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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, June 28, 1905

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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

Edited and Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland; Apiary, Willow Tree, N.S.W.
Circulated in all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

VOL. 14. No. 3.

JUNE 28, 1905.

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— BUSHELL, LATIMORE, HEWITT.

RULES & OBJECTS.

1. The careful watching of the interests of the industry.
2. To arrange for combined action in exporting honey to relieve local glut when necessary.

Proposed new rules published in this issue will be placed before members for alteration or approval, previous to next annual meeting.

3. To advise members as to suitable localities for establishing apiaries.

4. Any beekeeper can become a member on approval of committee, subscription 2/6 per annum.

5. That every member with more than 50 hives shall be allowed an extra vote for every additional 50 effective hives.

6. No member be eligible for office who has less than 50 effective hives, or his subscription is in arrear.

7. The Association to consist of a central body and district branches affiliated with it.

8. The principal officers be such as will undertake to meet each other in committee at least once in twelve months.

9. The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Executive Committee.

10. After the first election of officers, arrangements to be made by the Secretary to call for nominations for office-bearers, and issue ballot papers prior to the next annual meeting.

11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.

12. Members unable to attend meetings or conventions can authorise or nominate any member they know will be present to vote for them on any subject brought forward. Such vote or votes to be in addition to the member's present own vote.

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**THE AUSTRALIAN
BEE BULLETIN**

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
Devoted to Beekeeping —
*Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of
Australia — New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope*

MAITLAND, N.S.W. — JUNE 28, 1905.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue, all of whom we would recommend our readers to patronise :—

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Prescott Limited, 336 & 338 Sussex-St, Sydney.
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WORK FOR THE MONTH.

Conferences and Shows now over. It is time to go again to the bees. Not to extract. Oh, no; that will lead to robbing, as the weather is warm, and the bees are working on white box bloom, out too early on account of the genial warm weather. We will go through each hive, see that all queens are clipped; mark the hives accordingly; then remove the ruberoid or oil cloth from under the cover, and place it immediately above the brood nest, leaving empty or spare frames above it; also reduce the size of entrances. See each hive has sufficiency of stores, if not give frames from hives that can spare. Should there not be such, boil sugar and honey together, pour on empty frame, and place in hive needing it. See that all entrances are curtailed. That ruberoid or similar material is on top of all frames, under cover. That covers cannot blow off, and there is plenty of food in each hive.

Read, study, and think over statistics of exports of honey from Australia in this issue.

How pleased we will be if the efforts of the Queensland beekeepers turn out a grand success.

Were such beautiful honey displays as were exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, Sydney, exhibited at a number of the great English exhibitions,

we feel assured it would soon wipe that eucalyptus stain out. Would it not pay the Government to expend a few hundred pounds on such. The Canadian Government have done so. Perhaps others.

Mr. Penberthy, of Inverell, and Mr. J. E. Taylor, of Cowra, both maintain that there is ample market at present for all the western box honey that can be raised.

We have very great pleasure in acknowledging the prompt manner in which every communication we have addressed on bee matters to any of the State Governments have been replied to. See the number of such in this issue.

Publications Received.—“The Entertainer,” a monthly medley of amusement and instruction, price 2d., published in Sydney. “The Feathered and Kennel World,” a monthly newspaper devoted to poultry, dogs, coursing, pigeons, canaries, cage birds, domestic pets, etc., published by the Fanciers’ Publishing Co., 161 Clarence Street, Sydney. The Journal of Agriculture of Victoria for June contains a most useful “Practical Guide to Dairying.” Now that dairying, unlike honey getting, has turned out such an undoubted success, it is a most valuable number containing instructions not only for the first taking up and clearing land, but the getting and treatment of cattle, building of premises, and sending the cream to market, etc., etc. It is the production of Messrs. R. G. Archer and P. J. Carroll, dairy supervisors, and is well illustrated.

Mr. Coles, in our last issue, gave his mode of wiring frames, which he considers superior to our middle sticks. The putting in and bending six nails takes a lot of time. The wood is not dearer than the nails and wire. The slips of wood can be fixed when putting the frames together. No further trouble with them.

BEESWAX AT SHOWS. Coloured beeswax at many shows in New South Wales, improved (by cheese colouring, got prizes for its nice looks. The principal judges now discountenance such. Such wax can easily be distinguished by rub-

bing. Those relying on this improving their wax must not be disappointed if they find they have made a mistake in the coming year.

A leading Sydney commission agent writes:—During the last few weeks the market has been very dull and supplies have been heavy particularly from the Northern line. Prices are easier if anything, and prime quality to-day will not realise more than 2½d, unless in odd lots. We could not recommend you to send any at present as it would not realise 2½d.

A. F. H., Gumeracha.—Please find 5/6 enclosed for Bulletin for last year, and I think you may take my name off your list. I intend to do without the paper this year. I have been running about 150 stocks for the last three years, and have had rather bad luck, with poor honey flows.

A RESERVE PRICE.

Early in January of this year was forwarded to a Melbourne commission agent a ton of good box N.S.W. honey (Western) with a reserve price. The following letter, dated May 8, explains itself:

Sir,—Your honey is not yet sold, otherwise you would have been notified of the same. For some months past there has been so much on the market, offering at such low prices, that we did not feel justified in quitting yours at the price we could realise, as it would not have been satisfactory to you. The demand is improving, and you can rely on us taking every opportunity to clear yours. I regret there has been such delay, but the fault does not rest with me, as I should only have been too glad to have made sales if I could have done so at a reasonable price. Yours, etc. ———.

The following is from same firm:—

June 14th, 1905.

Dear Sir.—Enclosed a/c sale of the honey we have sold, and will quit the balance at first opportunity. Market been extremely dull for some time past, the supplies being large and demand limited.

QUEENSLAND BEEKEEPERS.

We have to congratulate the Queensland beekeepers on the work they are doing, and we most heartily wish them success.

