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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, May 11, 1892

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THE AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

VOL. I. No. II.

MAY 11, 1892.

PER COPY, 6d.

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

E. TIPPER,

High St., West Maitland.

Price, Five Shillings Per Annum in Advance;
Booked, 6s 6d.

I AM SELLING MY LEATHER COLORED ITALIAN QUEENS,

Daughters of Imported Mothers, at the following rates:—

- 1 guaranteed, first quality, £1
- Same, in 3-frame nucleus, £1 5s
- 1 untested queen, 10s; or in 2-frame nucleus, 13s 6d
- 1 guaranteed queen, in 2 story 10-frame Langstroth (Hopkin's, N. Zealand, pattern), £2 15s
- guaranteed queen, in 1 story Langstroth, £2.

A BARGAIN.

I HAVE a Lot of Odd Sized Hives with Small Frames, containing First-class Queens, which I am selling at 30s the 2 story hive, equal to 1 story Langstroth. They can be obtained at my 'Sunnyhill Apiary' or of Mr E. TIPPER, Printer, High-street, West Maitland.

J. W. HOPKINS,
Sunnyhill, Tickhole,
Wallsend

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To Correspondents.

A Sample Copy of the BEE BULLETIN will be sent FREE upon application.

The Bee Bulletin when ordered is sent to subscribers until an order is received by the publishers for its discontinuance, and; all arrears paid.

Lost Numbers.—We carefully mail the BEE BULLETIN to every subscriber, but should any be lost in the mails, we will replace them if notified before all the edition is exhausted.

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Honey, Bees, Queens, Colonies, Nuclei, etc.

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—*—**DRUMFIN APIARY.**—*—

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Nuclei or Small Hives, with Queen, &c.	0	10	0
Full-size Hives, with frames, queen	0	15	0
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BEES FORWARDED ON APPROVAL IF DESIRED.

— **C MANSFIELD,** —

HUNTER RIVER APIARY,

LARGS, MAITLAND.

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—[o]—

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ADDRESS

R. J. CRIBB,
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.

The Australian Bee Bulletin

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED BY G. R. HARRISON.

WEST MAITLAND.—MAY 10.

The Convention.

(A VALEDICTORY.)

THE first Convention of bee-keepers in Australia has come and gone, leaving behind it a memory of pleasant hours with pleasant people. The visitors, we trust, have arrived safely at their respective homes in the happiest frame of mind, and are all ready to at once put into practice anything new and good that may have presented itself to them during their sojourn on the Hunter River.

The bee-keepers of the Hunter have found that the self same spirit of brotherly love and absorbing interest in their pursuit actuates bee-keepers from other parts of Australia as is so notably the case here, and that courtesy and good nature are as characteristic of them as a body, as is the insatiable hunger for information on all subjects bearing on their vocation, and they hope that none of those who were at the expense of time and money to attend have the slightest reason to regret the sacrifice. To the local members of the Convention it has been the source of intense pleasure, and they begin already to look forward to the next session, for they do not forget that a Convention once inaugurated never dissolves, but is only adjourned to a future date and place of meeting.

By way of providing for the future sessions, the Convention before adjourning, elected a steering committee charged

with the convening of future sessions, and appointing time and place, and undertaking the whole administration till next assembling of these birds "so much of a feather."

Apology.

WE are under the necessity of explaining the delay which unfortunately took place in the delivery of the first issue of the *Bee Bulletin*. First, there was a little departmental delay in the registration of it as a newspaper and it was not posted from the office till the 11th of April; but a more serious delay occurred through the postal authorities in Sydney; as it was a new publication they thought it right to make it pay its footing, so it was impounded for a contravention of the postal Act, in not having the day of the month upon it, and perhaps you know what a correspondence with a Government department means. A cheque was finally sent down to cover postage, and we find that they were delivered on the 25th. We trust all our subscribers have received them, but, if not, that they will kindly apprise us of the fact.

Do not forget to send us the names of bee-keeper to whom to send sample copies.

A New Venture.

FOR some time past we have been expressing the need felt by bee-keepers for a central trading depôt, which would deal in honey, wax, hives, and supplies, which would replace the ordinary general commission man, who knows nothing of our products and cannot do justice to our wares. An advertisement in the present issue sets forth that Mr. J. Perry, of Hopewell-st., Paddington, has opened a depot for honey, wax, and apianian supplies. We wish him every success, and trust that the bee-keepers of New South Wales will give him all the support he deserves, and that he will deserve all that they can give.

Convention Chips.

The Convention owes its inception and its successful administration to the energetic Hon. Secretary of the H. R. B. K. A.

