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Jan. 1890?

THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

Vol. II. No. 2

PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA.

Editorial Bee-lines.

CONSTERNATION! VEXATION!! AGGRIVATION!!!

Our new press, for which we had looked so long, only arrived on Friday.

We went to work at once, expecting to get out our January number in full, though late.

On Wednesday morning we were compelled to dismiss one of our compositors, on account of LA GRIPPE, while the editor is hardly able to do anything.

This precluded all possibility of getting out our full number of pages this month so we bind what we have and send them forth.

The print is from the new press.

We are getting in a water motor, and henceforth will run by power.

We are now reasonably sure that we can get out with our full issue in February, and be on time in the future.

The articles contained in these few pages will be repeated in the February number, which will contain thirty six pages, and of which we will print five thousand copies.

The general sentiment of California beekeepers seems to be that the time has come for thorough organization among the apiarists of the state.

There will probably be some differences of opinion as to the methods by which this organization can be accomplished; and we desire to open the columns of THE WESTERN APIARIAN to the expression of all opinions.

We have received a number of opinions, most of which are favorable to organization.

It would seem to us that an organization embracing the entire state of California, cannot be made a success, on account of the great extent of territory and the consequent expense and loss of time that would be required of many of our beemen who must of necessity live at a great distance from the place where the convention is held.

Allow me to present the following plan for your consideration with the hope that it will call forth discussion that will result in something tangible and practicable.

We would suggest the division of
— SEE LAST PAGE. —

WASHINGTON.

A Voice From the North.

A Long Move in a Grip-sack.

FOR THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

By W. W. MALTBY,
Port Angeles, Washington.

I am away from home at present, but will endeavor to write you my report for 1889, and don't be surprised at the smallness of my apiary, as I sold all my bees but three nuclei in the spring of 1887 in Indiana and moved out to this place, bringing those three nuclei along. I had them packed in a very light box in three apartments, and carried them with me as a grip sack. Partly from the heat of the cars and length of the journey, but more from being broken up by a collision on the road, they were so badly used up by the time they got to this place that I united them all into one. These lived through one year, but came out weak in the spring, the queen dying, leaving no eggs in the hive. I sent South for another queen, but found her dead on arrival. This was in 1888. Now I bought four stands of brown bees in standing frame hives. Well as these were all I could get and it was in June when I got them, it seemed necessary to give up the business this summer; but I got fifty pounds of nice extracted honey all gathered from a country covered with a dense forest of fir and cedar. The bees increased to seven stands, one of which I permitted to starve to death last spring. So I had six stands to start with in the spring of 1889 from which I obtained 450 pounds of extracted honey, and the bees increased to 14 stands mostly by artificial swarming, as I was introducing some Italian queens, wishing to get them thoroughly Italianized next spring. Then I will talk about testing the Carniolans. I hope to see the Western Apiarian succeed, and will do all in my power to that end.

In New Portland, Maine, a swarm of bees, evidently tired of being disturbed and robbed of their honey have sought refuge in the top of a church spire, the hollow space of which they are filling with sweets for their own benefit. Nobody can climb the steeple, and consequently the sagacious bees will no longer be plundered.

We are making arrangements for a central depot of supplies for the Pacific Coast, where our beemen can secure everything they need in the honey business, without

The Unavoidable Delay

which always attends the receipt of goods ordered from the East.

We will be able to sell

AT EASTERN PRICES

and thus save, in most instances, the considerable item of freight.

We believe such a depot of supplies will be a great benefit to our western apiarists, and will receive their extensive patronage.

We will send a

LARGE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

of all kinds of supplies to any address as soon as we can get one from our press.

Send your name for one and it will be sent as soon as it can be prepared.

Address:

**MCCALLUM BROS.,
PLACERVILLE, CALIF.**

Do you not think 360 pages of this magazine will be worth 75 cents?

Laurel: Why your bees do not store honey may be due to a number of reasons. The first suggestion is, if you have twelve swarms in chaff hives, buy a reliable work on the honey bee. You will find just such a work in the A. B. C. of bee culture by A. I. Root, furnished by the Orange Judd Co. of 751 Broadway, New York, for \$1.25. Langstroth on the Honey Bee is also a standard work, \$2, and the Manual of the Apiary, by A. J. Cook, is also a fine work. Bees sometimes refuse to go to work in sections without any apparent cause. Look to their ventilation; it must be just right, neither too much nor too little. See that they have good queens and a good location. And if necessary you may put in one or two unfinished sections to draw them up among the sections. It will have a wonderful influence.

