

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

VOL. 10, No. 2

MAY, 1948



OFFICIAL ORGAN of the
NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND
(Incorporated).

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the Beekeeping Industry in New Zealand)*

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The New Zealand BEEKEEPER

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W. J. Lennon, Editor.

Subscription, 5/- per annum, post free.

VOL. 10, No. 2

MAY, 1948

STOP PRESS.

HONEY MARKETING COMMITTEE.

OFFICE OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WELLINGTON.

These recommendations concerning the Honey Marketing Committee have been given very careful consideration by the present members of the Committee, and whilst they were not all approved unanimously, they represent in my opinion a fair compromise between two opposing schools of thought on the basis of election and the future control of honey marketing.

As Chairman, I have been asked to address delegates at the Annual Conference in July and on that occasion I hope to be able to explain the regulations concerning the Honey Marketing Committee and also to deal broadly with the problem of honey marketing.

I trust, however, that this prior information for publication in "The New Zealand Beekeeper" will enable delegates to come to the Conference with an adequate background of the present position.

The personnel of the Honey Marketing Committee was gazetted by the Hon. E. L. Cullen, Minister of Marketing, last January.

Since that date the Committee has primarily been concerned with the drafting of Honey Marketing Committee Regulations which it is hoped the Government will gazette at an early date.

The proposed method of electing producer representatives is as follows: There shall be three producer representatives elected by vote. Every person who, on the 30th June of each year, is a producer within the meaning of the Regulations, shall be entitled to vote. Voting qualifications shall be on the basis of honey supplied to the Department and/or seals purchased from the Department.

The number of votes to be exercised by a producer shall be—

(a) on the basis of honey supplied to the Department for the year ended the 30th day of June immediately preceding the date of the election and shall be as below:

$\frac{1}{2}$ ton to 1 ton	....	....	....	....	2 votes
Over 1 ton and under 2 tons	....	....	....	....	4 votes
2 tons and under 3 tons	....	....	....	....	6 votes
3 tons and under 4 tons	....	....	....	....	8 votes
4 tons and under 5 tons	....	....	....	....	10 votes
5 tons and under 6 tons	....	....	....	....	12 votes
6 tons and under 7 tons	....	....	....	....	14 votes
7 tons and under 8 tons	....	....	....	....	16 votes
8 tons and under 9 tons	....	....	....	....	18 votes
9 tons and over	....	....	....	....	20 votes

(b) on the basis of the seals purchased from the Department for the

year ended the 30th day of June immediately preceding the date of the election and shall be as below:—

Five pounds worth of seals and under twenty-five 1 vote
 Twenty-five pounds worth of seals and over 2 votes

For the first election to be held in 1948 the basis of qualifications for voting shall be according to the quantity of honey supplied and/or seals purchased during the year ended 30th June, 1948.

It is proposed that the existing Committee producer members shall hold office until 31st October, 1948, these members being one representative from the Honey Control Board, one from the National Beekeepers' Association, and one from the Honey Suppliers' Association.

The poll is to be held in August, 1948, and the new Committee shall hold office for a term commencing on 1st November, 1948.

Elected representatives shall normally be appointed for a term of three years but retirements by rotation as a result of the 1948 elections shall commence at the expiration of two years.

In order to be a producer representative on the Honey Marketing Committee, a producer—

- (a) must be a qualified voter;
- (b) must be nominated in writing by one or more producers whose names appear on the roll;
- (c) must have accepted nomination;
- (d) must have paid a deposit of £3;
- (e) must have supplied to the Department not less than 3 tons of honey during the year ended 30th June, 1948; and
- (f) in subsequent elections after 1948 he must have supplied to the Department an average of not less than 3 tons of honey per year over the three years preceding the election.

A. GREIG, Chairman.

BEE SUPPLIES.

We publish an article by a contributor who feels that this matter requires to be discussed. We can say that we accept advertisements on the assurance that the advertisers are making a genuine effort to give service. All manufacturers, especially of woodware, face shortages of quality timber at a fair price. Beekeepers should press for adequate allocations to manufacturers at prices that will enable the goods to be sold at fixed prices. There is no excuse for poor workmanship, whatever the class of timber used, and we would not hesitate to withdraw advertising space if it could be sufficiently proved that service was not being given.

"BEES IN THEIR BONNETS".

We hope our readers will be interested in excerpts from material that is in preparation on the subject of Early Beekeeping in Southland. The balance of the story will be continued in the August issue. It is hoped to have the complete booklet in print for the conference in Dunedin.

As Canterbury celebrates its Centennial in 1950, we hope that someone will think of writing the history of Early Beekeeping for the rest of the South Island for that event. At least a history of beekeeping in Canterbury would provide an interesting story.

Is it too much to hope that the same can be accomplished for the North Island? There is a stirring story of human endeavour in the field of Agriculture waiting to be recorded. The task becomes more difficult as the years pass.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE DIVISION

APIARY STATISTICS:

The beekeeping industry in New Zealand appears to be recovering fast from the effects of war-time conditions when many beekeepers were obliged to reduce their stocks due to a shortage of necessary labour and restricted transport facilities. Statistics show a sharp increase in the number of apiaries and hives kept by beekeepers. There are now (at June, 1947), 7,285 beekeepers in New Zealand owning 11,386 apiaries containing 154,488 colonies of bees, against 6,798, 10,457 and 140,703 respectively the previous year.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AND PRODUCTION:

The final reports of Apiary Instructors indicate that spring and early summer conditions were favourable for beekeeping in most parts of New Zealand. Mild temperatures with almost complete absence of strong winds induced the bees to build up colony strength generally much earlier than usual.

Beekeepers experienced some difficulty in maintaining colony strength, however, during prolonged spells of dry weather which reduced nectar secretion on stony and light soil areas. Though heavy crops of honey have been secured in some northern areas of New Zealand, disappointing results were obtained in Hawkes Bay, Central Otago and Palmerston North districts, where pastures dried up early and did not recover in time for normal honey production in those parts.

The estimated overall (New Zealand) production of honey and commercial beeswax harvested during the

year (1947-48) is 4,750 tons and 118,750 lbs. respectively, against 3,700 tons of honey and 102,000 lbs. of beeswax the previous season (1946-47).

REGISTRATION OF APIARIES:

A number of beekeepers have not yet made the necessary application for registration of their apiaries in accordance with the Apiary Registration Regulations. These beekeepers should attend to this important matter at once, and are reminded that any person keeping unregistered hives or allowing them to be kept on his land is liable to a heavy penalty.

AN APOLOGY:

I wish to express regret to those Beekeepers who made application promptly for the registration of their apiaries and who later received official reminders, when notices were sent out to defaulters.

This error was due to unavoidable changes in the clerical staff handling this job, at an intermediate stage of the work, and would not have occurred under ordinary circumstances.

Where beekeepers have already received apiary registration certificates covering each of their established apiaries in response to applications made since the beginning of the new apiary registration period (1st November, 1947), no further action in regard to those apiaries is required unless there is some change in location or the number of hives kept.

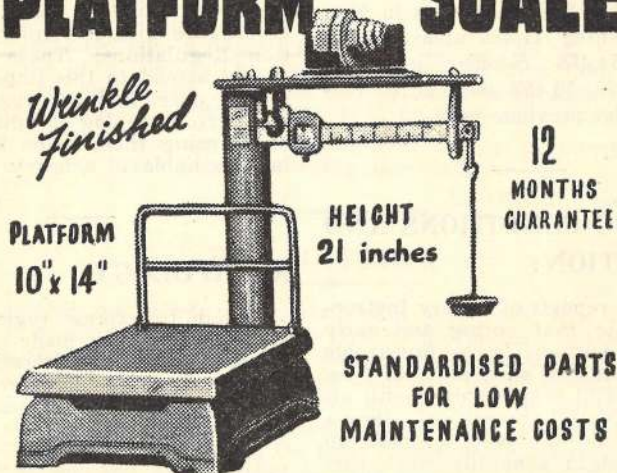
W. K. DALLAS,

Director, Horticulture Division.

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1848-1948



ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

DUNEDIN, JULY 7th, 8th, 9th.

Hotel or private accommodation can be booked through the Accommodation Officer, Centennial Committee, Dunedin. Enclose £1/2/6. £1 is a deposit towards accommodation account and the 2/6 is a booking fee. It is hoped to have sufficient accommodation already pencilled but early application is desirable. It is as well to state the type of accommodation desired; whether public or private hotel. Hotel tariffs are available at your local A.A. or Govt. Tourist Office.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME.

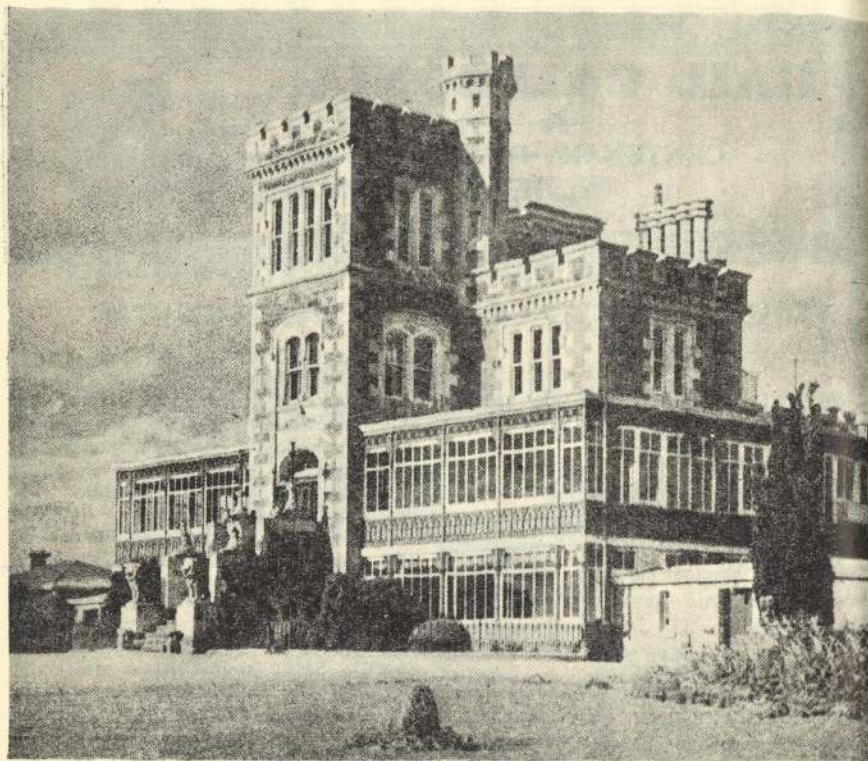
The main evening event is to be a Scottish concert provided by the Dunedin Burns Club Inc. We are led to believe that a Haggis will be piped in with the customary ceremonial. Visitors are to be permitted to taste a piece of the venerated pudding if they wish. All branches south of the Waitaki are sharing in the costs of putting on the concert. There is no charge being made by the Burns Club but other expenses are incurred. With true Scottish foresight, Branches are asked to forward their dues IN ADVANCE! An omnibus tour of Dunedin and surrounding countryside is also being arranged. Details will be announced at conference. No visitor to Dunedin should fail to see Larnach's Castle of which there is probably no counterpart south of the Line, or even out of Scotland.