The paper of the Convention was no doubt that of Mr Albert Gale, lecturer on apiculture under the Agricultural Department, "The Fruification of Seeds and Fruits by Insects." The subject was handled in a masterly manner, and we hope through his courtesy to publish it in full with illustrations.

By the list of names of those prevented from coming by the unavoidable postponement, it will be seen that they would have made a very good Convention among themselves.

The visitors were very pleased with the modified Hoffman self-spacing frame.

There is a whisper anent bringing out the Convention papers in pamphlet form.

We had very few replies to our invitations to the Convention from the neighbourhood of Sydney, where apiaries are thicker together than on the Hunter.

Our Esteemed Contemporaries.

The *Fanciers' Chronicle* of April 29 is to hand, and contains in its apicultural columns some items of news, a bright editorial, and some articles of merit, foremost among which is one by W. S. P. on the races of bees, in which he takes the ground that though the progeny of a pure queen mated with an almost pure Italian yields the largest crop of honey, it is at the expense of more labour in working them, being more irritable, &c., and it really pays better in £ s d to have all pure stocks if possible, as a larger number can be worked with the same expenditure of time and labour, thus more than compensating for the almost hypothetically smaller yield.

Martin's Home and Farm—that splendid farmers' paper—is also before us. It also has a column for the apiary, which is bright and pithy, as are all its columns. The current number which is larger than usual is devoted principally to the Sydney Agricultural Show.

GOOD WORDS FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in enclosing my subscription for the *Australian Bee Journal*.

My experience this year of Italian bees is that they will gather 25lbs. a week, but that is nothing to what black bees will do if they have attention, and honey taken twice a week on abundance of white clover.

Yours truly,
ADAM KIRKPATRICK.

Mittagong,
May 2nd, 1892.

Dear Sir,—Herewith please find P. O. O. for my year's subscription. Was agreeably surprised when it reached me. I used to take the *Victorian Bee Journal* which collapsed.

I hope all bee-keepers will unite in trying to get others to subscribe, and thus insure success to the *Bee Bulletin*.

I send you a few addresses of bee-keepers I know, who I think will subscribe if they know that a *Bee Journal* has started.

Wishing success to the new venture,

I am, sir, yours truly,
FRANK ARCHER,
Railway Telegraphs,
Mittagong.

Mr. P. Riddell, of St. Ives, Gordon, in sending in his subscription and some names of trial subscribers, says that he has extracted two and a-half tons of honey during the five weeks up to March 31,—this is good—sale of honey slow, but of bees and queens brisk. He con-

cludes:—True disposition for bee business, and a genuine desire for your success in this worthy attempt. More anon.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RIDDELL.

P.S.—Got a daughter on 21st inst.

[Ha! ha! Good again!—Ed.]

Cooper-street, Tenterfield,
May 1st, 1892.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed please find stamps to the amount of 5s, for year's sub to the *Bee Bulletin*. I am much pleased with the paper, and hope that it will be a success. I send you the names of others who I believe will subscribe to the paper.

Yours truly,
T. WHITEHEAD.

The Convention.

Hip-hip-hooray!!! We have had the convention, and moreover, it was a splendid success.

On Tuesday, the Show of the H.R.A. and H. Association opened, and there we first met a large number of the visitors, and were able to fraternise to our hearts' content.

On Wednesday, at 11 a.m., the convention was opened by his Worship the Mayor of West Maitland, introduced by R. Scobie, Esq., M.L.A., officially welcoming the visitors to the town, which he did in a manner which was courteous and cordial, in the following words:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I beg to tender my grateful thanks to the Hunter River Bee-keepers' Association for having honored me with the invitation to preside at the first convention held under its auspices, and can assure them that I consider it no mean privilege to be associated with them in the initiation of such an important departure in its local history, and I most heartily congratulate the association upon the enterprise and forethought that has prompted them in

calling together so many representative gentlemen for the purpose of interchanging opinions upon the important subject of apiculture. (Cheers.) I do not claim to be even an amateur apiculturist, and it would ill become me in the presence of so many students well-informed on the subject, to think for a moment of delivering an address on natural history. Yet no person will deny that it forms an intelligent and interesting study. (Applause.) Probably the extent of my knowledge would amount to little more than the fact that honey is sweet, delicious to the taste, and that the sting of the bee is very severe. Yet I thought I might venture to say that the instincts and social economy of the beehive have been studied with great attention both in ancient and modern times. (Applause.) And discoveries, than which there was nothing more interesting or wonderful have rewarded the patient observations of those who have devoted themselves to the subject. (Hear, hear.) As you are aware the great family of bees is divided into two principal sections, and consists of males, females, and neuters, the peculiar characteristics of which would amply compensate any person who has the leisure and opportunity to study them. (Applause.) The government of the family is also remarkable, and I can tell you that there is nothing republican in their notions—(laughter and applause.) The fact being that they cannot exist without a queen, and that no two queens can reign at the same time in any of their communities or colonies. (Hear, hear.) I am sure it is impossible for anyone to look at a piece of comb taken from a beehive without admiring, not only the beauty, but the perfect regularity of its size and form, and the arrangement of its cells. They have practically solved, by an instinct which can only be referred to the infinite wisdom of the Creator, some problems which have presented difficulties to human intelligence, particularly the employment of materials