Dr. Hamlyn Harris wished to point out exactly what the British people liked in the way of honey. From his experience gained at home as judge at the Royal Agricultural Show, he claimed to know something about the matter. People at home liked a light, golden-colored honey, although lighter honies also found a market at good price, but dark treacly looking honey would not sell at home for table purposes. (He then criticised some samples on the table, and pointed out where they were wanting). A sample of lucerne honey from Warwick found favour, and was highly spoken of. Although wanting in substance, he thought it would sell well at home. He spoke of the "get up" of honey in Queensland, which was distinctly bad. Most of the beekeepers, he was afraid, did not know their business, and had no idea of the wonderful way the English honey and wax were got up for shows. Here beekeepers were too much inclined to think, "Oh, that's good enough," instead of striving for the best possible. For instance, most of the honey sent, if very closely examined, looked dirty, because it had only been strained through muslin or gauze. Well, that was not sufficient—it must be strained through flannel—not new flannel, because that made honey look "fluffy." The flannel must be old. Another mistake made here was to extract the honey before it was properly ripe. The result was that when tinned or bottled, a slight fermentation set in, which accounted for the bad smell, which invariably came from Queensland honey when it was uncorked. A bottle of English honey, on the contrary, had a delicious and tempting smell when opened. English beekeepers had been educated and taught how to overcome these faults, and beekeepers here must also learn their lesson, if they wished to compete successfully in the home mar-

kets. Still, he could say, he had seen samples of honey here that could hold their own in any part of the world, so the trouble was not with our honey, but our methods. He was of opinion that it would be useless to send honey home, unless someone accompanied it. Once let your honey out of your hands, and you cut your own throats. Therefore, it was a very serious matter whom they chose to go home with it. They should appoint the best man available. He could see great possibilities for our honey, and also could see great difficulties in the way of establishing a market in England, but the difficulties could be overcome if the right man were in charge. There was no reason why a trial shipment of wax should not be made at the same time. The association, he considered had done good work during the three months of its existence, but it might increase its usefulness by appointing hon. secretaries in country centres. They would be a tower of strength to the association in obtaining new members.

A member of a London firm was present by invitation, and placed a large amount of valuable information at the disposal of the association, with reference to the best methods of placing Queensland honey on the London market. A number of samples were submitted to this gentleman for inspection, and he expressed hearty approval of the quality. It was pointed out by the association that a scheme had been drafted for sending a trial shipment to London in charge of an expert. The visitor said his firm purchased largely in California. They did a big trade with their products in Queensland, and, all other things being equal they would prefer to secure their honey in Queensland rather than in California. Reference was made to the fact that some 20 cases of Queensland honey sent to London had been there 12 months unsold. The visitor promised, on his return to London, to make inquiries re same and cable information for guidance of association. To secure the best results, it was necessary to put the honey in the hands

of a leading honey broker in London in sufficient quantity to make it worth handling and looking after. At lowest rate, honey of quality of best samples should bring 28/- to 32/6 per cwt., he had known Californian honey to reach 48/-. He believed there was a druggists' trade for white honey, and a brewers' for dark. He was taking a consignment with him and would cable fullest information as to price, &c. He had seen rough West Indian honey (not in favour) bring 25/- at home. The trouble with the honey from Queensland in the past had been that it was sent in small lots, and with a lack of system, instead of being sent regularly to proper centres. He did not wish to throw cold water on the scheme to send 50 tons, but advised to test the market with a smaller shipment, which his firm would handle for them. He would undertake to store, handle, and repack and sell same, also to liquefy it, if necessary. It would not matter about it candying. His firm would probably purchase 400 to 800 cases annually.

A general discussion ensued, and it was suggested that the assistance of the Agent-General's office might be obtained.

The secretary stated that a shipment of Queensland honey had been sold through the Agent-General's office at £17, though according to their visitor, it was worth £28. The mistake made was that the honey had been given into the hands of a firm of druggists—people who do not handle honey in the usual way.

A resolution was carried unanimously that the association await receipt of the promised cable before proceeding further with the proposal to send home a shipment.

Mr. D. Jones said it was evident a good deal of their product had got into the wrong hands. Their visitor had been surprised at the quality of our honey, which people at home had doubtless thought was all of a Eucalyptus flavour and too dark in colour. The fact that this gentleman was prepared to stop his Californian purchases and take Queensland honey was sufficient. If they ob-

tained from 28/- upwards, the trade would be much more profitable than at present.

Discussion ensued re the fostering of local trade, and a deputation was selected to wait upon the Commissioner for Railways in view of securing a reduction in the rates for the carriage of honey.

On the motion of Mr. Lingard that a shipment of honey should be sent home, provided a man was sent in charge. The meeting was adjourned to April 3 st, in order to allow a proper scheme to be drawn up.

VISIBLE INTRODUCTION OF QUEEN.

Having had an Italian queen only two hours hatched unaccompanied by bees unexpectedly thrown on our hands one evening last September, after dark we determined to attempt her introduction in the open. We had available the battered remains of a stock which some time before had retired queenless from the public service, touring the country with the bee tent.

In 1903 we had made some experiments which showed that a queen introduced into a glass-covered box with one strange bee, proceeded to demand refreshment. If obtained, all was serene, but if refused the delinquent worker was immediately killed. This suggested that the battling of queens begins by a general refusal to supply food, and a consequent running amok by the strange queen.

As plenty of worker bees and only one queen were available, obviously the plan to be adopted ought to risk the bees only. The queen, who was by the time operations commenced anything but lively, was placed upon a sheet of paper on a table in a warm apartment, and made the centre of a circle three inches in diameter, made with drops of sugar syrup. Alongside was opened the queenless colony, bees caught one by one and put to feed at the drops of syrup. As each one loaded up it began rambling about. If one walked over the queen without noticing her appeals for food it was put back

in the hive About the third bee that noticed the queen fed her. This bee was again fed and introduced with the queen through a hole in the bottom, to a glass covered box, another well-fed worker bee being added. The queen at once applied to the second worker bee for food, and, upon being refused, made a threatening movement, which was answered by protrusion of the tongue, and the three became a happy party. One by one well fed bees were added until there was a tea-cupful. As soon as half a dozen bees were in the box a slight supply of syrup was kept at one corner of the glass where it did not fit, so that one or two bees could reach the syrup. About midnight the little swarm was closed up. In the morning all was looking so well that a flannel cover was made for the box, it was removed a couple of miles, opened on a window ledge, and was in perfect order for a uniting operation.—*Irish Bee Keeper.*

Honey Exhibit in London.

Willow Tree,
May 8, 1905.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
New South Wales.

Hon. Sir,—I see in a copy of the "Australian Trading World," dated London, March 16, the following paragraph:

"We understand that at the forthcoming Indian and Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, London, the State of Victoria and the Colony of New Zealand will be represented. Western Australia has decided not to take up space at the Palace. With regard to the representation of New South Wales, it is understood that Mr. T. A. Coghlan, the Government Statistician and newly-appointed Acting Agent-General, is bringing out with him a collection of products of the State which will very likely be displayed at the Exhibition."

