

TROPICAL QUEENS.

Another question was raised as to the hardihood of the offspring of tropical raised queens. My experience in this line has been quite satisfactory, and I should like beekeepers to consider this aspect of the case.

At what time of the year are the best queens raised in New Zealand? I think the consensus of opinion will be that summer is the ideal time, when high temperatures prevail bordering on the tropical. Such conditions are to be found in Rarotonga all the year round, combined with a gentle honey flow, and I have no hesitation in stating that in that climate as good queens as any raised elsewhere may be reared, and that at a minimum of cost.

Manawaru, Te Aroha.

HASTENING GRANULATION.

(By F. C. Baines.)

Seeing that our export trade is so quickly assuming large proportions, and that it is necessary the honey be granulated before it can be graded, I think some information on the subject would be interesting to readers.

I will give you the method of one of our men who is in a fairly large way. He uses a capping melter (previously explained), also a shallow tray, heated by hot water, over which runs all the honey direct from the extractor. The honey is run into a shallow tank holding about 15 cwt., and during the day is occasionally stirred so that all the honey will be slightly warmed, thereby hastening the rising of scum, etc. This tank is connected with a larger one holding about two and a-half tons, and after the smaller one has been carefully skimmed the honey is allowed to run into the larger. This is continued until the large tank is full, and into this is put what my friend calls a "starter," which consists of a 60-lb. tin of honey granulated fairly stiffly, and the whole is stirred with a strong paddle until the granulated honey is thoroughly mixed in. In about three days the whole will show evident signs of granulation, when it is again stirred, and again the next day, and within ten days it will be necessary to tin it, else you'll want a spade to dig it out. The oftener it is stirred the smoother the grain will become.

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