with the greatest economy of space, and with the most perfect convenience and the greatest strength. (Hear, hear.) The Hunter River Beekeepers' Association has become an established institution in the district, and, judging from the success that it has attained in its infancy, it bids well to hold its own amongst kindred institutions. (Cheers.) Associated with the institution is to be found the *Australian Bee Bulletin*, a journal exclusively devoted to the discussion of apiculture, and the necessity for such a paper is the strongest evidence of the advancement of the Association. Besides what I have stated with reference to the bee, I might be permitted to mention the commercial value of honey, which is very considerable; and in a district such as this, where nature has been so plentiful so lavish in her gifts, and where over-production in cereals had become such an important question, I think it will be admitted that the Association is doing a good work—(applause)—in endeavouring to encourage the cultivation of the bee. It is however, my duty, as it is my pleasure, to welcome the representative gentlemen present as representatives to this their first convention. I hope that before they leave the town they will visit the exhibition that is taking place, where I feel certain they will see much that will interest and reward them. I trust that they will carry away with them many pleasant recollections of the productions of the district, which claims to be designated the garden of New South Wales. (Applause.) I declare the Convention open. (Cheers.)

On the motion of Mr Scobie, M.P., the Mayor was thanked for his address and his presence that day. Mr Young replied, and after cheers for the Mayor, those present adjourned to a convenient place, where they were photographed by Mr. M. Moss. The Convention then adjourned till the evening.

The names of those present at the opening will be found opposite to our engraving

of the photograph elsewhere.

Apologies were received for the absence of Messrs R. J. Cribb, Brisbane; Oliver Pickles, Fassifern; Miss Bradley, Denham Court, near Liverpool; W. Shaw, Mudgee; W. Niven, Eugowra; B. Carlill, Casino; Henry Bigg, Armidale; P. S. Grunsell, Goulburn; and Mr H. H. Brown, M.L.A.

THE EVENING SESSION.

At 7 p.m. the members of the Convention again assembled, the number being augmented by the presence of Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, Director of Agriculture; Mr. Fitzgerald, Department of Agriculture; Messrs. G. R. Humble, Warrah; H. J. Wright, Forbes; W. L. Boyce, Warraba, near Lochinvar; C. Brooks and J. Noad, East Maitland; J. Robinson and J. Tucker, Paterson; Mr. J. F. Munday, Woodville; T. Harris, Lorn, West Maitland; J. Thompson, J. Kline, J. Long, G. Barden, and T. J. Ribee, of West Maitland.

A pleasant hour was spent by those present improving their acquaintance with one another, and comparing notes and exchanging experiences till about eight o'clock, when Mr. Robert Scobie, M.L.A., the President of the Hunter River Bee-Keepers' Association (which body had called the Convention together), called the Session to order.

Proceedings began by Mr. M. Scobie, Secretary, reading the circular, calling together the convention, which had been freely distributed among persons engaged in bee culture throughout Australia.

The Chairman then addressed the meeting at length, directing their attention to the business sheet, and the desirableness of making short speeches. It afforded him very great pleasure to meet bee-keepers from all parts of the colony in such large numbers at this the first Convention. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that it was the beginning of a plan that would be much followed in the future, for such gatherings conferred advantages not only upon the district in which they were held

but upon the whole colony. (Hear, hear.) He felt that bee-keeping was a subject of material importance. The Hunter River Bee-Keepers' Association was started in a small way about four or five years ago. It was begun by a few people, and the meetings were held monthly. The Association did him the honor to elect him President, which position he had held to the present date. Mr. Monday, with others, was principally instrumental in bringing the Association into existence. [Hear, hear.—A Voice: He was really the father of the Society.] He attended the meetings regularly for a considerable time after it was started, and he might say that it afforded him great pleasure to be present at the gatherings. Messrs. Tucker, Vögele, and others also came from great distances to join in the deliberations of the Association, and he was sure the gentlemen named did not get home in many cases till the early hours of the morning. Mr. J. W. Pender and his son joined the Association, and proved intelligent and active workers in it. Not only had the members shown an interest in the cultivation of bees, but were ever ready apparently to assist others who were desirous of acquiring knowledge. A good deal of benefit had been derived from the establishment of the institution. Of late a great deal of success had been brought about by frame hives. He believed their forests were rich in honey, but patience and intelligence were necessary in order to gain success in apiculture. (Hear, hear.) To show the importance of the industry, he would like, without any desire of taking up too much of their time, to read an extract from an American journal—the *American Bee Journal*. It read as follows:—"I exhort you to renewed interest and devotion to the only society in Iowa, which has for its object the protection and culture of insects friendly to man, and the utilization of a natural product which enriches no man unless gathered. I have not at hand the