Hon. Sir, I cannot find the date of such Exhibition, but will you kindly inform me if among such collection of the products of the State is New South Wales honey? Or, if not too late, could some good samples of such be purchased by the

Government, and forwarded for such Exhibition.

Apologising for thus troubling you, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours most obediently,

E. TIPPER,

Hon. Sec. Bee Farmers' Association.

Chief Secretary's Office,

Sydney, 13th May.

Sir,—I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Secretary, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, having reference to samples of New South Wales honey being shown at the approaching Indian and Colonial Exhibition, to be held at the Crystal Palace, London, and to inform you that the matter will receive consideration.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. GIBSON,

Under Secretary.

E. Tipper, Esq.,

Hon. Secretary,

Bee Farmers' Association,

Willow Tree.

Chief Secretary's Office,

Sydney, 20th May.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 8th May, the receipt of which has already been formally acknowledged, relative to samples of New South Wales honey being shown at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, London, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to inform you that enquiries have been made as to whether an exhibit of honey was sent, but whether or not one was included cannot be ascertained. It is thought very probable, however, that one was sent to Mr. T. A. Coghlan (the Acting Agent General for N.S.W. in London) for exhibition. According to the prospectus, the Exhibition is to be held during the summer of this year (May to September).

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. GIBSON.

Under Secretary.

Willow Tree,
May 21st, 1905.

The Hon. Chief Secretary,

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for your prompt and courteous reply. I am afraid it is too late now to send a consignment to the Agent General for the Show at the Crystal Palace, but will the Department, on any such future occasion, kindly let me know, and I will do my best to gather together something worthy of the state in the honey line.

I am, dear sir,

Yours sincerely,
E. TIPPER.

Civil Servants Keeping Bees

Chief Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 5th May.

Sir,—I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Secretary, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, embodying copy of a resolution recently adopted by your Association, to the effect that they are of "opinion that it is not in the public interest that civil servants should keep bees to supply anything beyond their own household requirements," and to say that your communication has been duly brought under the notice of the Public Service Board.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. GIBSON,
Under Secretary.

E. Tipper, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
Bee Farmers' Association,
Willow Tree.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 19th May.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, the receipt of which has already been formally acknowledged, embodying copy of a resolution recently adopted by your Association with regard to the keeping of bees by Civil Servants, I am now directed by the Chief Secretary

to inform you that a communication has been received from the Public Service Board intimating "that if any public officer is using any of his public time for the purpose of beekeeping the practice should be stopped, otherwise the Board do not see any reason for interfering."

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. GIBSON,
Under Secretary.

STATISTICS.

Statistical Office,
Brisbane, Ap. 26.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 20th instant, I have the honor to enclose herewith a statement showing the export of Honey, the produce of the State, from Queensland for the 5 years, 1900 to 1904 (inclusive).

I have the honor to be sir,

Your obedient servant,
THORNHILL WELDON.
Government Statist.

E. Tipper, Esq.,
Willow Tree.

Office of Government Statist
Melbourne, 4th May.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 20th April, I beg to forward you herewith a return obtained from the Collector of Customs, relating to the export of honey from the State of Victoria for the years 1901 to 1904 inclusive.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
W. McLEAN,
Government Statist.

The Hon. Secretary,
Bee Farmers' Association,
Willow Tree.

A lot of valuable copy unavoidably left over till next issue.

Send us names of your neighbouring beekeepers who do not get the A.B.B.

VICTORIA.

RETURN showing the Exports of Honey, oversea, from the State of Victoria, during the years 1901 to 1904 (inclusive).

Countries.	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	Quan. lbs.	Value £	Quan. lbs	Value £	Quan. lbs.	Value £	Quan. lbs.	Value £
Fiji	2714	49	2328	45	1781	53	1276	29
New Guinea					480	12		
United Kingdom	1200	30	712	14	527	17	224	4
Burmah	48	1					240	5
Cape Colony	11590	254	16414	326	290	8	1466	42
Ceylon	5456	95	3006	74	732	22	875	17
Friendly Islands					54	1	74	2
Hong Kong... ..					224	6		
India	2044	39	1538	34	1535	30	1129	23
Natal	41211	785	29980	740	4881	125	2762	79
New Hebrides					24	1	36	1
Straits Settlements... ..	981	18	808	16	432	9	207	4
China			72	1	72	1		
Egypt							48	1
Guam	456	9	260	6	680	17	210	4
Japan	288	8						
Java	438	8	240	5			156	2
New Caledonia					35	1		
Philippine Islands	96	2	192	4				
Portuguese East Africa			118	2			263	2
Samoa			48	1	48	1	26	1
Timor							36	1
Transvaal					812	28		
Totals	66522	1298	55716	1268	12607	332	9028	217

Export of HONEY from New South Wales.

	1899		1900		1901		1902		1903		1904	
	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £
Victoria	23807	206	37442	317	111293	895	88028	943	27452	307	132927	1442
Queensland	1852	18			60	1	520	7	16992	147	8966	78
South Australia	1320	11			240	2			92	1	21094	194
Western Australia	168	2	2992	30	120	1			2208	23	7778	120
Tasmania	22848	196	11766	103	7355	63	2638	33	14880	155	49602	560
United Kingdom	34924	349	41250	379	66059	652	486	5	176	2	12781	132
Cape Colony & Natal			240	2	10640	132	11180	147	1602	20	3505	35
Germany... ..	3168	35			10800	90					16504	156
Other Countries... ..	3158	38	3290	33	4902	62	8024	120	5094	56	7311	60
Total	91245	855	96980	864	211469	1898	110876	1255	68496	711	260468	2777

Export of HONEY from Queensland.

	1900		1901		1902		1903		1904	
	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £	Quan. lbs.	Val. £
United Kingdom	23564	234	17653	167	224	2	648	5	15730	143
Commonwealth	107367	1067	32839	331	208504	2398	115931	1196		3509
British New Guinea	748	7	48	1	310	7	182	9		
Cape Colony	112	2			5600	40				
Natal			4110	43	1200	25				
Banda					450	2				
Germany							116	2	224	1
South Sea Islands							48	2		
Canada									223	2
Transvaal									150	1
Phillipine Islands									1800	29

JUDGING.

