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**PROGRESSIVE**

**BEE-KEEPER.**

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**FEBRUARY 1892.**



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**UNIONVILLE, MO.**

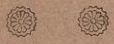
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**L. C. AXTELL.**  
Roseville, Illinois.

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**REVIEW**

Is now out. It contains articles from Wm. F. Clarke and Ernest R. Root upon "Writing for the Bee Journals." R. L. Taylor shows how much it cost, or ought to cost, to produce Comb Honey. Mr. S. Cornell explains how, with but little trouble and expense, any one may know if his bee cellar is to damp. R. C. Aikin furnishes a long, interesting account of "Colorado, its soil, Climate and Alfalfa Farming, and how the Latter Furnishes Honey." The inimitable Hasty begins in this issue what is to be a series of articles entitled: "Comments on a Beginner's Day Book." This "Day Book" was kept by Mr. Hasty when he first began bee-keeping. E. T. Flanagan tells how he has bridged over poor seasons. Most of the articles are embellished with a portrait of the author. There are the usual extracts and editorials, including an account of the trip to Albany and a "leader" upon the special topic for the Feb. issue, viz: "Grading Honey." If you would like to see this number, send ten cents, and with it will be sent the Dec. number, and when the Feb. number is out that, too, will be sent. The Review is \$1.00 a year. The book "Advanced Bee Culture" is 50 cts. Both for \$1.25. All new subscribers for 1892 will receive the Dec., 1891, issue free. Address

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# PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.

VOL. II.

UNIONVILLE, MO., FEBRUARY 1892.

NO. 2.

## Communications.

### THE STATE CONVENTION.

The time for the next convention of the M. S. B. K. A. is drawing near and the time for making up a program is at hand. I would like to receive suggestions of topics for essays and discussions at the next convention and would be pleased to have members and others forward such subjects as they would like to hear discussed to me. In this way we can make the meeting of special interest to all.

The next semi-annual convention of the M. S. B. K. A. will be held at Warrensburg, Johnson Co., Mo., sometime in April. The exact date has not yet been settled upon, but may be in time to announce it in the February number of the BEE-KEEPER. I presume the convention will be held at Pertle Springs, one mile from Warrensburg, but this depends on the local bee-keepers. These springs are a well-known summer resort and indeed a delightful and attractive spot.

We would like to advertise this meeting as extensively as possible and for this reason I would like to announce the program at an early date. W. S. DORN BLASER, Sec'y.

We ask all to help in making up a good program. Let us have a good attendance. If you never was at a Bee-Keepers Convention make up your mind to go to this one. See Geo. E. Hilton's letter in another column. [Ed.]

### IMPORTED BEES GENTLE.

OTTO J. E. URBAN.

In answer to your foot note to my article in the December issue of the Mo. B. K., would like to say, that my imported queen has no honey record yet. She came in too late to make one. The bees seem very active and the queen is a prolific layer. They also are gentle disposed. I can't say they sting the socks off a man like G. M. Doolittle says in writing on imported bees. Mine have never given me any reason for complaint. Before I had any imported queens I was on the same standpoint as your customer. I thought it sounded awful big to say "I breed from imported mothers." Well I did not get to breed from imported mothers the past season, because my first queen died en route, so did the second one. I shall breed from this one I have, next season, and I will report the B. K. from time to time, how I succeed. I will also breed from

home raised mothers, so I can fill the bill for those who want Queens raised from imported stock.

Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to give you a little raking over about the P. B. K. It's a very nice little journal indeed. Young as it is, it seems to be growing. I don't see why it shouldn't, unless it is for the one objection I have to it, and this one objection is the large type you use. Can't you get copy enough to fill your journal or what other reason can you have to use such large type. I think this is an important question. It looks odd (to me at least) to see any journal of the size of our bee journals printed in large type. Your type is first reader type and is only fit for children to read. I think the size of type used in A. B. J. and B. K. R. are the most suitable for a Bee Journal. Can't you remedy this?

I have said perhaps to much in the above and if you are offended by it, I beg to be pardoned. I did not mean to dictate to you how to conduct your business and how to print the P. B. K. What I said in regard to type I meant simply as a suggestion.

In starting the BEE-KEEPER, a printing firm took an interest in it, and we used such type as was at hand, not desiring to go to any extra expense until the BEE-KEEPER would furnish the money. We expect to dress it up this year and if our friends will help extend our circulation we will soon make the improvement in this respect. We thank you all for your help and many kind words.—[Ed.]

## ALBINO BEES.

D. A. PIKE.

MR. EDITOR:—I see at your State Bee-Keeper's Association you had an essay on the races of bees discussed at length; Albino bees also included. You don't say what was said in favor or against the Albino bee. "Italians considered preferable to all other races."

I suppose your association came to a right decision with what evidence they had in the case. I suppose there were very few there that knew anything about the Albino bee. I think if there had been some one there that knew all about them, your association would have decided different. I have tested the Albino bees along side the Italians for eighteen years and along side the Syrian bee for two years and the Albino came out ahead every time.

Friend Quigley you are right, when you say young queens do not go far from the apiary on their wedding tour, neither do drones; only when the bees are driving them out, then they will roam over the country for miles. You rear a queen in a colony where there is drones; watch on the 5th day and if you don't see drones on the lighting board watching for the queen to come out; not only the drones but the workers also. I have seen the queen come out and fly up 15 or 20 feet high and the drones dart all around her, but I have never seen a queen mate in the air. I had a great deal of experience with queens and drones in breeding out the Albino bee.

