

three years ago, saw Mr. Alfred Neighbour (a somewhat celebrated apiarian at Home) on the subject of sending humble-bees to New Zealand.

“Mr. Neighbour took up the matter *con amore*, and promised, when opportunity offered, to send out a consignment, pointing out the risk attending such a shipment. That gentleman spared neither trouble nor expense in endeavouring to make the venture a success. In the first place, he employed an agent in a district in Scotland where the bees were usually plentiful to mark down the nests in summer, and then, in the early part of the winter, each nest with its queen was carefully dug out and placed separately in a nest of moss in a box for export. Being in a state of torpor when taken from their Scottish home, it was *sine qua non* that they should remain in this state the whole of the voyage to the Antipodes; consequently they were placed in the ice-house of the ‘John Elder,’ one of the Orient line of steamers. On arrival at Melbourne the box was handed over to the captain of the ‘Arawata’ to carry on to New Zealand.

“From the appearance of fully one-half of the dead insects there is every reason to believe that they were alive on arrival at the Bluff, but unfortunately a delay in their transit here took place which was fatal to all but two. The telegram to Mr. Belfield telling of their arrival was dated the 31st January, at the same time intimating that the ‘Arawata’ came in on the 26th. Yet further delay took place, and the interesting strangers did not arrive at Timaru till the 3rd February. Mr. Hislop, late of the Timaru Domain, kindly took charge of the box, and opened it with the result above stated.”

SPRING CULTIVATION.

WITH autumn and early winter sown crops the question of getting rid of surplus water is generally one of more importance than that of conserving water within the soil. With spring-sown crops the question of conserving moisture in ill-drained soils, as well as in all soils of a porous nature, is one of paramount importance. The proper preparation of the seed-bed by deep cultivation, by fining, and consolidation of the soil thereafter is a primary factor in helping to keep the soil moist. The Cambridge roller is an indispensable implement in such operations, but there are still numerous farms where such things as Cambridge rollers have been heard of but never possessed or utilized. The Cambridge roller is not an implement in everyday use upon a small farm, neither is it a very expensive article, and consequently three or four adjacent farmers might easily share one between them. A roller of medium weight with an extra-strong frame is the most useful kind of implement for a small farm, as it may be used as a light roller, and can be weighted by placing bags of earth upon the frame to any reasonable weight desired.