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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, November 28, 1900

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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY E. TIPPER.

VOL. 9. No 8. NOVEMBER 28, 1900.

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R. H. JERVIS,

WREKIN APIARY,

MOSS VALE, N.S.W.

The Australian Bee Bulletin

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

— Edited and Published by E. TIPPER. —

MAITLAND, N.S.W.—NOVEMBER 28, 1900.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue:—

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WE acknowledge with thanks the receipt of several letters expressing strong approval of our action in the matter of the Protest, also urging on a meeting of the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association for the making of rules, rate of subscription, and policy to be carried out. Last month several suggested the

time of holding, be time of Royal Agricultural Show, several this month recommend such meeting be held during the Federal Festivities, early in January, when there will be very cheap fares to Sydney. If those bee farmers who can be in Sydney on that (Federal Festivities) occasion, will kindly forward their names by the 14th December, to E. Tipper, Willow Tree, we will make the necessary arrangements, and notify them as to place and date.

THE area of the United States and Canada is about 9,000,000 sq. miles, with a population of some 90,000,000 or 10,000,000 people to each million sq. miles. The area of Australia is about 3,000,000 sq. miles, and population about 4,000,000 or about one-eighth the number to America—1,300,000 to each million sq. miles instead of 10,000,000. What a difference in the market for honey and the proportion of honey producing land. There is a duty of two-pence a pound on any honey imported into America or Canada, but they have a right to the English market! Is there anything to think about in these facts? Can over production not be carried out to a very great extent here in Australia under these circumstances?

A correspondent reports heavier honey returns from large hives. If a hive went into winter strong, with plenty of room, it would build up well in spring, and have plenty of workers to secure a good account of itself with honey flow. A swarm that went into winter weak, whether in large hive or small, would not build up so

fast. If in the early spring you went to a weak hive, with a good queen, and strengthened it by giving a frame of uncapping brood, the additional bees thus given would cause the queen to lay more, and so bring on a good honey-producing warm. With a poor queen, however, those given frames of brood would be practically wasted, and the hive would be backward all the season. In early spring we have substituted a good queen for an inferior in a small swarm, but there would be no gain unless the swarm was strengthened, as there would not be enough bees to attend to the queen, and her egg-laying powers would be wasted. The size of the hive makes no difference to the practical apiarist, as a small hive can be expanded by adding a super.

BEE LOSSES.

IN addition to Mr. Beuhne's heavy losses, other reports have come to hand, notably from South Australia, and also the Manning River. Mr. Beuhne has given the matter much thought, which he puts into words in another page. We shall be very glad with other suggestions on the matter.

THANKS.

We have very great pleasure in publicly thanking Mr. F. W. Penberthy for a very handsome and useful present. To show its usefulness we will describe our method of working. In uncapping our combs we have hitherto left them in the uncapping tin for some twenty-four hours to drain. Then placed in a cheese-cloth bag and boiled. The boiler is then placed within a press. A closely slatted frame is underneath the bag. The screw is gently turned on, and the liquid allowed to run off from a tap at bottom. When all is drained off, and the press is cool, the cheese-cloth bag is found to contain the slum-gum only, about the thickness of a half-penny, not an atom of wax. This peels off easily on the bag being turned inside out, and is readily snapped at by the fowls. So no wax whatever is

wasted. But there is a waste. The liquid in which it has been boiled has always so much honey in it that did not drain out of the cappings. So we have barrelled it away to make honey vinegar, having some six barrels of it to realise on some time or other when it is fully ripened.

But would it not be better to get all the honey out as well as we get all the wax out, instead of the problematical future vinegar value?

We tried several solar extractors, and got disgusted with them. Honey saved from them also became dark.

Now Mr. Penberthy's honey press saves all the honey, and saves the taking up of room by cappings. After a day's uncapping, next morning we put uncappings in press, and turn on screw, doing same three or four times during the day. Put drained cappings in next day, and on while the flow lasts. The honey all oozes out; the press will hold the cappings of a ton or more of honey, all nicely compressed. Instead of having to melt wax up every three or four days, you may wait till there is one good solid block for one good melting.

We are satisfied the saving from draining of honey by the use of the press amounts to something considerable in a large flow, and no large apiary can afford to do without it.

We gave an engraving of it in our June issue, but as Mr. Penberthy has given much time and thought to it, is a large practical apiarist, there are little details, well thought out, we should advise beekeepers to write him to forward them one. We cannot say the price, as he has not told us, but it cannot be very much, perhaps 30s. or £2. It is moreover got up in a neat and workmanlike manner, and is an ornament in any extracting house. The Penberthy honey press ought to be in every apiary in Australia. Our wax press is from Mr. Beuhne's ideas and is an equal necessity.

A lot of valuable copy unavoidably held over till our next.

The U.S. honey crop this season is said to be short.

The past season has been a poor one for honey in Germany.

With fine salt sprinkled on drone larvæ the bees will soon clear them out.

Queens mate at an average age of six days, ranging from four to nine days.

Several excellent letters during past month to secretary N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association.

Bi-sulphate of Carbon is much more effective in the destruction of moths than sulphur fumes.

Mrs. Barber says in *Gleanings* she tries to make vinegar and wax pay most of the running expenses of the apiary.

A writer in a German bee journal believes that the yellow colour in wax is due to uric acid.

Eight hundred patents issued during the last twenty-seven years in America in connection with beekeeping appliances.

If honey is left in an open tank to ripen or improve in body, the aroma must be lessened, it being a volatile oil.

Slum gum (refuse from wax extracting) is said to make good smoker fuel when mixed with other stuff.

You can kill ants by placing a wash tub reversed on ant bed, and under it a saucer filled with bisulphate.

The consumption of candied honey by the general public should be encouraged by every possible means.

Will you kindly send us names of neighbouring beekeepers that do not get the A.B.B.

Supers may be cleaned by placing on them a cloth saturated with a solution of carbolic acid.

Doolittle says bees visit watering places to any great extent only when brood is being reared, more so than at times of great heat and activity.

We are sorry to hear Mr. J. A. Brien has had blood poisoning in the palm of the hand, having suffered terrible pain. He does not expect to be over it for months yet. He philosophically adds, "It is all in our life time, and we must take all these things as they come."

The bee moth cannot exist under water, they are not provided with gills. So if wormy combs are soaked in water the worms will drown.

The American basswood forests in America are being sadly devastated by what is called the canker or measuring worm.

The summer of 1900 in England has been the hottest for 43 years. There were six days with a temperature over 90 degrees.

Mrs. Atchley says:—If everything is favourable to produce section honey it is alright; but two supers of chunk honey can be produced to one of section honey.

Mangrove honey is said to be mild-flavored, light, and not so heavy as well-ripened clover. Some prefer it to white clover.

Virgin queens kept in nursery cages beyond the time when they have a desire to fly out are not as good as they should be after.

Mr. Doolittle says he has known virgin queens kept from being unmated for nearly four weeks, but they did not turn out well.

A novel mode of feeding bees is given by G. F. Hyde in A. B. J.:—A common bicycle pump, a curved nozzle on end. Force the syrup through it on to bottom board, and it will spray on to the frames.

When honey is coming in freely there is no danger of robbers. Honey may be left about carelessly then, and they don't notice it. But once the flow ceases look out for robbers.

The law in Chicago against adulterated honey is now so stringent that where some adulterated honey had been put up and labelled "pure," that word is crossed out and the word "imitation" put in its place.

Perforated cardboard is now used by some queen-breeders in sending queens per post instead of cork. It takes the bees longer to eat through the perforated cardboard than the candy above and thus makes the queen's acceptance by the bees more certain.

A monument costing 300 dollars, of granite, simple and plain, has been constructed to the memory of the Rev. J. J. Langstroth. The amount was collected by beekeepers of America and other lands. He will ever be remembered by the frame that bears his name—a frame with a bee space top, bottom and sides.

So many reports have reached us of losses in apiaries, both early and late in the season, we feel sure there must be a shortage of honey, so hold out for your prices, and if sending to Sydney fix your price below which it must not be sold. Do same in your local markets. If your honey is of a good quality, don't be frightened because inferior is sold low.

A Timber Conference has taken place in Sydney, the object being the stoppage of the wanton destruction of the forests of the colony. Mr. Price, M.L.A., was chairman and about 30 gentlemen from different parts of the colony were present. Resolutions in accordance with the objects in view were carried, and a deputation waited on the Minister for Lands and Agriculture.

