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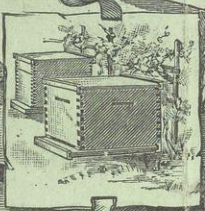
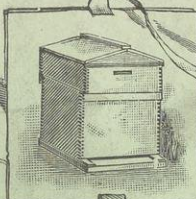
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PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND
KINDRED INDUSTRIES.



PUBLISHED BY

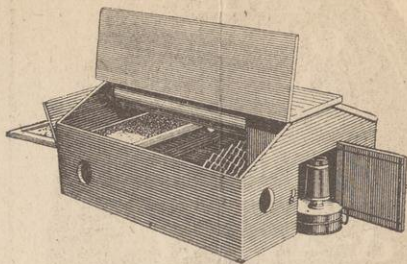
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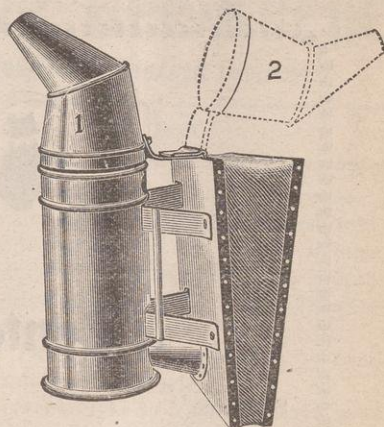
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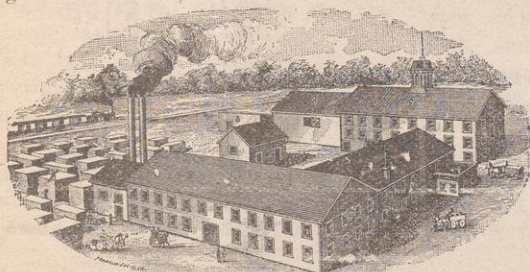
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The Progressive Bee-Keeper

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Interests

VOL. XIV.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO , MAR 1906.

NO. 3

SUNDRIES.

SOMNAMBULIST.

It is always with feelings of sorrow that we contemplate the abandoned homes and farms of the New England estates and more especially when we remember that these lands were once most fertile. Too well we realize that if our lands are treated no better history will have repeated itself, and a similar fate awaits them, and that, at no very distant period.

As the frosts of winter bid us good by we should be diligently sowing grass seed and while so doing why not use a plant which will not only build up the land, but furnish nectar as well?

If as it is claimed, the ranker the growth, the better the plant for fertilizing purposes, what is the matter with sweet clover? Surely its nectar producing habit would prove no objection? Not so many years ago all western Kansas was burned up by hot winds. Now in the same section, these (desert) lands are commanding \$100.00 per acre, all owing to the general growth of alfalfa. This alfalfa land often earns \$30.00 and sometimes \$40.00 per acre annually.

The conservation of moisture by rank vegetation (chief among which is alfalfa) has been the redemption of the country. In the beginning alfalfa rendered this country habitable, and

not stopping there, it increased the value of the land an hundred fold beside furnishing a yearly income of 30 or 40 per cent on that increased value dreamed of in all these estimates

The mission of mind is to assume control of matter.

Stick close to Nature's ways, has a somewhat sheltering sound, and from many points of view is a safe rule. But to reap the highest benefits one must stick very close. That is, make Nature an earnest study not stopping until we most thorough'y understand her and are able to take advantage of all she offers.

The trouble with a large majority of humanity is they can not be made to understand how rich the reward offered earnest, persistent and ably directed effort. They assume to half way do things and expect all of the reward due to whole hearted attempt, and after a few trials and as many failures give up in disgust. Success may be courted in a half hearted manner, but she will never be won. How many are apt to regard their work as a burden, a stone about their neck and sink into apathy, while others under similar circumstances use it as a stepping stone to something higher.?

The ability to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones is often worth more, in a pinch, than a fat purse. Then if forced to seek a plant for

fertilization purposes, would it not seem politic to be on the look out for a honey producing plant. To the members of the clover family rightly belongs the reputation of being the best of fertilizers, and they also are noted nectar yielding plants.

We are forcibly reminded of the adaptability of all things in Nature by Hasty's comment on Mr. Pettit's article in American Bee Journal which I here insert.

BEES AND ALSIKE CLOVER SEED.

The experiences about bees and alsike seed which Mr. Pettit puts in on page 884 are striking. A few patches of alsike yield seed well usually. A large acreage, is near a big apiary yields 6 to 9 bushels per acre. But $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from an apiary, and beyond, the yield will be only 2 to 5 bushels per acre, with same soil and culture, is many acres are tried. Must have bees, it seems, to raise alsike seed profitably on a large scale.

Were it possible to sow such information broadcast, some of the blind prejudice now existing against bees might be at least modified if not wholly removed.

Such prejudice as is illustrated in American Bee Journal of Feb. 1st, as follows:

PREJUDICE AGAINST BEES ON ALFALFA.

"York County Bee Keeper," speaking of the cattlemen's prejudice in Nevada against bees working on their alfalfa, says, "Happily, at present anyway, we have nothing to fear in Ontario from prejudice of this kind."

Don't be so sure. Mr. "York County Bee Keeper." I could take you to a neighborhood in Norfolk county where neighbors told a woman she would lose 200 bushels from her yield of buckwheat by having bees work on it. When the buckwheat was riping,

however, she was satisfied with her crop.

