand by your guns and help the others to think the same as you do? Also, is it fair to make the rest of the members of the “National” suffer because you do not agree with Mr Bray? Better by far to stand in and prove yours worthy of the position of “pirate king.” So I speak to all who would sever their connection with the National Association of Beekeepers of New Zealand. As for the tax question itself, I take it that the whole trouble revolves around foul brood. So if

the beekeepers will go in for the proper plant and take Mr Allan's advice and give each hive a new brood nest every year, the need for inspection and tax and all else connected therewith will disappear into thin air. Please do not tell me I do not know what I am talking about, because out of eight hives that I took out of the bush here five were badly diseased. That was after I knew what foul brood was. Goodness knows how many hives I opened up before I knew it. One year I had 63 hives infected, next year 28, next 18, last 3, this 5, next year—well, I don't know yet, but I'm quite happy.—I am, etc.,

H.C.W.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

THE APIARY.

Sir,—In the July “Journal” it tells about the Bonney way of introducing queens. Last year I used what I see is called the push-in cage. A. I. R. Co. advertise the cages in “Gleanings.” I always made my own. I was importing a number of queens from the Eastern States. They were in the cages not less than nine days, and out of 18 I did not lose any. Two were nearly dead when they arrived, and succumbed when taken out of the cage. I take a piece of fly wire about 6in square, turn up the edges about 1in all round, and liberate the queen on to a frame of hatching brood. Place the cage over her, and press well in. In two or three days I look to see if the bees have eaten under the edges of the cage and liberated her. If not, I bore a hole from the opposite side of the frame through into the cage, and just close the edges with the loose wax. The bees soon clear out the hole, and the queen gets out. The great advantage is, I think, that the queen can commence to lay as soon as she is ready.

Before turning the edges of the cage I pull out several of the cross wires, so you can press the cage well into the comb.—Yours, etc ,

R. WATSON.

The Apiary, Kojonup, W. Australia,
September 26, 1921.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—There does not seem to be much discussion on the out apiary tenure. I certainly would prefer to own an acre or two, although I am lucky in having dealings with good men. I never know how long this will last. Before I got settled in this position I looked around for good apiary sites, and found most farmers against having bees on their

farms; they fear trouble with the stock. The men I refer to above are men I have known for a number of years; had I been a stranger it is very likely I could not have established out apiaries. The men I am renting a site from, knowing me, gave them confidence that all would be well. We want everything favorable to the industry we can get, and I think Mr Bray's idea on the above is good and sound. If someone capable would help him to thrash out the details we may get something that will prove a boon to beekeepers and the industry.—I am, etc.,

C. SMEDLEY.

Te Awamutu, October 18, 1921.

Subscriptions Received.

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

C. F. Horn, Waihou, to September 22.
 Woods Bros., Sefton, to September 22.
 H. McGowan, N. Taieri, to August 22.
 J. McCall, S. Invercargill, to August 22.
 P. B. Holmes, Pirongia, to August 22.
 G. J. Macdonald, Christchurch, to September 22.
 Jasett and Bannister, Masterton, to August 22.
 C. J. Fisher, Carterton, to September 22.
 G. Simpson, Woodbury, to August 22.
 A. T. Dougherty, Tirau, to September 22.
 J. Forster, Timaru, to October 22.
 R. C. Major, Eltham, to August 22.
 J. M. O'Connor, Mongonui, to September 22.
 A. Dudgeon, Gisborne, to September 22.
 R. E. Harris, Te Kowhia, to September 22.
 A. Stokes, Pukeroro, to September 22.
 Miss Harper, Auckland, to August 22.
 W. J. Sheppard, Nelson, B.C., to September 22.
 W. Heald, Otorohanga, to September 22.
 Y. H. Benton, Auckland, to August 22.
 C. E. Sligo, Auckland, to September 22.
 F. S. Everton, Featherston, to August 22.
 J. E. Yeoman, Christchurch, to September 22.
 W. J. Toll, Westport, to September 22.
 A. Cocker, Eltham, to September 22.
 W.F.C.A.L., Eketahuna, to October 22.
 H. O. Kane, Waipawa, to October 22.
 Rev. A. Zangerl, Pawarenga, to October 22.
 J. Kempton, Greytown, to August 22.