Don't smoke more than absolutely necessary. Take cover off. Lift corner of cloth, gently blow in. Take cloth right off, and blow over top. Leave for a few seconds, then go to work quietly. Unless they happen to be very savage we don't blow at the entrance. It is apt to drive too many of them to the top, and cause confusion when we take cloth off. As evening approaches the field bees gather home. Leave them alone then, or you may get stings.

Great interest is now taken in America in raising bees with longer tongues, and red clover with shorter corolla tubes. Much writing is taken up with the discussion, whether it is possible to work out the two so as to get the honey from the red clover. E. R. Root says:—Samples of bees are being sent in right along for me to measure their tongues. So far the longest measurement I have obtained is $\frac{30}{100}$. I am not able yet to get any great variation. Some tongues will show up .16, some .15, some .18. An-

other writer says:—The tendency of the plant to return to its former condition was against him. Possibly the same difficulty may attend the breeding of long-tongued bees.

Some Americans are desirous of improving bees in the direction of the length of their tongues. The following is one mode of finding the lengths of such:—First chloroform the bees, when they will stick their tongues out, as they will always do when suffocated. They are next decapitated, when the head and tongue are laid down on the fine graduations of a micrometer scale. The whole is then viewed under a strong magnifier, and the hundredths can be counted off after the tongue is stretched out with a dissecting tool.



VICTORIAN NOTES.

R. BEUHNE.

BEE'S DISAPPEARING.—During the month I have received many letters and reports from different parts of this colony and from N.S.W. (Owing to pressure of work consequent upon restocking the apiary, and travelling about in search of available stocks, I have not been able to reply to all the numerous letters, and I herewith express my sincere thanks to all my correspondents for their reports and their kind expressions of sympathy and good will. I always knew that I had friends, but not till now did I know that I had so many. After a careful perusal of correspondence, and lengthy discussions with various beekeepers, visits to various apiaries and the collection of information extending backwards over 20 years, I can see no reason to alter my opinion expressed in last issue, that the cause of the losses is the weak constitution of the bees developed from larvae, reared on unsuitable or incomplete food. Mr. Davey, in last issue, and several of my correspondents, suggest that old age of the workers is the cause. Such, however, is not the case. Many of the colonies had sheets of brood when wintering them down in May, and as the honey came very late breeding was late too. Friend Tipper suspects the sugar, but I have not fed during the winter, but before the honey flow, nor

have I fed more than half the colonies, and very sparingly at that. Two colonies which I fed up to winter so as to save some particular drones have come through, and in a neighbouring apiary the hive which came through strongest is the one that was fed most—with sugar. Nor would analysis of either sugar or honey reveal anything, even if either were injurious. I have consulted an expert analytical chemist, and while quite willing to make the analysis he states that a vegetable poison could not be proved by analysis.

Mr. Abram's article "Loss of Bees" I have read with interest, and I endorse most of the opinions expressed therein, but not as bearing in any way on the losses experienced here. Surely there are six progressive colonies amongst 200. As a matter of fact it is just those progressive ones strong in bees, heavy with stores, that went under. It was not the energetic ones, the fittest, that survived, but some of those that I fed a little last summer to keep them alive, while the progressive ones were storing enough for themselves and to spare. As for weak constitution, that is just what I think is the cause, but not a hereditary weak constitution, but one the result of unsuitable nourishment. Black bees in box hives, colonies in trees in the bush, the bees of queens imported from Italy, have all fared alike. I have reliable information, obtained personally from the people concerned, that this same loss took place twenty-two years ago. Seven miles from here resides a man who then had sixty box hives, which he found in spring full of honey, but empty of bees, without any dead bees being visible. In another case two miles from here, some fifty hives in the same year shared the same fate, the people remembering well the fact that they robbed the boxes in spring, had no bees to drum up, and no stings to fear. There were of course at that time no bees here from America, or any scientific queen breeding. Of the queens I bred here last season from a queen imported from America, two of them I sent to a prominent and well known beekeeper, who calls them his best two out of over 18 colonies.

Some of my correspondents suggest poison, others birds or spiders. Malicious poisoning is out of the question, for the same losses have occurred in places 20 miles apart. There are no orchards about here except an acre or two to account for accidental poisoning, and those there are have not been sprayed. Natural poisoning by bees visiting some poisonous plant is possible, but not probable, for the swarms dwindled elsewhere and brought here were not dwindling, while my own, with old stores, still decreased. About six weeks ago I took away all the honey I could from the remnant of my colonies, and replaced it with sugar syrup, and although most of them had bees only on one or two combs they are now recovering, and yet honey taken from them and given to the bought swarms did not

injure them, which all points to the larval food being at fault, but it does not follow that the same would result now if the brood were raised, fed on those winter stores for a warmer atmosphere, and admixture of fresh supplies newly gathered would make all the difference.

There have been no birds about, and it would take a great many to bring about this result, and the loss took place while the spiders were few and dormant during that time.

Some one suggests that excessive precaution in wintering is the cause; in other words the sawdust on top killed them. A few months ago I stated that I had sawdust on 100, principally the weaker ones. Well, if anything, those without sawdust went first; they were the energetic ones too, not because of the absence of packing, but being stronger they started breeding, and therefore flying earlier, while the weaker ones remained dormant.

I am now feeling the loss of my bees more than ever, or rather I am feeling the presence of the newly bought bees. All who have visited me in the past have commented on the good temper of the bees. They will not do so in future for some time to come. I have at present the most varied and variegated assortment of bees imaginable, including five and six legged queens of all shades and workings. Not being a dealer in queens I have never paid much attention to colour, but if wax moth and foul brood are to be kept down yellow must prevail. The colonies I have lost were the result of careful selection, with frequent infusion of new blood, extending over many years, and proved their vigour and energy to the satisfaction of the most exacting critic during the 98-99 season.

In reference to experiment No. 1 in last issue, I am now of opinion that the bees preferred the sugar syrup because it was thinner than the uncapped honey, for I found that they will take it when thinned down with water.

Will give a description of artificial watering of bees in next issue.

A WORTHY SUGGESTION.

Appin,

16th November, 1900.

To the Editor A.B.B.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Beuhne's losses have drawn forth expressions of sympathy and regret throughout the whole beekeepers' commando, but this, however acceptable, will not help him much, if it stops at that. While considering the question of his losses, it occurred to me that I might do something for him, so instead of being satisfied with saying "I am sorry for you," I resolved on sending

him a good, healthy, vigorous Italian queen, and it also occurred to me that other members of the commando might like to do the same if the suggestion were made to them. I know he is buying black swarms to re-stock, and it would be a great help to him, if each one of us would send him a healthy, pure-bred Italian queen. What say you, Mr. Editor, shall we make him smile at Xmas as he watches the young Italians taking the place of his black stocks? Mr. Beuhne deserves well at our hands. He is always ready with his pen in the service of the brotherhood, and helps the industry along in every way possible.

What are you going to do for him, Mr. Editor? Won't you publish the names of donors which he will send you? You know it would be a severe tax on him, with all the work he has before him now, to acknowledge, separately, the receipt of all the queens which I am satisfied will be sent to him.

Now, brethren in arms, a strong pull, a pull altogether, and we will set him on his feet again, with the prospect before him of a Happy New Year under Federation.—I am, &c., &c.,

T. H. BRADLEY.

By all means we will send him one or more and also publish the names of donors.



292. Do dark combs affect the colour of the honey obtained from them?

293. What is the best kind of paste for sticking labels on tins?

294. Which do you think is the best way to work for extracted honey, with or without excluder? Beekeepers, I want you all to give your opinions on this question.

295. Have you had any experience detrimental to the use of sugar for feeding or stimulating purposes?

296. Do frogs eat bees?

297. What distance can bees conveniently travel to water? Would quarter of a mile be detrimental to quantity of honey gathered?

298. Best artificial means for watering bees.

J. THOMPSON.

292. Not much.

293. Flour well boiled with a little powdered alum to keep it from going sour.

294. Without excluders.

295. Yes. The combs turned mildew, and the bees died out.

296. Yes.

297. Quarter of a mile would not be detrimental.

298. Troughs with floating straw or bagging so they could suck through.

WORKER BEE.