The prejudice against bees on some crops which they actually benefit is alarming, and shows a wide field for mission work by Farmer's Institute speakers.

In seeking a man's good will toward any particular object just convince him it is to his self interest and you have him under control.

In the Sister's department one woman says: If the people of the State of Iowa had planted Linden groves instead of maple that state would have been far wealthier, and also, far healthier. Hurrah for the bee keeper that has a linden grove.

Shall we profit by our own and other peoples mistakes. If any special clover or other plant chosen, be not a nectar producing plant in a given locality, why not change to one which is known to possess that quality?

I have in mind one German who values clover so highly that he sows it in wheat in the spring claiming a gain of three bushels per acre over the land farmed in the same manner but not treated to the clover. He then plows it under in the fall and gets a coat of green manure which gives him rich returns in the corn crop of the next year.

Of course the bees get nothing from clover so handled but most of people let it stand long enough for the bees to reap benefit there from. Perhaps the reader thinks this has more to do with general farming than bee keeping but it fits in with beekeeping quite nicely. The following, from C. P. Dadant in American Bee Journal, is sound doctrine.

Good roofs for sheltering the hives against the sun and rain, are made very cheaply from old dry goods boxes

which you may be able to secure from the general store in your town. A fair size dry goods box will make six flat roofs. If you have artistic taste, these roofs may be made ornamental. But if you are working for profit without regard to the esthetic, a flat roof will be sufficient to secure the hive against the inclemencies of the weather, the soaking of the rains or the drying and warping action of the hot summer sun.

A hive sheltered with the very roughest of roofs will last twice as long as one which is only planted and left to withstand the irregularities of the Siberian winters and African summers that are often the portion of our so-called temperate countries.

The bees will need attention only if the weather becomes mild. A warm sunny day, when the thermometer rises to 60 in the shade, is quite a boon to the bees, especially if the ground is free from snow. On such a day we make sure that nothing will prevent or disturb their flight. If the hive-entrance should be clogged with dead bees they should be removed.

But, on the other hand, during the cold weather we must be very sure that nothing arouses our bees. Cattle or sheep in the bee yard will disturb them from time to time. When the hive is jarred some of the bees leave the cluster to ascertain the cause of the disturbance, and they are often chilled before they can return. Thus the colony will slowly dwindle, and when spring comes it is too weak to recuperate.

How many are guilty of carelessness in regard to all kinds of stock having access to the bee yards regardless of consequences which oftentimes prove quite disastrous even to upsetting the hive. Exposing the honey, in turn sets up a case of robbing never to

be forgotten and seemingly endless in its ill-fated effects.

The following experience has been frequently duplicated and it sounds so real reproduce it,

Yours is pretty white; but we sometimes see it lighter. Said I, "I do not regard my honey so highly for the color as for taste." He said he did not buy honey by taste but by color. He went to the rear of the store, and returning, said to me: "well how much do you want for your honey?" "Four and one half cents," said I. "Ho!" said he, "we are offered more at two and one-half cents than we would care to buy," and turning on his heel as if cutting the final flourish in his name with a pair of skates, went rapidly away. I kept my honey eight months and obtained eight cents, and this same wholesaler offered six and one-half. (C. W. Dayton in the American Bee Keeper.)

M. A. Gill in American Bee Journal airs his views of honey prices in this manner. I am not one who thinks the prices for comb and extracted honey should be higher than the present market quotations. Neither do I believe that honey and butter should go hand in hand with regard to prices. Honey outranks butter as a luxury, but is not the equal of butter as a necessity; neither does it cost as much to produce it, pound for pound,

What the honey market needs is an increased consumption of the pure article upon the tables of the masses. And how best to do this is the question before the honey producers of to day. Unfortunately for the best interest of the honey business, the great mass of retailers who place the honey of the country in the hands of consumers, are ignorant on the question of honey, and a large portion are unscrupulous in making sales. For many

an ignorant clerk or salesman has represented that there is a pure article (of either comb or extracted) made by the bees, and here is an article that is manufactured; when both are pure but one grade may be granulated or amber-colored. Sometimes I think they do it to make a sale, and sometimes to appear wise. And I believe as much harm is done in this way as by the newspaper canards, for the actual consumer is given to understand that manufactured honey is on the open market, and the next time he buys he has to be shown again.

We who produce honey, and sell in carloads lots to the jobbers, can do but little in the great work that needs to be done, for when the car has gone forward we feel like taking a little rest, and then begin operations for the next crop.

But what the consumer and producer both need is more men like Mr. Niver, who have eaten of the insane root "Ambition," who will cover the whole country, who know what pure honey is, and who will open a bureau of intelligence in every neighborhood, telling the glad news that honey is pure, and that it's cheap and healthful. And then consumption will increase, and prices will take care of themselves.

"Hasty" in his "Afterthoughts" express about the same sentiments I think most of us will share the surprise of Prof. Cook, to find that in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany almost no hotel sets honey before the guest, nor even when he asks for it. All samee we uns! 'Spect the cause is the same on both sides of the pond. Retail price has been kept out of the reach of common folks; and the habit of common folks has become in this case the habit of all. But no plan to remedy things

by going back along that line will give universal satisfaction. Some of the brethren will kick pretty lively at Prof. Cook's proposed prices; but nevertheless I guess he is right. No kick from me. I sell a large share of my (not very large) crops direct to consumers, and let them have best extracted at 7 cents and best comb for 14. And when the brethren try to buy me clean out and put a stop to it I won't let 'em. As a result, people of my locality eat honey."