To tell without opening the hive whether the bees are bringing in honey and storing it, I might guess closely by the way they come stumbling out of the hive and scamper off and rush back again. The best way is to open the hive and see just what they are doing. You need not be afraid of injuring or interfering with their work, and by this means you will get better acquainted with them, which is very necessary to your pocket and their welfare. During dry weather the nectar is not secreted so freely by the flowers, and on wet days it is washed out faster than the little harvesters can secure it.

REPORT.

M. J. KISTLER,

Collingwood, — — — — Ind.

FOR THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

As I am not the least among bee-keepers, I will write you a short article.

I have kept bees for thirty five years, and think I understand the in-

stincts of bees pretty well.

I use the Mitchell hive. I can control a large or small swarm in it as I may desire. It is from eighteen inches to two feet long, and has an adjusting board in it to make it large or small as desired.

Bees have done well here this season. I had eighty two, spring count, and they gave me five thousand pound of surplus honey, in one and two pound sections; and two hundred pounds of extracted.

I sold my honey at from twelve to eighteen cents a pound.

I have now one hundred and seven colonies in good shape for winter. I had twenty five swarms this summer. Three years ago one swarm died for me; this summer I was fortunate enough not to have any swarms die. I use both natural swarming and dividing, and also prevent swarming.

The total yield, as given above, did not include home consumption.

I only allow one swarm from each colony, as I work for honey and not increase.

I consider bee raising and honey producing, two entirely distinct businesses. I raise bees and queens to sell if applied for. My bees are pure Italians.

Bee-keepers, do not be at all backward in writing for the "WESTERN APIARIAN." Your contributions will be made very welcome, and will be extensively read and appreciated.

Orange Blossom Honey.

SOURCES OF HONEY IN FLORIDA.

Interesting Account of Bee-keeping
in the Ever Sunny South.

FOR THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

By ARTHUR F. BROWN.

Thinking that it might interest some of your readers to know what our honey sources are down here in Florida, I will give them for this locality (Pulnow Co.)

Our first surplus comes with the orange blooms from the 10th to the 20th of March, lasting from ten days to two weeks. Strong colonies will average 35 to 50 pounds of comb honey from this source. Orange blossom honey is of light color, and of excellent flavor. The extracted will run from 11 to 12 pounds to the gallon.

The orange is followed closely by the gallberry, a small, slender bush similar to the holly, which grows all over our flat woods and low lands around bays and lakes. This keeps the bees busy from two to three weeks. The honey from this is very light colored, some having almost the clearness of water. It is rather light in weight and has a good flavor. The weight is from ten-and-a-half to eleven pounds to the gallon. Surplus from this source is also light, averaging 20 to 25 pounds of comb honey per colony.

After gallberry bloom passes bees

do but little for from two to three weeks or until about the 10th or 20th of May. When the low palmetto is out in fall they make things hum for a week or 10 days, and if your dish is right side up you are quite sure to have it filled. Palmetto gives a light amber honey of good flavor and of heavy weight, 12 pounds to a gallon. Colonies in good shape average 40 to 50 pounds each from this source.

This winds up our main surplus, though we sometimes get a short flow of amber honey in the fall from autumn flowers. 100 pounds comb honey in section boxes, and 150 pounds of extracted (with plenty left to carry the bees through the summer and winter) we consider a good year here.

Swarming commences about March 25 and lasts about three weeks. Coming at this time we can get them all in good shape for the palmetto flow in May, and if managed rightly they will not swarm any more during the year.

Bees do but little during the summer months, therefore we leave from 25 to 30 pounds of honey per colony to carry them over to October, when we generally have a flow of light amber honey which puts them in good shape for our short winters, and sometimes gives us some surplus

Our bees breed up to the 10th or 15th of November, and commence again about the 15th of January. I have tried to get them to breed right on through the month by feeding them daily, but to no purpose.

They seem to think that they must take a rest if it is only for six or eight weeks.

As this article is already too long I will close with the wish that some of the rest of you will tell us of your surplus, swarms, etc.

CLAVICEPS APIUM,

Its Symptoms, Cause and Cure.

