

CHRISTCHURCH.—Fair supplies of stone-fruits from Hawke's Bay, Nelson, Teviot, and Auckland were offering in local markets. Local fruits also in fair quantities. A few lots of tomatoes from the Nelson District were also on sale. Vegetables are not so plentiful as last month. A few lots of Australian grapes were landed in inferior condition. Sufficient care did not appear to have been taken in packing, consequently the fruit opened up bruised and not in suitable condition for first-class sale.—*E. A. Reid.*

DUNEDIN.—Peaches, tomatoes, and plums are coming to hand in good quantities. Raspberries, strawberries, apricots, grapes, red and black currants, and gooseberries are just about over, small quantities only coming to hand. Apples and pears are coming forward in small supplies only. During the month warning notices had to be issued for fruit affected with shot-hole fungus and codlin-moth. Fair supplies of the following vegetables are coming to hand in good condition: Potatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots, lettuce, marrows, turnips, beetroot, rhubarb, beans, and radishes. All shops are well supplied with most varieties of both local and imported fruits, the same being of good quality and condition.—*E. T. Taylor.*

BLUFF.—Locally grown fruit is now arriving in considerable quantities, the majority being grown in Central Otago. During the month fruit arrived from the following districts: Auckland: Burbank plums—A fair quantity in good order. Hawke's Bay: Plums—Good condition and clean. Canterbury: Tomatoes, apples, pears, and raspberries—Good lines of fruit. Otago Central: Apricots, peaches, plums, apples, pears, and grapes—A fair quantity is arriving almost daily, and is in the best of condition and clean. A good many growers are represented, and good prices are obtainable. Southland: Cherries, raspberries, currants, strawberries, and vegetables—The fruit-shops were inspected, and the auctions inspected weekly.—*R. Hutton.*

HONEY-CROP PROSPECTS.

THE Director of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division has received the following reports on the honey-crop prospects from the Apiary Instructors:—

AUCKLAND.—Honey prospects decidedly good both in quantity and quality.—*G. V. Westbrooke.*

WELLINGTON.—As anticipated, the recent weather has been exceptionally good for honey-gathering, and has resulted in an average crop being secured. The majority of the honey is, as formerly, of an excellent quality.—*F. A. Jacobsen.*

CHRISTCHURCH.—Beekeepers generally have been very busy extracting honey of choice quality during the last two weeks. The hot weather has burnt up clover-bloom, especially on light lands, and indications point to a falling-off of nectar.—*L. Bowman.*

DUNEDIN.—Weather-conditions are at present against a large honey crop. Extracting is in progress; and the returns show a steady increase over last season. Given fine weather there is yet time to secure good returns, as there is an abundance of clover. Honey sent forward is realizing good prices.—*E. A. Earp.*

OUR TRADE WITH VICTORIA.

THE total value of the imports in Victoria from New Zealand for the quarter ending 31st December, 1912, was £186,671. The principal items were—Animals, living, £1,460 (8 geldings, 1 mare, 158 sheep); fish, fresh, potted, and preserved, £7,541; grain, £24,374 (barley 15,010 centals, oats 46,578, bran and pollard 3,538); bacon and hams, £950; preserved meats, £5,025; potatoes, £8,973 (14,088 cwt.); skins and hides, £8,292 (cattle 4,322, horses 149, sheep 400, rabbits 1,624 lb.); timber, £49,048.

Imports into New Zealand from Victoria—Total for quarter, £159,892. The principal items were—Animals, living, £1,176 (8 cattle, 1 mare, 15 sheep); bark, tanning, £1,092; fruits, dried and preserved, £4,223; fruits, fresh, £3,757; leather, £6,241; manures, £8,815; wine, £4,250; wool, greasy, £2,010.