"The editor has this to say, if all who now have bees would learn to care for them more intelligently, and also develop, so far as possible, their local honey market, there would be less honey thrown on the city markets and so the price of honey could be better kept up.

This would result in greater benefit to all concerned, we believe. But holding out the idea that there is big money in bees for everybody, is hardly the proper thing. It can be overdone. We do not advise all sundry to keep bees.

Much truth in all of it. The man who is already keeping bees has his hand in (in more than one sense) lots of the slip shod sort wish they hadn't it and can the better afford to continue along the same lines than can a new man entering the same field. He has his well earned experience by which to profit and knows how curb expense, and make every edge cut, as the saying goes. Bee-keeping is much the same as all other kinds of business if not picked up in a single season.

IS SPRAYING HARMFUL TO BEES

J. W. ROUSE.

We have written on the above subject before but that subject will well bear repetition. We had an article

on this subject in the Feb. 28th number of Colman's Rural World and since writing that article where we stated "all well informed horticulturists knew the benefits of bees and other insects to the successful growing of fruit, and that they did not spray during blooming time." We have received the February number of the Western Fruit Grower, which is devoted chiefly to spraying and we believe without an exception, all the leading and some of the very best horticulturists say they spray just before or after blooming time.

Now we do not pretend to know as much about fruit growing as we do about bees, but still modestly will say we have studied the subject and especially as spraying is related to bees, from what we have learned it would be as useless to spray in winter time for the codling moth as to do it in early spring or during blooming time, as the codling moth does not appear until the fruit is forming after the bloom has fallen. We have the life history in bulletin form written by Prof. M. V. Slingerland of Ithaca, N. Y. It is issued by the Cornell Experiment Station. Prof. Slingerland says that May 3rd is as early as he has ever seen any of the codling moth, and sometimes as late as in June before the first appearance. So as a general rule not much before the 10th or 15th of May perhaps, in spraying for fungus diseases and view for other insects, besides the codling moth spraying may be done where needed before blooming time or afterwards with as good results and thus not cause the destruction of the bees.

We were present at the Marceline meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society and introduced a resolution "not to spray during blooming time, as to do so at that time did practically no good, but would destroy insect helps in fertilizing the bloom, es-

pecially honey bees." The resolution was passed unanimously. This certainly shows what our state horticulturists think of spraying during blooming time.

A manufacturer of spray machines at Quincy, Ills., advises to commence spraying in early spring, which may be all right for fungus diseases, but he also advises to keep on spraying during blooming time, regardless of the fact in so doing the horticulturist is doing more harm than good. This manufacturer's attention has been called to his indiscriminate advice, but he does not alter or change his advice as I had a circular from him recently. He seems to be pushing the sale of his machines regardless of any injury he may be doing others.

We inform all bee keepers to inform all that they can that are likely to spray, what harm they may do to spray during blooming time and that it can be done even better after blooming time for the codling moth, as the spray poison, must be distributed on the growing fruit to do any good. Some states already have laws against spraying during blooming time, and if we find that some will continue to spray during blooming time, regardless of the injury to bee keepers, our state association will certainly take that up and go to work for a law against spraying during blooming time.

HONEY MARKET

Chicago white comb honey is not plentiful and it sells upon arrival at 15 cents per pound. Other grades of comb are not in demand and sell at uncertain prices of 10 to 15 cents per pound. Choice white extracted $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$, amber grades $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$. Beeswax 30 cents per pound.

Yours Truly,

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EDITORIALS.

How about those colonies that went into the winter light in stores? If you have not given them attention before this meets your eyes it is high time you are looking after them. It will hardly pay to let them starve now when a dollar or less invested in food for them may bring them back anywhere from two to five or more dollars inside of six months.

Do not try to follow the teachings of all writers for the various bee journals. What is practicable with them may not be in your particular location.

Now Mr. Publisher that fellow (or possibly that lady) who set the type, page #3 left hand column, sixteenth line from top in Feb. Progressive has

done gone went and made me say loving venture when it should have been losing venture. I do not mind a slight typographical error but when typo makes a v out of my o's it is a little too much to bear without complaint. Evidently that type setter had matrimony on the brain for that is the only thing I can think of that might be called a loving venture and it occurs to me that it is often a losing venture as well. Often both parties to the contract think they have been buncoed.

Have you tried sawdust for smoker fuel? If not give it a trial according to direction given in Progressive some time ago. After you have learned how to use it, the more you use it the better you will like it. It gives very little smoke and consumes little fuel when standing still and lots of smoke when the bellows is worked.

Progressive for February Page 33 to 41 Mr. M. A. Gill in discussing the merits of the divisible brood chamber as compared to the Langstroth hive, hangs it on to Mr. Stanley pretty heavy. I do not recollect reading the former discussion but evidently Mr. Stanley has taken issue with Mr. Gill who holds up for the Langstroth hive while Mr. Stanley advocates the divisible brood chamber.

Ever since I commenced reading the literature the divisible brood chamber has from time to time been lauded by some of its champions. That was about twenty or more years ago, and yet today those using the divisible brood chamber are very few when compared to the number that use the Langstroth (now the dovetailed) hive.