292. Yes, most decidedly. Put an old comb to soak in clean water for a few hours and see how the colour comes out.

293. Raw flour. It is best mixed a few hours before using.

294. Without the excluder so far as the quantity of honey goes, but the question is: Is the game worth the candle? It is terribly hard on the frames, and entails a great deal more work on the beekeeper.

295. No; not if supplied in the form of candy.

296. I don't know. I think not.

297. I know they will go a mile, but I would not let them go a quarter if I could help it.

298. Canvas bags filled with water hung in the vicinity of the apiary with sand troughs under to catch the drippings.

J. BALLINGER.

292. I think it would.

293. I think flour paste mixed up thinly is the best.

294. I think to work with the excluder is the best way for first class honey.

295. No; peameal is good to feed on or a little flour mixed.

296. I think so.

297. I think anything under half a mile is not too far.

298. A good way is to make a tin box about same size as hive, and frames made with boards to enable drowning bees to escape.

HALEWOOD.

292. Very little.

294. Without excluder; but the queen should have all the breeding space she can make use of below the honey chamber. Honey is stored quicker, the hive is cooler and the bees more comfortable. A shallow box containing frames of honey only, above the brood nest, is the best excluder, in my humble experience.

295. Bees fed with sugar syrup (same experience) became unnaturally excited and heated. Better in every way to feed with honey.

IF you rely on your bees for a main portion of your income send in your names to "Private," secretary of the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association, care of *A. Bee Bulletin*. There are interests antagonistic to the struggling beekeeper, and your duty is combination. The committee consists of the principal and largest honey raisers in the colony.

297. Don't think a quarter of a mile too great a distance for bees to water, but the shorter the distance the better the results.

W. NIVEN.

292. No.

293. We use paste made with flour and a little alum boiled in it.

294. Have never used the bee excluder, and do not think I will

295. Have never fed sugar to bees.

296. Do not know.

297. We have bees that travel over a quarter of a mile to water, they got on allright. Fifty yards would do better.

298. We had to water a large number of bees at one time. The plan we adopted was to fill two large trough with sand, then fill water to top of sand. The bees would alight on the sand and suck the water. It was a success.

F. W. PENBERTHY.

292. I don't think so; honey don't soak out anything like water does.

294. With a queen excluder by all means. I don't want any queen or brood in the supers when I am extracting.

294. I like to see the bees spread all over the supers; it shows that the brood nest is full of brood. It is surprising what they will do in a week when they are like that. A lot of my bees rather store in the super just above the brood, even if weak, than uncup the honey, to extend the brood nest, which is last season's honey, so I have to spread the brood, 1s. worth of honey instead of 5s. worth of bees.

295. Never used it. I would not use beet sugar to winter on as it is only 88 per cent sugar.

296. Never saw frogs eating bees

297. If there were plenty of water a quarter of a mile away, I would not give them any. Water near is a great help to them.

298. A float tap is very good as it is automatic in its action so long as there is water in the tank. Five sq. feet of tray to the 100 hives is about the right thing in a dry district.

J. PENNINGTON.

292. I have extracted from combs that have been in use for the past nine years and could see no difference in colours of honey.

293. Paste made from wheat flour with a little alum and oil of cloves. Paste to be made rather thin.

294. With excluders. I am using excluders on 140 hives and would not discard their use at any price.

297. I think bees having to go a quarter of a mile for water would make very little difference in quantity of honey gathered.

J. A. BRIEN.

292. Yes. Dark brood combs tend to make the honey dark

294. With the excluder is by far the best.

295. No.

297. A quarter of a mile is not too far.

QUESTIONS NEXT MONTH.

299.—Can uncooked fruit be kept in honey?

300.—Have you had any experience with preserving fruit in honey, and with what success?

J. BALLINGER.

301. Do lizards eat bees?

302. Can bees produce wax any time?

303. How long do bees live? A new beginner tells me to prove the length of bees' lives, he has painted some of his, and he goes and waits at the hive now and then to see if they are there, he tells me he has them painted for six weeks now and they are there yet.

304. I am slightly troubled with grubs in my bees. Some beekeepers may give me a remedy. The grub gets under the capping over the brood nest and eats way round and round until it destroys the comb and kills the young bees.

305. What is the reason a young swarm after half filling a box of brood, and then leaving it, nothing visible troubling them to my knowledge?

T. BOLTON.

306. Has it ever been noticed before that bees do not winter well on Grey Box stores?

307. Could such severe losses as Mr. Boulton's result from poison, either natural, artificial, or of malice; or from bees having access to poisoned sheep washes for water?

308. W. S. H.'s experiences, page 186?

309. Are the present system of prizes for competition offered at Shows in N.S.W. inducive or otherwise to bettering of the local honey markets? Suggestions are wanted.

TAREE, MANNING RIVER.

R. LATIMORE.

Just a line or two, Mr. Editor, in case you might be led to believe, from the long silence that has intervened since the last reports from here, that we have either migrated to the seat of war, or otherwise gone to sleep. I am happy to inform you however, that neither of these ills the flesh is heir to have overtaken any of the fraternity that I am aware of. Still, the apiary is scarcely ever destitute of a trouble or two of one sort or another. The greatest drawback with us so far is that we have practically no honey, which is bad enough, but there is yet another evil noticeable under the sun, worse even than the former (if that were possible), and that is that we have lost a great number of our stocks, from what cause nobody seems to understand. If Christmas time was three months distant we could call it spring dwindling appropriately enough,

but as it is things are a bit mixed. In all cases, almost without exception, the inmates have died, leaving the hive full with honey. Perhaps, Mr. Editor, from your long experience in the bee world, you may know, and be able to give us understanding, so that we can the better apply our mental faculties to find out and know the reason of things and their remedies, so that we may be enabled to keep pace with the bodyguard of progress, in combatting those evils that so often beset us and our apiaries. I will close with best wishes to all bee men, big and little, everywhere. Though we are out of luck's way ourselves we never envy those who are in it, providing they let us know, and this cannot be done unless the editor is furnished a report, and depend upon it he is as anxious as you are. So we all are.

[More puzzle. Readers help us.]

COMB BUILDING.

Columns of vapour given off from cooling bodies are well known to leave depressions and ridges in fluid substances during solidification, and one such substance is beeswax. But these depressions and ridges are unequal in form, and vary according to temperature, or pressing of the atmosphere, and when we consider the two differently-sized cells built by bees—viz., worker and drone—and the unvarying exactitude with which cells of each kind are constructed, we must look further into the matter in order to find the true nature of their structure. The cells as first built are not hexagonal at all, but round, and all of one size. Then, according to whether they are intended for drone or worker cells, the "mutual interference forms the hexagons—as all circles coming into contact naturally assume this form." This is Dr. K. Mullenhoff's view, and I think he is right. Buffon's experiment on the subject is an instructive one, viz., to fill a bottle with dry round peas, and cover them with water, when on swelling they assume an hexagonal form. This is also the case with soap bubbles, and, as Mr. Cowan says when writing of comb con-

struction:—"The rhombs are formed in the same way by two layers pressing in opposite directions"; and "the apparent accuracy of the structure is not owing to the development of a mathematical instinct in bees or artistic dexterity, but simply to physical laws dependent on their method of work, or, as Mullenhoff puts it, to 'statical pressure' according to the laws of equilibrium."—Henry W. Brice, in "Beekeepers' Record."

A New Departure.

In this Department Advertisements of Wants or Exchanges not exceeding 24 words, will be inserted for 1/-.

ANY matter on which information is required, if communicated to us will be immediately answered, or if of sufficient importance placed before the Committee of the Bee Farmers' Association.

FOR SALE.

TWENTY 10-frame Langstroth hives—Simplicity or Dovetail. All well bred Italians, and plenty of brood. £1 5s each or £20 for lot.

E. TIPPER,
Willow Tree, N.S.W.

NOTICE.

MR. R. BEUHNE, Tooborac, is appointed Agent for Victoria for the AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN, and is authorised to receive subscriptions and advertisements for same.

E. TIPPER.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

MR. J. B. KLINE, Guildford, SADDLER and HARNESS MAKER, and Secretary of the Western Australian Beekeepers' Association, is Agent for the "A. BEE BULLETIN," and is authorised to receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for same.