There was no discussion on Albino bees. There were several present that had Albinos and they were pleased with them and they were all practical bee-keepers too. We never had a colony of them, but will test them in our comb honey yard this season.—[Ed.]

### CONVENTIONS A BENEFIT.

GEO. E. HILTON.

The January number of the "PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER" came today, and I have just been enjoying its contents. Bro. Demarees, article is tip-top, but when I read G. P. Morton's I said to myself "them's my sentiments." I sometimes feel that I spend more money than I should, in attending and working up conventions, but I don't know how to get along without the benefits I derive in so doing, and I have been at it ten years. I have never missed a State Convention in that time or the National when I could possibly get there, to say nothing of the more local conventions and institutes. And do you know, should love dearly well to attend your meeting in Warrensburg. That portion of Missouri has many pleasant memories for me, as I lived in Holden three years and my business frequently called me to Warrensburg. Yes, sixteen years ago I could call nearly half the population of Johnson county by name. How I should like to go over the ground again and mark the changes of these years. But you are not interested in all this, so I will close, and since you have become "PROGRESSIVE" I

may call again, wishing you success.

Friend H., we should be pleased to have you with us at Warrensburg. The meeting is to be April 6 and 7. We know you would be welcomed by all.—[Ed.]

### TO BEE-KEEPERS OF THE SOUTH.

W. H. LAWS.

Doubtless many kind words for the P. B-K., will greet yours eyes. Vol. II, No. 1 to hand. In contrast with the initial number, published year ago, I can see it slowly climbing up, I think you have started right, and your paper will surely win many friends, I bespeak for it a bright future. Something too, of peculiar interest is, that it is largely devoted to the interests of southern bee-keepers, which class is by no means small nor unimportant—for we have thousands of bee-keepers in the south, many of whom count their honey by the ton, and who are yet clamoring for more knowledge and light upon this, our chosen pursuit. We have long felt the need of a Journal in the south, where we could exchange our views and discuss more freely matters of vast importance to Southern Bee-Keepers. No reflections upon other Journals however. They have helped us all they could, but the difference in Southern and Northern bee-keeping is great, while the general rules adapted to the one are also applicable to the other, yet our management must remain as different as the seasons and the sources from

which our nectar flows. I believe we can boast of as large yields from apiaries and single colonies as have yet been reported, thus showing our resources to be good.

Is it a fact then, that our anticipations of a Journal devoted wholly to our interests is to be found in the PROGRESSIVE BEE-BEEPER. Then let us through this medium with Bro. Quigley at the helm exchange our ideas and see where some of us have succeeded so well while others have failed and by so doing let us profit by other experiences.

We have roused up several bee-keepers lately Friend Laws. We will get them started soon and what a newsy Journal we will have then. We are getting many kind words, but remember its subscriptions we need.—[Ed.]

### **STRAY BEADS AT RANDOM STRUNG.**

G. P. MORTON.

My bees are wintering splendidly.

They had a good cleaning flight January 24th.

I can guess in three guesses, the lady's name who is after Dr. Miller. She will make it hot for him and the hotter the better. Let's invite the Doctor to our convention in April. He will be so surprised and so well pleased with us and our way of doing things that he will want to stay with us all summer.

If you don't want any increase put sections on early. If you want your bees to swarm, don't put on sections until your bees get crowded for room. In hiving new

swarms always hive with section crate on.

I say use the best of everything, standard or no standard. If it is not standard now, it will be by and by.

Tell everybody in the next two issues of the P. B. K. to remember our convention meeting in April and arrange to attend it.

I don't like it about your changing the name of our Journal. PROGRESSIVE is a good word but "Missouri" was good enough. I love the word.

### **QUEEN-REARING AND DRONE TRAPS.**

D. A. PIKE.

MR. EDITOR:—As you request us all to write for our Journal, I will cast in my mite on my hobby, Queen-rearing. It is important for bee-keepers to have prolific queens; without prolific queens we can't get bees; without bees we can't get honey; without honey bee business is a failure.

Now a few words about drone-traps; they are all right where an apiarist wants to raise a few queens for his own use; when his bees are not all pure he can attach his drone traps to his impure colonies when his young queens want to mate. Much has been said about rearing good queens. Some claim that they should be reared from three or four colonies. I hold that a queen breeder should have his queens bred up to such a standard of excellency that he need not be afraid to rear queens or drones from any colony in his apiary;

then he is prepared to send out good queens to his customers and not until then.

What would be thought of a queen-breeder who says that he intends to rear all his queens this season from one queen and all his drones from one or two other queens, and then says he has fifty or one hundred orders in for early tested queens, as is always the case with some queen-breeders; do you think his customers would get queens fit to rear queens and drones from? Hardly, or he would not need so many drone-traps.

*Smithsburg, Md.*

There are very few apiaries that contain all select stock, and we would not advise any one to rear queens from the average tested queens sent out. Anything showing a standard marking; that is, showing three bands on the Italians, is called tested. We use the drone trap because we want to know the working qualities before we let a drone fly. We are moving our queen-rearing colonies to an out apiary now, and the drones will be moved out as we test them in our honey producing yard. There is another point you did not mention about impure drones in the same yard with the drone rearing colonies, and unless the trap is used continually the drones will "mix up" with other colonies in the same yard.—[Ed.]

### **BRUSHING BEES OFF COMBS.**

MRS. L. C. AXTELL.