LARNACH CASTLE.

Larnach Castle on the Otago Peninsula, was erected in 1871 for the Hon. W. J. M. Larnach. It is a copy of an old Scotch building. One passes between heraldic beasts, guarding the steps, and on to the first hall, paved with black and white marble. The interior is Gothic in type and the corbels of the arches are hand-carved. The Inner Hall has a magnificent hand-carved ceiling; the doors are mottled kauri and oak; the floor of Minton tiles. Carvers worked for eighteen years on the ceiling and doors. Some rooms have old Pargi ceilings; the mantlepieces are all of marble, some being very valuable. The Hanging Staircase is unique in the Southern Hemisphere. From the battlement tower a wonderful view is obtained.

TO THE LAKES.

Years ago Central Otago was the scene of the tremendous excitement of the gold rush started by the discovery of the precious metal in Gabriel's Gully. Crowds went to the diggings and the course of the South Island's history was changed. The valley of the Molyneux, now called the Clutha, was thickly populated and miners were at work right up to the region of Lake Wakatipu. When the rush receded the immense alluvial flats were taken over by the agriculturist and the orchardist, and today Central Otago has a more solid economy based on golden apples and the golden fleece. Gold is still won and the marks left by the miners can still be seen, but the valley is now beautiful with crops and trees. It is one of the most interesting motor drives



(Photo by permission Brown Ewing Ltd., Dunedin)

LARNACH'S CASTLE

of the Dominion and to its charm is added the fact that it leads to Queenstown on Lake Wakatipu, to Pembroke on Lake Wanaka, to Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau to the Eglinton Valley and to the Sounds.

Wakatipu is a true alpine lake. It is over 1000 feet above sea-level; it is over 1200 feet deep. All about it tower ranges and peaks, and the glaciated Mt. Earnslaw (9,200 feet) towers above the northern end. Wakatipu winds serpent-like between mountains for fifty miles and has an area of about 113 square miles. In size it is second only to its neighbour Te Anau. Its blue waters reflecting the varied scenery about, Wakatipu has been likened to a lake fjord, and under a blazing sun it is a place of wonderful colouring.

QUEENSTOWN.

For those who wish to see something of the mountainous hinterland of Otago and Southland, the best trip is to Queenstown. A ski tow is installed near Queenstown and at Alexandra ice skating is usually in full swing in July. Here you can skate for three miles on ice that varies in thickness from four to eight inches, depending on the season. Both Alexandra and Queenstown are well equipped with hotels. Invercargill can be included in the visit. This city is the nearest to the South Pole in the Southern Hemisphere. Come to the sunny south to see how beekeepers fare in sub-polar regions.

Queenstown, amid gardens and orchards, is the capital of the lake. It

lies about half-way up the lake, near where the Kawarau breaks out to join the Clutha. The white town is placed in a bay, protected by a peninsula on which there is a charming public gardens, a feature of which is a memorial to Captain Scott of Antarctic fame. Warm and sun-lit it is one of the most popular resorts of the Dominion. Excellent accommodation is provided by hotels, licensed and private. Bowling, tennis, golf, swimming and boating are available.

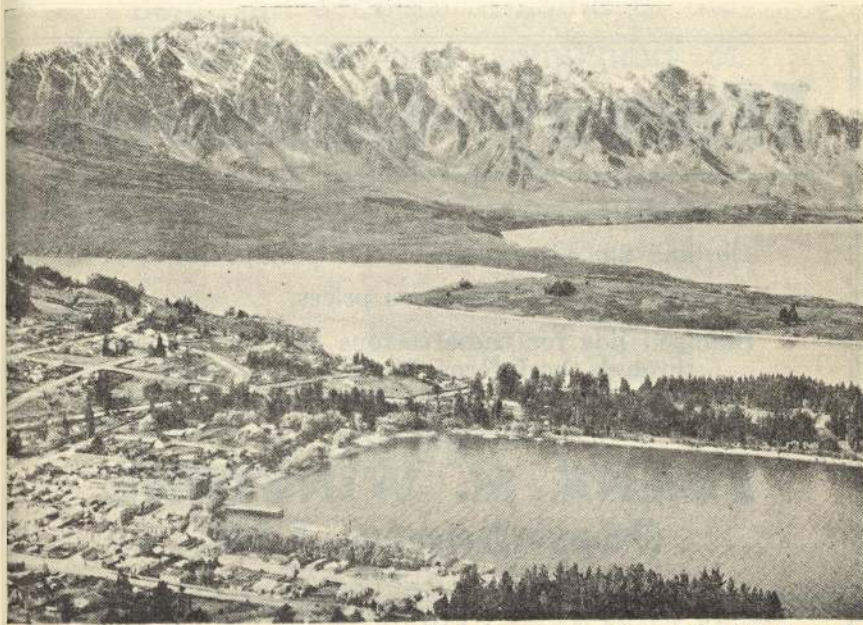
DUNEDIN CONVENTION.

The Annual Convention of the Branches in Otago and Southland takes place in Dunedin on the 7th and 8th of June. A feature of this Convention, which is being held during the Centennial Show week is to be a comprehensive display of honey and honey by-products.

D.D.T. KILLS FISH.

Mr. L. K. Griffin, of Southland draws our attention to an Acclimatisation Society report in which concern throughout the Dominion is expressed that fish are being killed by cyanogas. Quite unwittingly beekeepers may be to blame through tipping cyanogassed bees into streams. Even a minute quantity will kill fish half a mile downstream. Many other people beside beekeepers use cyanogas but we are sure that they will be anxious to avoid any offence in this matter. Dig a hole and bury or burn any such contaminated material. We enclose a report from an Australian paper that appeared recently.

What did she mean? "Give me a pound of those grapes. My husband is fond of them. Do you know if they have been sprayed with any kind of poison?" No, ma'am, you'll have to get that at the drug store." February, 1944, "Australian Bee Journal."



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QUEENSTOWN AND THE REMARKABLES

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"Bees in Their Bonnets"

By

W. J. LENNON,

Editor: "The N.Z. Beekeeper".

Being an account of some of the
 Personalities and something of
 the growth of Early Beekeeping,
 'Fartherst South'

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Foreword

When Mr. Robert Stewart was made a Life Member of the National Beekeepers' Association Inc., at the Annual Conference last year, it was suggested that the story of Early Beekeeping in Otago and Southland should be written up in the Centennial year. At the request of the Southern Branches, I have been asked to record the story.

Much remains to be done as the task required more time and effort—and also more ability—than I have been able to bring to such an absorbing subject. The endeavour has been made pleasant by the ready assistance of all concerned and by the desire of so many of his friends to honour Mr. Stewart as a worthy Pioneer in beekeeping. It should be unnecessary to add that Mr. Stewart was unaware of this intention when he willingly told something of his own experiences.

As well as his main business of rearing quality queen bees, Mr. Stewart has encouraged many beginners by answering their questions on the difficulties that have beset them. This self-imposed service has entailed the writing of many letters of advice, given at the sacrifice of his own leisure

To Robert Stewart of Heriot, this story of pioneering achievement is dedicated.

It is hoped that the writing of the rest of the story throughout N.Z. will be taken up by abler pens.

WILFRID J. LENNON.

Omakau, Central Otago, N.Z. 1948.

SUPPLEMENT—continued

NOTABLE MEN

MR. ROBERT STEWART, HERIOT, OTAGO.

The honour of being the most widely known and respected beekeeper north and south of the Waitaki belongs to Mr. Stewart. Of a retiring nature, his fame is not due to any desire for publicity. For over forty years, first at Crookston and latterly a few miles away at Heriot, he has been patiently and consistently breeding Italian queens of quality. They have been distributed all over the Dominion and the stock of these quality queens has been the foundation on which many amateur and commercial beekeepers have built. At 77 years of age, Mr. Stewart still works very long hours in an endeavour to meet the needs of his customers all over the country.

Now rather stooped, Mr. Stewart is a big man of Scottish stock. He was born on the Taieri and at the age of five came with his parents to Crookston where his father had taken up a farm. His father died when Bob, as he is affectionately known behind his back if not to his face, was 24 years old. Already he had bees of his own, but it fell to him to take over the running of the farm until the large family grew up. Many tales are told of his ability to work long hours and to work hard.

His father had kept black bees in box hives and more than once Bob "got the stick" for spending time with the bees when jobs should have been done. A young person absorbed with a hobby does not always appreciate the need for unremitting toil on an agricultural farm where much cropping was done and long hours had to be spent in working the team of horses and caring for them. It is fortunate for the beekeepers of N.Z. that Mr. Stewart's roots have been deep in Otago soil and stayed there. He remembers the old procedure of hiving swarms in box hives as well as the Autumn habit of sulphuring

the heaviest hives to get the honey. Strips of paper that had been soaked in melted sulphur were stuck on small sticks in the bottom of a prepared hole. After these were lighted and the sulphur fumes began to rise, the box hive was lifted over the hole and a bag thrown over it all to keep in the fumes which suffocated the bees.