E. TIPPER,
"A. BEE BULLETIN."

PERSONS in want of HONEY in bulk, if they communicate with us, we will do our best to place them where it can be had. Same time, those who have quantities for sale, we shall be pleased to do our best for them by their sending samples and price. For these services we only want 4d. postage stamps to cover the necessary correspondence.

THE CORRESPONDENCE WE DO FREE.

All such communications will be private and confidential. Editor, "A. B. B."

QUEEN REARING.

There are many ways of queen rearing, increasing swarms, or superseding old queens. A hive left to itself, in natural swarming time, with limited room, will raise many queen cells, and issue a number of swarms. Such queens raised under such circumstances may be alright, but the swarms will be too numerous, and too weak for honey raising.

That may be avoided by removing hive to a new location, putting swarm on old stand, and destroying all unneeded queen cells, or possibly, as the removed hive will now be depleted of its working force, the first queen that leaves her cell will destroy the other cells.

One of the most successful queen-raisers we have known adopted the following plan:—

Choosing a strong hive [No. 1] (a black or hybrid if possible) he took queens away. At same time go to hive the queen of which you wish to breed from [No. 2] and put in a full sheet of worker comb. In about four days cut out all queen cells in No. 1 and give it the frame you put in No. 2, which will now have larvæ of the right age for queen rearing. In ten days time cut out the queen cells, and put in protectors or nuclei. This method has the objection that the bees are apt to make the queen cells in clusters, and some have to be destroyed in cutting out.

What are termed the more advanced methods are the preparing of queen cells artificially, by dipping sticks, size of interior of queen cells, several times in melted wax, fastening them on a stick at regular distances, and then fixing in comb. Secure jelly from queen cells you may have destroyed, place a little at bottom of each of such prepared cells. Then get larvæ, just emerging from eggs, and place in such royal jelly.

Another way. Cut a piece of comb with suitable larvæ, in straight strips. Fasten with a little melted wax on strip of wood in frame, and destroy each alternate larvæ, so the cells will be at suitable distance when perfected to cut off. No giving royal jelly with this plan.

Another way. With tweezers take out cocoon, larvæ and all, with one operation, and place in arranged cell cups.

Ordinary drone cups or cells, shaved down, grafted on sticks, and larvæ placed alternately in them. The royal jelly from one queen cell will be sufficient for twenty ordinary drone cells.

Another way. Remove the cocoons of larvæ, just hatched, by means of a little stick with a concave bottom that fits tightly into the cocoon. This cocoon on the stick insert in little goblets, or wax cups, twist the stick, loosening cocoon until it adheres to the cup. This plan does not make use of royal jelly, but simply depends on the regular food which the larvæ has in the bottom of the ordinary worker cell, and which has been removed—cocoon, larva and all—at one operation, and inserted in a goblet queen cup.

Much depends on the number of queens you want. A man who has a large queen trade requires a method that will secure the greatest number with the least trouble and waste of his own time and energies, and that of the bees as well.

THE ENGLISH MARKET.

Some time ago a New Zealand subscriber informed us he had got £45 a ton for his honey in London. We wrote and asked him to kindly supply us with the name of the agent he consigned it to. Also to send us a sample of the honey. He forwarded us both. The sample was very nice, but whether acquired taste had anything or not to do with it, we submitted it in conjunction with sample of yellow box to several intelligent people, carefully not letting them know which was which. In each case, though the N. Z. sample was spoken highly of, they thought they liked the yellow box best.

Our next step was to send a good sample of yellow box honey to the agent whose name we had procured. Now we wish our readers to distinctly understand it was pure yellow box honey, a honey that when we were living in Maitland,

and our customers had a taste of, they would not touch the local lucerne or coast forest honey. It was honey that an apiarist in the neighbourhood of Lake Macquarie once said "When that up country honey comes into our market, ours has got no show." And you may be pretty sure it was not the carefully condensed lucerne honey, specially prepared to get show prizes in New South Wales. It was a simple sample of pure yellow box honey that tons of could be procured—what should be the staple honey of New South Wales.

During the last month we received the following from the London firm we wrote to. Let our readers draw conclusions.

110, Fenchurch St.,
London, E. C.

E. Tipper, Esq.,
Boxgrove Apiary,
Willow Tree, N. S. W.

Dear Sir,

"Your letter 10th July has reached me, addressed to Mr. Thos. Mackenzie. Mr. Mackenzie left this office more than a year ago, returning to New Zealand. The sample of honey arrived a week or two after your letter, and I have examined it. It is described as fair flavour and fair consistency. The nominal value just now is 25/- per cwt. If the Californian crop is a heavier one than last, it is anticipated a lower range of price may be seen. There is, therefore, no certainty that 25/- would be obtainable, but somewhere near it would be I expect. The honey should be packed in 56lb. tins, (two in a case) I expect the size of kerosene tins would just do. Don't bother to pack in 4lb. tins. I shall be glad to take charge of any lots you send and do the best I can for you."

Yours faithfully,
C. H. INGLIS.

An American writer says: "There is no excuse for bees being robbed at any other time than in the spring of the year." How about when a flow is ceasing?

At same time as sending sample to Zealand, we sent another to Mr. Hobbs, of New England, and his reply to same has come to hand. He says: "The sample of boxwood honey came duly to hand. I considered it a good sample of liquid honey. I should have liked to have seen it in a candied state, as we consider it very important that honey should candy firm, with a nice fine grain. One of the largest honey dealers in N.Z. tests the samples of liquid honey sent him in a refrigerator."

In connection with the above we take the following extract from the speech of Professor J. W. Robertson, Dairy Commissioner for Canada, before Ontario Beekeepers' Convention; which we copy from the *Canadian Bee Journal*.

"I think one of the best markets for honey is what I would call, not merely the home market, but the *personal* home market. Honey is one of those things for which every housekeeper will pay a bigger price direct to the producer than any other way. Commerce has got into this line in late years, that the article which gives to the shop keeper the least trouble, the largest profit, and the easiest turnover, is the one that sells, because he advised them to take that. . . . There is no market in England for honey of a common quality at more than four cents (2d.) a lb. There is plenty of honey offered in England at about four to five cents a pound, common, but still honey, and said to be pure honey. There is a very good demand in England for exquisite honey, of good body and of fine flavour, and the English people don't object to a little yellow tinge in the color at about 15 cents a pound in the original packages retail price. There is a tremendous glut of the common stuff, but there is a scarcity of the very nice stuff done up in nice packages. It is hard to get a sale in England at anything like a good price that you merely just put on the market as a job lot. There must be regularity in the supply and regularity in the quantity. The success of nearly all large things that go to England, in bacon,

cheese, butter and flour, is to get a first-rate good thing, and then stay at dead level, and they will have no fault to find. If you can do that in the English market with your honey you can get a good price.

—England receives some £5,000 worth of honey every month, mostly from countries not her own possessions. When Imperial Federation is a practical fact, Australian honey should be taken instead of Californian.

TINWARE.

On several occasions when we have ordered small tins, the manufacturer has forwarded them in Hessian bags. The consequence has been a number of the tins have become damaged in transit, through being thrown about by porters or others, or perhaps heavy weights have been thrown on them. Now, as both in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane there are large packing box factories, would it not pay, a league between the tinner and the package box men, in which the latter could supply boxes of suitable sizes to hold so many, say 7lb., 4lb. or 2lb. tins. The storekeeper would prefer such packages, and would either pay for or return the cases. We have often received orders for so many 7lb., 4lb. or 2lb. tins and have been put to our wits' end to make packages for them, the kerosene boxes being quite unsuitable. Handles of tin would have to be made smaller to fit neatly in such cases.

Old combs yield darker honey than new ones.

£4,463 worth of honey imported into the United Kingdom in July.

A lump of indigo on bottom board is said to be a remedy for worms or millers.

While Mrs. Thurston, of Mudgee, was recently hiving a swarm of bees, the queen lit on her hat, followed by the swarm. She put her hand through the bees to withdraw the hat pin, and so take her hat off and hive the bees.