W. H. Shore, Papakura, to August 22.
 W. Cochrane, Shannon, to September 22.
 T. Furness, Ruawaro, to February 23.
 A. E. Deadman, Kakahi, to October 22.
 J. Bayne, Waikiwi, to September 22.
 A. W. Fleming, Roto, to September 22.
 W. McKenzie, Pukekawa, to October 22.
 C. W. Davis, Tuamarunui, to September 22.
 J. Gill, Kaitaia, to August 22.
 C. C. Weavers, Ōtū, to October 22.
 R. Y. Langford, Upper Moutere, to September 22.
 W. Carson, Springfield, to September 22.
 P. J. Darby, Pokeno, to September 22.
 W. Nimmo, Springfield, to October 22.
 H. Speary, Pukerimu, to September 22.
 G. W. Whitcombe, Auckland, to August 22.
 Miss A. J. Reid, Oamaru, to September 22.
 G. Jebb, Mahere, to October 22.

A Mead Story.

By W. B. K.

Once upon a time, before the Langstroth hives were in common use, Mr X owned an up-country store. Customers, close by, were few, so he left his wife in charge, and with a large van full of a varied assortment of goods made a weekly call at all the farm houses within a day's journey from his headquarters. The country folks were hospitable, and, as he usually arrived at Mrs Y's in the afternoon, he was grateful for a cup of tea.

One day, however, he refused the tea. He had had a glass of mead from Mrs Z. Next week it was the same story; he had never tasted anything so good—he must really ask her for the recipe. On his next trip he did so.

She told him she strained the honey out first, then crushed the combs well and put them into a tub of water to soak all the remaining sweetness out. "But I will show you," she said.

She took him into the house and into her son's room. From underneath the bed she drew out an ancient tub. With a sweep of her hand, she stirred round the mass of squashed brood, dead bees, flies, etc.

Next time Mr X called on Mrs Y he humbly accepted a cup of tea.

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.]

FOR SALE—ROOT AUTOMATIC, two-frame, reversible honey extractor; good condition. Price, £6 17s 6d.—Apply C. H. MITCHELL, Wilson Street, Upper Hutt.

WANTED TO PURCHASE — EXTRACTOR, two or four-frame, 12-inch baskets.—Particulars and price to P.O. Box 7, Manurewa.

NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I HAVE TAKEN OVER R. EAGLE'S APIARY on the Piako Road, which I shall keep as an out-apiary, and have established my home apiary on Ballard's Farm, Lake Drain Road, Gordonton.—GEORGE HALL.

THE APIS CLUB.

Port Hill House, Benson, Oxon., England.

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

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

Dr. A. Z. ABUSHADY,

Secretary.

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

CHAPLAIN CAPT. HARDIE,

Trentham Camp.

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.

BEEKEEPERS

SPECIAL.—In "Gleanings" for July, page 47, an article appeared describing an additional attachment to the Hodgson Ventilated Escape Board for introducing queens and uniting colonies. Commercial Beekeepers who have read the article and have seen the appliance as we make it, state that the "Findlay Introducing Attachment" will make the introduction of valuable queens a certainty. In addition to its value as an introducing appliance, the Hodgson Escape may be used as a super cleaner, a Porter Bee Escape and Board, a uniting appliance, feeding-board, &c.

The Hodgson Escape has been reduced in price to 4/-; "Findlay Attachment," 1/- extra; postage to any address, 10d. extra.

SWEET CLOVER.—We have a small quantity of this Seed harvested this year. Samples free on receipt of postage (3d.).

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.

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.