Eleventh Census Report, but in the one published in 1880, the product of honey for the year 1879, in the United States, was given at 25,643,208 pounds, and of wax 1,105,689 pounds, aggregating nearly four and a quarter millions of dollars' worth of product. I think the year 1879 was not a good one for the bee-keeper in many parts of the country. I expect to see a much better report for the year 1889. Regarding this report, I quote from the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture for the year 1889. J. R. Dodge, Statistician, under the head of bee-keeping, says: 'Among the minor branches of rural industry, bee-keeping is one of the most important, though its prominence is not generally recognised, from the fact that it is almost everywhere carried on as an incident of general agriculture, and but rarely as a leading rural occupation. Every State and territory reports bees and more or less honey, usually a hive or a few colonies for each farmer, rather than extensive apiaries and large production. In some localities, as in portions of New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and California, where existing conditions are particularly favourable, apiculture is more prominent, dominating other industries, perhaps in a neighbourhood, though very rarely the leading branch of agriculture over any considerable area. The value of the annual product of honey and wax is not generally realised; they are produced more or less extensively in every section of the country, and the aggregate value is large—much larger than that of other crops of which more notice is usually taken. It almost equals the value of the rice or the hop crop, falls but little short of the buckwheat product, exceeds the value of our cane molasses, and of both maple syrup and sugar. It largely exceeds the value of all our vegetable fibres, excepting cotton, and in 1879 was half as large as the wine product of the year.' " America was said to be a great honey-producing country, and this country was capable of

producing large quantities of honey if the industry was properly worked. (Hear, hear.) He would not detain them longer, but would ask each of the delegates to be as brief as possible.

Mr. J. W. Pender, Vice-president, who was asked to say a few words, said he would not occupy their time more than for a few minutes. However, his name had been put down on the list of speakers, and he supposed he must say something. As there were some fourteen papers to be read, it was not desirable that there should be long addresses. He might tell them that he was not what might be called a bee expert, but he was enthusiastic in connection with the industry, and had been successful so far. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that the convention would be productive of much good. (Hear, hear.) He came there to gain information, and he had to express his thanks that so many gentlemen had responded to the invitation to be present. He hoped that the visitors would go away pleased with what they heard and seen. Perhaps, as the President had stated, Mr. Anderson would have something to say. (Cheers.)

Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, Director of Agriculture, who was applauded, congratulated the President and Hon. Secretary of the Association on the excellent response to their invitation. Such a conference of intelligent men from all parts of the colony must be productive of benefit to each person concerned, to the growing industry of honey production, and to the colony in general. (Applause.) His department had, as they were aware, convened a small conference of prominent bee-keepers a year ago, and the result to him personally had been that he at once caught the bee fever, bought two hives, robbed the bees in the most barefaced manner, and most justly got stung till his lips swelled like a black gin's (laughter); his nose became rigid, and heavy doses of antidote, in the form of Scotch whisky, became a pleasing necessity.

(Laughter.) The Department had offered four national prizes—two for best farms of one hundred hives, and two for the best of thirty hives. (Applause.) He could offer his congratulations to the Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Pender, in gaining the first prize for 1891 in the smaller class. (Applause.) The Department had also consented to give a £5 prize in each of the ten districts to which the national district prizes were offered, and these had, to his knowledge, drawn out great competition, and had proved of great educational value. The *Agricultural Gazette* would in the future have its bee columns for the discussion of diseases peculiar to bees, and other matters of interest. (Hear, hear.) They might have noticed among the insect friends and foes that day at the excellent show of the Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association, some specimens of the two kinds of moths that were so mischievous to hives to which they had gained admission. (Hear, hear.) An excellent coloured plate of these, he believed the best yet issued by the Department, had been prepared by their artist, and would be published in due course for the guidance of bee-keepers. (Hear, hear.) The Department fully recognised the importance of this growing industry, and would be pleased to do anything in its power to co-operate with them in advancing that industry. He might quote statistics to show how many millions the honey export trade was worth to the United States, and might draw invidious comparisons of the opposite condition of things in New South Wales, which did not provide herself fully with bread or honey. He would prefer to note the immense importance of bees to men, who like himself had orchards. It was a matter of history that one of the states of America had passed a law at the instigation of fruitgrowers to banish bees, but being convinced by the almost total failure of their fruit crop that bees were

necessary, they petitioned for the return of the bees from exile. (Hear, hear.) Bees did no harm to sound fruit, but did immense good—more than all other insects together in conveying the fertilising principle from the male part of one blossom to the female part of another. He hoped the Agricultural Societies would take a hint from this Convention in having frequent meetings to discuss the many matters of interest to the agriculturists of New South Wales. (Applause.)