Much depends upon how it is done, so as not to irritate them or

injure the brood. I would never shake the combs that had brood in, it would be likely to kill some of it if not done very gently and then only when great piles of bees are gathered upon that frame.

I prefer to stand at the southeast corner of the hive, if the hive faces the south; then I can use the brush in my right hand, holding the comb in the left hand, sweeping the bees close to the entrance of the hive. If I was left handed I would prefer to stand at the southwest corner of the hive so as to use the brush in my left hand and thus sweep the bees as close to the entrance as possible. By standing at the corner of the hive we keep out of the way of the bees, as they seem to claim the front of the hive as their doorway, and fly round and round in a demoralized and angered condition if the apiarist stands in front, alighting over other hives and on the head and back of the apiarist and sometimes at the entrance of other hives. In this way some bees are lost, and if the colony has a virgin queen there would be great danger for she would fly to another hive and be destroyed.

I like a soft brush of grass or weeds made fresh each day or as often as the leaves are worn off the stems. I do not like feathers or a brush broom or asparagus, except so early in the season that I cannot get grass, then I use a chicken wing. Before brushing them off a good chance should be provided for them to crawl back into the hive, as many young bees would be lost if brushed upon the ground with no



inclined board for them to crawl up to their entrance. Since doing away with our slanting entrance boards that harbored so many mice and sometimes rats and snakes and also so many ant hills underneath them, we have resorted to spreading down a propolised quilt or cloth in front of the hives before brushing off bees, as the bottom board of the hives do not project far enough that all the bees may light upon it after being brushed off. The brush should be large enough to nearly sweep the whole comb at one sweep tied with a stout string to one side of the apiarist. I tie mine to one side of my large bee apron. I tie a short string into the long one so as to have two ends to the string, that wraps round the brush. Wrap the string around the brush and tie in a bow knot, so as to be easily untied and draw the string tight by that the grass may not work out for a whole day. To the other side of my bee apron I tie some handy tool like a stout knife, with a hole in the handle, that the blade may always point down, as I once ran the sharp point of a knife into my hand, as the handle was heavier than the blade which caused the blade to point up when tied in the center of the knife. I like to have my brush and knife and book always tied to my apron because then I do not lose them and are always ready for use, without going back to the last hive to hunt them; then my mind is not burdened to keep track of them and leaves the mind free to manipulate the

bees, to do for each colony just the best that can be done, as I find it takes brains to care for bees. Some one has said that a person who could successfully care for one hundred colonies of bees could command a salary of \$1,000. I think \$1,000 rather too much; the past three seasons especially, but undoubtedly we will have good honey years again.

#### PUNIC BEES.

As they have not been fully tried we better not say too much against them, as we want the best bee for honey, no difference what color. It is the best bee we want. As we have had so many years that our honey crop was short, it seems to me that we ought to improve our bees if possible in respect to honey gathering qualities. Just as hens are bred for egg laying, so we ought to have the best honey gathering bee. We guess at the condition of our bees too much. We ought to know their condition at all times possible in order to make the most of them.

In our locality I believe we can get as much per colony from 100 colonies in an apairy or even more as we can from ten colonies, as in years when the nectar is secreted there is enough for all. We have 125 to 150 more than our neighbors who keep but a few colonies, but it does not pay to keep a lot of colonies in an unfit condition to make the most of the honey harvest when it does come. If we are in circumstances that we can't attend to them, we had better dispose of part of them, and yet I think it unwise to handle bees

when they are not needing manipulation. I think it more or less an injury, unless they can be bettered by the handling. Less handling and more feeding I believe is better. We are too stingy with our bees. We put them into small brood departments and force them to carry the honey up into sections leaving them with short stores to winter on, and then we complain at having to feed. We, as progressive bee-keepers are not so generous as some of the box hive men, who use large hives and often leave what surplus they may have gotten on all winter as they seldom feed sugar syrup.

I noticed when we put our bees up for winter that many of our best colonies were those that had been entirely let alone, since the taking off of supers after the spring harvest; they were the strongest in point of number and had more honey than many that were fed in the hive, although they were fed some out doors.

In time of dearth it seems to me that handling bees sometimes causes other bees to rob that colony so quietly that the robbing is unobserved, or else the bees become too listless to gather stores, or for some reason I cannot tell, after feeding in the hive they do not have the amount that it appeared they should have from what was fed. I wonder if others noticed the same. Several times in the fall when feeding up for winter the weak colonies we would have to feed over the second and some colonies the third time, even when we

fed them by setting in combs of honey. Certain colonies seem to lose their stores in some unaccountable way. When feeding for winter we note down upon certain hives about what they will need to carry them through. Then we must nearly double the amount as it requires very much more when evaporated to the right thickness and for wax to seal it up, and for the unaccountable loss spoken of, but all colonies do not seem to lose their stores as above spoken of.

*Roseville, Illinois.*

Mrs. A., with a good honey flow there is work for all the bees in a large apiary and as each colony can gather only in proportion to its strength, reducing the number of colonies does not increase the yield. While a large number together, our experience has been that they will go farther for honey than when only a few are kept. Let those that have the money to spare try Punic bees if they like, but to puff them at high price without testing them is not right and will cause many a poor bee-keeper to buy them that has not the money to spare. We expect to test them so that we can answer from experience with them. We never knew of any bad effect from shaking bees off of brood combs. You are right don't handle the bees unless there is something gained by it.—[Ed.]

