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"THE BESTO" BEE

VOL. 2

DENVER, COLORADO, SEPTEMBER, 1924

NO. 4

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

One more honey crop made. * * * Such as it is. * * * Not much in the harvest this year for most of us. * * * Yet there are exceptions, localities where the bee men have little to complain of. Let us be thankful for that. * * * And now that settlement day is here, let us not be niggardly in paying our "help," the little bees that literally worked their wings off during the dry summer, to get what nectar there was. Surely "the laborer is worthy of his hire." * * * Even tho we would be stingy and take more than our share of the sweets, we lay up trouble for ourselves whenever we rob the bees. * * * It takes nerve, with a short honey crop, to leave an extra hive-body chock full of sealed honey atop of every hive. But it is a sacrifice that pays many fold. Too often "short of stores" means short of bees in the spring and short of honey later. More than half of our winter losses are nothing but slow starvation. Our spring feeding is but a makeshift at best. Let us get rid of this ruinous winter loss by leaving more honey on the hive. * * * We used to think 50 pounds of stores was enough. But we are learning that it takes nearly ninety to carry a good swarm from honey flow to honey flow. And good swarms are the only kind it pays to winter. Double up the weak with the strong, and save stores, and cut winter losses. * * * Why such inconsistency in retail honey prices? In some localities beekeepers are selling ten-lb. pails for \$2. Twenty-five miles away the same grade of honey at roadside stands sells for \$1.45, with fives for 75c. That extra fifty cents a pail represents a good deal more than your profit this year, fellows. Don't you need the money? Another roadside stand advertises comb honey at 20 cents, when comb honey is snapped up readily at 25 cents in carlots, and little to be had. * * * The roadside stand has been a great boon to beekeepers, but it can be a curse to the great army of honey producers if there isn't more real salesmanship and less of ruinous

price-cutting. * * * The consumer who has willingly paid two dollars for a pail of honey that was worth the price, and next day passes a roadside sign where honey is advertised at \$1.45 and comb at 20 cents, immediately concludes that his home beekeeper has stung him. Ask a price that is just, and stay by it. Every beekeeper who has honey this year will sell it all before honey comes again, whether he ask \$2 or \$1. But the price getter will have the most to show for his year's work.

THOSE HONEY REPORTS

The association has sent report blanks to every member. Many of those addressed have not replied. If you haven't sent yours in, please do so at once, and say if you will sell thru the association this season. It is essential that your manager know what he can depend on in the way of honey, and what you expect him to do for you. The fuller his information, the better is he able to serve you. All too often a good opportunity to make a sale is lost because the manager doesn't know just where he can put his hand on the honey to fill the order. Then, perhaps in a few days, after it is too late, he learns of a member who has on hand just what was needed to fill that lost order. But the member hadn't said so, and your manager is not a mind reader. Keep us posted on what you have ready, or expect to have, and you'll do yourself and the association a most valuable service.

RUBBER STAMPS

A very attractive 2-line stamp with your name and address for stamping on comb honey cartons can be furnished by the C. H. P. A. for 75c without inking pad.

Frank C. Pellett, editor of the American Bee Journal, dropped in on Association headquarters in early August for a friendly chat. He spent a part of August visiting beekeepers on the Western Slope and in Utah. Wish he could have stayed longer with us.

THEBESTO BEE

THEBESTO BEE

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

THE HONEY SITUATION

The near close of the honey flow discloses a decidedly spotted condition throughout the United States, with less than an average crop. Enough honey has probably been produced to supply the country but there will be no surplus carryover, and no need to fret about low prices, if bee men don't all insist on selling at once.

California crop is almost a total failure except for low grades. Many bees are starving, and thousands of colonies will die because it won't pay to feed.

Idaho has a half to two-thirds crop, tho the severe drouth in portions of the state compelled many moves, and some parts of the state are short. Growers are holding for $9\frac{1}{2}$ c to 10c.

Nevada is light on comb and extracted. Comb all sold, at \$4.25 and \$4.50.

Northeast Utah has a good honey flow. Some gains of 7 to 14 pounds per hive in 24 hours being reported.

Wyoming as a whole is fair. Weather cloudy and cool most of the time. Lander had a good flow, as did the Wheatland district. Montana has a half crop. Iowa prospects are better than a few weeks ago. Michigan is very spotted. Cool weather prevents gathering the fall flow. Comb honey especially short, and stiffer prices expected. Many inquiries from outside the state.

The Western Slope of Colorado reports a fair flow, and still working well August 20. Northern Colorado is spotted, ranging from fair near the foothills to near failure further east, improving, however as the Nebraska line is neared. Arkansas Valley is light. Parts of northeastern Kansas indicate a heavy crop where there have been rains.