Young Bob's first purchase of a frame hive was from a Mr. Le Livre in Canterbury, who had imported them from the Root Co. in America. They were of Langstroth standard and made of basswood. Bought out of his savings as a boy, this expenditure of 30/- brought with the arrival of the hive all the thrill than any beginner gets from his first purchase. There was no foundation but strips of comb were used as starters in the section boxers of the super. A thin strip of hardwood was fastened under the top bar of the brood frames and waxed to make it attractive to the bees to start combs. As the top bars were only a quarter of an inch thick—and soft basswood at that—there was considerable sagging and one can only imagine the amount of drone brood that would result from the lack of worker foundation. If this was cut out after fourteen days, worker comb would be built in its place because the bees were beginning to realise their ageing population and the need of worker comb in which to rear replacements.

About 1884, Mr. T. G. Brickell imported Italian Queens from America. He had earlier imported Carniolans but as he was unable to repeat his importations he turned to Italians. Stock from these were developed and sold in nuclei. Mr. Stewart bought two of these. As the danger of Foul Brood was not then fully understood, both were later found to be diseased. After cutting out the combs and al-

lowing the bees to replace the comb, only one cell of disease was found. One of these queens lived for three and the other for four years. His next purchases were from Mr. R. Gibb, of Menzies Ferry, who had imported them from Root's also. Later Mr. Stewart imported queen bees himself from Roots. He also obtained some from S. Australia that had been brought from Italy through a Catholic institution and their descendants are in his apiary today.

While developing to 200 hives, and testing his stock, Mr Stewart ran his hives for honey production. One experiment of shipping honey to England in 1904 brought the handsome return of £69 for 60 cases of honey—just over twopence per lb. from which had to be deducted the cost of tins, cases and railage to the port.

When a younger brother took over the farm, Mr. Stewart began to concentrate on breeding queens. For forty years, he has been constantly selecting for the best quality and discarding those that do not breed true to type. Therefore the ordinary tested queen he sends out is fit to breed from. He has never encouraged the buyer who wants to buy by the hundred. If a man is really a beekeeper, he does not need to buy in this way. When asked his opinion on the buying habits of beekeepers, Mr. Stewart says that in many cases beekeepers do not know what they need. Some who order three select-tested queens would do as well with one untested queen. One regret of Mr. Stewart's life is that he has been unable to spare the time necessary to test his stock under ordinary production conditions. In fact he has not been able to do more than one third of what he would like to have done with bees.

When Mr. I. Hopkins was selecting stock for the Ruakura Government apiary, Mr. Gibb recommended him to purchase some from Mr. Stewart. Mr. Hopkins was not easily convinced that Mr. Stewart would have the quality until he came in person to examine it. Then some queens were secured for Ruakura and others followed at later periods. Mr Stewart emphasises that the job of the breeder no less than that of the beekeeper is to be constantly selecting the desirable and discarding anything

that does not measure up to the standard in his own apiary.

The wooden lid of the Le Livre hive is still in use. The telescoping rim has gone but the wide basswood board that was the original flat top is still in good order. It was a thrill to feel the softness of basswood and to realise that half a century ago it was a novelty that in these sophisticated days we take for granted. Mr. Stewart also unearthed one of the original basswood frames. Metal clips bound the corners and the top bar to the ends. They were of ingenious construction and merit a place in a beekeeping museum. Even the thin hardwood strip, about half an



MR. R. STEWART
AT A FIELD DAY.

inch wide, was still under the top bar. One of the original supers that has been cut down to the shallow super of seven and a half inches, which is the standard adopted by Mr. Stewart, could not be found among the two or three thousand supers in use on the more or less 600 hives. Cedar and redwood is the timber used for hive bodies and none of them are painted or treated. The covers appear to be pieces of corrugated iron cut from a tank, as indeed were the first so used by Mr. Stewart, and

which gave him the idea for his present covers. They give a peculiar Chinese pagoda-appearance to the apiary which is snugly set against a hillside, with surrounding protection of willows and pines.

Mr. Stewart's work stool is an item of interest. It is only a packing box from the Alliance Box Co. but its seat is highly polished from years of use at the bench which has a collection of queen cages, tacks, labels, and bits of wax and queen breeding paraphernalia.

During a trip to the Bay of Plenty in 1914, Mr. Stewart saw the Maori way of keeping bees in box hives. The bees were in boxes about the size of a tea chest with a sack hung over the front. When some honey was wanted, it was an easy job to lift the sack and take out a piece of comb honey. It was not so easy however for Mr. Westbrooke, who was then Inspector, to find the owner of the hives. In characteristic Maori fashion of those days, no owner could be found when the Inspector was about. Strangely enough these hives were free from disease.

While Mr. Rhodes was Inspector in the South, Mr. Stewart was a party to an interesting experiment with an apparently disease-resistant strain. On one of his inspection trips, Mr Rhodes had found an apiary neglected and

badly diseased. Combs were hanging from trees, hives had been tipped over by stock and some hives were dead. In all this wreck there was one hive that was free from disease. Mr. Rhodes secured the queen and gave her to Mr. Stewart who reared progeny from her. Her stock was taken to Dunedin and fed diseased honey but they were unable to show any resistance to foul brood.

Not many beekeepers know that at the end of the day's work our worthy Scotsman walks a mile to the Heriot P.O. to deliver the queens for the post of next day. Nor do they know that Mr. Stewart has been up at daylight and worked till darkness has intervened. And darkness in these southern latitudes does not come till about ten in the summer time. Of such stuff have the best men been made.

At 77 years, Mr. Stewart still hopes to have several more years at his work. Seen at work in his yard of about 600 colonies, Mr. Stewart still moves actively around the hives and his somewhat bent back gives an air of purpose and concentration that emphasise worthy characteristics of the man.

"Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue in order that they should see twice as much as they say."
Charles Cabel Colton.



A CORNER OF MR. R. STEWART'S APIARY, HERIOT.

SOME INCIDENTS IN A BEE-KEEPER'S CAREER.

By J. ALLAN.

I have been long enough a bee-writer to know that what is personal and pertains to personal experience is more appreciated than what is merely theoretical; hence, at the suggestion of another I write this little bit of my own experiences.

It was in the year 1884 I bought a 600-acre farm near Wyndham in Southland, and received along with it my first colony of bees. The former owner (peace to his ashes!) was a Scot from the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and possessed the characteristics of his race. The colony was evidently a very late cast, and as it was a wet cold, season, had gathered very little stores. Some time later I examined it, and found only its ashes remaining. The donor kindly informed me afterwards that he never intended it should die. That was my first experience as an apiarist.

A few months later I received from a neighbour a hive in what was known as a gin case. It was a fine, strong colony, though, unfortunately for me, more particularly as I did not know anything about it, it contained foul-brood. At that time I knew nothing about frame hives. I am not aware that I had ever seen one. I became, however, impressed with the idea that I should like one, and having received the catalogue of Mr. T. G. Brickell, and noting that the price, taking three hives, was relatively cheaper than taking one only I sent an order for three. Unfortunately for me, my knowledge of the whole business was so slight that I did not send for the frame hives until my one colony had swarmed, and did not get a transfer made into the new hives until the swarms were just reaping the advantage of brood beginning to hatch. That advantage they lost through the

transfer, and the colonies consequently were much reduced before brood was again hatching. What a Chinese puzzle those first hives presented to me. They were purchased in the flat, and I had never seen a sample. Mr. Brickell, however, was very patient with me. As my thirst for knowledge increased, I found in him practically the only source from which I could draw. I knew nothing of bee literature in those days, though I soon got on to the track of it. I became a subscriber to the British Bee Journal, Gleanings in Bee Culture, and, later, to the Beekeepers' Review. I have also had a great many books on the subject, but I have not been able to keep them. Others were in need, and they were passed on and no track kept. As I have said, Mr. Brickell was very patient with me; he wrote page after page in answer to my letters, also inviting me to his apiary, where half an hour spent in his company was of infinite value to me. The last time I saw Mr. Brickell left a deep impression on my memory. He was suffering from an internal complaint, and was looking forward to the near approach of the coma stage, knowing that it was not far away, and yet going about his business in the same way as usual, and ready to talk of it all in a way that drew my admiration. He never made his fortune, but to him more than to any other man the South Island is indebted for help in its beginnings in bee culture.

My early years in bee-keeping were much hampered by foul-brood. I did not know the enemy at first, and when later I did get to know him—well, his octopus clutch had got firm hold. Taking my cue from Cheshire and the British Bee Journal, I fought the enemy at first with carbolic and other disinfectants, but all to no use. Then later I adopted first the Jones and then the McEvoy method of treatment, repeating the latter on several occasions. On one occasion I Mc-Eveoyed my whole apiary (then one hundred colonies) in the autumn, but in the late spring traces of the disease began to reappear. I asked the inspector to look up the neighbourhood, and as a result of his inspection an apiary was found just two miles

away rotten, and with the combs thrown about for the bees from far and near to lick up. Under those conditions no treatment could possibly be of much use. In spite, however, of foul brood I had very satisfactory returns. An average of about 100 sections per colony for those producing comb honey was not infrequent; consequently, what was begun purely as a relaxation, and because I had fallen in love with the bees, became a means of supplementing the farm returns for the year, and as a result came to be regarded from a business point of view. I may say here, however, that though the bees are responsible for at least half my annual income, I have never lost my first love, and I go to my apiary to work with the same old interest that I always had.

One Saturday afternoon I was busy in the apiary when a young man, fishing-rod in hand, on his way to a nearby stream, called in. His interest in my work spoilt his catch for that day. He asked if he might come

back, and was made welcome. Soon he wanted to purchase a colony for himself, and soon he was as fast in the toils of bee-keeping as any trout that ever rose to his minnow was to its barbed appendages. That young man was Robert Gibb, well known both north and south, and now the worthy President of the Southland Beekeepers' Association. He is a keen naturalist, fond not only of spiders and all other creeping things, but also of all plant life. Last time I saw him he was busy putting together a collection of weeds for the Invercargill Museum. Since giving up his connection with the apiary department, he has struck quite a run of very indifferent seasons, but our sunny south has got something in store for him yet if he will only keep up his heart.

Now, Mr. Editor, I must not overtask your space and patience, but if you want a continuation, it will be quite a pleasure to give it.

