

apilary the small farmers complained that bees did not do so well as they used to, and were dying out.

Now, if we just had some of these devices, some men would say, and could save these farmers' bees for them, it would be good work, but to me it appears an effort to oppose one of Nature's laws.

In my own apiary I tried everything to save my colonies, the bulk of which were fairly strong, until I could re-queen them, and one of the devices I used was the one-bee way, but I soon found out that where one bee could get out a good number could get in. On one occasion I tried to hide a hive at night amongst the fruit trees, but in the morning several little fellows were waiting there for me to give them a one-bee way. That evening, however, I gave the weak colony a frame of brood and bees from an Italian colony, and there were no more robbers in that hive, and by adopting this method with all other weaklings, it effectually stopped any further pilfering, and enabled me to requeen without the loss of a single colony.

And I consider all our efforts should be directed to improve our race of bees for utility purposes, and we should not waste our time in a blundering effort to appear clever by meddling with one of Nature's greatest laws.

At the present time, with the race of bees I have, there is no robbing of stores. There are, of course, attempts, but in all cases the resistance is effective.

It is my custom every spring to make up about 100 two and three-framed nuclei for mating purposes, and with a two by three-eighths of an inch entrance, there is never one of these robbed, although some are left queenless right into the spring. (This is in the case of their queens being removed at a time when it is too late to requeen, and I do not think them worth uniting.)

The selecting of the breeding queens is of great importance in the organizing of a good race of bees, and perhaps the mating of the young queens is of as great importance.

In regard to the young queens, I get the best results in midsummer, when there is a good force of drones flying in the apiary. Some beekeepers advocate very early mating from selected drones, but after trying this method for a few years I had to abandon it on account of some swarming strain of bees in my district having drones long before I could get them. There was also a disadvantage with late queens, but in this case the trouble was unclean-for queenless colonies with drones flying very late. I find that, taking midsummer as the time, almost all queens are mated purely, and that with plenty of drones there is little danger of queens getting away from the apiary, but I have witnessed only one act of fertilization here. It is essential from a utility point of view, however, that all the queens in the breeding apiary should be of the very best, and a man is lucky who has one or more out-apiaries from which he can choose his queens for this purpose.

I would close my remarks by again drawing your attention to this idea of improving our bees for utility purposes, so that, instead of tampering with Nature's laws, it may follow as a natural consequence of the "Survival of the Fittest" that we shall perpetuate a race of bees which will be a credit to New Zealand.

Christchurch.

#### THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

The publication of an official report of the Conference had been brought up at an earlier stage, when it was decided to ask for some assistance in having the papers printed. Mr Kirk, who had made inquiries as to whether the Department had any funds which could be used for such a purpose, stated that the Department would grant the sum of £10 towards the cost. The President moved a vote of thanks to Mr Kirk, which was carried by acclamation.

**WATER CONTENT OF HONEY.**  
Mr Gibb pointed out that the regulations under the Pure Food and Drugs Act allowed honey to contain 25 per cent of free water.

It was thought that a man might buy honey containing only 16 per cent of water, liquify it, and raise the water percentage. They, therefore, suggested that the figure should be reduced to 22 per cent, and he moved.

That this Conference of beekeepers would like, in order to prove their contention that New Zealand honey obtained in any part of New Zealand, does not naturally contain such a high percentage of water as 25 per cent, to ask Mr Kirk to instruct his apiary inspectors to collect as many samples of honey as possible and submit the same to the Government Analyst for his analysis.

Discussion was deferred until a committee had interviewed the authorities, and, later on, Mr Gibb announced that the matter had been brought under the notice of Dr. Frengle. The suggested drop to 22 per cent had been mentioned, but it had been decided to defer fixing the percentage until the analyses were made, when an average would be struck.

The original motion was seconded by Mr Hopkins, and carried unanimously.

#### CO-OPERATIVE EXPORT.

Mr Cottrell read a report from the committee set up to consider the question of co-operative export. The committee, having regard to the importance of obtaining reliable data on which to base an extensive co-operative export scheme of honey from New Zealand to other parts of the world, suggested that the executive of the Association should be asked to obtain this information from two already successful honey producers' associations conducted in the United States. The committee further suggested that upon the receipt of this information the Executive should be instructed to formulate and put in force for the next honey season a workable scheme as to the best means of obtaining the highest possible price for New Zealand honey on an export basis. In inaugurating the scheme, the committee suggested that the executive of the Association should approach the co-operative concerns, with a view to working in with them on the best terms available.

The report was adopted. Mr Cottrell then moved that the executive be instructed to formulate a workable co-operative export scheme on the lines of the committee's report, dated June 29. Mr Brickell seconded the motion, which was carried.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

On the motion of Mr Allan, it was decided to ask the High Commissioner to include honey in his weekly report of market values.

Another resolution, moved by Mr W. Hooper Teed, drew attention to the desirability of honey figuring in the produce in the Dairymen's Show in the High London next September, and also at the Shows, which take place on consecutive weeks before or after the first-mentioned event. This was seconded by Mr Askew.

On the motion of Mr Allan, seconded by Mr Bartlett-Miller, the confirmation of the adoption of the constitution was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Pearson, it was decided that the executive should consider the advisability of holding the next Conference at Auckland during the Exhibition, framing the resolution passed at the last Conference regarding the compulsory grading of honey for export. This was seconded by Mr E. G. Ward, and carried.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr J. Allan (moved by Mr Bartlett-Miller and seconded by Mr Cottrell); vice-president, Mr J. S. Cottrell (proposed by Mr Bartlett-Miller and seconded by Mr Gibb); secretary and treasurer, Mr R. W. Brickell (proposed by Mr Messrs Ireland and Gibb); members of the executive for the South Island, Messrs Hutchison, Gillies, and Bartlett-Miller were proposed for the North Island, and a ballot being taken, the first-named two were elected. Mr Baines was elected auditor.

On the motion of Mr Adams, a hearty vote of thanks for past services was accorded to the late president and secretary. It was also decided that the sum of £10 and his expenses to the Conference should be voted to the late secretary (Mr Ward).

#### RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

Mr Allan reported that the deputation appointed by the Conference had waited on the Minister for Railways, and had received his assurance that their representations would be taken into consideration during the revision of freights which was to take place shortly.

At a later stage, Mr Allan reported that another deputation had waited on the Premier with regard to the proposed amendments to the Apiaries Act, to emphasize the need for equipping the instructors with motor cycles, and also with regard to the need for a change in supervision of the Government apiary—to bring it under the control of the Apiaries Division. They were favourably received by the Premier, who had promised to see that these things were, as far as possible, carried out. (Applause.)

#### N.Z. PRODUCE IN ENGLAND.

An address was given by Mr W. D. Lysnar, the organizer of the Bristol and Dominions' Producers' Association, Ltd., on the advantages to be gained by shipping to the West of England ports in preference to London, and he also explained the objects of the co-operative association which he represented, and the methods by which it was intended to handle New Zealand produce in London.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Lysnar for his address and the retiring officers of the Association, and "The Press" were accorded similar compliments before the Conference closed.

### NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSN. OF N.Z.

An Organisation formed for the purpose of improving the conditions of the Beekeepers of the Dominion, and the Honey Markets in particular.

Export and Local Development are the aims of the Executive, who are all commercial beekeepers.

In your own interests you cannot afford to remain outside the National.

Send your subscription to-day.

R. W. BRICKELL,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

50, Castle Street, Dunedin.