

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF 1917-18 WHEAT CROP.

THE Government scheme for the purchase of the wheat crop of the ensuing season has been inaugurated by regulations, gazetted on 10th September, prohibiting, except under permit of the Board of Trade, all private purchases of such wheat. Nothing in the regulations, however, will apply to any retail purchase in a quantity not exceeding 50 bushels.

Accompanying the regulations is an announcement by the Minister of Agriculture notifying that the New Zealand Government is prepared to purchase in any quantities wheat grown in New Zealand during the season 1917-18, at the price of 5s. 10d. per bushel delivered free on board in sacks at the nearest port; or where delivery is made with the consent or by direction of the Government otherwise than free on board at the nearest port, then at a price equivalent as regards the seller to 5s. 10d. free on board at the nearest port. "Nearest port" means the port of entry under the Customs Act, 1913, nearest to the place at which the wheat is grown. No wheat will be so purchased by the Government unless it is good milling-wheat in good and merchantable order and condition.

REGISTRATION OF APIARIES.

ALL beekeepers who have not already done so should realize that it is incumbent upon them to promptly register their apiaries, as prescribed by the recently gazetted regulations, which have been notified in the public Press, and were published on page 51 of the *July Journal*. Under the regulations "beekeeper" means any person who keeps bees or allows the same to be kept on any land occupied by him, or who has in his possession or allows to be kept on any land occupied by him any appliances that have been used in connection with apiculture. Likewise, "apiary" means any place where bees are kept.

Although the time prescribed to which registrations would be received expired on 15th August, the Department, in view of the fact that a complete record of all beekeepers is urgently required, will before taking action allow a reasonable extension of time for voluntary applications for registration to be made. Should, however, the Apiary Instructors of the Department in the course of their duty locate an apiary for the registration of which no definite steps have been taken, proceedings under the regulations will in all probability be instituted against the owner.

Forms of application are obtainable from the District Agents of the Department at Auckland, Napier, Wanganui, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill; or from the Director of the Horticulture Division, Wellington; or from any of the larger post-offices throughout the Dominion.

REGISTRATION OF ORCHARDS.

THE regulations as to the registration of orchards made in October last year have been revoked, and other regulations made in lieu of them. The new regulations, which were gazetted on 6th September, provide that every occupier of an orchard from which fruit is sold or is intended to be sold shall, in September in each year, make application for the registration of such orchard. Every occupier of an orchard from which fruit is neither sold nor intended to be sold shall in September, 1919, and in each third year thereafter, make application for the registration of such orchard, and shall certify that no fruit has been sold from such orchard, while occupied by him, during the three years ended 31st August preceding. The new regulations do not apply to such orchards as are nurseries, as defined in the regulations gazetted on 22nd June, 1916. Forms of application are obtainable from the Director of the Horticulture Division or from any District Agent or Orchard Instructor of the Department of Agriculture. Registration is free of charge.