From N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal,
May, 1915.



MR. EARP AND MR. GIBB.

SUPPLEMENT—continued

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

"For when was honey ever made
With one bee in the hive."

Thomas Hood.

The growth of a National organisation can take several forms. Sometimes its beginning is a carefully organised affair into which much effort and planning have been put. More often, a few people begin in a simple way to hold meetings for the discussion of a subject in which they have a fervent interest. From small beginnings an organisation, like Topsy "just grew". The National Beekeepers' Association has been like Topsy. Like the growth of children, development at times was rapid alternating with periods where growth hardly seemed perceptible. There have even been periods when even life itself was despaired of and there seemed nothing to hope for. But enthusiasm and loyalty yoked to the long range view of one National Beekeepers' Association for the whole of N.Z. have encouraged unselfish individuals here and struggling Branches there to maintain their interest and to encourage others to do the same. At other times the influx of new members and Branches has given signs of growing pains that taxed the ability of the National organisation to cope with such vigorous growth. Again "alarums and excursions" arising from serious differing viewpoints have threatened to split the Organisation from top to bottom or even across its middle. The strength—and indeed the weakness—of the National organisation has been the combined strengths, or weaknesses, of the component Branches.

With Branches placed from the North to the South, in conditions varying almost from the tropical to the polar; with members scattered over the whole country, especially as their work keeps each member somewhat isolated in his own community; and even with strong city groups of amateurs more closely habited, but whose main interest in beekeeping is

as a hobby; there must be some strong bond to unite such diverse elements as well as a common aim that keeps the family united.

Now that this expanding family has reached some maturity in years, it is possible to appreciate more fully the valuable contribution made to the Beekeeping Industry by our pioneering Fathers. They may have had "bees in their bonnets" but they built better than they realised, without grudging the effort and without thought of personal advancement. Much knowledge and considerable experience have come to us in the intervening years that are valuable to our Craft. We honour the pioneers best by our continued support to the Organisation that seeks not its own gain but service to beekeepers of the present generation and of those that will follow us.

Southland and Waikato seem to have been the first in the field of beekeepers' organisations. Both were formed in 1906 and have continued without intermission to the present. Southland can claim the honour of being first as its inaugural meeting was held on the 21st of February, 1906. Mr. James Allan of "Thistlebank", Wyndham, was in the chair and Mr. I. Hopkins, the newly-appointed Government Apiarist (1905), was in attendance. Two of the original members are alive today. They are Messrs. W. Caldwell of Roslyn Bush, and W. Hall of Edendale. Although farming is his vocation, Mr. Caldwell has kept bees since he joined and he also has retained his membership of the Branch continuously. He can therefore claim, if he desires, to be the member with the longest period of membership of a beekeepers' Association in N.Z. Mr. R. Gibb was elected secretary. Hawkes Bay, Canterbury and Poverty Bay Associations were formed within a few years.

At the first annual meeting of the Southland Branch the following interesting minute appears:

"The secretary submitted a detailed list of the honey crops of each member which gave an aggregate value of £989/14/4."

In 1909 another minute gives some indication of the prices being realised for honey. Honey pats sold through the Assn., by its Dunedin agent realised 6d per lb.

The Canterbury Assn. seems to have taken the initiative in attempts to form a National Association. The following minute appears under date of June 15th, 1910:

"The Canterbury Beekeepers' Assn. wrote asking the Southland Assn. to join with them in trying to form a Federation of the various Beekeepers' Assns. throughout the

Dominion with a view to getting better inspection and of having Legislative measures submitted to the Federation before being enacted." "It was decided to support the Canterbury proposals and Mr. Allan was asked to attend as delegate."

On 22nd January, 1913, the following appears:

"Mr. Brickell addressed the meeting at some length on Federation matters and it is generally understood that he will bring forward a working Constitution for the Federation of Beekeepers at the forthcoming conference in Wellington." "A resolution . . . appreciating the good work done by Mr. Earp and suggesting that he be supplied with a motorbike to enable him to carry out his duties," was passed at the same meeting.

Messrs. Allan, Stewart, Gibb and Brickell attended the Federation Conference as delegates, and Mr. Allan, who was still President of the Southland Branch, was elected first President of the National Beekeepers' Association under the Constitution known to so many until 1945, when the Association became an incorporated Body. Mr. R. W. Brickell was the first Secretary-Treasurer. In 1914, the Association comprised the Waikato, Taranaki, Canterbury, Pahiatua and Southland Branches. South Canterbury was added in 1915. In 1920 there were 11 Branches and four Sub-Branches.

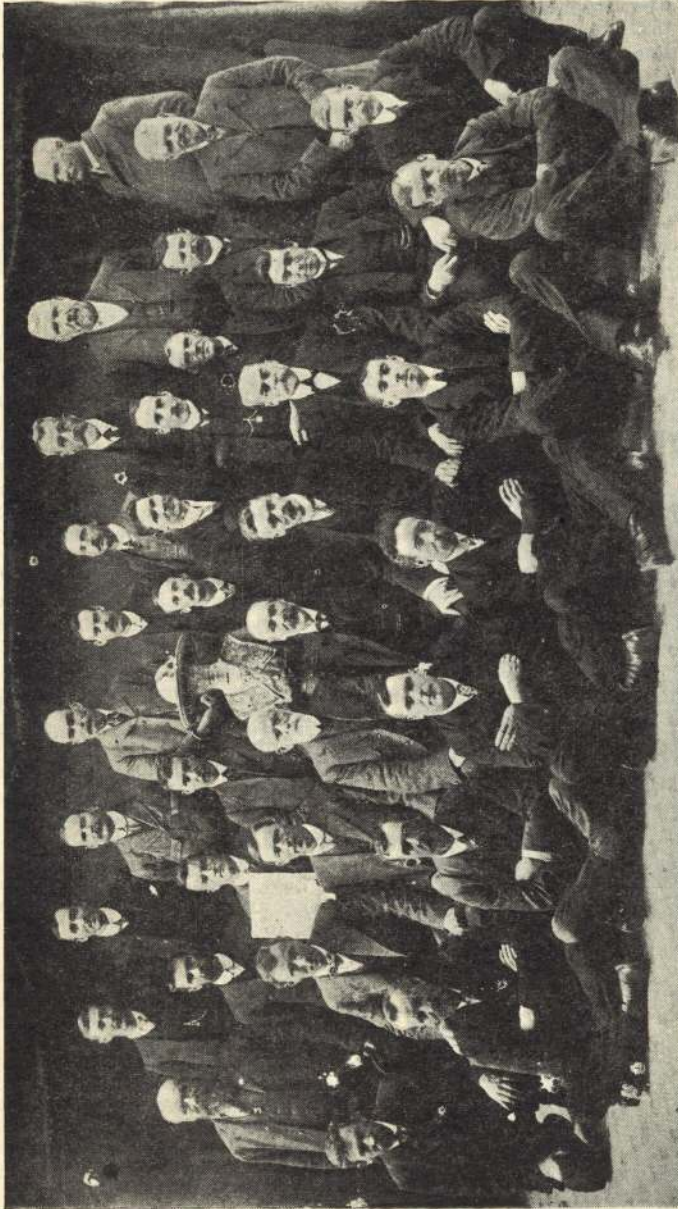
A journal known as the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal, was first published in July 1914, under the Editorship of Mr. R. Brickell. This was a monthly journal of 15 pages. By 1920, it had increased to 20 pages under the Editorship of Mr. F. C. Baines. No small credit is due to these two men who must have given an enormous amount of time and thought to Association affairs, for a very small monetary return. According to the balance sheet of 1915, the secretary received £12/10/- in 1914, £15 in 1915, and £24 for issuing twelve journals in the year as Editor. Members paid 3/6 p.a. above their membership subscription to secure the journal. £63/7/6 was received in journal subscriptions and "£20 as a Government grant. Advertisements brought in £21/1/-. The printing costs (twelve issues, 1915) were £83/9/3.

It was some years before other Branches were formed in Otago and Southland. Oamaru seems to have



MR. L. IRWIN

Holding forth on N.Z. Honey Limited.



DELEGATES TO AN EARLY CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

had a bee club. In 1915 the Beekeepers' Journal reported that only Oamaru, Marlborough, and Poverty Bay were outside the National Association. The Taieri—later the Otago Branch—and Clutha Valley—later the Clutha—Branches joined the National in 1919; West Otago in 1924; Oamaru in 1928; Gore in 1935 and Central Otago in 1938.

The formation of a National Association had some interesting repercussion in the Southland Branch as the following resolutions demonstrate:

June 1913: "That the Federation executive be asked to fix their annual conference on some other date than Southland Winter Show week as that date clashes with our Annual meeting, and try to choose a date when there are Excursion fares." !!!

June 1914: "The secretary reported that owing to the National receiving most of the fees, the year's balance was only 16/5."

Many men from Otago and Southland Branches have had the honour of serving in official positions on the Association executive. The lack of recorded information makes it impossible—especially in the period of the twenties—to give a complete list. The names of some who have served are appended. It is hoped that interested readers will be able to add more names to make the list more complete.

National President:

James Allan, Southland.
Robert Gibb, Southland.

National Vice-President:

R. W. Brickell, Otago.
L. K. Griffin, Southland.
W. J. Lennon, Central Otago.
J. McFadzien, Otago.

National Executive:

R. Gibb, Southland.
R. W. Brickell, Otago.
L. Irwin, Southland.
L. K. Griffin, Southland.
C. R. Paterson, North Otago.
D. G. Hamilton, North Otago.
J. McFadzien, Otago.
W. J. Lennon, Central Otago.
R. D. Bennie, Central Otago.
L. Box, Gore.