APOLOGY

WE TENDER OUR APOLOGIES to those numerous patrons who so kindly enquired for queens after last month's advertisement.

Unfortunately the Post Office people overcarried our October matter, so that on arrival at the Editor's "santum sanctorum" it was too late for insertion, despite his best efforts to get it in.

All the queens were taken by one purchaser immediately upon his seeing the offer.

Last month's advt. would have withdrawn the notice re queens for sale, as well as the reference to the Waipa Bee Club, as our Mr. Bartlett-Miller has resigned membership in that Club, so that the advertising leaflet for the Journal will henceforth be a gift from this Firm to the National Association. Also, it would have announced that the purchasers of the honey-producing plant sold by us—viz., Messrs. Williams and Otway—had very kindly placed the whole of it at our disposal, together with as many black combs as might be necessary for the carrying out of the Reducer Competition. Worse luck! they have now carried out their work, so that the combs are no longer available; but

It does not matter—for,

Readers who perused the letter from Mr. Smedley in last issue will not be bluffed by his roaming all around the subject matter of our advt., but very scrupulously avoiding the slightest reference to the simple cut-and-dried challenge to

FOUR HOURS' RUN WITH ALL-BLACK COMBS, the loser to pay Ten Pounds (£10) to the funds of the National Association.

We knew Smedley would not face the music, and as this makes £16 we have spent on advertising a competition (that Mr. S. states he so much desires), we will waste neither money nor space on him any longer.

READERS MUST FORM THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS!

Common Justice to our Editor

We should be wanting in fair play unless we called attention to Mr. Smedley's abuse of the Editor for permitting the appearance of our advt. at all. We would remind Mr. Smedley:—

Firstly.—Mr. Baines will certainly not ask Mr. Smedley what is fit or proper to appear in the advertising pages of that Journal of which he has made (and is increasing) so remarkable and so widely acknowledged a success.

Secondly.—Every fair-minded reader of these pages will avow that it would have been far more consistent with Mr. Smedley's professed integrity had he attacked the Editor of the "Fruitgrower" for inserting in the correspondence columns of his paper Mr. S.'s personal reference to and odious comparison of his own with Mr. Bartlett-Miller's invention BEFORE abusing our own Editor. (Not that we criticise the Editor of the "Fruitgrower"; on the contrary, the Bartlett-Miller Reducer always gains by the antagonism of any rival inventor.)

Thirdly.—We beg to point out to Mr. Smedley that this Journal pays its way by the contributions of the advertisers, NOT by those of the correspondence columns. Without the advertisements the Journal cannot carry on. ENOUGH!

For the Future

We shall include in every advt. our Challenge to all-comers to a four hours' run with all-black combs; loser to forfeit Ten pounds (£10) to the funds of the National Association; and ALSO we are now justly entitled to acclaim our Reducer as being

Without a Competitor

Why Purchase a Bartlett-Miller Reducer ?

Beekeepers need that the fact be emphasised again and again that the Honey Extractor is a boon and a blessing **ONLY WHEN THINGS GO RIGHT**, and even then only for healthy combs. One diseased comb in the Extractor, and—! There are several jobs around extracting time that the Extractor does not exactly make a botch of—it flatly refuses to tackle them at all! These jobs are by no means all of the same importance.

The least important of these "extractor-strike" jobs is the melting of cappings, and despite the fact that most producers imagine that job is the most important one which a Reducer is purchased to accomplish, **IT IS NOT SO!**

Any Reducer to be worthy the confidence and praise of its owner **MUST POSITIVELY** be able to reduce (both rapidly and without trouble) any old and solid waste every season to those who own one.

It is all very well to save the awful bugbear of the disposal of cappings, and for that job alone a Reducer saves its cost by the elimination of mess, worry and waste every season to those who own them.

