

"When at Matamata I used frequently to shift bees about from place to place. On one occasion I had

about 40 very strong colonies in two-storey hives on a four-horse waggon. They were well secured, and had travelled all right for nearly five miles, when a sack of potatoes the driver had thoughtlessly put on the waggon rolled down between the lives, jamming them over, and forcing the covers up. Out poured the bees in great numbers, frightening

the driver, who jumped off his waggon and began to strike at them right and left. This infuriated the bees, and they went for both him and the horses. I got on to the waggon to close the hives, but the sack of potatoes was so firmly wedged in that I was some time removing it. All this time the bees had been boiling out of 3 or 4 hives, the poor horses were reur-

ing, plunging, screaming and galloping away by fits and starts, while the driver hung to the poles like a demon. I had all I could do to hang on above, but at last, during a gallop, was thrown off on the off-side just clear of the wheels. At the same moment the leaders swung round on the near side, and were thrown nearly under the waggon. As soon as I could I cut them adrift, and away they went as hard as they could go, and I then went to the assistance of the driver, who was hanging on to the poor poles, while they reared, and plunged, and screamed like human beings. Both the horses and the driver were being fearfully stung, and I did my best to kill the bees on the heads of both horses with the flat of both hands. At last the driver managed to cut the poles adrift, and away they went with the bees after them. We could see the horses in the distance rolling in a frantic manner to get clear of their enemies. Most of the harness was ruined."

"How did the driver get on?"

"He had been fearfully stung about the head and face, and after the excitement was over he nearly collapsed. I got him down to the nearest cookhouse, and then rode as hard as I could to my house and got him some brandy, which gradually brought him round; but he had to lay up for a day or two."

"What about your self and the horses?"



CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION.

TRANSFERRING THE BEES TO THE NEW HIVE.



Botteley and Rendell, photo.

ROTORUA CRICKETERS, CIVIL SERVICE AND UNITED PLAYERS.



Botteley and Rendell, photo.

PROMINENT ROTORUA CITIZENS.