A SWARM OF BEES ON THE MARCH

Dr Percy Smith relates the following extraordinary occurrence in the "British Bee Journals" for June last: "I thought it possible that the following may possess some interest for you or your readers. When cycling this morning on my professional round I was not a little astonished to see a swarm of bees walking in procession like a long brown snake, along the narrow footpath bordering the main road from here to Newark. The resemblance to what one could suppose Lord Roberts' army on the march would appear like at once struck me. There were some few bees flying ahead, representing the 'cavalry scouts.' Then came the main army in serried ranks, extended to a length of several yards, all marching on foot, these were the 'infantry' of course; and finally, separated from the main body by about two feet, but with 'scouts' passing to and fro, came a considerable cluster, forming the indispensable 'rear guard.' A man working on the road informed me that the whole swarm had advanced about 20 yards since he first observed them some time before.

"I at once rode back to the house of a beekeeper I knew, who lived near, and failing to obtain a skep, got a box of shallow frames with the combs built out, and an old newspaper. Returning I placed this 'Pretoria' directly in front of the advancing army, covering the box with the newspaper and propping it up in front with a stone. I continued my journey, and found on my return as I had expected, that 'the army' had taken possession of the town, and that 'all was quiet.' This evening I drove over and took possession of the swarm, which I now have safely established in my apiary at home. Knowing as we beekeepers do the loyalty of bees to their queen, it almost looked as if these little wanderers had caught up the patriotic spirit of the day. Anyway, I have seen many swarms, but this is the first time I ever saw one walk."

ANTHONY HORDERN'S

FOR - - BEE GOODS.

—)o(—

- - THE BUSY BEE - -

IS the source of much prosperity to thousands of industrious folk, who will find their condition considerably strengthened by taking advantage of

ANTHONY HORDERN'S FAMOUS LOW PRICES

— FOR —

The A. I. ROOT COY.'S BEE GOODS.

Bee Hives—

For Comb Honey, 1½-storey ..
8 frame, 5/9; 10 frame, 6/6 each
Complete with sections, foundations and nails.

For Extracting—

1½ storey .. 8 frame, 5/3; 10 frame 6/0 ea.
2 storey .. 8 frame, 6/6; 10 frame, 7/3 ea.

The above hives are dovetailed, fitted with Hoffmann's frames, Danz Covers and Bottoms, unless otherwise ordered.

The Simplicity Hive—

1½ story, 10 frame .. 5/6 each
2 story .. 6/6 ..

Complete fitted with Hoffmann's Frames and Starters.

Hoffmann's Frames—

Wedge Top, self spacing .. 8/0 per 100
Stapled Spaced .. 8/0 ..
Moulded Top .. 7/9 ..
Thick Top .. 7/0 ..
Alt Wood .. 5/3 ..
Shallow 4½ in, 5/3; 5½ in, 5/3 ..

Bodies, Empty .. 8 frame 1/4; 10 frame 1/6 ea

Bottom Boards, Danz or Solid, 8 frame 8d,
10 frame 9d

Books—

The Amateur Beekeeper .. 0/6 ea,
The ABC of Bee Culture .. 4/0 ..
Lancstroth on the Honey Bee .. 4/9 ..
Doolitt'e's Queen Rearing .. 3/9 ..

Comb Foundation .. 1/8 lb.

Covers, Gable, Danz or Solid, 8 frame, 0/10;
10 frame, 1/0 each

Comb Fasteners—

Parker's .. 1/0 ea.
Daisy, with lamp .. 4/0 ..
,, without lamp .. 3/3 ..
Daisy Roller .. 0/7 ..

Cartoons, Fig 16, Root's Catalogue

2/9 per 100

Extractors, Wax—

Doolittle's Solar .. 13/6 ea.
Swiss, with Generator .. 10/0 ea.
Jones' .. 12/0 ea.
Boardman .. 32/6 ea.

Extractors, Honey, with Tanks, made of best

Tinned Steel, with malleable Gear and Gates—

Cowan's .. 2 frame, 42/6; 4 frame 85/0 ea.
Novice .. 2 frame, 27/6 ea.

Entrance Guards, 8 and 10 frame 2/6 doz.

Escapes—

Porter's .. 0/9 ea.
,, with board .. 1/3 ea.
,, Honey House .. 0/9 ea.
La Reese .. 1/8 ea.

Embedders—

Spur .. 0/7 ea.
Easterday's .. 0/7 ea.

Feeders—

Simplicity .. 2/3 doz
Gray's .. 0/9 ea.
Miller's, Flat .. 0/11 ..
Boardman's, Flat .. 7/3 doz

Followers

1/0 ea.

Gloves, Rubber, sizes 6, 7, 8, 9 .. 4/6 pr.
 " " " 10, 11, 12 .. 4/9 pr.
 If you order by number, remember that in rubber you need two sizes larger than you wear in kid; i.e., if you wear No. 6 in kid you will need No. 8 rubber.

Hats, Bee 1/3 ea.

Honey Boards— 8 frame 10 frame
 Roots, Bound .. 0/9 0/10 ea
 " unbound .. 0/8 0/9 "
 Tinker, bound .. 1/0 1/2 "
 " unbound .. 0/11 1/0 "
 Wood Zinc .. 1/0 1/2 "

Knives, Honey—
 Novice 3/9 "
 Bingham, American .. 3/0 "
 Muth 2/6 "
 Quinby 3/3 "

Knife Heaters, with Lamp 3/3 "

Nails, Cement Coated—
 $\frac{3}{8} \times 20$ $\frac{3}{8} \times 19$ $\frac{3}{8} \times 18$ 1x18 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ x16 2x13 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x12 inches
 1/6 1/0 0/8 0/6 0/5 0/4 0/4 lb.

Coppered Staples .. 0/6 lb.

Queens and Drone Traps, Alley's, 1/8 each
 " Catchers, Miller's .. 0/5 ea.
 " Cages, Benton's .. 2/0 doz.
 " West's Spiral .. 3/3 "

Queen Cell "Protectors—
 West's 2/0 doz.
 Doolittle's 0/8 "

Smokers—
 Clark's 2/0 ea.
 Cornell's 3/0 ea.
 Crane's 5/0 ea.
 Bingham's "Little Wonder" .. 2/3 ea.
 " "Smoke Engine" .. 3/9 ea.
 " "Doctor" .. 4/9 ea.
 " "Conqueror" .. 3/4 ea.

Sections—
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 1 20/0 per 1
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. .. 20/0 "
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 5 .. 20/0 "
 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 5 in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. .. 20/0 "
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 3 .. 20/0 "

Section Presses, Hubbard's .. 12/0 ea.

Swarm Catcher and Tripod—
 Manum's 4/6 ea.

Supers— 8 frame 10 frame
 Empty 0/8 0/9 ea.
 Complete with Sections .. 2/0 2/3 "
 " Plain Sects 2/0 2/3 "
 Ideal 2/0 2/3 "

Simplicity Supers, Empty .. 1/0 "

" Bodies .. 1/8 "

" Alighting Boards 6/0 "

Uncapping Cans—
 Dadant's No. 1, 17/6; No. 2, 22/6 "
 Tanks made of Tinned Steel and Malleable Gates.

Veils, No 2, Silk Face .. 2/3 "
 No. 3 Cotton Tulle .. 1/9 "
 No. 4, White .. 1/3 "
 Globe 4/- "

Wire, Tinned, 30g.—
 1oz. 4oz. 8oz. 1lb. 5lb. reels.
 -/8 doz. -/3 -/5 -/9 3/- each