The roll call was next in order.

Mr. J. F. Munday next read a paper on "Bar Frames." He said that bar frames was really the reason why that Convention was held, seeing that the bar frame had revolutionised the bee industry. Before its introduction the system had been one of "fixed distances" and natural spacing in accordance with nature's own prompting. The improvements that had been effected of late years in the methods of securing and managing honey, he held they were due entirely to the bar frame. There were now many bar frames used, and the query to be answered was—which is the best? He thought his own was. Mr. Munday here showed one of his frames, the features of which is a top bar which is wide enough to meet the top bars of adjoining frames, thus roofing the space between the combs except for half an inch at the ends where notches are cut out to allow bees to ascend and also to allow of manipulation. The frame to satisfy him must be effective for all purposes, cheap, easily made, and easily handled. Frames should be of such a size and number in a hive as would afford ample accommodation for the brood nest only of an average sized swarm. The honey chamber of the hive should of course be the same size as the brood chamber, and the frames interchangeable and arranged parallel with the mouth of the hive, so that the hive could be operated upon from the back out of the way of the bees.

The greatest and best results, with the least possible labour and expense, and in the shortest time, could be obtained, he argued, with the broadtop $\frac{3}{4}$ Langstroth frame. He entered at some length into a description in detail of its excellences, and for reasons given also at some length condemned the Langstroth sized frame, the Hoffman frame, the Berlepsch frame, and the Heddon hive and frame. Proceeding to consider the question of comb foundation, he regarded it as the most important invention in connection with bee-keeping. It was not only a vast saving of time and labour to the bees, but it enabled a bee-keeper to induce bees to work where he chose, to fill the frames evenly and fully, and to prevent numerous and expensive drones being reared. It was a means by which hives could be kept constantly stocked with bees; and, with the aid of wires, combs could be kept from breaking during manipulation and extracting, and much honey could be saved during a short but good honey flow from going to waste. The cost was a trifle—only 2d per sheet; each sheet would last twenty years or more, and the cost was all repaid by the bees in a few weeks. Every bee-keeper should have a machine to make his own foundation, for it was true economy to provide artificial foundation. Bees, it was reckoned, consumed twelve pounds of honey in secreting one pound of wax; and if 12lbs of honey were worth 4s, and foundation cost 1s 9d per lb, a clear gain was ensured of 2s 3d on every pound of foundation used, in addition to the honey the bees might store while they were making wax. Foundation that takes six sheets to the pound is the best, and should be of equal thickness, with the base of the cells, thin and all alike, and the walls of the cells high.

In the discussion which followed, the Rev. J. Ayling said that the broad top bar of Mr. Munday would not suit him, but he had been using some of Root's modification of the Hoffman frame with

the greatest satisfaction, and had been pleased to see the same on exhibition at the Show that day.

Mr. Daley liked self-spacing frames, but not on Mr. Munday's plan. He was trying the Root-Hoffmann, and liked them much, and believed it was the frame of the future.

Mr. Albert Gale spoke, ridiculing the idea of self-spacing, while the Creator had endowed him with fingers of the right size for spacing frames, and also calling in question Mr. Munday's assertion that combs would last for twenty years. If he meant if used only for the honey chamber it might be possible, but if for brood, he would be very sorry to keep them for three years, as he asserted that by that time, the size of the cells would have become so reduced by the accretion of the discarded cocoons as to materially reduce the size of the young bees produced therein, and rendering them less able to perform their many functions.

Messrs. Humble, Streatfield, J. E. Taylor, Niven, Patten, M. Scobie, Tucker, Wright, Sinclair and Dockrill also spoke on the subject.

Mr. Munday, in replying, said his was a thoroughly practical frame, and was not merely an experiment, but had been in use in his and other apiaries for over five years, and was the only frame yet invented which really solved the burrtomb difficulty.

The chairman announced that the Hunter River Bee-Keepers' Association invited the members of the Convention to a tea next evening at 6 p.m., and that the next session would commence at 10 a.m. upon the following day.

SECOND DAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 28.