If the show is of any importance the judge would do well to mention that he expects to be supplied with a bucket of clean water, and a towel for cleansing purposes, and also with a tumbler, a bottle of soda water, and a dry biscuit for the refreshment of his palate. He should bring with him to the show a note-book and pencil, a pocket-knife with which to open glazed sections, colour-test glasses, a Reid's glass honey-taster, and a true $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. piece of thick glass for testing the comb-surface of sections. A knob firmly cemented to the middle of one face of this glass makes it a more convenient instrument. To be able to determine accurately the weight of a section is often desirable, and for this purpose I recommend an angler's spring balance, such as can be carried in the waistcoat pocket, and a stiff elastic band.--*Exchange.*

WANTED.

ABOUT 40 or 50 8-FRAME HIVES, could do with 10-frame. Don't require frames, and not particular to lids. Also 100-GALLON HONEY TANK, and a good 2-FRAME EXTRACTOR.

E. HUNTER,
Trunkey.

Italian Bees in Fiji.

In April last year I shipped three hives of bees to Mr. A. Ross, Labasa, via Suva, and now, twelve months since, Mr. Ross writes, stating that one hive was lost during the trip, but the other two have now increased to twenty-five [25] booming colonies, besides which he lost to his knowledge five natural swarms. The climate, he continues, suits them well, and he says the bees I sold him are a credit to me, as for gentleness to handle and as honey gatherers these particular qualities cannot be beat. Signed, A. Ross, Labasa, Fiji Islands.

P.S.—I may add that I have sent bees to New Guinea, New Hebrides, Noumea, and other islands.—W. ABRAM.

ITALIAN QUEENS.

Mr. Brickell, of New Zealand, wrote to me: Your queens are superior to any I ever had.

Mr. G. Bingham, of Tasmania, visited my place a few months ago, and lately he ordered three queens. In reference to these he writes—"I must thank you for the excellent way they were packed and forwarded, not a single bee dead." So well is he pleased with them that he now wants 30 or more for next season.

I have hundreds of letters as flattering as those above, but need I say more to prove that I am still leading in the supply of Italian queens.

W. ABRAM,

Beecroft, N.S.W.

Have received copy of "Poultry, Kennel and Apiary Guide" for May, published in Brisbane, Queensland. It has strong political opinions, with which we cordially agree.

THE SWARTHMORE QUEEN REARING SYSTEM.

To rear the best class of queens we must approach, as near as possible, to the course of nature, and arrive as close as we can to the essential features of natural swarming. So, to assure firstclass queen cells, we must have a large force of bees, a steady supply of food, and heat sufficient to generate the impulse. Therefore all the initiatory proceedings are best originated by very powerful colonies, and this is made an essential point in the new system. The outfit is simple, consisting of special frames, queen cell cups and protectors, but as they are advertised by several appliance dealers they need not be described here. The most delicate operation is the transference of the eggs or young larvæ to the specially prepared cells, and, as in this country a specially heated house may be necessary, this system of supplying the cell cups is not likely to be universally adopted by the average beekeeper. The whole process, in its initial stages, is fairly similar to former plans, but when the queens are all but due to hatch the new system has a very great advantage over the old, for, instead of three or four frames and at least a pound of bees the new mating boxes are merely something like two of our 4½ sections, with comb and some brood in them, if possible, and but a tea-cupful of bees. In this way provision may be made from the bees of a single hive for the fertilization of forty or fifty queens. After all these small hives have been prepared, drop a just hatched virgin (kept safe for the last few hours by the queen protector) into each box, or supply a just hatching cell, and set the boxes out in the open on well marked sites for the queens to mate. It is advised in handling or feeding these small lots that no smoke should be given, and it is claimed that this makes them well nigh immune from any danger of being robbed out.

To insure success these baby nuclei must be supplied with brood, fed gently if no honey is coming in, and confined

three days at the time of forming. It is an important feature of this innovation that every bee-keeper can have his virgin queens or the resultant imago from a nearly ripe queen cell from his best colony fertilised in this simple way.—*Exchange.*

SANDON, VICTORIA

I am sending you the Argus report on the manufacture of bogus bees wax and the sale of same. It may be worth printing in the A.B.B. as a warning to others, as when buyers of beeswax get taken in they will be compelled to break up every piece they buy, by so doing all the small pieces will be loss to the seller of the wax. And should he not effect a sale, what a lot of broken up bees wax he would have to offer for sale to other buyers and how its appearance would be impaired.

The honey yield in this district has been very poor, the hot wave destroyed the blossom of the yellow box and red gum. There has since been a slight flow of Eucalyptus Stuartonia, from which we got a fair quantity, and the bees in good order for Winter.—PETER SMITH.

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT.

THE BEESWAX FRAUDS

The trial of Walter Miller, alias Baker, and Alfred Harvey, alias Head, who are alleged to have sold spurious beeswax to various tradespeople in the city, was continued before Messrs. H. M. Murphy, P.M. and J. M'Kay, J.P., at the City Court on Friday. The information stated that the men had conspired with other persons unknown to obtain by false pretences, the following sums of money:—From Sydney Rowe, £12/13/; from James Grenville Montgomery £13/0/5; from Alfred Dawson, £10/16/11; from Frank Gillinder, £14/13/; and from Walter Henry Cornell, £12/2/8. Mr. Lazarus prosecuted on behalf of the police, while Miller and Harvey were respectively defended by Messrs. F. Ham and D. Clarke. Sydney Rowe, salesman, in the employ of the Ballarat Hardware Company in evidence said:—On March 13th.

Miller called at our place of business and asked if we were buying beeswax. I said "Yes if it is good," and after some preliminaries I bought about 200lbs. weight at 1/2. A receipt, signed, "E. Baker," was given to me by Miller. The material purchased proved to be resin, coated with beeswax.

To Mr. Clarke.—Harvey was not present. When I buy beeswax I expect it to be "commercially pure." It has always been so prior to this lot.

Mr. Clarke.—What do you mean by "commercially pure?"—With only such impurities as put there by the bees. Resin is not beeswax.

Would you be surprised to know that nearly all beeswax contains a little resin?—I would, indeed.

James Grenville Montgomery, manager for Kelsall and Co., said:—I remember Miller calling at my place and selling me 250lb. weight of what purported to be beeswax. I paid him £13/0/5. and he gave me a receipt signed "Shaw." I afterwards handed a sample of the so-called wax to Detective Armstrong.

Frank Gillinder, leather merchant, said:—On March 29th, Miller called on me and sold me £14/13/ worth of what purported to be wax.

Mr. Ham.—Are you a good judge of beeswax?—Well, prior to March 29th I thought so. (Laughter).

Witness (continuing) said Miller told him he got the wax from a man with 100 hives.

Further evidence of having bought spurious wax from the two accused was given by Alfred Dawson and Walter Henry Cornell. Detective Armstrong gave evidence as to the arrest of the accused and the appearance of the wax purchased.

