

gathering will be held this year in the Dominion Farmers' Institute building. Important matters relating to the improvement of the industry will be discussed, and all apiarists and keepers of bees are cordially invited to attend by the National Beekeepers' Association.

TREATING WAX IN SMALL QUANTITIES.

There is very little work to be done among the bees during the next two months. In fact, if previous instructions have been carried out there should be no necessity to open the hives for some time. The present month, however, is a good time to melt up any wax. The best method of doing this has several times been fully described in past issues of the *Journal*. These methods, however, apply more particularly to the larger beekeeper who possesses a wax-press. It may be of some use to explain a simple method of securing the wax from small quantities of combs, for those who have but one or two hives, as follows: Take the combs, after straining out the honey, and place them in a scrim bag; then put this into a large copper nearly filled with water, placing a few weights on top so as to keep all the scrim below the surface of the water. Bring the water to the boil, and leave it until cold. The wax can then be lifted off in a cake and remelted in a smaller vessel, so as to make it more compact; or, if preferred, the hot wax may be skimmed off into another receptacle and then allowed to cool. The best method of cleaning the copper after this operation is to empty it first, place a few pieces of paper or shavings in the fireplace—sufficient to heat up the metal without burning it—and then with a damp cloth wipe out the particles of wax, which will have melted.

NEXT SEASON'S PLANS.

Beekeepers would be well advised to make all their preparations for next season as early as possible. Do not wait until the spring before making up your mind what your plan of campaign will be. Settle the question now as to whether you intend to increase your colonies or run the apiary for honey only, and plan out all details. By so doing, you will have a definite object in view, and this will be going a long way towards success.

VITICULTURE.

By S. F. ANDERSON, Vine and Wine Instructor.

THE COOL VINEHOUSE.

THE vines are now entering on their rest period. Ventilators should be left open night and day, as frosts will do no injury at this stage, and the drier the atmosphere the better. Should the vine-borders on examination show extreme dryness—that is, approaching a dusty condition—a soaking may be necessary. The dry autumn experienced in a large portion of the North Island may have reduced the vine-borders to an exceptionally dry condition. It might be questioned why indoor-grown grape-vines should suffer from want of water any more than those in the vineyard. It is because conditions under glass are more artificial, and to permit extreme dryness means more or less of a