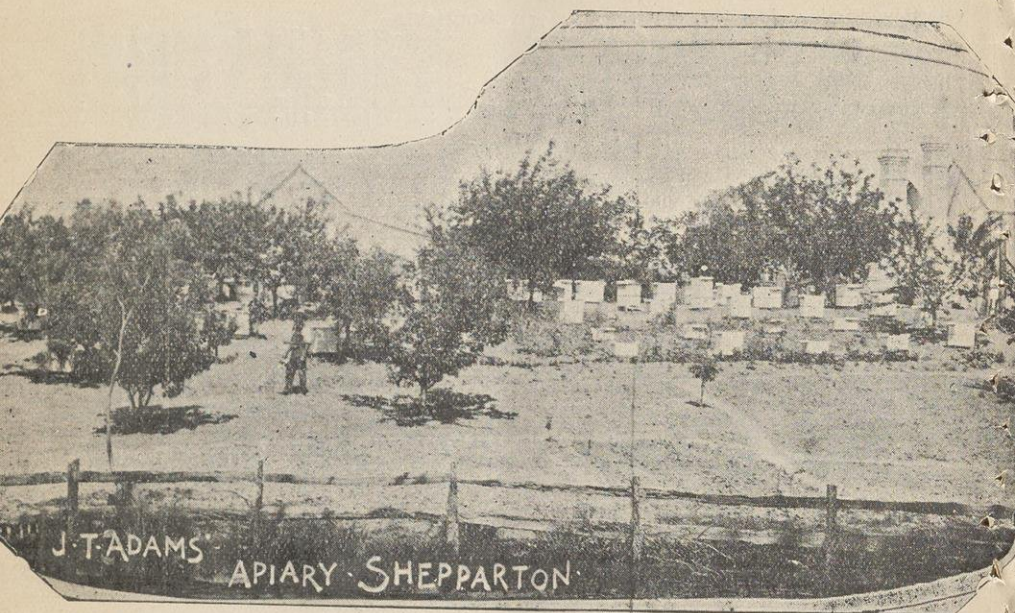
Wire Gauze—
 24 30 36 inches
 Green -/5 -/7 -/9 yard
 Galvanized -/7 -/8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -/11 "
 Plated for Honey Stainers, 24 in. wide 2/6 sq. ft.
 For Extractor Basket. 36 in. wide -/9 run. "

Zinc, Queen Ecluding—
 Roots, 28 in. x 96in. .. 6/- sheet
 Tinker, 24in. x 38in. .. 3/6 "

Send for Complete Price List, with which will be sent a copy of
 ROOTS' SPECIALLY COMPILED AND ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF **Bee Goods**
 Supplies, which cannot fail to be useful to Beekeepers.

—)o(—

ANTHONY HORDERN & SONS,
Universal Providers,
HAYMARKET (ONLY), SYDNEY.



P. V., Brushy Hill, Sept. 15:—I am enclosing my subscription for A.B.B. One cannot afford to be without it, no matter how bad things are in the bee-line. My 70 colonies came out of winter strong and healthy and should give a good account of themselves if the season turns out any good. Re formation of a working beekeepers' Association. It is



J. T. ADAMS, SHEPPARTON.

▲ VICTORIAN BEEKEEPER.

certainly a step in the right direction and I shall join any Association founded on the lines of the Victorian Apiarists Association. Re Foul Brood Act.—A bee diseases act is what is wanted in N.S.W. It will give the man who depends for his bread and butter on beekeeping a show to get at the careless individual who will generally let his bees rip when diseases and other troubles come. I had a letter from a friend of mine in Germany a few weeks ago. He is working 120 colonies in Ranitz hives (a combination of the straw-skep and frame hive and much in use in East and West Prussia, and Pomerania.) He told me his crop last season amounted to 3250 lbs. of extracted honey, which he sold in one lot at 0.62 M (about 7½d), retail price is 0.80 M (about 10d), and wax 1.45 M (about 1½d). Yet some people tell us N.S.W. is the finest country in the world for beekeepers and the market price at present only 2½d leaving barely 2d after freight, tins, etc., are deducted. Wishing you a prosperous season.

[Will you kindly tell us the tariff for honey imported into Germany.]

Weather Prognosticators.

Bees are excellent weather prophets. There is a common country saying that "a bee was never caught in a shower." When rain is impending, bees do not go far afield, but ply their labour in the immediate neighbourhood of their hives. This well authenticated fact is set forth in the rhyme which tells us that

When bees to distance wing their flight,
Days are warm and skies are bright;
But when their flight ends near their home,
Stormy weather is sure to come.

Virgil was evidently aware of this bee instinct for coming rain, and describes (in Georgics IV.) the insects as "searching the skies to find out breeding storms." Just before rain the homing bees may be observed entering the hive in large numbers, while none come out again. When that is observed, the observer may confidently follow the good example and seek shelter. And, again, when bees are seen vigorously at work very early in the morning, unsettled weather may be expected later in the day; the weather instincts of the little creatures apparently leading them to make up time in advance.

Wasps and hornets are said to have the weather instinct over a still longer range. The banks of streams are favourite nesting places for these insects. If the nests in any season are generally placed high up in the bank, it is always taken by country people as a sign of a wet season, the position of the nests being taken in order to avoid floods. When the nests are near down to the level of the water, they foretell a dry and warm season.

Ants, too, are credited with an instinct for the weather of a whole season. When they are observed in midsummer enlarging and building up their dwellings, it is said to be a sign of an early and cold winter. The daily habits of the ant, however, yield a number of more reliable observations at closer than a seasons range. For instance when ants that have been located in low ground are observed migrating to higher, it is a sign of heavy rains. The entrances to their underground dwellings are always worth noticing; for an open ant hole means

clear weather, and a closed one means a storm is approaching. It is also said that the direction from which the prevailing rains of the season will come may be told from the position of the entrances to ants' nests, the opening being made with the aspect that will be driest. This is also said of wasps' nests; and, since the south-west is our wettest quarter, it follows that when many nests are found with a south-west aspect the season is likely to be a dry one.—*Daily News*.

RELEASING QUEENS AT NIGHT.

Mr. S. A. Dyke, in the *Beekeepers' Review*, writes of the excellent success that he has had in releasing queens at night when trying to introduce them. He has a cage so arranged that when the slide is withdrawn the opening of the cage is still covered with paper that is saturated with honey. The slide is withdrawn at sundown. By the time the slip of paper is eaten out it is night, and all is quiet. One advantage of releasing a queen in this way instead of watching her as she leaves the cage, is that there is no danger of her flying away. I once liberated 10 queens just at dusk, when it was so dark that a lamp was needed. They had been kept away from the bees and allowed no food for half an hour. This was according to some instruction given by, I think, Mr. Simmons. The whole 10 queens were accepted. Leaving them without food for half an hour makes them hungry, and they are in a mood to accept any food that is offered them by the workers which is one factor in their favour.

The only reliable plan to know when a hive is going to swarm is to open the hive quietly and look for queen cells on the combs. This should be done during fine weather, and if cells have been started, the beekeeper can form some idea as to when the swarm may be expected. A queen cell is sealed nine days after the egg was laid, and, as a rule, a swarm will come out the day after the cell is sealed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

J. G., Tamworth:—Weather here very dry. Rain badly wanted.

J. A. B., Cummoek:—I think we will have a failure in the honey crop here this year.

G. H. A., Inverell, Oct. 1:—The past season has been the worst I have experienced, only taken off two tons of honey as against five tons the season before. The coming season, so far, promises well, my bees are in very fair order considering the long winter they have gone through. The honey flow dropped off here the end of February, so that we have had six months with no honey coming in, they are just starting to store a little this last week. Since writing you last, I have given up working at my trade, and taken on dairying, as it works in better with beekeeping, the cows only requiring attention morning and evening, leaving the rest of the day to attend to the bees.

E. T. P., Fernbank, Gippsland, Oct 10. —Since writing last the weather has improved. Nice warm days bees making up for lost time; drones flying and supers filling with bees. A little honey coming in from red box and white gum; no surplus yet. Swarming is late but we are expecting them out every day. Belgian hares according to writers in *Gleanings*, are the rage with the American beekeepers but I am doubtful whether our Government would allow us to import any more pests if they are in the shape of rabbits. I have received some black and white sage seed from Mr. Beuhne; it should grow well here, but I shall not plant it until Autumn next.

C. B, Nailsworth, South. Australia, — We have had a very wet winter over here, the bees have had a dull time, but seem to be alive to the fact that now is their opportunity. The beekeepers have to move around to keep time with their tune. The dandelions are yielding a good flow of honey, also plenty of pollen; the gums are also doing their best for both the apiarist and bees. We have the promise of a good season, but anticipate low prices. By the by, I had forgotten to

mention that the beekeepers around here seem to appreciate your *Bee Bulletin*. Hoping you may continue to prosper.

S. T. S., Waverley:—I have nothing to object to in the proposed act other than any Inspectors appointed should not be a paid Instructor. I am opposed to the Government appointing any officer to tramp the country and educating the mass at the expense of the beekeepers and Orchardists. I contend ther eshould be no such officer. If the Government are so justified, why not instruct the mass in chemistry, building, construction, baking, painting, importing, all descriptions of mill work, the secret of wool-washing, tanning, etc., etc. With regards to your position with the N. B. A., allow me to offer my sympathy. Some of your remarks were likely to bring down the house about your ears, and I daresay I am not the only one pleased with your efforts on bee-farmers behalf.