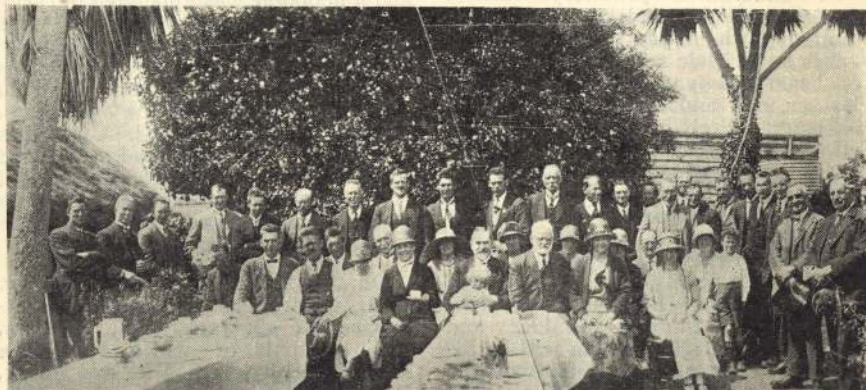
National Secretary:

R. W. Brickell, Otago.

National Editor:

R. W. Brickell, Otago.
W. J. Lennon, Central Otago.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."
—Abraham Lincoln.



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AT A SOUTHLAND FIELD DAY, 1927.
SITTING AT END OF TABLE (WITHOUT CHILD), J. ALLAN.

SUPPLEMENT—continued.

INDUSTRY

THE ALLIANCE BOX COMPANY.

No story of the development of the beekeeping industry, anywhere in N.Z. would be complete without some account of the firm which has the arresting advertisement on its forwarding labels, "Beekeeping a profitable occupation." Beekeepers are apt to regard this interesting statement with a smile as more applicable to the firm which send it out than to themselves. Whatever the truth of this characteristic observation, that is as smilingly returned by the present managing director, Mr. A. B. Callick, the growth of beekeeping has been served ably and efficiently for seventy years by a family concern.

In 1878 the late Mr. Thomas Goulden Brickell, uncle of Mr. A. B. Callick, a carpenter and joiner by trade and a man deeply interested in horticulture and apiculture, established the business known as The Alliance Box Company. Finance for the venture was provided by Mr. Callick's father. The manufacture of all types of boxes was undertaken—jewellery caskets made of polished oak and lined with quilted plush, finger ring and bangle boxes and a wide range of other types of boxes, many of them finished in leather, silk and other materials and all made entirely by hand. Mr. Brickell also undertook the manufacture of his own beekeeping equipment, such as supers, frames, etc. The "factory" comprised one room in his home at Half Way Bush (Wakari) and Mr. and Mrs. Brickell were the staff. They had a young family of six—three boys and three girls—the boys being Richard William, Thomas Goulden and Harry Albert, all of whom will be remembered by older members of the present generation of beekeepers as previous proprietors of this firm. Richard William (Dick) was for a time president of the N.B.A., a director of the H.P.A. and a secretary of the N.B.A. for a time. As well

Editor of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal.

The Brickell's claimed that T.G.B. was two years ahead of the late Mr. Isaac Hopkins in the importation of bees from Italy. There was no firm in N.Z. manufacturing bee supplies commercially when the Company was founded so with a view to supplying the then small demand T.G.B. built machines, one of which, with some minor improvements, is still in operation in the present factory. This is a machine for V-cornering sections. There was no power unit so he drove his machines per medium of a belt coupled to a grindstone. His oldest son, Richard William turned the handle to provide the motive power. Probably the idea was conceived from the old bullock-operated threshing floors. The business grew slowly but surely and in 1880 factory premises in Bath St. were leased. The plant was now driven by an old coal gas engine. Mr. T. G. Brickell died in 1900 at the early age of 48 years and a manager was appointed to carry on the business until his sons were qualified to take over. In 1902 the business was transferred to premises in Castle St. recently demolished to make room for extensions by Messrs. Cadbury Fry Hudson Ltd. Up to this period, the business had expanded considerably and by carefully-selected purchases the factory housed then what was considered to be one of the best cardboard box plants in N.Z.

On the 11th September, 1904, Mr. A. B. Callick commenced an apprenticeship of six years with the firm, the principals of which were the Brickell family, Tom, Dick and Harry, their mother and three sisters. Mr. Callick Senr. still provided the finance. Dick was manager, Harry factory manager, Tom accountant, two of the girls worked in the box factory and the older one in the office.

Of the 1904 proprietors only two are alive today. The first day of A.B.'s apprenticeship was a memorable one in that it found him in hospital at the end of it. He was underneath a sawbench cleaning sawdust from between two closely-set circular saws that were used to make the double groove in top bars, when someone engaged the machine without knowing he was underneath. A.B. will not mind showing the two fingers of his right hand that tried conclusions with the saws. Up till 1907 the old gas engine did yeoman service but in the winter months the old flywheel took a lot of swinging until the engine decided to go. It was a case of pumping gas to the ignition chamber and Mr. Callick seems to remember that the flywheel took a lot of swinging. Waipori power became available in 1907 and electric motors were installed in that year. So also was a suction fan to remove dust and shavings from the machines. The company has the distinction of being the first woodworking firm to install a dust collection system in Dunedin.

In 1908 Harry disposed of his interest in the business and A. B. Callick, after only four years' apprenticeship, was appointed factory manager. Mr. McLeod joined the staff in 1908 and, apart from a break during two world wars, has an unbroken record of service. Mr. Callick asserts that the manufacture of bee supplies is a tough game. If the toughness is conceded, then both Mr. Callick and Mr. McLeod have been made of good stuff to stand it so long. One would hardly consider the business as a game unless it is from a sporting attitude taken by both sides. Some beekeepers have been cautioned about slowness in paying accounts but none have been taken to court. Considering the large amount of credit extended to beekeepers over such a long period of years, one can only conclude that the rules of the game have been friendly and applied by the firm with a generous measure of patience.

A boom occurred in beekeeping in 1914 and the demand since then has continued to grow. In 1920 the cardboard box factory section of the business was sold and the bee supplies

section was transferred to the present address of 1 Mason St.

In 1922 a page was opened in the history of the firm which might well now be kept closed. The N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association purchased the business as a going concern and A. B. Callick was appointed manager but without a voice in the management. Repeated appeals to the Directors to permit him to apply sane methods to the conduct of the business went unheeded. After two years' trading, the H.P.A. Directors declared a good business bad and at the Annual meeting in Palmerston North in June, 1924, a resolution for the sale of the business was adopted. Mr. A. B. Callick, without hesitation took an option, formed the present Company of The Alliance Bee Supplies Co. Ltd., and for a quarter of a century has continued the satisfactory service of supplying quality goods to beekeepers. It is surely a sign of confidence in the business and in the beekeeping industry that Mr. Callick's son, W. L. Callick, is now in the business and taking up the running that his father began 44 years ago.

Even today, A.B. is no stranger to long hours of work and it is amazing the time he can spare to talk to beekeepers when they come to town. 1 Mason St. seems to be the Mecca of most beekeepers when they come to Dunedin. Perhaps his habit of doing without a midday meal gives him time in hand that lesser mortals waste. Apart from the fact that the founding of the business reveals a true pioneering spirit, and that three successive generations have had a hand in seeing it grow, success has come only with a great deal of hard work. A.B. has been on the job for 44 years and Jack McLeod for 40 years. To quote A.B.'s words: "Work in the earlier days was as Caliban in Shakespeare's *Tempest* described it 'wooden slavery'. I often wonder if the rising generation of work people would cycle ten miles to be at work at 3 a.m., do twenty (20) hours on end and be back on the job at 3 a.m. the following morning—not once or twice a week but for months on end and what for?—to build a business. The answer of course is 'no' and rightly so."

A.B. passes on a suggestion from Allan Bates that the biographies of some of the old stalwarts in the industry should be written up. He recalls men such as Bob Stewart, Jas. Allan, Ward of Christchurch, who always raised "seven bells" in conference when anyone dared to smoke, Earp Bray, Clayton, Walworth, Rentoul, T. Clark, Fred Baines, and many others. No two of them were alike in temperament but all were keen beekeepers even though honey in those days commanded very low prices. The suggestion is a good one and this small volume makes a simple beginning. But the effort has only an academic value unless the beekeepers of this generation are prepared to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the lessons and mistakes made at considerable cost by worthier men in more difficult times. There needs to be a more generous spirit of helpfulness, a greater spirit of enterprise—especially in matters of marketing policy—and rather less of sectional divisions.

Many interesting comparisons could be made on costs and output over forty years for which there is not space here. 100 super ft. of first class kauri could be landed in Dunedin for little more than the cost of a five pound tin of honey today all the hives in the Christchurch Jubilee exhibition were made from heart kauri. In those days timber was felled when the sap was down and stocks could be held for proper air seasoning. Today, inferior material is cut at any time of the year, no decent stocks can be held for proper seasoning and, as in so much of our modern economy, quality bears little real relation to the price.

If the beekeeper smiles when reminded that "Beekeeping is a profitable occupation", the reflection is on himself for his inability to put into practise the methods that have made this firm a successful enterprise. It is a story of commercial acumen, business enterprise and good service that is typified in the person of the present managing director, Mr. A. B. Callick.

"An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man."
—Emerson.

HOW GRANDFATHER KEPT BEES.

By J. M. Marshall, Outram, Otago.

This is a brief outline of the season's activities in an apiary of about fifty hives in the very early days.

About the year 1873 my Grandfather secured a swarm of bees and placed it in a box hive. He was the second settler on the Taieri to begin with bees. The next few years saw quite an increase in the number of hives. Naturally there was a lot of swarming each season; first swarms often swarming again the same summer. One busy day a swarm settled on Grandmother's back.

Usually on top of the swarms, small top boxes (about 12 in. x 10 in. x 10 in.) were placed and the bees had access through a square hole cut in the top of the main box. In every box, cross sticks were placed to hold up the combs. Sometimes a second top box was added and great was the joy in the large home when it was announced that a box of honey would be taken off. This was done by sawing a thin wire between the two boxes. Then the bees were "drummed" out. The honey in these top boxes was always choice and was eaten in the comb. This was the first of the season's crop and any surplus was quickly sold at 1/- a lb.

Later on, at the end of the season, the main crop was taken. Generally most of the past season's swarms were "smoked"; the bees being killed by the fumes from burning sulphur cloths. Then the boxes were taken into the storeroom. A side was taken off each box and the comb cut out. All choice pieces were kept to use on the table. The remainder were cut up small and the honey strained out into basins.