The Bench committed the accused for trial at the June sittings of the Supreme Court. Bail was allowed in sureties amounting to £200, with a surety by the accused for a similar amount.—*Argus*.

Western Australia.

Notwithstanding the great havoc the season of 1903-4 made in the number of colonies of bees in this State, the season just closing has more than recouped most of the up-to-date apiarists. Almost anywhere in the South-West districts the bloom of the many honey-bearing forest trees have been remarkably good from a beekeeper's point of view, and the general average yield has given a good surplus of honey, equal in quality equal to any produced in the Commonwealth. There has been, however, some exception, notably in the district of Albany, where yield has been below the general average. While this district, with the abundance and great variety of flora, would seem to be an ideal spot for the bee-keeper, the climate is subject to so many changes; showery weather and chilly nights being common; that hence to succeed with bees it is almost imperative that every colony should be kept strong. This, I regret to say, proves the exception instead of the rule. A numbers of people keeping bees within a given area. The Albany district is far away ahead of any other part of this State, but, unfortunately, all people keeping bees are not bee-keepers, and in the case in point the great majority are in reality a menace to the real lover of bees. Box-hives and home-made frame hives, badly designed and badly made, prevail, and but little care or attention is paid to keep the stocks in order or conditions, with the result that chilled brood and sundry diseases are to be found, and the whole district is now in jeopardy.—*Western Australia Journal of Agriculture*.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The following is the extract mentioned by Mr. J. R. Coles in our last issue:—

An interesting discussion on honey took place at the meeting of the Council of Agriculture on Wednesday afternoon. Some light was thrown on the reason why South Australian honey often goes begging for purchasers at 2d per lb. and sometimes less, while the Eng-

lish article sells at 8d, 9d, and 10d per lb. Although there is this great difference in value there is said to be no market for Australian honey in Great Britain. The cause of this was explained yesterday, and Mr. J. W. Sandford made a suggestion, which it is hoped may lead to a great improvement in the honey market, so far as this State is concerned. In local produce circles honey is only regarded as a side-line at present, but if a satisfactory export market were discovered, doubtless the industry would develop into a most important one, and enormous shipments abroad would be made.

The debate arose out of a letter which Mr. Benjamin Judkins, of San Diego, California, wrote to the late Mr. F. Krichauff. The communication reached the relations of Mr. Krichauff recently, and was read to the members of the Council of Agriculture by Mr. R. Caldwell. Mr. Judkins stated that he held the land in South Australia in high estimation, but he feared the people of this State did not understand advertising like the Americans. He continued "I took 8lb. of honey from San Diego to London in 1899, and the Customs officer at Southampton told me I could bring in as much as I liked, as there was no duty on honey." Mr. Judkins further expressed the opinion that if the business were managed with tact South Australia could find a large market for her honey in London.

Mr. J. W. Sandford said he and his brother had tried to establish a market in Great Britain for South Australian honey, but without success. They had sent 10 tons of it to London, but as no market could be found for it there it was forwarded on to Glasgow. From the latter city, where there was no sale for it, it was shipped to Sweden, and afterwards to Denmark. After the honey had been kept in Continental countries for some time it was shipped back to Australia and sold in Sydney. It was best South Australian honey. Australians considered their honey very good, but apparently the people of other countries did not hold the same opinion. If a market could be found for it in Great Britain doubtless an immense business in the article would be opened up.

Mr. R. Caldwell asked if any good Australian eucalyptus honey had been sent to England. Mr. Sandford replied in the affirmative, and said that Californian and English garden honey was quite different from that of Australia, even including the best eucalyptus sorts.

Mr. Caldwell asked how South Australian honey compared with that produced in the other States.

Mr. Sandford answered that he liked it better than the produce of the other States.

Mr. A. Molineux said he had interested himself in Australian honey since 1875, and he had come to the conclusion that Australian and New Zealand descriptions did not find favor in the English market. Many parcels had been sent to England, but with unsatisfactory results. It was the flavor against which the English people raised objection. There was the strong peculiar flavor, of native shrubs, and the eucalyptus flavor, which was agreeable to Australians, but not so to Europeans.

Mr. Caldwell considered that when the blue gum was in bloom some of the nicest-flavored honey in the world was produced in South Australia.

Mr. Molineux said the Australian thought so, but the Englishman did not.

Mr. Sandford said he thought South Australians could, by removing the flavor to which Europeans objected create a demand in Europe for South Australian honey. If such could be done the possibilities of the industry would indeed be enormous. His brother was at present in London, and he intended again to test the market there with South Australian honey.

Mr. Caldwell moved—"That the attention of the Minister of Agriculture be directed to the desirableness of obtaining information from the Agent-General as to the objections raised against our honey, and the possibility of securing a market for it in London."

This was seconded by Mr. Sandford and carried.

Mr. Ager in reply to Mr. Stratton.

To the Editor of the A Bee Bulletin.

Dear Sir,—In reading Mr. George Stratton's letter which appeared in last issue of the A. B. B. I could not help but sympathise with him for being so unfortunate in the disposal of his honey, and I also admire him for giving the details, which enables others to get a better grip of the true conditions which involves the beekeepers calling in other localities, and the true condition of the industry. I also give him credit for speaking out. But still, it appears to be that he is like the man who is ever ready to blame every one else for his misfortune but himself. Mr. Stratton evidently had an inferior honey, and placed it on a glutted market. The illustration of the paddock of grass and the sheep is ridiculous, a better illustration of the situation is, our honey flow is like rainfall. What water after rain that is not soaked up by the ground runs into creeks, from them into our rivers, and thence in many cases covers a journey through hundreds of miles of drought stricken country, and is stored up in the sea. The small portion of the vast quantity of nectar, which is annually secreted in our state, which is harvested, is run

by waggon to the railway station or jetty, thence over a journey of hundreds of miles by rail or steam boat, in many cases past hundreds of would be purchasers, to be stored up in Sussex-st. In both cases what is urgently needed is the means of blocking and distribution.—Yours, etc.,

W. AGER.

Meryla.

CAPPINGS.

It is said some beekeepers in Russia have as many as 3000 hives of bees. It is also said the frame hive was invented in Russia.

Wax boiled several times in salt water is said to render it beautifully clear.