J. S., near Dubbo:—Bee news is somewhat poor. By what I can learn about two-thirds of the bees in the Dubbo district have died out, this disease that nobody seems to name or which is worse not able to cure, has been the cause. Some have lost all, others 80 per cent. one keeper lost all but three colonies out of three hundred. It is bidding fair to wipe the whole industry out. I had my turn last year. I had forty colonies perish, which very nearly knocked me out of it altogether, but I am still hanging on like grim death to a dead nigger, I purchased some this year which leave me between fifty and sixty colonies, which are in capital condition, and swarming, but I am not increasing, I am letting them go back as I want honey and not bees. There is a slight flow on from a small scrub known as the wild May here, it blooms profusely. Shortly the red gum will bloom, but it is not its season till next year, to bloom at its best. So I have my doubts about it producing much honey. Honey is in good demand at fourpence per lb here.

Get Sample Labels from the *Bee Bulletin* Printing Works.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Statistics of the Seven Colonies of Australia, 1861 to 1899, from Mr. T. A. Coghlan, Government Statistician, N. S. Wales.

From the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Entomology, "A lot of works on North American Entomology" also "Notes on the Mosquitoes of the United States, by L. O. Howard, Ph. D. Entomologist. It seems mosquitoes are quite a plague to some municipal bodies in the U.S.A. The remedy is to sprinkle kerosene in cesspits, swamps or standing water.

BEE NOTES.

HALEWOOD.

My bees are in good condition, but they have not yet commenced to improve my condition. I see some sanguine prophecies of a coming good season, but it is very late to commence with, and the prospects I note point to a very poor harvest. I have not been able to take one 60lb. tin of honey this season, other seasons I have taken a few dozens by this time.

That "Bee Enemies column" in September issue is a very good idea. I would suggest contributions from those who have experienced knowledge, as to best means of fighting them.

CORRESPONDENCE.

J. G. C., Kangarilla, S. A.:—The bees are doing well, what there is left of them. This year there is a good flow of blue gum honey coming in. With honey selling at 2d a pound, not much of a prospect of making a pile.

J. C. H., Palmerston, N. Z.:—The honey season has been rather light with me this year, having secured but 3½ tons from 200 colonies. There was a fair amount of bloom in the fields, but the winds were so high and continuous that the bees had to work at a great disadvantage. Hoping this will find you with the prospects good for the coming season.

F. W. P., Elsmore:—I like to see the bees spread all over the supers, it shows that the brood nest is full of brood. It is surprising what they will do in a week when they are like that. A lot of my bees rather store in the super just above the brood, even if weak, rather than uncap the honey, to extend the brood nest, which is last season's honey, so I have to spread the brood, 1/- worth of honey instead of 5/- worth of bees.

In many cases with us the upper box would be crowded with bees and honey, and there would be empty frames below.

T. J. B., Wallabadah:—I am sorry to be too late to take a step in the matter of Foul Brood Act. I might say I am the only one in this district that has any bees left, only just 1 or 3 to 4 are all the hives the other bee farmers have left. I have 29 only; I see they are doing well. I am not at all in favour of a Foul Brood Act. I do not see that we want any, so if you can make anything to help out against it on my account I hope you will do so. I might tell you that the late frost has destroyed a great lot of fruit again this year, I have only about a quarter of a crop left, but it looks well at present.

H. M. J., Corona, Southern California:—I would like very much to see your bee paper. Our own bee papers are nearly all published in the cold States, where their methods are much in contrast with ours here in the Pacific States. Your methods are more in our line. Please inform me what you will do for a new subscriber, and if you will send a few sample copies, I will see if I can get you some subscribers here. There are undoubtedly many shrubs and plants there that would thrive here. We, as you know, have many varieties here now of the Australian Eucalypti. We certainly can profit by the experience of bee men in the Antipodes. Hoping to hear from you in due time.

H. B., Wilmington, S. A.:—I am sending a line to let you know how things are looking here. I think we are going to have a great flow of honey this season and the Red and Sugar Gum will blossom in about two months time, but I am sorry

to say I have lost over 40 swarms out of 58 and five weeks ago most of them were strong. A few days after I looked in the hives, they were empty, except a queen here and there with about a dozen bees. In some hives there was 16 full frames of honey, others eight and nine, and most of the combs were covered with a thin substance as if water had oozed out. It was box honey gathered late in the season. The bees in the hives that were left did not seem to care about robbing the empty hives. Finding the moths were getting in the combs I took them into the honey house to melt down. The covers bring a lot off the hives. The bees started on the combs and now they have about 500 cleaned out. They are getting quite lively now and I hope they will keep so. Can you tell me what was the cause.

H. S. Newtown., New Zealand, Aug 22—After two poor seasons we have had a good season. The Red Gum of W. A. bloomed freely but this appears to only bloom once every three years, at least it has bloomed only twice during the last five years, viz., in 1897 and 1900, and we understand it bloomed well in 1894. Honey is a better price than with you though certainly not such a price as anyone reading the account of the Beekeepers' Conference would suppose. 3d per lb in bulk seems to be the ruling price, though I have known some offered at 2d, but this was inferior. Most of the honey from the larger apiaries is sold in 2 lb tins and these have been sold down to 7/- per dozen. As tins cost 20/- per gross at factory, this is not a high price. Really good honey put under a good label of course brings a better price. Of course with Intercolonial Freetrade the price will fall to Sydney level or thereabouts for the freight of £1 per ton won't make much difference per lb, and in fact you can by your tins so much cheaper that you could pay freight and still get as much for your honey as we should net here.

P. M., Gargar Apiary, Howlong:—I find the A. B. B. very good. I subscribe to another bee paper but it is not any-

where near the A. B. B. We have been having a bad time with the bees in this district. No honey and the bees dying. My swarming this season is very late, I have had only 5 out of 30 hives. They started queen cells, but in some they were torn down and in others the old queen was killed and young ones reared, although the queens killed were only in their second season. If the Beekeepers' Association as mentioned starts I will only be too glad to join, as I think something of the kind is wanted, and it is to be hoped that beekeepers will stick together. Re the Foul Brood Act, I think something is wanted at any rate round here where there are some who have a few in boxes. The bees die out with Foul Brood. They then go into the bush and get fresh swarms, and place them in the same boxes, and so keep the disease going from one year to another, so what chance has one who wants to keep his own bees clean. If there was something to make others keep theirs clean there would be a chance. Although, I do not believe in all the points of the proposed Act. Wishing you and your paper every success and a good year and good prices for all beekeepers for the coming season.

The Bee Farmers' Association is a fact. Have handed your name in to "Private" the Secretary.

W. S. H., Glengarry, Q:—Just a few lines to let you know how the bees are getting on in my district. In the first place I only class myself as an amateur at the business, as I only took it up about three years ago, but have been fairly successful since I started, as I have never failed to get less than 60lbs. per colony any season since I started, and the following one promises to be a splendid one as all the trees about here are covered in buds. Red gum just beginning to burst. I have had a deal of trouble with foul brood, as I have never been free from it till this season, but at present all my hives seem in a healthy and prosperous condition. I think the reason it troubled me so much was not being thoroughly conversant with it, I

did not take measures to get rid of it in time or until some of the other hives had contracted it. In examining some of my hives to day I came across what seemed to me an unusual thing. In one of them I found a number of eggs in the one cell, some 5 or 6, and others scattered all over the combs, sometimes only one in a cell, but not laid neatly and evenly as the queen generally does work; the eggs in some instances reaching from the bottom of cell to near the top, some 5 or 6 one on top of the other. By what I had read I came to the conclusion that I had laying workers in the hive, having never had any previous experience of same myself. But, on examining it a little closer I found a queen on one of the frames, which I destroyed, as all the brood in the hive was drone brood so came to the conclusion that the queen could not have been fertilized, but do unfertilized queens lay irregularly and unevenly as these eggs were laid? I would like the case explained, if you think it worth while asking it through the pages of the A.B.B. you are at liberty to do so.

* Yes. Though sometimes a young fertilized queen will also for a while do the same.

A WAY OF CONTROLLING SWARMING.