At the first signs of winter, all the remaining hives were "pitted" and brought out again when the first settled spring weather came.

"In a word, thou must be chaste, cleanly, sweet, sober, quiet, and familiar: so will they love thee, and know thee from all other."
—Butler.

"BEES IN THEIR BONNETS" will be continued in the August issue of the Journal.

BRANCH NOTES

SOUTH CANTERBURY.

A new Branch has been formed in South Canterbury. The President is Mr. W. Jennings, 17 White St., Timaru, and the Secretary, Mr. R. Davidson, 190 Otipua Rd., Timaru. They are at present busily engaged in enrolling new members for the coming year.

We have thought for some years that Canterbury has enough beekeepers for another Branch.

There are seven Branches south of the Waitaki for the same number of hives as in Canterbury which has had one Branch in recent years.

—Ed.

CANTERBURY.

Resolution.

"That this Canterbury Branch Disassociates itself with the statements expressed in Mr. W. B. Bray's letter, on the incidence of American Foul Brood in Canterbury, as published in the February Journal.

JAS. FORSTER, Hon. Sec.

WHAKATANE.

In spite of unfavourable weather 22 interested Beekeepers met at Mr. McMahon's Apiary on Saturday, January 10th, 1948, when Mr. McMahon, the President of the Whakatane Branch of the Beekeepers' Association, extended a welcome to all and especially to the members of the Awaker Young Farmers' Club.

We were pleased to have our Apiary Instructor, Mr. C. R. Paterson present, but regretted that on account of his father's illness, Mr. Goddard, was not able to attend as at first planned.

The afternoon proceedings were handed over to Mr. Paterson, but owing to the programme being made out for a fine day, the weather not being up to the usual Bay of Plenty standard, the programme had to be curtailed somewhat. However, between showers, the method of opening a hive and the finding of the Queen, and the making up of a nucleus hive was demonstrated.

Back in the honey house we were shown the various methods of wiring frames. Several of the members had brought along frames of section honey showing the different ways they had divided a full-sized frame to get 4 sections. All methods appeared to be equally successful.

The uncapping and the extracting of honey followed. As 1-5th to 3/4 of the honey is removed in the capping it is essential to have an effective method of dealing with the cappings, and Mr. McMahon demon-

strated a new apparatus by which the honey and the cappings are separated with the least possible trouble and need no second handling.

The trouble that is caused by the aphid on the tutu was mentioned and it was stressed that the co-operation of each individual Beekeeper in the district is absolutely essential. If one is careless, then all will suffer.

The new price list for honey came in for quite a bit of discussion and as it appeared so ambiguous it was moved that the Secretary write to the General Secretary for clarification.

At this stage a beautiful afternoon tea was served by Mrs. McMahon and helpers. Several votes of thanks were passed. One to Mr. Paterson for his help that he is always so willing to give and one to Mr. and Mrs. McMahon for the trouble they go to each year when we hold the Field Day at their place.

D. C. PETTY.

WEST COAST.

Members of the West Coast Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association spent an interesting day at Lake Kanieri on February 28th, when a field day was held at the apiary of Mr. R. Busch. Beekeepers from all parts of the district attended and were introduced to the host by the President of the Association, Mr. E. Airey, Senr., who also extended a welcome to Mr. T. Pearson of Darfield, an executive member of the National Beekeepers' Association, who in reply thanked the Branch for their invitation to be present.

Mr. Pearson then gave a practical demonstration of queen rearing. He commenced by stressing the points to be considered in selecting the breeding queen, and in preparing the cell building colony. After explaining the method of raising cells, he opened a hive and displayed a fine batch of queen cells with queens about to emerge. He concluded his demonstration by introducing a queen cell into a nucleus.

Mr. M. Hutchison, Kanieri, gave a demonstration of the manufacture of bee-frames with home-made machinery. This was of special interest to those beekeepers who manufacture their own equipment for they saw a complete plant in operation.

Mr. R. Glasson, Blackball, gave a talk on autumn management and the preparation of colonies before closing down for the winter.

Mr. Fitton, Marsden, spoke on production of section honey, while Mr. P. Lucas, Harihari, displayed a honey-house bogey, and a steam heated honey-clarifying bucket, both of his own design. (There are lots of bogeys.—Ed.)

At this stage a very enjoyable afternoon tea was supplied by our host and hostess.

After afternoon tea Mr. T. Pearson spoke on association matters and also explained

the new price order. His talk was followed with great interest, and he ably answered all questions asked by the beekeepers.

The President, Mr. E. Airey, continued his lecture on the history of West Coast bee-keeping, which he commenced at a previous field day.

Mr. Fitton, Marsden, kindly donated a queen bee for competition, and this was won by Mr. C. Hart.

Mr. Airey thanked Mr. Pearson for attending, and for the assistance he had given. He moved a vote of thanks to the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Busch; he also thanked Mr. and Mrs. M. Hutchison, Mr. Hart, and all those who had assisted to make the day such a successful one.

R. GLASSON.

SOUTH AUCKLAND.

This Branch held its 42nd Annual Meeting on the 5th May, when there was a good attendance. The Chairman's report centred on marketing matters. He pointed out that it was obvious the majority of the honey supplied to the I.M.D. came from the Waikato. No one could expect the Honey Section to operate when only 200 tons of honey was being handled.

The chairman thanked members for their support and in closing mentioned the increased membership of the Branch and the happy relations existing between all concerned.

J. D. LORIMER.

BEEKEEPING IN AUSTRALIA.

"The Australasian Beekeeper", Illustrated monthly magazine, published by Messrs. Pender Bros. Pty. Ltd. Subscription, 8/- per year, posted.

Sample copy free on application to The Editor, P.O. Box 20, West Maitland, N.S.W., Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

In these days of shortages, restrictions, shipping hold-ups, shorter hours, and what not, business is carried on in the face of obstacles and frustration. Retailers and merchants of apiarists' supplies have had great difficulty in obtaining regular stocks from dependable sources with consequent loss of business and certain disappointment to the beekeeper generally.

Opportunity has been taken from this situation by some people to fill the requirements of stockists, and what I have observed during the past twelve months astounds me. They certainly are making a sorry mess of their jobs.

I refer to woodware in particular. We know timber supplies are short, and the right kind of timber required is scarce. In Melbourne, dovetailed full-depth 10 frame hive bodies are made in Rimu for 8/4 f.o.r. It seems N.Z. apiarists are to be denied their own indigenous timbers to put up with any poor material these sprung-up sawyers provide.

Apart from the quality of the woodware, it is really deplorable to note what passes for workmanship. Hive body sides or ends cut 3-8ths of an inch off square, rebates on ends out of plumb, and rebates for top-bars dipping as much as $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. The rough finish and lack of cleanliness makes you wonder why you pay these shabby workers the same price as for better-class products.

After purchasing from one of this district's hardware stores the products (frame and hive bodies of three lesser known "manufacturers" and by post with another (nuclei and division boards), my disappointment and waste of money has led me to pay a little extra and have the work made by order by a reputable cabinet making firm.

Perhaps beginners in beekeeping can take a tip from this, experience unless they are fortunate enough to procure properly constructed woodware of reputable and old established manufacturers of beekeepers' supplies.

Yours truly,
HUGH ALEX BAGLEY.

Ahipara,
Northland.

ITALIAN QUEENS

Untested 1 to 10 8/- each; 10 to 20 7/9 each; Over 20 7/6 each.

Select Untested 1/- extra.

Tested 1 to 10 12/- each; 10 to 20 11/9 each; Over 20 11/6 each.

Select Tested 15/- each.

Breeders 25/- each.

Write for quotations for larger orders. Delivery: Tested from September 1st; Untested, October 1st (As weather permits), to March 30th. All orders in by March 1st.

Terms: Cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added. Airmail 2/- extra for each 20. Nothing but Italians kept for 35 years.

Phone 230A, Whangarei; Postal Address, No. 2 R.D., Whangarei.

GAVIN'S APIARIES :: TITOKI

AN APPEAL FOR BEESWAX

Year by year the demand for "Acorn" Weed Process Comb Foundation grows. This year we will need more beeswax than ever to meet the huge demand and so avoid the situation which developed last year when **many tons of honey were lost to the industry through lack of comb foundation.** We pay the maximum authorised price, 2/- per pound on rail your station.

**HELP YOURSELF AND HELP THE
INDUSTRY BY ENSURING AN ADEQUATE
SUPPLY OF BEESWAX FOR THE COMING
SEASON'S FOUNDATION**

Forwarding Instructions

NORTH ISLAND BEEKEEPERS, unless handy to a port from which direct shipment is possible, should send per Railways "Through Booking" via Auckland or Wellington (whichever is nearer), or if neither of these routes is available because of shipping congestion, consign per "Rail and Air Freight."

Write us if in difficulties and we will help you get it through. Be sure to enter on the consignment note the number of feet measurement, at the rate of 1 foot to each 50 lbs. of wax, see that each package bears your name, and notify us when sending.

Small lots may be sent per Parcels Post.

SOUTH ISLAND BEEKEEPERS—Consign per rail, with your name on each package, and advise us when despatched.

A. ECROYD

11 THORNTON STREET,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Telegraphic Address: "ECROYD, SHIRLEY."

CONCERNING ADVERTISEMENTS.

(H. A. Bagley).

Presumably all beekeepers read their journal, and on occasion make use of advertisers' addresses. The bare name and address of an advertiser is no indication of the quality, class of workmanship, prices of the products advertised, nor of the kind of service rendered. One advertiser's name is as good as another's, but his product whether it is tins, cartons, woodware, foundation, labels, etc., can be considerably different to the other fellow's. High-grade materials with poor workmanship are just as unacceptable as low-quality materials with first-class workmanship. Consequently one would expect variations in prices accordingly. As for service, well, under present-day conditions, that is an unknown quantity, and only by sheer force of good management and co-operatives can a reputation be secured in this direction.

The beekeeper requiring supplies is in a quandary to which advertiser he should apply. He tosses over in his mind the several names of advertisers, or he puts their names on paper-slips and draws one from a hat. Writing to this one, is as a pig in a poke. He may be lucky, and he just mayn't. The goods received, perhaps promptly, perhaps after months of waiting, are up to expectations on all scores, or they may produce a furious temper and bitter soliloquies when opened up.