### **GETTING READY FOR THE HARVEST.**

**S. F. TREGO.**

In order to get a full crop of honey in this locality it is necessary

to build the colonies up strong as early as possible. My way of doing this is to begin as soon as the bees can fly three or four days in a week and remove all combs that the cluster does not touch and put in a chaff division board as a solid sealed comb of honey will do. Uncap a little honey to stimulate the bees and put plenty of good packing over the brood nest to retain the heat. Now that they are all right as far as inside arrangements go, get some shallow boxes and put them in a sunny place out of the wind and put in a quart or two of corn meal or rye flour, or some good substitute for pollen (if they are getting plenty of natural pollen there will be no need of artificial.) The kind that suits me best is a mixture of equal parts of corn, rye and oats ground fine. The hulls of the oats prevent the bees from drowning in the meal and the corn keeps the rye from becoming hard in the comb. To start the bees to taking the meal, sift the chaff out of a little meal and mix in a good quantity of light brown A sugar and throw a little into each entrance and right on the bees, then put a little sweetened meal in the boxes with the other meal and you will soon hear the busy contented hum of hundreds of workers. By the sweetened meal plan I can set the bees to carrying meal instantly. Those that get it thrown on them immediately get to licking it off and packing it in their pollen baskets. In about a week after you have arranged the combs open the hives on some warm sunny day and put

the comb with the least brood right in the middle of the brood nest and uncap some more honey replace the packing and at the end of another week spread the brood a little more, but be sure there are bees enough to cover all of the brood on cool nights. A pint of syrup heated to 110 degrees and fed in the evening seems to be almost equal to putting a small stone in the hive. The bees set up a roar and will send a stream of hot air out at one side of the entrance, even on a cold night. By careful attention you should have your bees ready for the harvest a week or ten days earlier than they would have been had they been left to take care of themselves. I am aware that some are not in favor of spreading the brood; saying it is "fussy" and "worse than useless" but if properly done it pays well. But be careful and do not overdo it or it will surely be much worse than useless. Think well before each move.

*Swedona, Illinois.*

We would advise the inexperienced to be very careful about spreading the brood nest. With proper care it is of beneficial. See our comments on spring management elsewhere.—[Ed.]

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**ARTIFICIAL COMB---BEES  
WILL NOT USE IT.**

**E. KRETCHMER.**

**FRIEND QUIGLEY:**

About five minutes ago I tore the wrapper from THE PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER; what a surprise, a clear progressive Journal; allow

me to congratulate you on your progress.

On page 10, upper right hand column you speak in a doubtful way about making artificial comb. I have just measured a specimen of artificial comb that has been in my office three years. Its cells are  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch deep, and 6 square feet would weigh less than a pound. But now to the sequel. In June, 1890 I placed a piece 5x7 inches of this comb in the center of a brood comb, and it in the center of a strong colony; the bees neatly attached the edges to the natural comb, but not a single cell was used for brood, pollen or honey, although plenty of it was stored all around it; it might as well have been a solid board. In the spring of 1891 the bees cut it down, worked it over, and used the space for brood, because now it was natural comb. I wish you success with the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.

*Red Oak, Iowa.*

Here is an idea we had not thought of. We were considering the breaking in shipping, etc. We have heard no more from the party wanting to furnish it. We requested a sample. Others that asked for samples heard nothing from them.—[Ed.]

**IS IT ADVISABLE TO ADHERE  
TO STANDARD SIZE OF  
HIVES, ETC.**

W. S. VANDRUFF.

The above being one of your topics for discussion I thought I would give you my ideas on the subject. Locality will, no doubt, have more

to do in settling the question of the proper size and kind of hive than anything else. In places where the honey season is long and continued and winters are short success can be obtained with bees in most any of the large framed hives with large brood chambers and surplus arrangements, while on the other hand where our winters are long and cold and bees are more or less reduced and weak when spring comes and our honey seasons are short, a hive with large brood frames are not the kind that is best calculated for good results for said locality. At any rate this has been my experience in this locality. We have long winters but not very cold and we usually have late backward springs, which retard brood rearing and our honey seasons are short, white clover being our only source for surplus honey, lasting all told about six weeks, but usually the first two weeks we have too much cool, wet weather and quite often the last ten days or two weeks, the weather is too dry and warm. So if we get three weeks of good honey weather we think we are doing well. Under these conditions in this locality I have come to the conclusion that we need a hive with smaller frames so that contraction can be used to its greatest extent as well as expansion. My frame and hive is constructed so as to be very cheap with few parts—plain and simple—with the wide frames for holding the sections and the brood frame perfectly interchangeable for they

are one and the same. My sections are  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  and my wide frame for holding them are a closed end frame with a top and bottom bar as wide as the top and bottom of the section, say about 1 3-16; said frame is a standing and therefore a reversible frame. This same frame is to be my brood frame; it is just large enough inside to hold four of the above mentioned sections. It is, inside measure, 9 9-16 x 9 9-16 inches. Too small I hear many saying. Well let us see. An L frame as now made with 7-8 top bar and  $\frac{3}{8}$  bottom bar and taking into consideration that the combs are not built down to the bottom bar by say  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and you only have about 125 square inch of comb and 8 frames to the hive gives you 1,000 inches. Now take my frame and say eleven of them to a brood chamber and we have a comb surface of 1,005 square inches, but you say why not take the 8 frame L hive as its brood capacity is practically the same. Well, I have many reasons for not preferring it. It cannot be contracted to good advantage for the more you contract it the more it displaces or removes the cluster of bees from their natural shape (which is spherical.) Now on the other hand my hive can be contracted one-half and then the natural shape of the cluster will not be interfered with, being left in almost a cube. For spring breeding this is a great advantage. With this hive the frames are spaced  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart which is no disadvantage as it is just about the distance bees naturally build their