The members gathered at 10 a.m., and half an hour was spent in fraternizing and in examining samples of Hoffman frames and other things of interest upon a side table.

At 10.30 the President, Mr R. Scobie,

M.L.A., called the session to order, and reminded gentlemen who had prepared papers and the speakers who commented on the same that they were limited to time in order to get through the business.

A paper was read by Mr F. G. Daley, of Richmond, on "Bee Pasturage." He said that this important subject was worthy of much consideration. Extracts were given from competent authorities, showing how highly necessary it was to grow such plants as lucerne, clover, etc., which first provide honey for bees and afterwards are utilised as fodder for cattle. The Rocky Mountain bee plant, Spider plant, Mammoth Mignonette, Simpson Honey Plant or Figwort, and other plants were described, also instructions how to propagate each of them. The highly important family of the Labiates were next described, including the White Sage of California, Thyme, Musk, Cat-nip, Hoarhound, etc. Reference was also made to the far-famed honey of Hymettus, which was principally collected from mountain thyme. Trees said to be suitable for both honey and shade were briefly touched upon. Roads, lanes, and thoroughfares generally could be advantageously planted with these trees. A list of the best varieties suitable for these purposes was given, including the great family of Eucalyptus. Mr Daley stated that he purposed testing most of the honey-producing plants he had named, and would give the result of his experience to beekeepers through the columns of the *Bee Bulletin*, and also continue that important subject in that journal.

"The Fertilization of Flowers by Bees and the Fruitification of Fruits, etc., by insects, was dealt with at length by Mr. Albert Gale, of Sydney, who exhibited several plants and blooms to illustrate his arguments. He pointed out that the search for food and the propagation of species were the chief aims of animal life, and scarcely less so of vegetable life. The

propagation of plant life was chiefly confined to that class of animals called insects—principally to the bees. The vegetable kingdom was divided into two sub-kingdoms—flowering and flowerless plants. The male organs in the flowerless cryptogamic plants were termed *antheridean*, and those of the female *archegonium*. All flowers or nearly all, may be divided into two parts—the ornamental or protective, and the reproductive. It may possess all the reproductive organs, and one or both of the protective or ornamental organs may be absent. He named and described the parts of the flowers to the Convention. Various agencies were employed to effect the fructification. The plants fertilized by winds and parthenogenetically showed what a dreary world we should have had if insects had not been made the great agents of fertilization. Bees in their rambles in search of food were always coming in contact with the pollen-bearing organs of flowers. Various portions of the body of the bee communicated the fertilizing pollen in different classes of flowers to the receptive pistils. The length of the bee's proboscis was designed by nature in proportion to the length of quill or tube of the flowers containing the nectar, but sometimes the bee was forced to bite the base of the quill to obtain the nectar. Bees visited but one order of flowers during the same excursion. The pollen baskets never contain that of more than one species. Pollen from one species of plants applied to the stigma of another species, produced individuals intermediate between the two parents, and were called hybrids or mules. But the species must be allied in some particulars. Hybrids were seldom fertile, or, if at the outset fertile, they remained so but a short time, and they died or returned to the type of one of their parents.

The two foregoing papers were then discussed. It was thought by some that Mr Daley's paper would have served its

purpose better had it treated more on our own flora, others objected to the indiscriminate introduction of plants, which might prove to be a scourge, as is the prickly pear and other plants and the rabbits and sparrows among animals.

Mr W. S. Pender pointed out that that which Australia was deficient in was suitable timbers for hive making, etc., one of those named, the Bass-wood, one of the Limes or Lindens, should be tried here, as suitable for such as well as bee forage and shade. He advocated that trees suitable not only for bees but for other purposes should be obtained, woods admirably adapted for making hives and boxes could be had.

Rev. J. Ayling said the Linden tree should be grown if it yielded here as in America, and he was watching with interest for a fine specimen at Richmond to bloom. It was worth growing as an ornamental shade tree, he also said it was a great misfortune that there was so much reckless destruction of our forest trees. Some of the best trees were being ruthlessly destroyed. If they were to depend upon New South Wales as a great honey-producing country, preservation of the forest trees was necessary. In debate it was further stated that ringbarking of valuable trees had been carried on pretty extensively in the Paterson and other districts. What they needed chiefly was honey producing plants. It would be a great detriment to the colony if the indiscriminate introduction of foreign plants was commenced. It was argued by speakers that the selection of trees should be carefully undertaken. Encouragement of the Spider plant was recommended, as also the *Pittosporum Undulata*. The Australian heather was spoken of as a valuable plant as a honey-bearer. Long protracted droughts interfered in very great measure with the production of honey.