President J. W. Rouse in February Progressive gives Mr. Arthur C. Miller a calling down for his article on

bee inspectors and especially the bee inspector which failed to materialize in Missouri.

Mr. Miller's article appeared in the January Progressive page 20 and is written in his usual style which seems to be as a rule contrary to all methods practices and beliefs of common bee keepers. His articles also contain a vague intimation that there is still left back some weighty matter that is too deep for the average bee keeper to comprehend and therefore the more important part is left un-said and un-written. He has a way of soaring high above us, of the laity, breathing a more knowledge-giving and brain-invigorating atmosphere and looking down on us with a feeling of pity mingled with contempt. I believe it is well for such men to be called down occasionally and made to see and understand that the rest of humanity is not so ignorant that they can not see the egotism of a high flyer.

If the above appears somewhat harsh I would remind Mr. Miller that he brought it upon himself by intimating that the bee keepers of Missouri are a set of ignoramus who do not know what they want or what they need and have not the judgment to select or the material from which to select a bee inspector.

Mr. C. W. Dayton in February Progressive after referring to a certain car load of honey shipped to St. Louis from his town (Chatsworth, Calif) says: There Missourians, I have told you where it came from. It is now your turn to tell what you have been doing with it since its arrival in your state. I don't know Mr. Dayton but I believe it is there in St. Louis yet being offered at six and a half cents per pound. (see market quotations). When I send a ten pound pail of honey to St Louis I

get \$1.25 for it and Jones he pays the freight, that is if his (the purchasers) name happens to be Jones. Now who is the laugh on?

PARCELS POST AND PURE FOOD LAW.

I am not well posted on what will take place in our National congress, but if I am correctly informed there has been for many years an attempt made to have two bills enact into laws. The one is a Parcels Post bill and the other is a National pure food law. Both of these are of vital importance to bee keepers all over the United States. A Parcels Post would frequently be of great benefit to bee keepers when they wish to order from the supply dealer or manufacturer some article or articles that are not heavy enough to warrant one in paying freight and yet too large or heavy to go through the mails. In such cases we are obliged to place ourselves in the tender care of the express companies. Not long ago I read or heard that the chairman of the committee who has the Parcels Post bill in charge is the president of one of the largest express companies in the United States. Is it any wonder that the bill never gets out of the committee room? It is hardly necessary to mention the benefit that would accrue to bee keepers by the passage of a pure food law. There is no valid reason on earth why such a bill should not become a law at once. The man, the company or the corporation that can not exist with putting on the market some adulterated article that comes in competition with pure goods and honest product should be shown no quarter. Yet such a law cannot be passed. How long will we, the common people, sit back with folded arms and bear this? How long will we continue to go to the polls and vote for our particular politi-

cal candidates and fall out and have hot words with our neighbors because they see fit to vote for the other candidate? How long will we continue to send Mis-representatives to our legislatures and our national capitol?

OUR OWN FAULT.

It is partly our own fault that we do have such laws enacted as we desire. We do not take the trouble to advise our law makers what we want. It took the farmers and dairymen a long time, and they had a hard fight to secure a just law against oleomargarine but they stuck everlastingly at it and now they have oleo where she has to sail under her own colors, or rather without colors and is not allowed to parade under the guise of pure creamery butter.

It will be a big undertaking for the bee keepers to tackle the glucose trust but they would certainly be battling in a good cause. This trust is practicing practically the same tactics as has been followed by the Standard Oil Co. While investigations are in fashion would it not be well to call the attention of the investigators to the glucose octopus?

It is time to commence to get ready to do the early spring work with the bees.

It might not be a bad idea to cut out all drone comb, and after rendering it into wax trade it off for foundation.

When we read of death and sickness among the high salaried insurance men and other souless nabobs it would seem as though the old man of the dark regions was coming to claim his own Verily, the way of the transgressor is hard.

If you wish to clip the wings of your queens it will be well to do it just as soon as you can possibly work with the bees without starting robbing, for the easier it is done the fewer bees there will be in the hive and hence the queen will be easier to find.

Get your bees in condition to harvest a big crop, then should it prove to be a short crop they will be ready to make the best of what does come.

When your fingers are soiled with propolis rub them well with coal oil (kerosene). Take warm water and use Grandpa's soap.

A ROBBER CLOTH.

I don't know who to give credit for this handy device but I think I read it in Dr. Millers Stray Straws. Take a piece of light factory (muslin) fastened to each side between two light pieces of wood as long as the cloth. When you remove the cover lay this cloth over the frames. Then roll it back from one side until the top of one frame only is exposed. Remove this comb and roll back the cloth until another frame or comb is exposed to view and so continue until all the combs you wish to examine have been looked over. Usually I remove only one or two combs and place them in light boxes so constructed that the frames will hang in it the same as in a hive. This box also has a cloth cover fastened to one side of the box and the other edge fastened between two light sticks of wood of same length. The box has a bail to carry it by and so made that it will turn down out of the way when putting in or taking out combs. The robber cloth not only reduces to a minimum the opportunily for robbers to interfere but at the same time protects you to a great extent from the

colony over which you are working should they be vicious and inclined to pop out of the exposed combs and bite you. If you once get use to using a robber cloth you will not work with out it when robbers are troublesome.