combs and are better for wintering, and I think none the worse for summer use. By using a piece of queen excluding zinc, the size of my frame, I can confine the queen to as few frames as I wish and practice side storage. This will be quite an advantage with swarms or colonies not strong enough to occupy an upper story. This feature of the interchangeability of frames will be an advantage in many ways. I can place frames of sections below until bees get well started in them and then raise them above and have work started above without delay. Another advantage in a frame of this size is, there are only a surface of four sections presented to the bees at a time. Therefore work will be commenced and finished sooner and the sections will be better finished; also by reversing them we can get them built solid all around. Another advantage, we will have fewer unfinished sections at the close of the season and more finished ones. I have not told you yet how I secure the frames in my hive; the frames are standing frames and rest on a strip of tin nailed to the under edge of the hive. I have a follower the same size of my frame and by means of one thumb screw in the center operating against the follower I can key up my frames closely to keep out propolis. Another advantage, we need no separators. I have always considered separators unnatural, a disadvantage and hindrance to the working of bees. They divide up the cluster into many small compartments and it seems that bee-keepers have

been put to their wit's end trying to contrive ways and means to "force" the bees into the sections. Now we may lead but we cannot force bees. Our hives ought to be so constructed that the bees will take naturally to the sections and not require us to force them in, for all force work results in a loss to the bee-keeper in time and amount of honey stored.

Small wide sections with separators are most uninviting to a colony of bees while large narrow ones without separators are natural and enticing. I call my hive the "Key Stone" hive. It is after years of testing and using many of the common hives in use to-day in connection with my observation on the nature of bees that I am forced to these conclusions. It cannot be said that I have an ax to grind as I have quit dealing in hives and supplies and it is doubtful if I ever engage in therein again. It is for my own special benefit that I adopt this hive as I am convinced I can manage bees with greater success with it than those having large frames.

Mr. Doolittle claims the square frame best for the same reason you have given. We have to buy hives only once in eight or ten years. Now it is said bees will store as much honey in a nail keg as in the finest hive. Now the question is to get the bees without so many expensive winter cases, chaff hives, etc. Box hives will turn out more and larger swarms and generally five to ten days earlier, than those

on the L frame. This shape is better for early breeding. Now we can remedy a part of this by using our frame crosswise in the S frame L hive. We would like to hear from others on this subject.—[Ed.]

### QUEEN AND SWARM CONTROLLER.

G. H. ASHWORTH.

I see in Gleanings of January 1st a cut of a hive with Bro. Dibbern's self hiver attached which I must say, I think as near a self hiver as any offered to the bee-keeping fraternity. But then the man or woman that is keeping bees for the money there is in it don't want swarms. He wants honey and to average our honey seasons. The swarming process always reduces the comb honey crop very materially, at least it does with me. It is where I hold my colonies down to work during the honey flow that I get my satisfactory yield of comb honey. Well, how do I do this. It is not by any patent arrangement. It is a free to all device. I have named it the Queen and Swarm Controller. It is constructed of perforated zinc, sides, top and bottom, the ends of rolled zinc. It is a box made to fit snug in the hive, in length and wide enough to hold four or five frames, owing to the size of the hive. Mine is a 12 frame hive in which I use four or five frames. The lid has a border of tin soldered on the side  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and turned down one-half inch to fit over the box. I let my bees get nearly up to the swarming point when I open up the hive,

find the queen, set the frame in my comb bucket, then take four more frames all worker comb as near empty as possible, then put in the controller, take the frame with queen and examine it. If all right set in and close up, but if the frame contains done comb I brush the queen and bees in the controller and get a frame that has none, then examine the hive for queen cells and drone brood, if any destroy all them. Give plenty of section room and you are all right if the flora is, so soon as the honey flow begins to lag, and the swarming fever is off, take out the cage, and if I want increase then is my time to do it. If any of the Bro. Bee-Keepers wish to try the controller and want more explicit details write me and I will be glad to give them. I have tested the thing three years and think more of it each year. Last year was an off year in this part of the country and 80 pounds was the most that I got from one colony. The year '20 I got 200 pounds from one of my colonies and averaged 96 pounds from twelve colonies that I run for comb honey with the controller and I have no drones except where I want them.

The comb honey producer will have to adapt something of this kind, or Friend Demaree's system, for with our present knowledge we cannot control swarming as we would like to in raising comb honey and we are not certain but your plan would be best when no increase is desired and cheaper than the automatic hives.—[Ed.]

## WHY DO NOT MORE FARMERS KEEP BEES?

BYRON IAMS.

Written for the Farmers Institute held at Laddonia Mo., Jan. 18 and 19, 1892.

There are several reasons. I believe the first is a fear of stings. Second a lack of knowledge of any principal whatever of their management. Third, a disposition to take the results of some more venturesome neighbor, who has procured a colony of black bees in a box hive and set it under the big apple tree among the weeds back of the house, where no one ever passes only to be chased and often stung, left a prey to the moth and exposed to all kinds of weather, expected to board themselves and work for nothing. What an example to go by. What other industry or pursuit under the sun would be expected to pay anything run in the above manner?