After a good discussion, on the motion of the Rev Mr Ayling, seconded by Mr. Tucker, who referred to the great des-

truction that was taking place of valuable timbers, it was resolved, "That this convention of bee-keepers met at West Maitland urge upon the Government to take steps to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of our forest trees in consideration of their future value as timber and as honey producing plants." It was strongly argued that some such course should be taken, otherwise many of our most useful timbers would be destroyed for ever. A further resolution was moved by Mr Daley, seconded by Mr M. Scobie, "That this Convention request Mr Ednie Brown, Director of Forests, to cultivate the Linden tree—*Lilia Americana*—on account of its splendid honey and beautiful wood, which is of such commercial importance." It was urged that the necessity for the adoption of such a step would be fully admitted, seeing that trees which were indiscriminately cut down were frequently of a very valuable character.

On the company reassembling after lunch the Chairman stated that, according to the programme, Mr. R. J. Cribb, of Brisbane, was to submit a paper on "Queens," but was not able to be present. Miss S. A. Bradley, however, had sent a paper, and at the same time expressed thanks for the kind and very flattering invitation to attend the Convention. She exhibited at the Women's Industries Exhibition in 1888, for the purpose of showing women that there was in apiculture an opening for them—intellectual, fascinating, beautiful, and remunerative—but she regretted to say that no other woman showed a really active interest in it. Queen-rearing was, she thought, essentially a woman's work. The writer stated that she would like to see more women devote their time and energy to bee culture, and she hoped that the bee-keepers assembled would take advantage of the opportunity that would be offered by the Convention to discuss the matter. She recommended women commencing bee-keeping to begin on a

small scale—if it was only one hive, so much the better. They should always have their hives under shelter from the heat of the sun, that was half the battle. She recommended a trellis of grape vines, if possible. Of breeds of bees the pure Italians were best adapted for various purposes. She had had experience of many, but the pure Italians were the best.

Mr. J. E. Taylor said, how many of those assembled that evening could have been present had there not been a wife or daughter to "look after the bees," and spoke feelingly of the assistance to himself of wife and daughters. Women had at present more to do with bee-keeping than they were credited with.

Rev. Mr. Ayling said that without the assistance of his daughter he could not well be a bee-keeper, being often called from home for long periods, but with a few general instructions left at home, he could leave home with no anxiety, there is nothing in bee-keeping unfitted for women. Several speakers endorsed the sentiments of these gentlemen.

This report of the Convention will be concluded in next issue. It is our intention to present many of the papers read, in future numbers, and trust that by next Convention the *Bee Bulletin* will have grown sufficiently to contain the whole proceedings.

The Busy Bee at the Maitland Show.

Through possessing a few men of vim and energy, rather than any extraordinary adaptability for the industry, the Hunter River district has become the head quarters of bee-keeping in New South Wales, and West Maitland as the capital of the district for some years past has the only real live association of bee-keepers, and every year it has given proof of its existence in a good exhibit of bees, honey, and appliances at the H. R. A. and H. A. Show at West Maitland.

This year that body is proving even more alive than hitherto, and is now expressing itself in a convention of bee-keepers from various and distant parts of the colony, and even from neighbouring colonies, assembled at the invitation of the Hunter River body, to discuss various points and to exchange ideas, and has also excelled its past efforts in making a display of products and appliances.

The main apiarian exhibit is placed in the agricultural pavilion, on entering which the first thing that attracts attention after passing the corn trophy, is a neat little machine, a treadle circular saw of American construction, exhibited by Mr J. W. Pender, whose well ordered apiary on the Hunter took the first national prize last year in its class (over 30 and under 100 hives), the machine was worked at intervals during the currency of the show by Mr W. S. Pender, who is a most clever mechanic, and in whose hands the little machine becomes equal to a whole shop full of carpenters' tools, turning out work better and quicker and truer than an expert carpenter with hand tools.

Near by was a honey extractor belonging to Mr J. F. Munday, who is looked up to as the father of bee-keeping in the district. This first prize was awarded to Mr Munday's extractor and the second to Mr Pender's, which was near to it; also a honey ripening tank capable of holding a quarter of a ton of honey, with cover and refiner.

Upon the centre table the first display was Mr Pender's trophy of honey in glass and in cans, some of the bottles being of a most expensive character, and the whole was built in a square pyramid with shelves of heavy plate glass. A comb foundation mill with a sheet of foundation in process told its own story, and a glass observatory hive with bees was equally eloquent, while frames and parts of hives made on the "Barnes'" saw testified to the junior Pender's skillfulness.

Next in order is the exhibit of the untiring secretary of the association (Mr M. Scobie). This consisted of two very tall square pyramids, one of honey in tin cans, and another of smaller packages, bottles and small cans, the weight of this exhibit being equal to about one and a half tons.