"Outside feeding has been recommended in the past by some good apiarists; and where there are no bees, either in the woods near by or at some of the neighboring farms or houses within two miles of the one who desires to feed, the plan will do. But as a rule the person undertaking feeding in such a way finds out sooner or later that he is feeding many other bees as well as his own, and it is not a really pleasant fact to know that you are feeding other bees, going to dollars of expense often in this way, from which you can not expect to reap any pecuniary benefit."—*Doolittle*.

Light honey is not always the best in flavour.

Once upon a time a wise old Chinaman advised a youth in quest of a teacher thus: "One who knows not, and knows not that he knows not—leave him alone; he is a fool; one who knows not and knows that he knows not—associate yourself with him, for he also seeks truth; one who knows and knows that he knows—find and follow him, he is wisdom." The maxims of the sage of Carthage may be applied with perfect safety to apiculture; for insufficient knowledge of facts is here as elsewhere responsible for differences of opinion; aye, for opinions altogether, for when knowledge is complete opinions vanish.

Beekeepers, show those who do not take the *A. Bee Bulletin* your copies. Let them learn the true state of the industry.

When ants are troublesome about the hives it is a good idea to mount the hives on benches and smear the legs with coal tar. The ants seek the top of the hive for a hiding place because of the warmth. They may be smoked out of the cracks of the hive.

When manipulating hives of bees the proper and safest place for the operator is at the rear or side of the hive, where he will not hinder the bees.

The past season, from a bee-keeping point of view, was a very extraordinary, and in many cases a disastrous one, where the proper attention was not given to the bees. The early part was very favourable for breeding, but just when the combs were well filled with brood and everything looked promising bad weather set in and lasted pretty continuously till mid-summer. Thousands of colonies succumbed from starvation through the want of a little food that should have been given during the bad spell. It was not until the latter half of January that the honey season commenced and it kept up a fairly good flow until the beginning of last month.—*New Zealand Farmer*.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Central California Honey Producers Association, held at Hanford recently it was decided to disincorporate the organization. The cause of this move cannot be accounted for in any other way than to say that there was a lack of confidence in the management. The condition of the business for the past year looked bad, and the stockholders did not want to take a chance at being run seriously into debt another year. At any rate the benefits received from the organization were very slim.—*Kingsburg Recorder*.

At St. Louis Convention, Mr. Stewart (Mo.) said: I spent two months and a half in one city trying to sell extracted honey to boarding houses and hotels, and there was not one out of twenty-five that I could interest in honey.

An old beekeeper, who lives within a stone's-throw of my house, told me some years ago that many parts of Lancashire, England, are now worthless as bee-districts, and my present experience is what he said was true, for farmers are growing more and more potatoes year by year on the same ground. Of course they heavily manure their land for this crop. This crop is useless for bee-forage. Even when a crop of clover hay is grown, the farmer sows mostly red clover and rye grass, which are useless as bee-forage. I have seen many clover crops cut before the plant yields any nectar at all to the bees. This is done to secure a cutting, or aftermath, from the same field. What is left then for the bees is fruit trees (apples, pears, cherries, currants), hawthorn, sycamore, brambles, lime trees, etc.—Writer in *Beekeepers' Record*.

In the European bee-papers the question of feeding sugar to bees is being discussed with some warmth. Testimony from actual experience is given on both sides. All are agreed it is better to feed bees sugar than to let them starve; and that it is better to replace unwholesome stores with sugar. It seems to be understood also, that with nothing but sugar syrup in the hive no brood can be reared, because the building of tissue requires the nitrogenous matter that is contained in honey and pollen, but absent in sugar.

REARING QUEENS. I generally choose a populous black colony, and kill the queen, so as to be sure that the cells will be well cared for. I give them from time to time a comb of selected brood, cutting holes under the larvæ or eggs to make room for the cells. When the cells are matured, I cage them, placing them in the centre of the cluster so the young queens will be fed if they emerge before being taken out. This year I discovered that it was not necessary to cut the combs throughout, the only thing needed being to rake out a strip of cells down to the midrib, right under the larvæ or eggs of proper age.

J. T., South Lillimur.—I could not quit my honey last year, I have also had a lot of trouble and sickness in my home.

C. K. Carter says in *Beekeepers Review*: Take an old horse-blanket that has been used, and filled with sweat and odor, and put it on the hive, and the bees will not be so likely to sting a horse as they were before they had become acquainted with the odor.

In a recent honey show of the Confectioners' Exhibition held in London, there was a grand exhibit of Canadian honey, including "a large parcel of fine section honey." An English firm had bought all this honey before the show opened. The honey was staged as an exhibit of the Canadian government.

We used to go to a great deal of trouble in superceding old queens, but at present we change a queen only if she is considered of no value, for lack of prolificness. The bees attend to this matter themselves before the queen gets too old.—C. F. Dadant in *American Bee Journal*.

THE HUMBLE BEE.

While it is generally admitted in New Zealand that the introduction of the humble bee has added some thousands of pounds to the wealth of the colony by fertilizing the red clover, the results are not yet so satisfactory as could be desired and a South Island farmer (Mr. J. C. N. Grigg) has suggested that the wrong species of humble bee has been imported. It is stated that the bees at present in the colony start late in the season, and only work for a short time in the day—in fact, that they appeared generally to be too much imbued with the spirit of our labour legislation. It seems that specimens were sent to Miss Ormerod some years ago, and she found among them *bombus terrestris* and *bombus subterraneus*, but she did not find any specimens of *bombus apidarius*. Darwin says that *bombus terrestris* is perfectly useless for fertilisation purposes, and Mr. Grigg urges that we should import *b. lapidarius*, and the little bronze bee, as at present, although the red clover seed produced in New Zealand is the finest in the world, the crop is too uncertain, and a good deal of seed, much inferior to our own, has still to be imported. The subject is exciting

a good deal of interest, and it is probable other kinds, including what is known as the red clover bee in the United States, will be imported.—*Exchange*.

STUNG BY BEES.

Castlemaine, Monday.—A report has been received from Harcourt giving particulars of a very painful occurrence there on Friday. Mrs. Amos Milford, aged 24, wife of an orchardist, went to a neighbour's house, where there was an apiary. Not coming home at the time she was expected, her husband went in search of her. About 200 yards from the house he found his wife lying on the ground in an unconscious state, with hundreds of bees, on her face and body. She must have been lying in the hot sun for an hour and a half, and the bees had attacked her face and hands most viciously. She was taken to her home, and medical aid was summoned. She has not yet regained consciousness, and her condition is regarded as very critical. She has since died.

DEATH FROM BEE-STING

Castlemaine, Friday.—Mrs. Amos Milford, of Harcourt, who was severely stung by bees on Friday of last week, died at midnight on Thursday.