A movable frame hive, bee smoker, bee veil, one of the many good books on bee culture for beginners and a colony of beautiful and gentle Italian bees, will be about the proper kind of an outfit for an amateur to begin with.

The above is simply to commence with. After experience, taste and the condition of our pocket book will indicate future requirements. As for our present American bred Italian bees, a close acquaintance with her ladyship will quickly dispel all fear of stings.

For beginners "Bees and Honey or Management of an Apiary for Pleasure and Profit" by Thomas G.

Newman. A. B. C. of Bee Culture by A. I. Root. Langstroth on the Honey Bee and also the Amateur Bee-keeper by J. W. Rouse of Mexico, Mo., will be the best books. Farmers, do you know there is a charm in bee-keeping that fascinates and keeps almost all who enter the charmed circle, its most willing devotee to the end of life. But aside the pleasure, what is there placed on our table more delicious or more wholesome than a dish of nice white comb honey, faultlessly capped and finished by the architects of nature. There is no other one thing connected with the farm or farming that will give as large returns for the money invested as a few colonies of bees. I should have said money and time invested. If all work with bees is done at the right time and done right, it takes but a very few hours from other work to tend three or four colonies, and all this you can do at noon while "resting." Your bees gather what otherwise would be wasted. There are hundreds of tons of finest honey go to waste yearly in this county for want of bees to gather it. Bees also fill another great office in the economy of nature in the fertilization of flowers. The clovers depend almost entirely on bees for fertilization. The wild goose plum must be planted near other variety of plums or be visited by bees or it will bloom in vain as far as fruit is concerned. So with the crescent strawberry and many other plants. Our apple crop would be poor indeed, if inclemency of the weath-

er should keep bees and other insects away during the entire time they were in bloom. The claim has been made that wheat crops have been improved in quality and quantity by visits of bees in search of polen white in bloom.

In conclusion let me say: All grand old Andrain county needs to be the ideal land spoken of in Bible times, is that all the farmers keep a few colonies of bees, and this will be the veritable land that floweth with milk and honey.

### IMPORTED VERSUS HOME-BRED QUEENS.

W. C. FRAZIER.

I see the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER has sprung the subject whether American Bred or Imported Queens are the best honey producers. On this subject I could say a little but there arises one difficulty. I import queens and often half the queens in my apiary are Imported Queens. Should I state that imported queens are superior honey gatherers, I would be thought prejudicial. However I will state this.

The imported queens average better than queens whose bees show three banded workers and whose mothers are five banded bees. Their progeny are very gentle. They are mostly leather color. The imported bees are not many of them yellow, that is, not many have bright yellow bands. None of them ever show more than three bands. My experience is somewhat like yours. Not more than one in ten of the untested queens we purchase from five banded mothers produce



five banded bees. I find the five banded bees gentle, very prolific and good honey gatherers and cap white, but they are disappointing in reproducing themselves. How they compare with the imported as honey gathers we shall see. I have the best procurable of both and will test them the coming season side by side, with conditions as near equal as possible, I mean to give a fair test and if I find them superior to the imported I'm not such a fool as to send to Italy for queens and pay three times what they will cost me in America.

We shall be pleased to have your report after you test both strains of bees. Would you consider imported queens enough better than home bred stock that it would pay to have all imported in an apiary run for honey? Now try some queens reared from imported stock mated to golden yellow drones and see what the result will be.—[Ed.]

#### **BEE KEEPING FOR PROFIT.**

Dr. Tinker's New Hand Book. It gives his new system of management of bees complete, telling how to get the largest yield of comb and extracted honey and make the industry of bee keeping a profitable one. The work should be in the hands of every progressive apiarist. It is well illustrated. Price, post paid, 25 cents. For sale at this office.

The North Texas Bee-keepers Association hold their spring meeting at Greenville, April 6th and 7th, and all interested in apiculture are earnestly requested to attend this meeting.

## The Southern States.

CONDUCTED BY

**MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,**  
Floyd, Texas.

Friends as I am urged by many, to give the honey resources of Texas, I shall omit the subject picked out for you.

Well, I will give north Texas first. Here in this part we usually have pollen and a little honey, about January 20th to February 10th. Sometimes a little earlier and sometimes later owing to our springs. This starts our bees to rearing brood, but we must not yet spread the brood as cold weather in February and March will be sure to injure your bees. Right here, friends, let me jump the subject a little and warn you about spreading brood. If you are not an old hand at the business, you had better let the spreading of the brood alone until settled warm weather does set in. But if you understand your "biz" you may slip in a frame any time the strength of the colony will allow it. But to learn, try a few, then watch the weather and the consequences and you will soon learn how and when to spread brood. After Elm we have fruit bloom, cottonwood, oak and other early blooms, that usually keep the bees busy till about April 15th to 20th. During the blooming time of above is our swarming time, but no surplus till later.

From April 20th to about May 20th, we have a link out of the

chain of our honey resources and if we ever have to feed it is during this time. I am speaking about where bees are kept by the hundred colonies. Of course if there is only a few colonies at a place they usually go through all right. Then after May 20th, horse mint begins to bloom. Then we can holloa out, Eureka, all is safe; just about the same as aparists in the north when white clover and basswood comes in. Then after horse mint, which ceases about July 1st, comes in king cotton. A new fresh supply of blooms every morning, just as far as your eyes will let you see. The bloom that comes to-day turns red and falls off to-morrow, but the pasture is so wide there is always plenty. The honey from north Texas is fair in color, pleasant to taste and granulates very quick after cold weather sets in. We sometimes get a fall crop but not as sure as the horse mint and cotton, but most always sufficient to afford honey for winter stores. In middle Texas where I have lived (Lampasas) we have the same Elm in spring, but about two weeks earlier, then fruit bloom also earlier and in May a honey harvest from Buffalo clover and horse mint. We have no Buffalo clover in North Texas. Buffalo clover usually blooms all through May and a part of June. Then comes a rest spell for the bees, until about July 10th, sumach begins to bloom and if not too dry furnishes a fine crop of honey all through August. Then comes in live oak and brown weed usually giving good yields till frost.

