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“THE BESTO” BEE

VOL. 3

DENVER, COLORADO, FEBRUARY, 1925

NO.1

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

Notices have been sent all members of the C. H. P. A. for the Annual meeting of Stockholders and election of officers which will be held in accordance with our constitution and by-laws, in the city of Denver at the Auditorium Hotel, 14th and Stout street, March 2 and 3. * * *

Thebesto Bee goes to press too early to print the program in this issue, but members and other beekeepers may be assured that the two days' session will be full of interesting things in addition to the routine business to be transacted. * * *

Beekeepers whether members or not, lose a great deal more than they save by staying away from the two annual events of our association: the annual meeting in March, and the summer field meet in June. Some enthusiastic members come all the way from the farthestmost corners of Colorado and adjoining states to attend these meetings and say they are well paid for time and expense. Certainly those who live within a day's drive of Denver ought never to miss a meeting. * * *

Our co-operative association is not unlike a fine, well-made tool. It is fashioned to be a big help to the owner, but it won't do his work alone. He must actually use it in order to get the benefit. * * * What would you think of a farmer who would buy a big harvesting machine, and store it in his barn, instead of using it, and then kick because it didn't harvest his crop? In our association we have a valuable machine but we only get real benefits to the extent that we put it to use. * * *

The Minnesota Potato Exchange is putting its fancy potatoes up in consumer sacks of 15, 30 and 60 pounds, each parcel carrying the Exchange brand and trademark. If the lowly spud can be profitably marketed in sealed packages, under a trade brand, why not the comb honey of the C. H. P. A.? * * * If honey were a highly perishable crop like fresh fruit and tropical vegetables, there might be a shadow of excuse for ruinous

price cutting in some individual cases in order to move the crop. But it isn't necessary with honey. We can and will get a fair price for our honey if we ask it and stick and work together. This applies not only to individual beekeepers but to kindred marketing associations as well. * * *

We sometimes find an association quite as short-sighted as some individuals, when, to obtain a seeming, if temporary advantage in the quick movement of their members' crops, they radically cut the wholesale price and demoralize the markets. * * * Honey buyers are a canny lot. With prices fairly steady they are ready to take a chance and buy rather liberally of a standardized product at a fair price, believing that they can distribute it at a profit. But let some carlot producer, or short-sighted association manager make a sale much below the prevailing market price, at once all the other buyers just sit back and don't buy at all, waiting for another drop. With buyers playing a waiting game the weeks go by, the market drags, and nobody sells. * * *

Comb honey is a rather ticklish item in the jobber's stock, and if he sees a drop in price is at all probable, he'd rather not buy at any price than to take a chance. Orderly marketing is the only remedy for glutted markets and demoralized prices. Any other plan carries its punishment not only thru the balance of the season but over into the next season and sometimes even farther.

“PAGE LONG DISTANCE!”

The record long distance haul of comb honey by a C. H. P. A. member, we think, belongs to Mr. Roscoe Miller, of Montrose, Colo. Mr. Miller runs principally for extracted honey but had about 35 cases of comb last fall. With no local outlet for that quantity of comb, he stacked his shipping cases into his little Ford, threw in some bedding and a small tent, and started across the Continental Divide for Denver, reaching there without mishap, and the honey showing none the worse for its 400 mile haul.

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Published when the spirit moves, for our members and for western beekeepers, by the Colorado Honey Producers Association, at 1424 Market St., Denver, Colo. Frank Rauchfuss, Manager.

HONEY MARKETS

Association extracted honey in carlots is practically cleaned up, tho our Denver warehouse has a good supply on hand for local sales, of exceptionally fine quality, and can fill all orders. We shall be pleased to quote prices on request.

In the matter of comb honey, the situation is not quite so satisfactory. There is a good stock in the warehouse, and a few carlots unsold at producing points.

Thruout the country generally, there is a marked dullness in the demand for comb honey, tho there isn't really an over-supply. It is probable that there will be no carry-over of either comb or extracted at the end of the season.

"EAST VERSUS WEST."