HONEY PRICES

Colorado jobbing prices in carlots ought to be $9\frac{1}{2}$ c for extra white, and 9c for good light amber. Comb honey has been retailed on the Denver market at \$6 for fancy and \$5.50 for choice. The crop is so short that these prices can be maintained all

winter if the small beekeeper doesn't step in and cut prices. Carlot prices on comb are about \$1 per case less than above.

Locally good extracted honey in pails should bring \$2 for tens and \$1.10 for fives. The consumer will pay this price for good honey without complaint if demanded. Sixties should bring \$8 to \$8.50.

Wisconsin recommends \$2 for tens, and \$8 for sixties. Ontario asks \$8 for sixties. Oregon asks ten cents in carlots, 11c for less quantity to dealers.

BEEKEEPERS' LAW BOOK

The book codifying the rights of beekeepers in every state which has been in course of compilation by the American Honey Producers League is ready for delivery. The editor, Colin P. Campbell, who is general counsel of the League, has combed federal and state statutes with a fine-tooth comb, and has assembled within small space every court decision and every statute affecting beekeepers' rights. The resultant book is interesting and valuable far beyond its size or price. As stated in the preface, "No pains have been spared to make the work complete, and the editors confidently claim that there is no fragment of law pertaining to the honeybee which is not contained herein unless the same has been completely buried in the mass of legislation on other subjects so as to lose its identity."

Beekeepers are always liable to get into trouble over their little wards, whether they be to blame or not. Possession of this book will tell the owner at once whether he is in the right or the wrong, and may keep him out of an expensive lawsuit; or, failing in that, give him the exact data necessary to win out in a court action. The price is \$3 per copy, or, to members of the League, \$2.40. It can be had post free on application to the American Honey Producers League, Madison, Wis.

Members who need some fractional shares, (the old \$10 issue,) to even out their holdings of C. H. P. A. stock, can find such for sale quite frequently by former beekeepers or those who have moved away and have no further use for a membership. Write your manager if interested.

DR. PHILLIPS LEAVES

Beekeepers in all the United States except New York suffer a distinct loss as Dr. E. F. Phillips leaves his position as head of beekeeping work of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, to become head of the new department of Bee culture at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. Dr. Phillips has endeared himself to thousands of beekeepers thruout the United States who have been privileged to meet and listen to him during his years as head of the federal department, which, under his supervision has become a strong factor in honey production and better beekeeping.

A letter just received from the Department of Agriculture at Washington announces the appointment of James I. Hambleton, Dr. Phillips' associate apiculturist, to succeed Dr. Phillips in the federal bureau. We wish the new appointee and the outgoing apiculturist every success in their new positions.

STILL TIME TO ENTER CONTEST

There is yet time for producers of good comb honey to aid in the contest now on to decide if western comb honey really does granulate sooner than the eastern-produced article. This has been asserted so long without anything in the way of evidence to support the claim, and without adequate defense, that it oftentimes works to the detriment of western producers in marketing their comb honey. As announced in a previous issue of Thebesto Bee, the matter is to be decided by actual test, and western beekeepers are contributing half-cases of their best comb honey to be stored along with eastern honey under precisely the same conditions. Some fine contributions have recently been made by some of our members for the purpose, and others are solicited, so that the contest may be very thorough, and representative of several producing districts in the west.

STATE BEE INSPECTOR

Prof. Richmond, who succeeded Prof. Boggs, has been spending much of his short summer on the western slope, until the first of August, and since has been working largely east of the Rockies. After the middle of this month he will be found at the college at Fort Collins.

REDUCED CLASSIFICATION

A reduction in the classification of comb honey in L. C. L. shipments in section frames in paper cartons in wooden boxes, and comb honey in wooden boxes with or without glass, two or more enclosed in a wooden box or "in crates as per Note 2," has recently been secured, largely thru the efforts of the Wyoming Beekeepers' association. The reduction is from first class to second class, and will effect quite a saving to shippers from that territory who ship in small quantities.

BUY LEAGUE BOOKLETS

Beekeepers should use more of the League recipe books. For the price asked, there isn't a better honey recipe book to be had, and their judicious distribution will materially increase the demand for honey in any community. League members are entitled to a substantial discount from list prices. You can also obtain them from the C. H. P. A.

PICTURES WANTED

Ideas, too. Pictures of members' apiaries, roadside stands, extracting houses. Ideas and practical wrinkles in arrangement, in the yard and in the house. For the best pictures, and most practical ideas submitted, a copy of the new League's bee law book will be given, and for the ideas or pictures adjudged second best, a copy will also be given. Contest closes Dec. 31.