Dr. Miller says, in *Gleanings*:—"I can imagine there would be some increase over hives with entrances at the bottom, and that are too small for hot weather. For years I have had hives four and five stories high, an entrance to each story and entrance at back of cover. I can't say whether they stored more honey, but I can say that none of them ever swarmed. But it doesn't work for comb honey."

A recently-published book is entitled "Half hours with insects." What a lively half-hour the writer might have a half hour with bees?

E. J. R., Wyee.—After fighting with fire in the beginning of the year, I found myself fighting with water yesterday. We had a rainfall of about 20 inches in 24 hours; for 6 hours I registered 10.21 in, and the result was of course an unprecedented flood.

CORRESPONDENCE.

R. L. F., Dungog.—I am always pleased to get your paper and I admire the stand that you at all times take in the interest of the bee-keepers. The past season has been a very poor one in this district, but on the whole it will do good by allowing a lot of the surplus of previous years to be got rid of. With a succession of good years and the great increase of beekeepers, encouraged as they are by vendor of beekeepers supplies, there seems to be but poor prospects ahead of the beekeeper, unless an outside market is found for honey, which seems very improbable. Wishing your paper every success.

R. H., Glen William.—The past season has not been very good for bees about here. I only took 30 tins from 60 hives. Too much dry weather and then the bush fires were the cause. But there not being much honey, might put the prices up a bit and goodness knows it wants something to liven the price up a bit. I have got some of last seasons honey on hand yet. Hoping you have had better times.

E. B., Eden.—Kindly send me a few more lables. Bees are doing very well now on Blood Wood, but is getting too cold to do much good, better news next time.

J. T. A. Mooropna, May 23rd.—What news? The least said the better, red gum bloomed first rate but that is all can be said about it. Got bees in form for gathering early but just had to pile the top boxes away again empty or nearly so. I run them all through the Extractor to clear out and the two boxes of 67 hives just filled one tank, about 700lbs. So be a millionaire with bees!

H. W. S., Walcha.—This has been a poor season for bees about here, I am not at all sorry for I have more honey left than I can dispose of this winter.

C. G. R. Harvey, West Australia, May 8th.—I have had a very good season this year, getting four tons from an average of 40 hives for the year. I moved them three miles away for the last flow (Redgum) but I lost twelve hives in moving through being smothered; I carted them early in the day and they arrived safe but I left them till evening before releasing so as to lose none (as I thought) while I was away for another load, but it was a hot day, 105 deg. (coast heat) so I lost the strongest of those moved early in the morning, and also lost those confined on their stands for moving; so after that I moved only in morning and released as soon as arrived and lost none. They had the summer entrance covered with wire cloth, but I believe it safer in hot weather to take the cover off also, and cover with wire cloth when moved in single stories (ten frames high) as I did.

I had some difficulty in disposing of my honey for the grocers filled up with honey from South Australia and Queensland before our crop was in, so that no one would buy at a reasonable figure, but it now seems to be gradually clearing. But as last year was a failure in West Australia most of us could not hold till the imported had been used, so prices have dropped considerably this season, bulk buyers only giving 2d. per lb. by the ton.

Have you ever seen small bees about the size of a native bee among the other bees of usual size? I noticed them this season in height of flow in two or three hives.

In our district there are several distinct species of such, but none of them honey storeers.

P. R., Mount Pleasant Apiary Stuart's Point, Macleay River.—I have begun to send off some honey. Am very busy. Thankful for many things.

W. B., Dulwich Hill.—I like your book very much. I only keep a few bees, say 6 or 8 hives for myself, but I like to hear all the bees news that I can.

G. C., Eden Forest, Marulan.—The A. B. B. is a first class little book, it is always ready to support the unfortunate struggling apiarist in his up hill fight, there is no bee news here. Plenty of honey and nothing for it as regards price, it is selling from 12/6 back to 7/- for 60lb. tins. There is a nice flow of stringy bark on here, just now. Would it be too late to interfere with the bees, or would it be injurious to leave it on the hives? Please enclosed find stamp, for reply and also stamps for bill, which with your system each month on wrapper, no subscriber should require.

(It will not hurt the honey keeping it in the hives, but it will do good by giving the bees warmth during the Winter.)



Mr. J. E. Taylor, President of the N.S.W.B.F.A., and Mrs. Taylor.

I think my first interest in bees was aroused about 40 years ago, when I was on a visit to a relation in Exeter, Devonshire, England. He had a glass hive

with bees in it; ever since I have always felt a great interest in them. I started keeping bees in Cowra about 28 years ago, but owing to my opening a store, I had to relinquish keeping them. After I gave up storekeeping I naturally returned to bees. I remember well my wife telling me there was a swarm on the fence. I went to get them. It was April 1st!

I used to take a blackfellow out to climb trees and chop off limbs where there were nests. Many a time I have shivered when I saw the darkie cutting his way up a tree with a tomahawk. I have tried exporting honey, but not with much success. I still live in hopes of taking about 50 tons to the old country, to fairly test the market. Some years back I had about 30 tons stored, but now I find it takes me all my time to supply the demand. I was a vice-president of N.B.K.A., and fought the ring-barking case in Bathurst and Sydney on behalf of beekeepers.

I have five apiaries, and am just as confident as ever that beekeeping, if properly encouraged by the State, should be one of the best industries in Australia as there are thousands of acres only suitable for that purpose, but unfortunately the privilege given to Crown lessees to ringbark indiscriminately ruins the industry. We hear a lot of talk about encouraging primary producers—but it is only talk—the bees are premier primary producers, and produce wealth that would be lost without the aid of beekeepers.

MY EXPERIENCES OF 1904.

Having felt for some years past that beekeeping loses much of its charm unless the bees are allowed to swarm occasionally, I decided early last year to allow seven of my colonies to swarm, and to hive the swarms on the old stands. Consequently the seven were not supered, as the others were, when ready. The result was on entering the apiary on Saturday, June 18, I found a large swarm clustered round a fencing post. There was no outward evidence of the hive it came from,

so I at once got the swarm into a hiving skep and set it down a few yards away, hiding the skep completely from view. Returning to the clustering place, I covered the few remaining bees with flour, in order to locate their late home, but this plan failing, I had to examine, and after finding the right one, I placed the swarm on its stand, leaving the old stock by the side. Seven days later the parent stock was removed to a new stand some distance away, and no cast issued.