When you find a man who knows all about bees do not bank much on his advice, but when you find one who still has much to learn and is continually trying to learn more it will likely pay you well to learn what he has to say.

When one picks up a daily newspaper and more especially a great big Sunday paper he has to call over a big lot of trash in order to find something worth reading. Much of it is mere tommy rot and not worth half the time that it takes to read it. In fact one will be better off by not reading it, for if I may make a guess I will say that a large part which purports to be instructive or scientific is mere fiction. That the bee journals may never fall into this error is the wish of yours truly,

S. E. MILLER.

Bluffton, Mo.

LOCATING APIARIES IN CALIFORNIA

The ordinary mortal coming from the east out here to keep bees in California, would be considerably disappointed at the difficulties in obtaining an apiary location. And the more so when he sees the miles and miles of road and brush covered mountains much of which brush is first-class honey yielding plants. Since residing here twelve years I am in position to inform the prospector in a short space of what might require many years to find out, and maybe end in a failure or loss of means already possessed. Our ranch or tract of mountain land consists of about 60 acres taking it as

though it was level, but on account of the up and down lay the land there may be 80 or 90. At our east line begins a grain and stock farm, or ranch, comprising 120,000 acres. Across the section line on the north side is another of very nearly the same size. When we go to the city we traverse this farm and it is ten miles to the first house and four miles farther to the second house. Northwest we are joined by a 9000 acre farm and southwest is a farm of 15000 acres first and extending around this in the form of a horseshoe is a larger one of 105,000 acres. None of these large farms will sell off a small slice and besides it is held at very exorbitant prices even in very large slices. In this locality, 20 to 30 miles from the market city it could not be bought for less than \$100 (one hundred dollars) per acre. Some of these large farms contain one farm house and others several farm houses, according to the size of the farm and the devotion of the land to grain or stock raising. A farm or ranch usually occupies a valley between the ranges of mountains all around so far as there is any tillable or grazable land. Where it is so far back and rocky as to be considered worthless for any purpose it remains in the possession of the government. This sometimes leaves a more or less narrow strip in the center of the mountain ranges that can be taken by homesteaders, but it is usually a lifelong job, and sometimes more, to make a road to such homesteads. It is not only a lonesome life fraught with privations, but the scarcity of water often forbids the enterprise altogether. For several years we hauled water, during the dry part of the season, about eight miles. In the raining season it could be obtained at one and one-half

miles. But this would obtain either sulphur or alkali so that we occasionally went the longer distance to get better water.

The strip in which our land is situated is about 15 miles long, one-half mile wide at one end and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide at the other. The canyons which run up into the mountains cut this strip at right angles. These canyons are the only points where the mountains can be entered on account of their abrupt contour and are one-half to three miles apart. Some contain springs of water and others no water at all. Wherever there is a spring it has been secured many years ago and held as securely as a gold mine. Not only would it have been secured by settlers but it would have been included in some large farm because it is very favorable to stock to get water without traveling several miles for it, and then perhaps it would have to be drawn by artificial contrivance. In earlier times if it had been known that these rock precipitous mountains contained such fruitful bee pastures no doubt it would have been included in the large farms or ranches. But the usefulness of sage brush is a comparatively recent discovery. On the first discovery that there was profits in bees and sage brush, as well, or even better than grain and cattle, many of these large farmers engaged in extensive bee culture. Lower prices came on, more dry seasons and bee disease crept in which shut out these unscientific producers. The large ranchman managed bees about the same as stock which consisted of buying a few cattle, for a start, branding then turning them loose to choose their own pastures, and increase. Persons born and brought up scarcely outside the saddle, roping steers and lassoing wild horses, could

not be expected to tone down, in the course of a few years, to the careful, painstaking methods necessary to its management.

Extensive (the opposite of intensive) farming eventually brought the land to near sterility. Less bushels per acre produced and grain not so high in quality as formerly. The mountains are also affording less and less pasture. The large farms are, in consequence, becoming less remunerative in other lines so that the owners are turning their attention toward honey production, employing men with more or less bee knowledge as managers of their apiaries.

A great difficulty to the small capital bee keepers is to get assistance in the rushing part of the season. Wagons and teams to haul supplies and honey to and from the distant market, besides the capital for the operation of business until the disposal of the crop. Men dislike to leave the city to work in such isolated localities and so demand higher wages. Since the large farms comprise all the grazing land it is expensive to keep horses since their feed must be obtained from the city, not only in the year of a good crop of honey, but during the passing of the poor season which are more numerous than the good. With several shipping bills and middlemens' profits added to a high first cost the last cost is very high.

When a man buys or hires he is expected pay soon. This necessitates the early disposal of the crop. With so large an army of bee men in like condition, from a like cause, it produces a sudden flush in the local market. The buyers of honey are the usual sellers of sugar, syrup, etc., so it is common for sugar to be low about the time bee men come in with their samples of honey. In 1897 I took a

sample of my best honey to a wholesale buyer in Los Angeles, who has branch offices in New York, London and Hamburg, said the buyer: "Yours is pretty white. But we sometimes get it lighter." Said I, "I do not regard my honey so highly for color as for taste." He said, "we do not buy honey by taste. Entirely by color." He went to the rear end of the store and returned and said to me: "Well, how much do you want for your honey?" "Four and one-half cents," said I. "Ho!" said he, "we are offered more than we would care to buy at two and one-half cents." Turning on his heel, as if cutting the final flourish in his name on the ice with a pair of skates, went rapidly away. I kept the honey eight months and obtained eight cents and the wholesaler offered six and one-half. That is a long time to keep a crop where the product's capital consists of not much else but rents, debts and hazards.