Thru the co-operation of the Federal Bureau of Apiculture at Washington, the Colorado Honey Producers Association last summer instituted a contest to discover once for all, if there is anything in the oft-repeated claim that Western Comb Honey does not stand up as well as eastern comb. With the bee journals giving the matter considerable publicity, donations of comb honey from widely-distributed producing points were solicited for the experiment. These were to be sent to Washington, there to be stored under ideal conditions, and the progress stward granulation carefully noted. Many cases of the finest western honey were submitted, but for some reason not enough samples of the eastern product were submitted to make the experiment decisive. However, all samples submitted are now in storage and under observation with the federal apiarist at Washington, and western honey producers will at least have the satisfaction of learning how long western honey will keep under normal conditions before granulation makes its inroads. It is to be hoped that the experiments begun can be carried over another crop year when the exhibit of eastern honey can be made much more extensive, and the results be set forth with more definiteness.

CENTER PARTITIONS PAY

This winter's experience in shipping extracted honey is bearing out our contention that none but can cases with center partitions ought to be used for five-gallon cans. The case with no center partition is the source of many a claim for honey damaged in transit. However, until carlot buyers indicate their willingness to shade the price offered for honey packed in the old style case, the beekeeper will often hesitate to pay the few extra cents for a real can case. The remedy lies largely with the buyers.

LEAGUE LAW BOOK

The Law Pertaining to The Honey Bee covers every available decision affecting the rights of bee keepers. The price is \$3 per copy, or, with a year's membership in the American Honey Producers League, \$3.60. Order your copy now, either thru the C. H. P. A. or direct from the League, at Madison, Wis. If you are already a League member, send only \$2.60.

A recent postoffice ruling prohibits the shipment of honey thru the mails to foreign countries except in 16-oz. containers. An attempt will be made thru the League to get a modification of this ruling, which if permitted to stand, will work a hardship on bee-keepers and honey shippers that may be considerable. Just why such a ruling was made is not known.

Better order a few honey recipe books for distribution in your locality. They are good advertising for the honey man. Show the housewife a new use for honey and you have another effective argument towards a sale. Your C. H. P. A. or the American Honey Producers League can furnish the booklets. We will be pleased to send a sample copy upon receipt of 10 cents.

E. W. Tschudi of Johns Hopkins University has been appointed to the U. S. Office of Bee Culture to investigate honey colors and complete the honey grader which was begun last year by the Bureau of Apiculture.

Wait for the new C. H. P. A. price list on bee supplies. It will be ready soon, and will save you money.

HOW ABOUT HUBAM?

It has been nearly six years since Hubam, the new annual variety of sweet clover was given its first boost as a beeman's boon. Many hundreds of pounds of seed were sold to beekeepers in test packages at a dollar an ounce. These trial plantings as a rule were given excellent care, and for a time Hubam bade fair to be all its sponsors claimed for it in actual practice. Given the care of a tender garden crop in its early growth, it flourished, made a rank growth, and coming into bloom about the time the white biennial seeded, it was covered with bees and yielded heavily of nectar.

After at least five years' trial in Colorado, however, Hubam has made few friends, and we know of no large plantings being made lately, tho such may have escaped us. Many of those who planted and cared for their trial ounces produced one or more bushels of seed, which were planted in out-of-the-way places such as would produce good stands of the biennial sorts. Generally that was the end of it. A few plants came to a stunted maturity, and the following season disappeared altogether.

The cause is not far to seek. Hubam in its early life is a frail, fragile thing, that doesn't fight well, and can stand neither thirst nor chocking. Sown early, on clean land, given plenty of moisture until it gets a start and grows to the height of a foot or more, it will then care for itself pretty well, and, later, give a good account of itself in the nectar produced. Unless one is prepared to coddle it during babyhood, however, it is almost useless to plant it. In saying what we have about Hubam, it must be borne in mind that we are speaking for Colorado and the arid states only. In other parts of the country it is often found a much more practical crop.

Hubam is not the only honey plant that refuses to thrive outside its native environment. In parts of northern Wyoming is found a clear yellow variety of cleome that yields heavily of nectar and blooms somewhat earlier and stays in bloom longer than the ordinary purple sort. Mr. Herman Rauchfuss, of Englewood, Colo., collected several pounds of the seed of this yellow variety and sowed it near

Denver. The results were totally disappointing. A few plants grew to a dwarfish maturity, a foot high, produced one or two little tufts of bloom, seeded and died. In not a single planting were the results at all promising. We must conclude that, whatever the value of yellow cleome in its native haunts, it is worthless in Colorado. While it is well to try every new and promising bee plant, let's not forget to keep up our missionary work in preaching and planting the regular biennial sorts of white and yellow sweet clover.