The beekeeper gets used to the stings of his bees, but in business, if once stung he's twice shy. That is human nature—and psychologically true.

The journal comes in for a measure of blame for accepting those advertisements which when followed up, destroy confidence and satisfaction. The heaviest kick goes to the advertiser who puts one across the purchaser. Whether wittingly or unwittingly that advertiser freights out poor quality products, of rough or unclean workmanship, at prices which rate high for better class products, and with a can't-be-bothered or take-it-or-leave-it kind of service, he can be sure he not only loses one customer but many; yes, many. The bee-

keeper the world over is noted for a spirit of good fellowship among colleagues; he discusses things, systems, bees, hives and honey freely, on the street, at the apiary, in the hardware stores or grocery, and at the Association meeting. Good advice and news is passed on; likewise words of caution are sounded, and, like bad news, travels fast. The advertiser who conducts an honest-to-goodness business knows this and makes use of psychological principles as well as the fundamentals upon which a progressively profitable business is secured—viz. Honest Workmanship, Quality, Service and Price. The successful manufacturer and advertiser jealously guards his reputation and is ever watchful for new or more business, that is, new clients and repeat orders.

Well, all this leads to the question of how a beekeeper can select the best market from advertisements in the Journal. It is easy after a successful trial order, or to deal with an advertiser well-reported. It is not so easy for the uninitiated.

Assume that every advertiser's name is Smith; that every advertisement reads true and is a plain statement about the kind of goods Smith produces; and that every advertisement equally arrests your attention. There's your quandary; that is when you toss the penny. Which Smith will serve you promptly, with well-made goods of best materials and clean enough to put into disease-free hives, and at such price as will satisfy you? All Smiths aren't equal, neither are they equal to one another. There's no such thing as equality in Nature, and that applies to all the rest of the genera Smithii. But there is a difference in the personal makeup of one Smith and another, a difference in the way each runs his own business, a difference in each Smith's estimation of what constitutes quality, excellence of finish, cleanliness, honesty of purpose, service and price. Some Smiths are successful and others are rank failures. The crowd will follow success; failures are dropped like hot potatoes. Dull, uninteresting advertisements of merely name, title and address can never secure progressive business because they do not, in the first place attract attention or in-

terest. How different, how refreshing to read an advertisement which candidly describes a product, affirms quality or finish, declares something of the firm's business policy, integrity, or standing, and assures the reader of guarantee or satisfaction! Such an advertisement is a straight-out promise—a promise which the advertiser is honour bound to keep, or else —. Trade and Export Reviews are full of announcements of well-known successful manufacturers, but you do not see anything like them in parish chronicles. So it is up to the reader to by-pass bare and shallow address cards in the absence of more reliable information. By the same reasoning, firms buying magazine space should make full and proper use of advertisements which, after all, are intended to secure business as well as to benefit readers.

While readers do expect to see better advertising, it behoves them to demand it by co-operating with the publishers of their magazine. The publisher does not control copy writing for advertisers; he sells space, and that space is sold at profit. It is well-known that publishers of first-class periodicals accept advertisements only from reputable concerns, thus protecting subscribers from irresponsible charlatans. Publishers can accept or refuse advertisements; and they do endeavour by good service to maintain or increase a large list of subscribers. Therefore, if you have been misled by an advertisement in your Journal to a pig-in-a-poke market and stung, if you have no come-back on your transaction, and if you have good reason or proof that other beekeepers should be prevented from falling in, give the publisher of your Journal or Magazine the opportunity to black-list the advertiser. A second or third black mark from other subscribers should warrant cancelling the advertiser's space appropriation. There is only one way to stop shoddy woodware from being foisted on to beekeepers and that is to boycott incompetent backyard manufacturers, and to deny privileges to the unconscientious. This can be done by broadcasting among your beekeeping friends and notifying the publisher of your particular magazine.

ITALIAN QUEENS

1947-48

Quantity.	Untested.	Tested.	Select tested.
1	9/-	13/-	16/-
2	17/6	25/-	30/-
3	25/6	36/-	
4	33/-	47/-	
5	40/-	58/-	
10	77/6	110/-	
20 & over—150/- per 20.			

Selected Untested, add 1/- extra per Queen.

Breeders, £3/3/- each (when available).

Delivery October to March.

Terms: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added.

Telegrams, 1/- extra.

Orders over 20 Airmailed free on request.

Orders under 20, 2/2 extra.

The development of these Queens extends over a period of 20 years, resulting in the creation of a hard working, high producing and non-swarmling strain of gentle temperament.

Bred from disease-free hives under natural conditions.

Apply to—

F. D. WHITE

Commercial Queen Breeder,

Box 32,

KAMO, NORTH AUCKLAND.

NOTES FOR BEGINNERS.

By **SKEP.**

A misapprehension regarding the value of Flavour in show honey may have been conveyed in the February notes. As a matter of fact, flavour ranks high in winning points. The value of flavour can only be judged in comparison with the flavour of other exhibits.

By now, we all know what the crop has been and we are either pleased or disappointed, according to our earlier expectations. That is all in the game and there is another season coming. To those who have just begun beekeeping, I would say; do not let one poor season disappoint you. There are plenty more when your fortune will be better. The older members of the fraternity will not need such advice because they will be eagerly waiting for the good season that comes now and then. The thrill of these good seasons is one of the eight wonders of the world. It is wise to start preparing now in case that good one comes next season.

Firstly repair the wear and tear of the past by painting up any weather-worn supers and clean and dry all utensils used for honey. Some of us have had that tired feeling which comes after a season with the bees and have left the cleaning up until a more convenient time. This too often turns out to be sometime in the following season. Then when we cannot leave it any longer we are surprised to see how nice and shiny everything is under the coat of stained honey and wax. Some have convinced themselves that utensils are saved from rust etc by leaving them and have actually recommended the "method". Just try this style for two or three years and the answer will be evident to the most careless. You will find that the tinning has disappeared from the surface of the metal containers. The bees have collected all the metals from nectar that are required in good honey and the mild acids in honey have been acting

on the tinning of the surfacing material. To expose honey in these damaged containers results in the corrosion of metals and the addition of poisonous substances to the honey. Do not let that clear bright appearance deceive you and lead you into bad habits. A thin coating of paraffin wax will give a good protective coat. Honey is the most perfect sweet known to man. Protect it with loving care as nearly as possible in its original form.

Secondly, make sure that your bees have a dry home for the winter. Too much plugging of entrances to keep out mice can easily result in a lack of ventilation. Quarter inch gauze is better often than solid plugs of wood. Old Mr Langstroth once did experiments in wintering bees under severe American conditions. One hive was hung in a tree without a bottom board. Another was set up from the bottom board on 3 in. nails. An excluder was under the super to keep out mice. Both hives wintered perfectly. But of course they had sufficient stores in the right place. A lot of advice about changing wet mats is misplaced. The cause of wet mats is usually due to insufficient ventilation or to leaky roofs anyone who compels bees to live in such conditions should be confined to such conditions also. One night would be enough and then there would often be a funeral. Keep long grass away from the hive with the floor boards clear of the ground. It is hardly likely that anyone will have been criminal enough to neglect the proper provision of stores. Then leave the bees alone. If you have done your part properly and in time, they at least deserve the rest that nature has decreed is best for them.

Let me congratulate those who have had a good season and commiserate with those who have had a dud. Now one final word of advice. Make up your order for new material and send it to the manufacturer. Most goods are hard to secure and it will be to your advantage, and the assistance of the supplier to place your order early. You will also have more time to get your material made up in readiness for that big honey crop, perhaps next season.

I have been SKEP for one year and the Editor hopes to have a new pen writing to you for next year. Another SKEP will bring new ideas and a fresh outlook. I wish him every success and hope you will all co-operate by sending in questions. I close by handing on a puzzle sent in by one of the beginners.

Thank you Mr Editor. Wishing you and your Journal prosperous seasons in the future.

Yours, SKEP.

WASHBOARD MOVEMENT!

A beginner writes: "At the end of December one of my colonies started a queer behaviour. Fifty or more bees stood on the alighting board. Their heads were bowed down and their forelegs and tongues were in constant motion. We remarked that they seemed to be mopping up something but there was nothing to mop up. Later the numbers increased and some started the same game, hanging head down on the front of the hive. I eventually came upon a description and picture of the 'washboard movement' in A. I. Root. It still continues (1/3/48) and tonight fully 500 bees are at it, quite obstructing an en-

trance for others. Otherwise everything is normal. There is a faint crackling sound also like a briskly kindling fire."

On page 67 of the 1935 A.B.C. & X.Y.Z. of Bee Culture the following is stated: "This washboard or scrubbing act has been reported several times through the bee journals but no satisfactory reason has as yet been offered. To say that it is a kind of exercise is hardly tenable."

Thank you Beginner. Has any reader a solution to offer? It looks as if we may have to refer it to Dr. Von. Frisch of Graz.

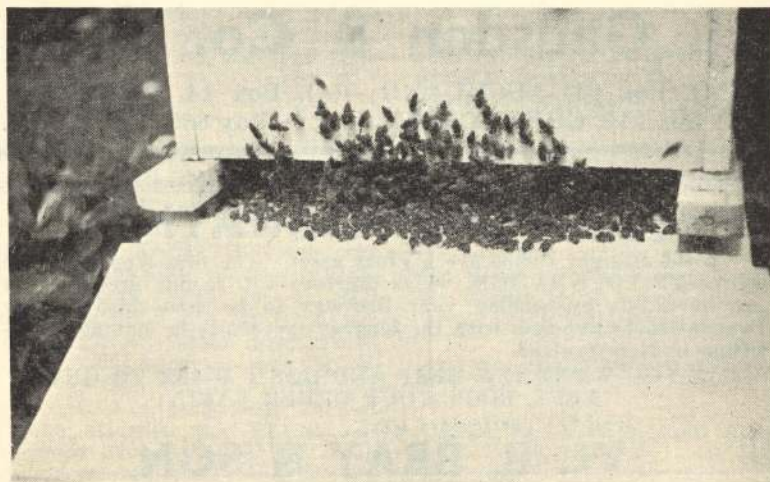
The Editor wishes to extend his thanks to Skep of the last four issues for his interesting contributions. It is our policy to have a new Skep for each season. The Editor will be pleased to receive offers from those who would like to continue the section for beginners in the next four issues. In the meantime here's hoping you all winter well.