FOR THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

By WM. STYAN.

On July 6th last Mr. Webster wrote in the "*Pacific Rural Press*," describing what he considered to be a new disease among bees. He said that all the apiarists in his neighborhood pronounced the disease to be foul brood, but he was of the opinion that it was a fungoid disease and he had consulted the best authorities without avail. The editors of the "*Rural Press*" also gave it as their opinion that the disease was foul brood. I wrote to the "*Rural Press*," describing the symptoms of foul brood and I also described the symptoms of the disease, *Claviceps Apium*, hitherto unknown in California, and from the description of the symptoms given by Mr. Webster I came to the conclusion that his bees were affected with the disease. Of course I could not say positively that this was the case as I had not seen the bees and had never before

heard of a case in California; but Mr. Webster at once wrote to me, saying he was sure I was right and that the disease was undoubtedly *Claviceps Apium*. Now as this disease is very infectious, it is quite possible that it may make its appearance again next spring and as it appears to have puzzled so many apiarists I will give a description of the symptoms of this disease and also that of foul brood so that anyone may easily distinguish one disease from the other.

Claviceps Apium first originated in Denmark about nine years ago and is a fungoid disease affecting both brood and bees. The brood appears to be dried up in the cells and although some of the bees hatch out they are quite lame and unable to move their fore legs. They creep about the hive and on the ground as if they had the cramp and die off in great numbers and ultimately the hive becomes queenless. It is a contagious disease and is supposed to have originated from the black smut or ergot of rye having been stored with the pollen.

Foul brood is a disease of the brood and does not seem to affect the mature bees. The caps of the sealed brood appear indented and pierced or partly removed, and the cells contain a putrid, sticky, coffee-colored substance (all that remains of the larvæ) emitting a most disagreeable stench, perceivable several feet from the hive. Foul brood is very infectious and spreads so rapidly that in one season a whole neighborhood may be

infected with it while its eradication and subsequent prevention requires great perseverance and constant attention.

The best remedy for either of the above named diseases is to shake the bees off the affected combs into an empty hive or a hive having frames filled with foundation. Cleanse all affected hives and floor boards with boiling water, burn up all old combs, and finally spray both hives and bees with the following solution:

Salicylic acid, one ounce.

Soda borax, one ounce.

Water, four pints.

It is also advisable when handling bees having any contagious disease to wash the hands in water to which some of the salicylic acid solution has been added to prevent communicating the disease to other hives.

Our Boy Beekeeper.

*What Boys Have Done,
Boys Can Do.*

FOR THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

WM. STYAN JR.

I thought perhaps you might like to have a letter from a young apiarist for the December number of the Western Apiarian. I am 14 years of age and I help my father with our forty hives. I was sent to San Francisco this season to transfer a swarm of bees from a common box into a Langstroth hive for a gentleman on Geary street.

I hived seven swarms this season

myself, and I have opened several hives, taken out the queens and mailed them to our customers when my father was away.

I have a large hive which I made myself. It is a double sized Langstroth and I have a very strong swarm in it. Our bees were gathering pollen on December 23rd last year and we had drones flying on January 25th. We think this would surprise some of our friends in the Eastern States. I should like to hear the experiences of any other young apiarists.

The Thing That Makes the Buzz.

By H. D. CASTLE.

"Buzz! buzz! buzz! buzz! you big
bumble-bee

Bending down the clover heads—
can't you talk to me?

What a funny song you sing—buzz!
buzz! buzz!

Don't you get your nose all full of
dandelion fuzz!

"Don't you have a jolly time
honey every day?

Wearing all your pretty clothes
when you go to play—

Nicest kind of velvet coat—yellow
satin jacket!

Buzz! buzz! buzz! buzz! how *do*
you make that racket?

"Now I've got you, bumble-bee,
under my straw hat!

Buzz! buzz! buzz! buzz! I'll find
out how you do that!

Pretty little bumble-bee, I won't

spoil your jacket—

Oh! oh! oh! oh!"—Here's another kind of racket.

Mamma calls the bumble-bee, "Naughty, cross, old thing!

Didn't little Freddy know all about the sting?"

"See how big it's swelling up. Oh dear! oh dear suz!

Mamma, is the stinger the thing that makes the buzz?"

ALFALFA!

A WONDERFUL HONEY-PLANT.