When a hive is apparently by its strength or the formation of queen-cells, preparing for swarming, place it aside, and put an empty one in its place. The hive to be swarmed we will call No. 1. From this No. 1 hive we shake all the bees and queen into the empty one now in its place. Then take No. 1 with the combs of brood left, and put on site of a strong colony, which we will call No. 2, having previously removed No. 2 to a new stand. Get a nucleus or weak colony (No. 3) and shake the queen, bees and all in front of hive on No. 2 stand (No. 1), and let them run in. Then sections may be put on with success. The above method is recommended by Doolittle for curing swarming and placing hives in good condition for raising sections.

CAPPINGS.

From American and other Bee Journals.

A hive on the scales showed a gain of 10½ lbs. one day last week, and 29 lbs for five consecutive days.—H. D. Burrell. in A. B. J.

Natural midrib at some times is almost twice as heavy as at other times. No, foundation midribs are thinned down quite as thin as natural ones.—Professor Gillette in A. B. J.

Have a supply of labels which are distinctly your own, and not like those of anybody else, and put them like a trademark on every package of first-class honey.—*American Paper.*

F. Greiner says in A. B. J. he has counted 20 bees to the square foot on sweet clover. He thinks 25 acres would keep 100 colonies busy, and could afford to pay 75 cents to one dollar for every acre sown within a mile of his place. *Gleanings* doubts if less than 500 acres of buckwheat would keep 100 colonies busy.

Some beekeepers make a practice of replacing every queen which has passed a certain age. Much better is it if instead of selecting for destruction those which have passed a certain time limit, those be doomed which have failed to come up to the average in storing, whether the queen be young or old.—A. B. J.

I. Gardiner, in *Gleanings*, says Dr. Merim Muller, of Germany, marked bees with oil colors on their thoraxes, every other bee a different colour. Watching a single bee he found it would get its full of honey in 2½ minutes. In 3½ minutes

FOR SALE. A BARGAIN. About the latter end of December, 50 hives of bees (Italians and Hybrids) in two-story hives, together with Cowan Extractor, Tank, and Uncapping Can. Good local market, well worked up, best box country. Satisfactory reasons for selling. Price £40. For further particulars apply to

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it had made the home trip, had unloaded and returned. On the whole it made 70 trips in 7 hours.

It is by no means an uncommon thing for a queen to be held in contempt for some time, and then make good work afterwards. I have known cases in which she was not allowed to lay until a week after being put in the hive.—Dr. Miller.

The Wells hive was one of the "bee fixin's" boomed some six or seven years ago. A writer in the *"Beekeepers' Record"* of August says, "I, along with others, fell a victim to the 'Well's hive' craze when first introduced six or seven years ago. I am only prevented from smashing them up simply because I cannot afford to destroy them."

The queen from laying of egg to emerging from cell.—Time of incubation of egg, 3 days; time of feeding the larvæ, 5 days; spinning cocoon by larvæ, 1 day; period of rest, 2 days; transformation of larvæ into nymphs, 1 day; time in nymph state, 3 days. Total, 15 days.

A Canadian, J. J. Gunn, says in the *Canadian Bee Journal*, "In my own experience of fourteen years, there has occurred but one season when the honey crop was a failure." Another writer in the same journal, speaking of last season says: "As near as I can judge within a radius of about 30 miles, the surplus among progressive beekeepers range from 40 to 100 lbs per colony. From 50 to 60 per cent of the bees died last winter and spring."

The editor of the *Canadian Bee Journal* says the poor price difficulty originated not with the bee-keepers who depend upon the business for a livelihood, but with those who make it a side-line, and who retail their little in the local market at whatever price they can get for it. He admonishes producers to keep up quality, not only in talking "honey," but in practice, and to act in unity in maintaining better prices for the crop now coming in.

HONEY POULTICES.—For boils, carbuncles, abscesses, &c., and for injured bones, mix the honey with flour, and

spread on a piece of linen rag. If the abscess is coming to a head, cut a hole in the centre of the rag to allow of free discharge of matter. Honey added to an ordinary bread poultice will answer the same purpose, or it may be used in conjunction with linseed-meal poultices; it will render them more emollient.—*Exchange*.

SORE THROAT AND LUNG REMEDIES.—No. 1.—Dissolve one teaspoonful of boracic acid with $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of boiling water; add one tablespoonful of extracted honey and use as a gargle for sore throat. No. 2.—To two tablespoonfuls of extracted honey add one teaspoonful of powdered alum. Give a small quantity on the end of a spoon every hour for an expectorant, and in case of croup give larger doses— $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour—till relief is obtained.—*Exchange*.

Once I caged a queen with her attendant bees and hatching brood in a colony just queenless. I put wire cloth over a closed-end frame, making it bee-proof; The next day I found that the queen, like a little simpleton, had been too sociable and confiding with the outside bees. She had got on to the wire cloth facing them, and they had dragged her legs through between the meshes, and had held her in the grip of deathly determination till she was so exhausted and devoid of vitality that I had to kill her.—A. Norton, in *Gleanings*.

WETTING SECTIONS BEFORE FOLDING.—There are a good many of us who cannot afford to wet a whole bunch of sections when we only want a few. When all are wet those not used mildew or mold, which makes them look dark. Here is a way to wet sections before folding them: Take what you can grasp in one hand, having the grooves all one way. Bunt the ends against something to make them even, then hold in both hands and press down edgewise to even them the other way; while in this shape incline them over sidewise about 15 degrees, which will make all the openings show. Now grasp them in the left hand, and pour

cold water from a common teakettle in the grooves. Hold them tight together to keep the water from going between them, and lay them down in a pile with grooves up. To fold them, turn the bunch over, and all is well.—C. Crank, in A. B. J.

"Take off one or two of the cell-cups a half-day before the bees would seal up the larvæ in them, and if you should not wish to use the royal jelly they contain, within a few days to two weeks, take out the larvæ, stir the jelly up as you did the first, when you will hold the mouth of the cell near a lamp or stove till the wax at the end becomes soft, when you will wet the thumb and forefinger and press the end down tight, thus sealing it up tight as if in a glass can. In this way the jelly can be preserved for some little time, but after two or three weeks it will dry down, and change so it is not acceptable to the bees.—Doolittle, in *American Bee Journal*.

From personal experience and observation, I am of the opinion that the country beekeeper is at an advantage over the city beekeeper as to the quantity of the honey crop harvested. The continual dust, vapour and smoke in a large city settle more or less for miles around down upon all honey-secreting plants, and thus check the development of the nectar. The heavy and close atmosphere mingled with dense smoke is greatly detrimental to the development of plants and consequently their secretion of honey. Thus the city beekeeper, under above mentioned atmospheric conditions, but with otherwise exactly the same quantity and nature of honey producing flora, is, in comparison with the country beekeeper, at a disadvantage of about 20 per cent in the quantity of honey gathered.—L. Krentzinger, in A. B. J.

When do bees select their new home? is a question of interest. It has been suggested that the bees cluster so that scouts may go forth in search of a new home. I have had positive evidence on several occasions that scouts go forth one, two, or three days before, to look out

and clean out their prospective home. Once it was in the side of a house. The bees were noticed just before the dinner hour, busily going in and out high up by the cornice. It was supposed a colony had entered and taken possession. After dinner, we were surprised to find that the bees had all gone. We supposed that they had found their new home obnoxious. The next day a large swarm came and took possession of the place. I have since known a number of such cases. I have little doubt but that this is always true, and that the bees cluster simply to rest the queen.—J. G. Norton in A. B. J.

HOW TO FIND THE QUEEN.—The greater portion of beekeepers, while hunting for the queen, scatter their thoughts. For instance, if an unusually nice yellow drone crosses the vision, the beekeeper exclaims, "My! isn't he a beauty? Wish I could get a queen mated to him." Then, with drone in the eye, more drones are seen. Then a bee loaded with pollen will divert the eye. And with these thoughts in mind the queen might pass directly over the spot and not be noticed. A person looking for the queen should look for her and nothing else. Everything but the queen must be a blank. A good aid to concentration on this object is to keep repeating in the mind "Queen, Queen," and mentally hold her picture steadily in the mind. With the other precautions for having good eyes and not too much disturbance, the queen will be found with little trouble.—J. H. MARTIN in *Gleanings*.

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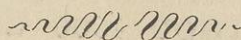


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