Next comes Mr Munday's excellent exhibit of extracted honey, also a pyramid, a wooden stand carrying honey in beautiful screw capped jars, and a novelty in the shape of glass sugar basins filled with the sweet, the lids being luted down with that most appropriate material, beeswax. This trophy was surmounted with some splendid samples of yellow wax.

Further on we meet with Mr R. Patten's exhibit of honey from his Cowra apiary, gathered from the yellow box, a fine exposition of what honey can be produced in the interior. It was displayed in screw capped jars upon a neat stand of wood in the shape of a hexagonal pyramid of shelves, supported on a central pillar, and painted white.

Next was Mr G. R. Harrison's modest trophy, a triangular pyramid of fine clear glass tumblers, covered with vegetable parchment, and containing his famous honey gathered from the Water Gum (*Callistemon Lanceolata*), which is noted for a very rare and delicate flavour and perfume.

Its neighbour was a gable shaped trophy of shelves filled with tins and bottles containing samples of Mr Chas. Mansfield's crop, and was surmounted by a glass hive containing some of his little assistants.

Next was the H. R. B. K. A's. large glass case filled with Mr Munday's exhibit of honey in the comb, a fine display of exceptionally heavy combs, and beyond that his comb foundation and wax for competition, and also a beautifully finished little case of 12 1lb sections shown by Mr F. C. Pullen, and for which he was awarded first prize for comb honey.

The prize for 6 bottles of extracted

honey was taken by Mr. J. S. Rutter, of Armidale; for best 7lbs of wax and foundation Mr J. F. Munday; and for best hive Mr Pender.

In an enclosure of mosquito netting on the grounds were several hives of bees in full work, which were handled and manipulated during the days of the show by various bee-keepers, to the wonder and delight of those whose knowledge of the busy bees is limited to the fact that it gathers honey and has a hot end if it sits down on you.

Rules and Regulations of the H. R. Bee-Keepers Association.

The Hunter River district at the present time holds the premier position in apiculture, not because it is better supplied with forage than other places, but for the reason that those interested have associated themselves together, and thus acquired a strength which has made them a power in the land. Remember that the inhabitants of our hives are not a collection of units, but the whole blend into a single organism, of which the individuals are only limbs; let us take a lesson of solidarity from them and unite as one, and first, where ever there are three bee-keepers within reach of each other, let there be an association, and don't forget to let the world know about it through the *B. B.* To further this object, we publish the rules and regulations of the H. R. B. K. A.

1. The name of this Association shall be the "Hunter River Bee-keepers' Association."

2. Its objects shall be the encouragement, improvement, and advancement of bee culture.

3. The Association shall be managed by a Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and seven other members, all to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held as herein-

after provided. At every meeting of this Committee five shall form a quorum, and the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his own.

4. Any person wishing to become a member of the Association shall be proposed and seconded at a General Meeting, and, being elected by a majority vote, shall become a member on paying his subscription.

5. Members shall subscribe an annual fee of 5s. All subscriptions shall be payable in advance, and become due on the first day of September in each year. Any member, being six months in arrears with his subscriptions, shall be liable to have his name struck off the roll at the discretion of the Committee.

6. The Committee shall submit at the Annual Meeting a report, balance-sheet, and list of members, with the amount of their paid subscriptions.

7. At the General Meeting previous to the Annual Meeting two members shall be elected to audit the accounts of the Association.

8. The Committee shall have the power to make or alter by-laws, provided always that they shall in no case contravene an existing rule.

9. If the funds of the Association admit of it, the Committee shall hold one or more apiarian exhibitions at such times and places as they may deem most suitable to the interests of the Association and its objects, and adopt such measures as they believe will most conduce to extend and improve a knowledge of bee-keeping.

10. A General Meeting of members shall be held on the Tuesday on, or the first Tuesday after, the full moon in each month, at 7.30 p.m., or as soon after as a quorum assembles. Five to form a quorum.

11. The General Meeting held in September shall be considered the Annual Meeting of the Association.

12. These Rules shall not be altered, unless at a General or Special Meeting;

which may be called by the Secretary on the application of three members of the Committee, or on written request of not less than six members of the Association: a two-thirds majority vote being necessary to effect an alteration. The Secretary shall give each member seven days' clear notice of the same, and state the object for which the meeting is called.

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This, from the bee page of the *California Orchard and Farm*, will be interesting read with Mr Shaw's paper in last issue:—"Mr Charles H. Brown, a Sutter Co. apiarist, informs me that hoarhound abounds in his vicinity in luxurious abundance, and that the honey gathered from this plant has a decidedly bitter, obnoxious taste."

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