—EDITOR.

NOTICE BOARD.

INVENTIVE IDEAS and SHORTCUTS

This page has had to be held over till the next issue.



THE "WASHBOARD" MOVEMENT.

1947-48 Italian Bees and Queens

	1	2	3	4	5	10	20 and over
Untested	.... 9/-	17/6	25/6	33/-	40/-	77/6	150/- per 20
Select Untested	—1/- extra per queen.						
Tested	.... 13/-	25/-	36/-	47/-	58/-	110/-	
Select Tested	.... 16/-	30/-					
Breeders	—£3/3/- each.		Nuclei (4 frame)—£2/2/-.				

DELIVERY OCTOBER TO MARCH.

TERMS: Cash with order.

Cheques to have exchange added.

Telegrams 1/- extra.

Prices for Nuclei F.O.R. Drury.

Nuclei Boxes to be returned freight prepaid.

Special quotes in special cases.

APPLY TO—

HOMESTEAD APIARIES

C.P.O. BOX 2127, AUCKLAND. 'Phone 24-081.

Manager: H. L. M. Buisson.

HONEY TINS

We can promptly supply your requirements.

ALL SIZES MAY NOW BE SUPPLIED.

J. Gadsden & Co. Ltd.

P.O. Box 94, AUCKLAND; P.O. Box 14, PETONE;
P.O. Box 216, CHRISTCHURCH; P.O. Box 669, DUNEDIN.

QUALITY FOUNDATION

Good straight combs are a great asset. The first step is to use QUALITY FOUNDATION, which the bees will readily accept. You can have this by sending your Beeswax to be made into Quality Foundation by the firm with the longest experience in making Foundation in New Zealand.

IF YOU WANT THE BEST AND DON'T WANT TO GET LEFT, BOOK YOUR ORDER EARLY.

Send for particulars to:

W. B. BRAY & SON

LEESTON

OBITUARY.

MR. F. HEMMINGSEN, INVERCARGILL.

The Southland Branch has lost one of its oldest members. Mr. Hemmingsen had been a member since 1907 which was just one year after the inception of the Branch, and he has had the honour of being President at different periods. He was a builder by trade and actively pursued his calling until recent years. His interest in bees was more than that of a hobbyist as he not only managed a chain of out apiaries but also engaged in the manufacture of bee supplies and comb foundation, over a long period of years.

Although born in N.Z., Mr. Hemmingsen was proud of his Danish ancestry. He could speak Danish fluently and it was his custom to visit Scandinavian ships while in the port of Bluff, frequently inviting members of the crews to his home in Invercargill. Without being assertive, he was also a staunch member of the Plymouth Brethren.

Of a kindly and quiet disposition he was always willing to place his beekeeping facilities at the disposal of the Branch for field days. His passing last month marks the loss of a sincere friend to many of his associates in the south, who extend their sympathy to his wife and family in their loss.

NEILS AND ARTHUR ANDERSON, FEILDING.

The late Messrs. Neils Andrew Anderson and Arthur Anderson, who lost their lives in a boating tragedy at Tangimoana, were sons of Mrs Anderson and the late Mr N. J. Anderson, of Kawa Kawa Road, Feilding. Mr Neils Anderson was the eldest son of the family. When the family shifted to the Feilding district, the sons attended the Makino and Manchester Street schools. Mr Neils Anderson was associated with his late father on the farms practically all his life. It was following a six

months holiday in Australia that Mr Arthur Anderson first conceived the idea of becoming a beekeeper and from a modest initial effort he gradually developed his business until in recent years he conducted the second largest apiary in the Dominion. His output of honey reached a maximum of 40 tons per annum, and at the Manawatu and West Coast A. and P. Shows in 1931, 1932, and 1933 he won three gold medals awarded in the export honey classes. Similar distinction was won at Feilding and Waikato Shows. Mr Neils Anderson was a capable mechanic and a talented artist. Mesdames C. Baldwin (Feilding), R. Jobson (Palmerston North), and L. Benge (Aorangi) and Miss J. Anderson are sisters, while Mr E. Anderson, of Sydney, is a brother. Another brother, the late Mr G. Anderson, lost his life some years ago whilst fishing from a launch on the Wanganui-Tangimoana coast. Mr E. Anderson is at present staying with his mother. Among the organisations in which the late Mr Arthur Anderson was interested, were the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, the Feilding Boxing Club, and the local branch of Federated Farmers.

EUROPEAN WASP IN THE WAIKATO.

Grave concern is expressed over the menace from the European Wasp which is very prevalent in the Waikato and in particular in the Hamilton district. In one apiary, the wasps have been responsible for robbing completely a normal hive and several nuclei. They are increasing at an alarming rate and if drastic steps are not taken to eliminate them they will prove to be a serious menace to the livelihood of beekeepers.

SOUTH AFRICAN BEEKEEPING.

Read the South African Bee Journal. Published every two months. Subscription 7/6 per year to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 3306, Cape Town, South Africa.

BEEKEEPERS' WOODWARE

Flower Products can supply any quantity of Beekeepers' Woodware required immediately.

Mail orders to:

FLOWER PRODUCTS

Under New Management.

5 FLOWER STREET, EDEN TCE., AUCKLAND, C.3.

H. W. DOULL, Manager.

We have large stocks of all parts.

'Phone 30-934. Prompt Service and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

R. K. GEDDES

Woodware Manufacturer

ROTORUA.

Finest Plantation-grown
Timber used.

Quality Guaranteed.

List on Application.

R. K. GEDDES,
Proprietor.

BEE WOODWARE

Orders for SUPPLIES are
still being accepted. Price
List from:

A. B. TURNER

Te Rapa, R.D.,
FRANKTON.

Highest Grade

Comb Foundation

or own Wax converted

Write for quotations to:—

T. R. W. Nicholas

P.O. BOX 28, HAWERA.

FOR SALE.

Good WHITE PINE honey SECTIONS
Price 10/6 per hundred. Orders filled
in rotation. Apply:

M. W. BURNETT,
R.M.D., Wakefield.

WANTED.

One copy of April, 1942; The N.Z.
Beekeeper. Also several copies of
Vol. 9, 1947 (Particularly Feb. and
May).

Editor, "The N.Z. Beekeeper.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Trade Announcements, 5/- per inch
per insertion; £5 per page; £2/15/-

per half-page; £1/10/- per quarter-
page per issue.

"Wanted," 2d. per word per inser-
tion.

BEEKEEPERS' WOODWARE

Flower Products can supply any quantity of Beekeepers' Woodware required immediately.

Mail orders to:

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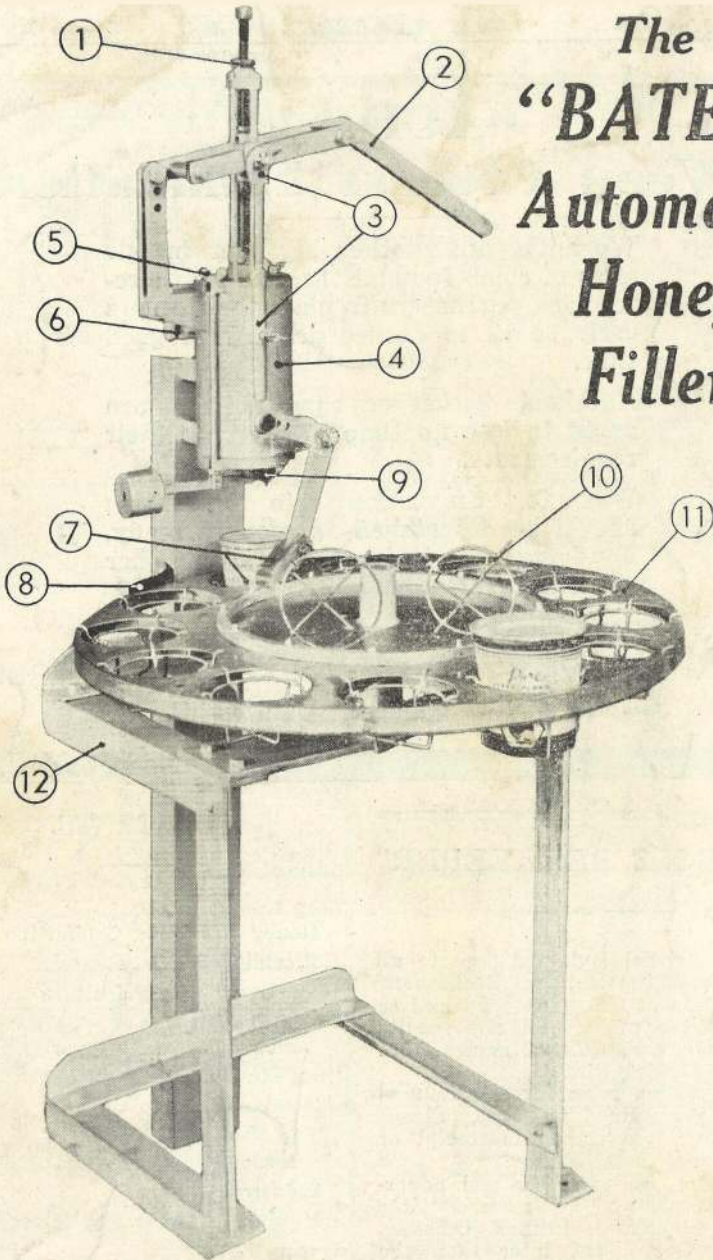
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"Wanted," 2d. per word per insertion.

The
"BATES"
Automatic
Honey
Filler



PRICE: £55 NETT CASH. Packed F.O.B. Dunedin.

Send for Descriptive Pamphlet. Limited stocks available for prompt delivery.

Sole New Zealand Selling Agents:

THE ALLIANCE BEE SUPPLIES CO. LTD.

P.O. BOX 572, DUNEDIN

Beynon Printing Co Ltd., Timaru