NO IDLE TIME

While these are the months that beekeepers are not necessarily on the job every day, there is plenty for the live bee man to do if he wants to keep busy.

For one thing he can go over his hives, supers and equipment and clean and put them in repair. Painting can best be done a little later, but the brood and extracting combs can be gone over and sorted, the inferior ones melted up, and the balance cleaned of wax and propolis, and the hives scraped. This will make for ease of handling during the busy season next summer. Every yard should be visited once in two weeks, and the dead colonies picked up, making sure that these are free of foul brood. On warm days a few of the hives may be opened carefully to see how the bees are wintering. Few colonies will be found short of stores yet. That condition may be looked for during March and afterwards. The beekeeper can also report to the association how his bees are wintering, after such inspection. He can also check up on his probable needs of bee supplies, the comb honey producer should put up his sections during the winter months, to have more time available for his yard work later on.

We are always in the market for Beeswax, we pay 24 cents in cash and 26 cents in trade for clean average yellow Beeswax delivered in Denver. We send remittance promptly on arrival of wax. Up to the third postal zone from Denver it is generally cheaper to send quantities of 50 pounds or less by parcel post.

COLORADO STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The Colorado State Beekeepers' Association has been reorganized with a view to assisting in the solution of some of our intermountain troubles and in bringing to the following conventions some of the best programs available. Some important topics were suggested for next meeting. The following executive officers were elected: President, C. H. Wolfe; Vice President, D. W. Spangler; Secretary, R. G. Richmond; Treasurer, Harvey Whitacre; Committee Member, Fred Hilker.

A very interesting program on production and marketing was rendered. Marketing from every angle was discussed. Mr. A. H. Dunn portrayed very nicely the intricacies of trade channels from producer to consumer, through the wholesale, jobber and retail trade. Few of us realize the difficulties of a honey marketing agency. Wesley Foster brought a wealth of knowledge from his honey shipping experiences in Colorado. Mr. John D. Snow, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on General Marketing, Cooperative Marketing and the Market News service, laid emphasis on the fact that the intermountain region should have a more detailed honey marketing service.

The ladies came into their own on the uses of honey in the home. Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Foster indicated that beekeepers' conventions are no longer the affairs of men entirely.

Mr. Hutchinson explained his new Silent Salesman. We hope it doubles the sale of honey.

Open discussion on manipulations, comb and extracted honey production and on wintering, threatened the calm of the meeting and more than once search was made for the chairman's gavel.

The alcohol formalin solution as discussed by Mr. Dunn, brought forth many inquiries as to its success and economic importance.

Watch the Association grow. It is important to each and every beekeeper in the State. There are no strings attached.

Honey consumption in unprotected average colonies has been as high as 22 pounds for November, December and January. Let us not be caught

short of spring feed. Last year's winter loss was greatly spring loss, from starvation.

During the past few months a Hymenopterous parasite of the greater wax moth has been observed at Fort Collins, apparently the first reported on the continent.

The American Honey Producers League held its winter meeting at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, Jan. 22d and 23d.

The League is doing great work and is still at it. Chief among the points of discussion were the Federal Bee Disease programme; the extracted honey grader; a fine piece of work; Markets news, bonding of package and queen distributors, and the law of the honey bee. The League Bulletin carries the information in the future issues.

Next year's League meeting will probably be at Cincinnati.

R. G. Richmond,
1924 Deputy Apiary Inspector.

BILLING FREIGHT SHIPMENTS OF WAX

Do not be tempted to ship Beeswax as Beeswax Refuse.

See Sec. 10, of Interstate Commerce Act published in Consolidated Freight Classification No. 4, page 2 (your freight agent has a copy on file.)

It shows that anyone billing goods wrongly lays himself liable to a very heavy fine.

Old combs and Residue from melting wax may be shipped as Beeswax Refuse.

FOR SALE

For Sale—Hulled, yellow sweet clover seed, in lots of 50 lbs. or more, 15c per pound. D. B. Hersperger, Ordway, Colo.

For Sale—One share C. H. P. A. stock. Mrs. S. F. Lawrence, Hardin, Mont.

Young man with some experience wants work with bees for share or wages. A. A. Martin, box 123, Severance, Colo.

For Sale—Nine shares C. H. P. A. stock. Owner moved away. Address Manager of Colo. Honey Producers Association for further information.