But these extensive farmers have horses, wagons, feed and men on hand year in and year out. If they take a load of grain or wool to the city they can bring a load of bee supplies out. They use groceries and other farm supplies in such large quantities that it pays to own and operate stores of their own and sell honey and other farm produce in a retail way. I know of farms thirty miles in length having a store in a city at each end and another midway besides a bank and mills in distant large cities.

In the east we can approach a small farmer who has a wooded pasture or a neglected orchard and he will nearly fall over himself to obtain \$5 or \$10 a year for an apiary location which otherwise would return him nothing; but to these large farmers \$5 or \$10 per month is no inducement. They have learned to speculate for profits in other

ways than in the grain and grass alone and if there is dollars to be obtained from bees they want them in their own coffers.

It is quite agreeable when Mr. Boss Honeyslinger makes report of a chain of apiaries over his own name; although he may not own a bee, the horse or the two-wheeled gig he rides in. He gets his assistance from the Casselman ranch of 20,000 acres of which Mr. Casselman is foreman; which Mr. Johnson, of the city is local manager of and five other ranches of comparative size.

The owner, Mr. so-and-so, lives in Philadelphia, New York, or perhaps in Europe, so far away that he is not aware of the local fame he is robbed of.

C. W. DAYTON.

Chatsworth, Calif.

BEE KEEPING FOR WOMEN.

BY MRS. M. HONAKER.

In almost every rural community there are a number of women with considerable spare time on their hands and with a laudable ambition to engage in some small business which will insure them an individual income. To such, when favorably located, I would say, "Try bee-keeping" There is nothing about or connected with the work repulsive to the most fastidious, nor is there anything about it beyond the strength of the ordinary woman. Any woman who is able to do the work of the average household, is able to run a small apiary. The returns from even a few colonies should, if bees are well managed, be sufficient to insure financial independence while as experience is gained and the colonies increase may be expected.

I do not mean to infer by this that women should endeavor to support themselves by any kind of special

effort, but only to encourage those who are able and anxious to "do something," by pointing out to them the advantages of this most desirable occupation for the ambitious woman. For indeed it is a desirable occupation in more respects than one. Profitable and moreover strengthening and uplifting to body, mind and soul, it is well able to supply the needs of many classes of women. There is possibly no occupation open to women capable of inspiring so much interest, enthusiasm and spiritual contemplation as that of apiculture. Even a woman's natural repugnance to "crawling thing" is forgotten, and the wonder and admiration excited by a closer acquaintances with the busy little workers lead her to a greater appreciation of the provision of an allwise Creator for the "children of men."

Then because of this same uplifting and ennobling influence, I would say to those women who are bowed down with mental care and worry, and who feel that life has brought to them too little of its sweets and too much of its bitter dregs, "Try bee keeping." Oftentimes this would prove more diverting, more effective than a change of scene and habit which physicians are so prone to advise. For most country women, especially those interests are centered in a farm home there is small opportunity, and too often, small means for travel, in consequence of which the soulsick and sorrow-burdened woman struggles on in suffering and despair until roused in some chance way, or until death ends the scene. If such a one could or would be induced to undertake the care of a few colonies of bees, untold good would probably result, and life would soon take on a new and broader meaning.

Not only is bee keeping conducive

to mental and moral health, but to physical as well. There is nothing which calls into play all the muscles of the body more effectually, and that tool in the open air than the various changes of work called for in bee keeping. To those then who are in declining health, and who feel the need of wholesome outdoor exercise during the pleasant days of summer, I would say, "Try bee keeping." Many a consumptive and rheumatic sufferer might have been relieved and possibly cured, if bee keeping had been engaged in at an early stage in the progress of the disease. Many another might be saved now, by engaging in it before it is too late for any means to avail.

Of course a certain amount of time must be available for the purpose before bee keeping should be engaged in by any one, whether man or woman, whatever the object. For this reason it should not be undertaken by woman whose hands are already full to overflowing with work. But otherwise other things being favorable, it is an occupation suitable in every way for women—that is, for those classes and under the circumstances named above.—The American Bee Journal.

POPULAR COLONIES.

NEEDED DURING HONEY HARVEST,
AND MAY BE SECURED BY
"SHOOK SWARMING."

One thing the writer has learned by experience is, the number of bees at work in an apiary, not the number of colonies, is the vital fact to be considered at the opening of the honey flow. The more these forces can be conserved and held together, the better will be the showing on the right

side of the bee keeper's ledger. A swarm, no matter how large, shaken on starters and given ample storage room in the surplus apartment, will not, normally, cast a swarm that season, but will continue gathering and hoarding the treasured sweets the whole summer long. There is profit in such a colony.

Apiaries say 100 colonies, as they average at the beginning of the honey flow, ought to have their working forces concentrated into at least 75 or even a fewer number. The weaker colonies should be shaken together on starters and given all the room they can comfortably occupy. The principle is this: The greatest force is needed when the flow is at its best, as it will last but a short time, and rapid work is necessary to take full advantage of it.