Southern or Southwest Texas, the honey harvest begins in May from Catdaw, Mesquite, and in fall brown weed generally gives a good crop, but the early bee pasture of this region, I do not know.

Bro. Graham, a prominent bee-keeper of Greenville and North Texas, paid me a visit last week. He says I have made a good selection in my new quarters and thinks here between the two Caddo Creeks on the prairie is a very fine place for bees.

Friends, in order to extend the circulation of our growing journal I will give to the person sending me the largest number of subscribers by June 1st, one select tested Italian queen either of the 3 or 5 banded strains. This queen will be a good breeder and worth \$5.00. Friends, I urge you to help us. Send in your subscriptions at once. 50c per year. I will publish the name of the party gaining the prize in July number.

Give us your items of news such as you have and such as you get by actual experience, and every day work among your bees. Do not be afraid for there is none of us that knows it all yet by any means.

Oh, I must tell you of a wreck I had in moving my bees. I had moved all on wagons except my fine breeders, and with the last loads I put said bees in my family hack and took them behind my wagon. It was a nice warm day Dec. 31st and being scarce of hands my daughter, Amanda, drove one wagon, a fine large team of mules,

one of our thresher teams. Coming through a large pasture out of one into another through a gate a herd of mules and horses ran through the gate just behind Amanda's wagon and scared her team. They ran away and struck the hack and capsized, it bees and all. Amanda jumped off and the mules ran on and Willie galloped ahead of them. Strange to say none of the queens got killed, but one hive lost many bees, and not a bee offered to sting anybody or our teams. They were of the yellowest type of the five banded Italians. We straightened all up and pursued our journey; nobody hurt.

We are to-day January 12th having our coldest weather of the season, about 24 degrees below zero. Some of our nuclei may get their noses frost bitten. I am now preparing to establish my queen rearing yards and by March 1st hope to be able to fill all orders by return mail.

Well, I shall try to study up something that I think will be most likely to interest you. Yes, that is what I am trying to run this department for, is to interest you and I would like to get help from my Bro. Bee-Keepers. As the young negro man said to his young master, after being raised up with a large flock and put out by himself, said after working one day. "Massa, one nigger ain't no good by himself."

We have received many compliments since the January PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER was mailed.

### ANNOUNCEMENT.

You may announce April 6th and 7th as the dates for the convention of the M. S. B. K. A., at Warrensburg. The parlors of the Minnewawa Hotel, at Pertle Springs have been secured for the meeting, and a hotel rate of \$1.00 per day. This is the finest hotel in Johnson county. A good room has also been secured for exhibits. We want to make this one of the special features of the convention.

Yours &c.,  
W. S. DORN BLASER,  
Higginsville, Mo.

The material known to the trade as enamel duck is receiving quite an extensive trial as a substitute for burlap.—Bee-Keepers Magazine. Better post up, Friend Cooper. Bee-keepers are discarding enamel cloth for flat wood covers. You are about ten years behind in this matter.

The apiculturist has considerable to say about Quigley, Robison, Green and others. By the way it seems to hurt somebody because J. A. Green got what was justly due him.

### CLUBBING LIST.

*We will send the Progressive Bee-Keeper one year with*

<i>American Bee Journal,</i>	\$1.35
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The PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER makes regular monthly visits to the West Indies.

Four extra pages this month and a lot of valuable matter held over for March number.

We expect to illustrate some new implements in our next issue. Don't fail to see them.

We have secured quite a number of regular correspondents for '92. There are four ladies among them.

The Bee-Keepers Magazine has appropriated our Southern department. It seems to have a large capacity in this line.

Those dreams of "Rambler" have caused many a hearty laugh in our home. Mr. Martin is an artist and we wish him success in his new home.

Catalogues from the enterprising dealers are coming in. Look over our advertising pages and see if you don't want to ask some of them for a price list.

It has been stated that business has been sacrificed for beauty in the five banded Italians. Mr. Jacob T. Temple thinks if the adding of two yellow bands to a yellow race is so damaging, what would be the result of turning black bees to

solid yellow in one year? We give it up: ask some one else.

We have brought out some of the brethren on the imported queen question. That's right, we are after facts. We want more of you to tell us what you know.

Our bees packed on the non-absorbent plan are wintering better than others. We use our bee escape boards on top of the hives, covering these with chaff.

A friend writes: From the appearance of your advertising pages you are getting your share of advertising, and there is no patent medicine humbugs among them.

The American Bee-keeper thinks "Henry" is a little edgewise on account of getting a few rubs lately. Its hard to have one's dreams of gold(en) vanish before cold facts but such is life.

We are not using one-half our space in telling how good the other half is, but we appreciate your subscription just the same. We intend to blow our horn some in '92, but not at the expense of our subscribers.

