

The next job was to take out all the comb & properly "squash it up" & put into a "sieve" or cotton bag & hung up to drain off all the honey.

The remaining wax was melted down & generally sold as "beeswax" to those interested in the purchase of this article. Very often also there would be made a cask of honey beer or mead.

Honey was in general use on the table every where in country homes, & together with the general supplies of home made jam such as Gooseberry, Black Currants &c. it filled a very important part in the general diet.

In general however, the bee has rather a bad character, in the fact that although the producer of much of sweetness, his tail end has the quality of producing very quickly "bitter feelings" to those who have felt the gain, but to the onlooker very much of fun. It reminds one of an occasion when we had an Irish girl in employment. It happened on ^{rather dull} a wet day, which of all days is not the time to make their acquaintance of bees. We had some visitors staying with us. This day the girl had gone down the garden to get herself some gooseberries, which were in close proximity to the bees. Suddenly there was a cry made & some expletives were ^{used} made by the girl. "The D - Bee has stung me on the B - B - here." There was hearty laughter from the house.

The South Island in general, was very much more quickly developed than that of the North. The discovery of gold in various parts of the Island, was the cause of very many thousands of people coming in to the country, but when it came to general settlement and the opening up of the country for agricultural and Pastoral purposes, it was largely due to the more settled and quiet conditions, which was by no means the case in the North Island on account of the unsettled turbulence of the natives or Maoris. It is not for me to say where all the blame lay, but at the present day such intolerance, & injustice as was meted to the natives, when they were filched of many of their rights, & being exploited on account of their ignorance, of values & prospective values. But these things ultimately led to wars & continued off & on for very many years, and afterwards most of the land was taken from them, and they ultimately became a decadent race. At the early time ^{before} ~~when~~ New Zealand became a Crown settlement it was estimated that the Maori population was well on towards the one hundred thousand, but the tribal wars afterwards very much depleted that number, but even later until the what is called the Maori war with