Fellow bee keepers, you who doubt the dictum of this article, try as an experiment this summer, shaking two of our strongest colonies together on starters, give ample storage room, and make note of results. Compare these results with the average of your colonies worked separately, and if there is not a percentage in favor of the consolidation plan, write us that it is a fraud and a failure.

The beginning of the honey flow is usually marked by a division of forces (swarming) when the reverse should prevail, if profit is sought through the production of a large crop of honey—Exchange.

WHO KNOWS?

On page 42 of the February Progressive, a member of the numerous Miller family for whom I have high respect, as also I had for his father before him, raises the following question: "I only ask whether it is a proven fact that

bees consume more stores in a mild winter than during a long severe one. Who knows?" It might be presumption in me to say that I am sure I know the answer, but I may not be going too far to say I think I know it.

Let us consider a few of the facts that are well "proven" Bees keep up the heat of the cluster by the consumption of fuel, just as heat is produced in general, and the fuel they use is honey. As said on page 42 "The more intense the cold the greater the radiation of heat from the body, and hence the greater amount of heat-producing food required to replenish the heat of the body," It is very clear that, other things being equal, more honey will be consumed during a given period of time with the surrounding temperature at 10 degrees below zero than at 10 above.

Many of those who winter in cellars have been surprised at the rapidity with which stores disappear after the bees are set out in the spring. Those who are experienced in the matter do not count, as the inexperienced are likely to do, that the main thing is to have enough stores present to last until the bees are set out. They know that after the bees are set out, stores will be consumed with much greater rapidity than in the cellar, and if a goodly supply is not on hand to last until the bees can gather, there is likely to be suffering, if not death.

It is common to explain this greater consumption of stores after the bees get to flying by saying that the greater consumption is caused by the rearing of so much brood. This is far from the whole of the truth. At first only a small amount of brood is present, and no great loss of stores can be laid to that account. The main part of the increased consumption just at first would take place all the same if not an egg were laid. Let us consider why.

Let us single out a particular bee while in the cellar that is in the central part of the cluster. It may be remarked in passing, that most of the bees are practically in the central part of the cluster, only a crust of outside bees taking the brunt of the cold. So long as the bees were in the cellar, our bee had nothing to do but to sit still and meditate, and the honey it consumes is hardly worth considering. Let us still keep our bee in observation after the hive is carried out.

If the mercury marks 40 in the shade, and if the day is bright and still, it, with the rest, will take a cleansing flight. If it should sit still long enough in the open air, it would likely be chilled to death. But it doesn't sit still. It keeps actively on the wing, and burns up enough honey to keep its body in active motion, and at the same time keep it warm; and that takes many times as much honey as it consumed during the same length of time while asleep in the cellar. For many days this continues in a less degree, and it is much the same thing if the colony had been wintered out.

For many years I have cellared my bees, and for the past few winters there has been a marked increase in the amount of stores consumed. I know of nothing to which to attribute the difference except that during the past few winters there has' been a furnace in the cellar, and the average temperature has been about 50 instead of 45 as before. Much observation through many years has shown me that bees are most nearly dormant somewhere in the neighborhood of 55 degrees. (There's nothing original about this; many others have observed the same thing.) When it rises above that temperature they become more active, and activity can only be pro-

duced by the consumption of fuel honey.

With these facts before us let us see what answer we are likely to expect if we go to one of the bee-keepers farthest north in Canada, and ask him, "Do bees consume more stores in a mild winter than during a long severe one?" "Not by a long shot: you see during the mildest winter the bees are confined to the hives nearly all the time no matter whether the winter is mild or severe, and about all the honey they use in the winter is to keep them warm in the hive, so you can easily see that the cooler it is the more honey they must eat."

If we go far enough south, the answer is likely to be, "Well, I've noticed that bees use up more honey the warmer the winter is, and it stands to reason it should be so. You see even in the coldest winters there isn't such a great deal of the time when they can't fly, and the more they fly the more honey they use. The nearer the winter keeps to 45, the less flying and the less eating."

Somewhere between these two men, some bee keeper is likely to tell us: "It's six of one and half dozen of the other. Our winters average something like 45 degrees, and when it goes much below this the bees consume extra to keep up the heat of the hive. When it goes much above, then the bees are more on the wing, and you know that uses up stores. Give me a medium winter for least consumption of stores. So you see the answer depends upon where the man is that answer. C. C. MILLER.

CLIPPING QUEENS.

BY T. K. MASSIE.

Does clipping queens' wings cause the bees to supersede their queens,

is a question frequently asked, and which I answer both yes and no. If done in a bungling manner, yes; but if done right, no. Last fall I ordered a queen from a prominent advertiser and directed him to clip the left wing when caging her. The queen arrived with both wings on each side clipped off close to her body—one of the worst mangled queens I ever saw. Anyone doing such bungling work as this ought to be exposed by name. I now find the bees preparing to supersede her. A few days ago I was talking with two of my friends who keep bees and they both condemned the practice of clipping queens' wings because "the bees always supersede such queens." Upon inquiry I found they clipped all the parts of the wings on both sides close. When only about one-half of the large wing on one side is clipped (the right way to clip) there will be but few cases of superseding on account of clipping the queen.—The American Bee-Keeper,

A STEP BACKWARD.