FOR THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

By JOHN L. GREGG,

Tempe, Arizona.

Would not your readers be pleased to hear in regard to alfalfa as a honey producing plant, and as to the quality of the honey produced.

Mr. W. L. Osborn of Phoenix, Arizona Ter., first called my attention to alfalfa as a great honey producing plant three years ago, and I thought he must be mistaken, from the fact that I had about ten acres of the plant, and my bees did not seem to do much good when at work on it, and the cause is not yet fully apparent to my mind, unless it was because they would not bother with so small a pasture, or from the fact that it did not furnish enough to take all their time.

Upon investigation I found Mr. Osborn had one thousand acres of alfalfa within a radius of a little more than one mile, which I am in-

clined to call a *bee-keepers paradise*, and from which Mr. Osborn's bees (130 hives, spring count) gathered 20,000 lb of extracted honey, and some comb honey.

Then I determined to move my bees to the alfalfa fields and try my hand on alfalfa honey. So I moved 190 hives, three miles, having started one acre of land to set them on. The first crop of bloom did not produce any honey from the fact that a worm something like the army worm destroyed nearly all the bloom, and then a little, black flea beetle took or ate the bloom of the third crop. Late in summer or fall, water became scarce and the alfalfa did not bloom very much, hence you see if nothing had hindered we would have made at least forty thousand instead of twenty thousand pounds of honey.

Alfalfa does not yield honey so rapidly as basswood or mesquite, but the bees will fill their hives in five days to eight days. When I run for mesquite honey alone I extract on Mondays and again on Thursdays, third and fourth days, and my bees averaged all round 485 pounds to the hive spring count. Has anyone ever beat that record? I think not. Mesquite honey to my taste is far ahead of any other variety, and it is in the true sense white honey; it is as clear as water.

Alfalfa honey is not quite clear, but so nearly clear that you can see a pin in the bottom of a gallon bucket that is full of it. Very many think it should be graded No. 1. It has

California into three sections as follows:

1st Southern California with Arizona.

2nd Central California with Western Nevada.

3rd Northern California with Southern Oregon.

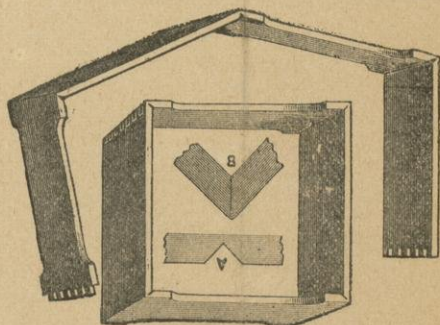
We suggest that Southern California shall include the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Louis Obispo, and Kern; that Central California include all the counties north of these up to and inclusive of Placer, Sutter, Yolo, Napa and Sonoma; and that Northern California include all the counties north of those above given.

Prof. Norton, whose article we will insert in February, suggests that these local conventions can elect delegates to represent them at a state convention which would seem to be the solution of the matter.

We think that good results would be produced by county conventions and would gladly do all in our power to aid the several counties in any attempt they may make.

Our county, El Dorado, which has about 25 bee-keepers, is talking up a convention, and if we can have one here in the mountains, surely some of the southern counties need not hesitate.

Next month we will speak of the benefits that will result from such organization; and our reasons for thinking such benefits will come.




J. FORNCROOK & CO.,

Manufacturers of the

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PATENTED JUNE 28, 1881.

WILL furnish you, the coming season, ONE PIECE SECTIONS sand papered on both sides, as cheap as the cheapest, and better than the best.

 Write for prices.

Watertown, Wis., Jan. 1., 1890.

THE WESTERN APIARIAN.

PLACERVILLE, - - - - - CALIFORNIA.

Believing that the best interests of apiculture in California demand an organization of our forces; and that now is the proper time to take direct measures to accomplish the desired end; we ask you to give us your opinion in the matter; and, if you have one, your plan of accomplishing this; for publication in the February number of the "WESTERN APIARIAN," which will devote its columns for that month, largely to this most important subject.

A few occasional wishes, scattered over the whole number of our agricultural periodicals, will not accomplish this; it must be a general movement and have competent direction.

Allow us, with becoming modesty, to refer you to the editorial in the January Number of the "WESTERN APIARIAN."

Yours truly,

McCALLUM BROS.,