PASSED ON

John A. Everett, well-known beekeeper of Edgewater, a member of the C. H. P. A., died at the home of his son in Denver, August 29. Mr. Everett had been ill for many months with paralysis. His wife, son and daughter survive him.

Good chance to unload your beeswax just now. For a short time the association will pay 24c cash or 26c in trade for good average yellow wax, delivered in Denver, and free from sediment.

BOILER FOR SALE

A member has stored with us a good 2-horse steam boiler, in condition equal to new, that is for sale at a bargain. Just the thing for some beekeeper. Call or write if interested.

BEES

[By Miss Sylvia Whitacre]

[This story took first prize in Weld County High schools contest.]

My friends and acquaintances often become alarmed when I tell them that I spend the summer months, when I am not in school, helping my father in the beeyard. Ever since I was 8 years old, I have enjoyed handling bees.

When I was 9 years old I had the quaint experience of having a swarm of bees settle on me. I was not frightened because bees are generally in good humor when they swarm and are not so likely to sting. I stood very still until my father shook them off. I was stung only once.

However, I have been in some conditions when bees were not so pleasant to handle. For instance, after being moved they are generally very cross for two or three days.

I remember at one time we moved some bees in the summer time and unloaded them in the early morning. On that occasion I was stung about a hundred times. They are generally crosser when moved in the daytime than when moved at night. For this reason it is advisable to move bees at night during the summer. Another good reason for moving them at night is that it is cooler in summer at night. If they are moved at night they nearly always mark their hive before leaving in the morning. However if they are moved a very short distance in the daytime or at night they are likely to go back to their old location. When they are moved a considerable distance in the daytime they generally drift; that is, come back from the field and settle on the ground and fence posts, unable to find their own hive. When this happens they are always extremely cross.

A person who does not know how to handle bees while moving will probably smother a great number of them.

Bees are somewhat like housewives in that they like everything spic and span. They clean out every tiny cell before the honey is placed in it. Also before any eggs are laid in the cells they are thoroughly cleaned and prepared just the right size for a queen, worker or drone to be hatched from, just as the case might be.

They are also like a person in that they lay up a store of food for winter. If you will notice closely the first warm days after a cold spell you will see bees flying to the watering trough and the creeks to get water. The honey which they have stored up has become very thick and oftentimes candies during the cold spell and they must liquify it before it can be used.

Bees also have another trait common to people, that of disease. There are two contagious diseases commonly known as European foul brood and American foul brood, which are both found here, the latter being the most common. The germs of the latter disease are in the honey. The bees themselves do not become affected when eat-

ing this honey but the young larva when fed this diseased honey, rot instead of developing. When the old bees die off (since the bee may live from three to five months in the winter it lives on the average of thirty to forty days during the summer because of the heavy work, weather and accidents cause the bees to die sooner in the summer) and no young ones hatching, the colony soon becomes weak. The diseased honey which is left by the dead bees is taken by other bees. The result is they have foul brood. Anyone who wishes to handle bees to the best advantage had better learn what foul brood is and how to get rid of it.

You would be greatly surprised if I told you that in the morning you might have honey on your breakfast food and pancakes; that during the winter with the combination of one-half honey and one-half water in the radiator of your car you might go to your work and have no need of alarm because this combination will not freeze; at noon you might have fruit for your lunch, which has been canned with honey, cake or cookies also made with honey; come home and have hot bread and honey for supper; eat some candy made with honey and take some cough syrup made with honey, before retiring for the night; and yet, all this is possible.

Bees are very much like chemists. By this I mean, that just as the chemist can mix certain chemicals and cause explosions, or mix other elements and produce favorable conditions for the increase of certain bacteria, so the bees produce the wholesome food honey which contains every element necessary to sustain human life. So far there has been no artificial food found by which man can make pure comb honey.

These interesting things lead us to wonder how such tiny insects as bees could have such a high degree of intelligence and how they can produce such a wholesome and useful food as honey.

FOR SALE

For Sale—125 colonies of 8-frame bees, 500 sets extracting combs and other equipment going with them. Geo. A. Adams, Route 5, box 72, Greeley, Colo.

For Sale—200 10-fr. and 100 8-fr. extracting supers, with drawn comb. J. Rush Stoner, Box 60 Rt. 1, Boulder, Colo.

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

For Sale—1 \$50 share of C. H. P. A. stock, Mrs. B. M. George, Virginia Dale, Colo.