At a series of farmer's institutes recently held in this part of the state, the speakers being paid by a state appropriation, the man who handled the bee keeping part of the program advocated that farmers and others who intended to keep only a few colonies of bees should not go to the expense of movable frame hives, but should put their swarms into plain boxes. His argument in defense of such amazing advice was that even when they used modern hives, they almost always had the combs built crooked so that the frames could not be handled and that even when they were straight they never handled them. He thought too, that it was easier for the inspector to examine box hives than frame hives in which

the combs were crooked, and finally, while if any hives had to be destroyed on account of foul brood, the loss would not be as great as if the hive had cost more.

While there is some truth in these arguments, it is an insult to the intelligence of the Colorado ranchman to say that he cannot get his bees to build combs straight or use them when he has them. There are some, it is true, to whom this applies, but the majority of them handle their bees intelligently and in fact many of them are ahead of some of the larger producers in this respect. Bees cannot be as profitably kept in box hives, nor can they be satisfactorily inspected and kept free from disease.

It is costing the tax payers of the state a great deal of money to keep foul brood in check and that without very satisfactory results. Yet this man, paid by the state and supposed to be working in the interests of the people, is advocating a plan will make inspection more difficult and expensive and less effective and that will certainly tend to the increase and spread of foul brood. Then our foul-brood law, though not as stringent as it should be in some respects, provides that bees in box hives may be destroyed if the owner neglects to transfer them to frame.

The man who starts with only a few colonies may before long have a large apiary. If he has started right, there will be no loss and nothing to regret. He will learn of bees and their ways as he progresses and become an intelligent and successful bee-keeper. The man who starts wrong has a costly mistake to undo, or he will always remain unprogressive, a stumbling block and a menace to his neighbor.

The argument on the cost of hives it seems too is a pitiful one. A frame hive can be made at only a few cents more than the cost of a box hive; and a hive properly cared for will last fifteen or twenty years.—Gleanings in Bee Culture.

BEE BOOKS.

No bee-keeper can afford to be without a library of Bee Books. A book costing from fifty cents to one dollar is worth many hundreds of dollars to one who would succeed. Every beginner should have a book suitable for beginners, (one that will point out the road,) and those more advanced will need something more scientific as a reference book. We will here give the names of such books as we recommend, and will be pleased to furnish you, sending them by mail at the following prices:

THE AMATEUR BEE-KEEPER, (a gem for beginners,) by Prof. J. W. Rouse; price, 28c.

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A TREATISE ON FOUL BROOD, by Dr. Howard; price 25c.

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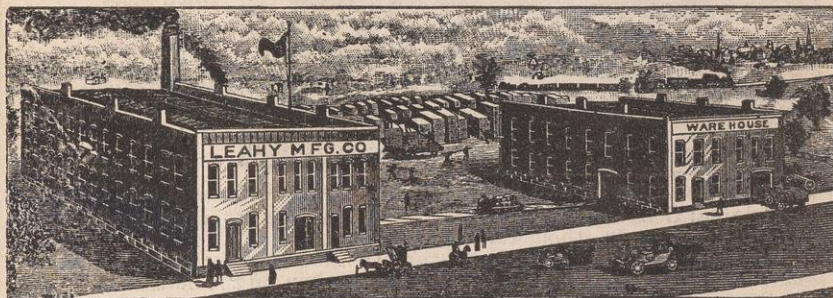
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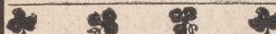
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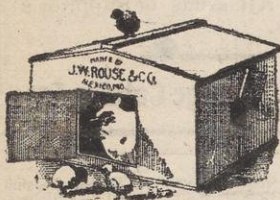
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Collingdale Apiary.

Caucasian and Golden Italian Queens.

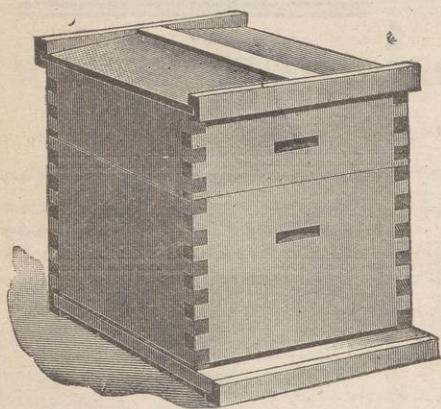
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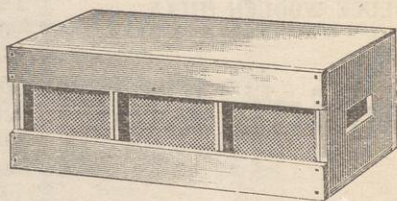
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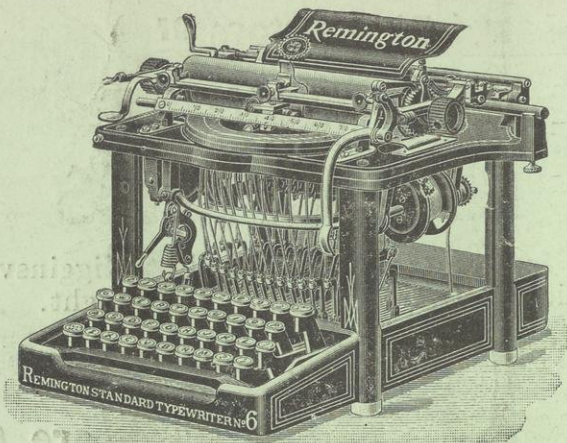
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