Early in February we had a light snow about a quarter of an inch. In our yard were fifteen colonies of bees in single walled hives, with plain flat covers  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches thick, painted on both sides. The snow had melted over the cluster on all of them, showing just where they had clustered, while the snow on the covers of empty hives near by had not begun to melt. Don't you

think from the above that some heat escapes through a  $\frac{7}{8}$  board?

What has become of the kickers? Some time ago you just mentioned one of the new Bee Journals and about the first word you would hear would be "some of them must die." Well some did die and another new one started.

We shall be pleased to meet you at our State convention this spring. Talk up this meeting with everybody. Let's have a big time. If you have any subjects you want discussed send them to W. S. Dorn Blaser, Higginsville, Mo.

In looking over the catalogues as they come in, nearly all say we have enlarged our capacity and can fill all orders promptly. Wonder if they ever will get done enlarging. They'll cover the whole country if they don't stop.

Our strain of golden Italian bees have wintered better than any we have. We had a large amount of honey dew for winter stores and it has proved a poor winter food. You must make some allowance you know as we are selling these bees.

Are you a member of the Bee-Keepers Union. "If not, why not?" You don't know when your bees are in danger of being condemned by a few chronic kickers. They go to work quietly to turn public sentiment against bees. Better be on the safe side and send \$1.00 to Thomas G. Newman, Chicago, Ill., and be protected for 1892; the Union defends all just cases of its members.

### HINTS FOR MARCH.

The amateur bee-keeper generally makes the mistake of thinking if his bees have honey enough to live until flowers bloom, they are all right. This is the worst mistake he can make, unless the season is very favorable. Bees use large quantities of honey in brood rearing, while if very little or no brood is reared they can get along with little honey. When a bee-keeper depends on white clover for his honey, he wants a large force of bees just at the opening of clover bloom, and to get these there must be plenty of stores during February, March and April, and the brood nest made warm as possible. Close up the entrance to one or two inches, this will help keep them warm and robbers are less liable to try to steal in. Be very careful about honey or any thing that would start them robbing, for bees in the spring are very hard to control. If you have to feed use sugar syrup; feed them all they need at once, if you can. Of course frames of honey would be better, but you don't always have them. For feeding syrup we would prefer the Hill or Hasting feeder to any other, although most any feeder will do. Remember, it takes about 37 days from the time an egg is laid till the worker is ready for the field. So get your working force early. Now get your hives ready; repair and paint them if they need it. Put starters in your sections and put them in the supers. Have everything ready for the honey flow, then soon as the weather gets

warm you will have plenty of time to look after the bees. If any are queenless, set some weak colony on top of them, until the bees all go together, then remove the empty hive and see that they have honey to last them at least two weeks. All single-walled hives should have a thin cover on top and then set an empty super or hive body on this; filling in four to six inches of chaff on top, is of much benefit to stimulate brood rearing. We will give some more hints in our next issue. If you have a question to ask send it in.

#### BOUNTY ON HONEY.

Gleanings has raised this question. A bounty on honey from the government, the same as on sugar. Now we cannot get it without trying, but we are of the opinion it of no use. Sugar is a product depending on the amount of cane or beets grown, while honey depends on favorable seasons, the product of nature. This bounty would increase the apiaries while the price of honey would decrease. This bounty on sugar was put on to stimulate home industries, employing thousands of people, while it takes but a few to operate each apiary.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

I never see anything mentioned about the "American Bee Hive." Why is it? It used to be quite a favorite and is yet in these parts, and is the only hive I know anything about, and would be pleased to know why the Dovetailed hive is talked up ahead of the simplic-

ity, when, as far as I can see the cuts are nearly the same, and both take the L frame.—*J. C. I. Jamieson, Mo.*

Answer.—The Dovetailed hive can be made cheaper than the Simplicity hive. The Dovetailed hive takes its name from the way it is put together at the corners; the American hive is a better wintering than a summer hive; there is advantage in a shallow hive, that is, it is better to get surplus honey from; the American was the first movable comb hive we ever saw, and there is some things we like about it—[Ed.]

I WANT TO ITALIANIZE my apiary the coming season. When should I commence and what is the best plan for nine colonies.—*D. A. C. Prairie Du Rocher, Ill.*

Answer.—We would buy young queens in May or June before the colonies swarm if you can, and remove the old queens and introduce them according to directions sent with the queens. Later in the season queens would be cheaper, but you would have more colonies to re-queen.—[Ed.]

Would you close the entrance of the hives on a warm day in winter when there is snow on the ground, as the bees light in the snow and get chilled and die. It was warm here January 24th and 25th and the bees took a good flight, but I think there was enough bees got chilled in my apiary of thirty colonies to make one good swarm.—*F. S. B., Clyde, O.*

Answer.—We would not close







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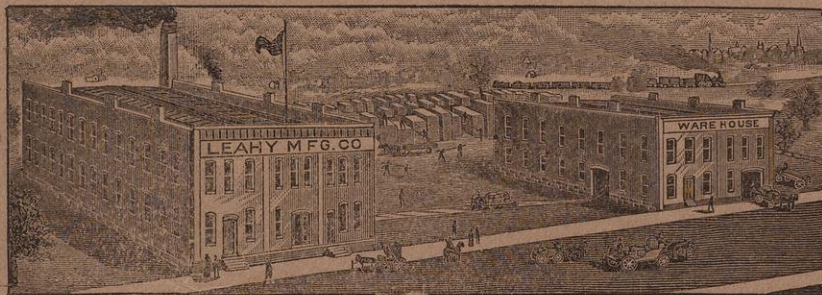
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