S-T-I-L-L, many honey producers have allowed their minds to become obsessed by the idea that capping reduction is the be-all and end-all of a Reducer's existence, but it was the result of our experience over thirteen years ago that led to the advertising of our invention as distinctly a **COMB REDUCER**. NEVER did we describe it as a Capping Reducer without the additional word "Comb," for unless a Reducer will handle the blackest combs that ever were taken from the worst clogged brood-nest (with pollen, that is), it will prove nothing better than a deceptive fair-weather friend at just the very time when you need a friend in the shape of a utensil that will see you through the stiffest problem of all one's beekeeping experience, and that problem is the saving in marketable shape (without danger of infection) of the wax and honey in combs from the brood-nest infested with foul-brood. Otherwise they must be absolutely wasted, and the amount of good wax and honey wasted every year through the lack of a utensil to conveniently handle the diseased combs would pay twice over for a Reducer for every Beekeeper in the Dominion. We have a letter from one of our purchasers which we expect to publish in next issue if permission is given us to do so, stating that the owners saved seventeen pounds in reducing comb from box hives, purchased by two friends, the other one of whom saved the bees but burned the combs. Each party took half of the Maori-owned boxes, and our correspondent bought a "**BOOSTER**," and saved his £17!

Of course, the Bartlett-Miller Reducer is specially constructed to handle **F.B. combs with safety**. The solid matter is lifted by the operator into the front tube space as it accumulates in the other melting spaces, and here it is allowed to remain until all liquid has run from it that will run, only a little wax remaining with the slumgum; then the patented fall-down bottom is tripped, when all matter drops on to whatever the operator has held there to catch it, and it is carried to the wax-supply cask utterly free from any honey, to carry disease again by being robbed. By this means no amount of solid matter worth considering goes with the liquified honey to the separator, although the melted wax does, and is there separated from its liquid partner.

While the one space containing the solid matter is draining its honey, the rest of the Reducer is quietly going on with its job of melting cold combs. The fall-down bottoms are adjusted by means of screw nuts to whatever runaway space the operator desires—from wide open to quite shut.

ORDER IF YOU SO WISH BY ORDER ON THE H.P.A. AGAINST THIS COMING CROP. THE H.P.A. ARE OUR ONLY AGENTS.

The Thoroughwork Apiaries, Kihikihi

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.
7/6 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.

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

(H.P.A.)

Head Office :
Stanley Street, AUCKLAND.

Postal Address :
Box 1293, AUCKLAND.

Telegraphic Address : "Bees, Auckland."

Beekeepers' Supplies.

BRANCH DEPOTS NOW OPENED AT :

DUNEDIN—Stock Exchange Buildings,
Bond Street.

CHRISTCHURCH—Canterbury Orchardists'
Buildings, Colombo Street.

Full Stocks Carried.

MAIN DEPOT : Stanley Street, AUCKLAND.

Order Supplies Early.

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

New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1-Year	1/2-Year	1/4-Year	1-Issue
Whole Page	£10	£6	£3 10s.	£1 5s.
Half Page	6	3 10s.	2 2s.	15s.
Quarter Page	3 10s.	2 2s.	1 5s.	10s.
One-eighth Page	2 2s.	1 5s.	15s.	5s.
1-inch Insertion	1 10s.	16s.	9s.	3s.

NICHOLAS' FOUNDATION FACTORY.

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

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

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

Customers among the leading Beekeepers of the Dominion.

NICHOLAS, 3 CALEDONIA ST., HAWERA.

Don't Forget

Our Store when anything is wanted in the shape of

BEE MATERIAL.

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

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

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

P.O. Box 129. 'Phone 62.

MASTERTON, WAIRARAPA.

BAY OF PLENTY COMB FOUNDATION FACTORY

WE ARE NOW BUSY MAKING UP BEEKEEPERS' OWN WAX AT 9d. PER LB.
RETURNABLE CASES, 1/- EXTRA.

ALSO, A QUANTITY OF COMB FOUNDATION FOR SALE.

Excell & Hallam,

Comb Foundation Makers,

OPOTIKI - BAY OF PLENTY.