On June 23 the next swarm—which also issued unseen—was found clustering on the branch of a thorn. Determining to do better this time when hiving the swarm I placed a handful of the bees into a basin, with a tablespoonful of flour, and covered them with perforated zinc. I then carried the swarm still further away, concealing it out of sight. This done I released the prisoners—floured like proverbial “millers.” This time I went straight to the hidden skep, and in less than a minute the floured bees began to reach the same spot in numbers! Not to be beaten, I again removed the skep further away, with the same result. I then carried it over fifty yards in another direction placing it by the side of a running stream near a miniature cascade, thinking that the noise of the water might assist me. I was not disappointed, for though the buz of the scouts was heard over my head, they failed to hear the answering notes, so in about fifteen minutes I proceeded to the apiary, and I found the flight board of one hive covered with fanning “millers,” and easily showing the swarmed hive. I had nine swarms altogether. The swarms that came off unseen were all treated similarly to the last one named above, and the same noisy spot near the running stream did the “locating” every time with success, and the old hives being removed as before, no casts issued.—*Beekeepers' Record.*

To hand, Schedule of Prizes at 13th Annual Brisbane, Q., Show, to be held Aug. 8th to 11th, inclusive.

Mr Penberthy's Apiary.—In another column will be seen the particulars of proposed sale of Mr. Penberthy's apiary. We have seen his apiaries and spent a very pleasant time there. It is thoroughly up to date. Were the industry left in the hands of such men as he would not have much doubt about our future export trade. His honey is well strained and sent to market as it ought to be. He is however, not the only one in Australia of whom such can be said, of raising and keeping the history of his queens is perfect, in fact everything about the whole apiary. Queens from him gave better records to us than any we have ever had.

24rd Annual Price List of Best Italian Queens from the First Bee Farm in Australia, recognised as Absolutely the Best Bee Farm for the supply of Queens, Hives of Bees, &c. Always winner of most prizes.

QUEENS—Untested, 5/- each.

Tested, .. one 10/- ; three, 25/- ; six, 45/-

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Extra Choice, one 25/- ; three, 60/- ; six, 105/-

Also, Swarms, Hives of Bees, Implements Foundation, &c.

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P.S.—My knowledge and experience of nearly 40 years practice enables me to breed and supply Queens Superior to Any, possessing the Most Desirable Qualities combined. Desiring to maintain that High Reputation, I again submit for your consideration the fact that I can supply to satisfaction, if you give me description of your requirements. Thanking you for past favours—I remain yours truly, W. ABRAM.

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Is the title of a booklet that I am preparing and which will soon be off the press. Price 3d, post paid, or free to any reader of the A.B.B. who will send 1s. for one year's subscription to the "Poultry Journal."

G. COLBOURNE,

Medina, N.S.W.

FOR POSITIVE SALE.

79½ ACRES of Freehold Land on the Manning River, situate mid way, and frontaged to main road between Taree and Wingham. This place is thoroughly cleared of Trees and Stumps, and is coated with Grass. Improvements consist of Dwelling, Kitchen, W.G. and Galvanized Tanks, Shop, and Concrete Honey House, with Apiary and all Appliances for Working, Outhouses. Also 6 acres of a Vineyard, 8 Fruit Trees. Reason for selling, proprietor is leaving shortly for Camboyne Settlement. Conveniences almost equal to town residence PRICE, £600, Cash.

Particulars and any further information may be had from the undersigned, to whom all communications should be addressed.

ROBERT LATIMORE,

Taree, Manning River.

ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

Several foreign countries were represented, and some of the American States had special honey exhibits.

FRANCE had a very small exhibit, consisting of a few jars of excellent Narbonne honey and a defective "Gariel" hive.

MADAGASCAR exhibited four cakes of beeswax of pronounced odor, three of which were of good colour.

REUNION showed three bottles of honey of fairly good colour, but indifferent flavour.

GERMANY did not exhibit any bee products, but Professor R. Klebs, of Konigsberg, showed a unique collection of insects in amber, some of which were mounted in a resinous mixture of the same coefficient of refraction as the amber, so that the specimens could be easily studied. Among the sixty-eight exhibits were several apidæ. One was a new species of bombus, while another represented a hitherto undescribed apis much resembling our honey-bee, but slightly larger. Although the pollen baskets appeared to be fully developed, yet the compound eyes met on the top of the head as in the drones of the present day, leaving a small triangular space on the forehead in which three single eyes were placed. The upper part of the thorax had a thorny appearance, and seemed devoid of hair. The collection included eight vespidæ, which in their general structure reminded one of South American forms.

BULGARIA showed three samples of candied honey of fairly good quality, and three cakes of wax.

ARGENTINA had three exhibits of honey, one of which, apparently from alfalfa, was of good quality. One cake of wax was also exhibited.

NICARAGUA exhibited a cake of nearly black wild beeswax and also some interesting specimens of vegetable wax, obtained from the berries of a shrub with leaves resembling those of the myrtle.

MEXICO had a good exhibit of wax from several provinces. Some large

cakes of bleached wax from Jalapa were of excellent quality, and there were good samples from Matamoras and Vera Cruz. Some of the native beeswax was of very dark color, resembling cakes of chocolate.

CUBA exhibited a few samples of indifferent honey, packed in wine and champagne bottles! Only one from Guantanamo would be considered of average quality.

PHILIPPINES.---The United States had a large collection of Philippine products, including about twenty-five specimens of wild beeswax of various degrees of purity, and a number of hand made wax candles as used in the churches. The wax was said to be derived from two kinds of bees, one a large variety, probably *Apis dorsata*, and the other a small bee of about the size of a house-fly, and striped black and yellow, more resembling a wasp than a bee. The cells of the small combs were about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter, and the native name of the bee was putyucan.

JAPAN's exhibit of honey was remarkable for careful and tasteful packing. Some jars---or rather stoppered bottles---from the Suwa apiary, Osaka, were especially neat. The hive bee is said to have been introduced about a hundred years ago from Spain; but wild bees existed previously in the Japanese forests.

CANADA had a splendid trophy of honey both run and in comb. About fifty exhibitors had contributed towards this collective exhibit, which weighed about one ton.—*Beekeepers' Record*.

Honey Guides, Bee Eaters and Honey Suckers.

(By the late T. J. Mulvany.)

Among the enemies, direct or indirect, of the honey-bee, the birds named at the head of this paper may be reckoned as playing a prominent part in tropical countries; the first two as direct or aggressive, and the third as only indirect

enemies, inasmuch as they only compete with the bees in the gathering of nectar from flowers.

The honey guide, so called from its extraordinary habit of attracting the notice of human beings with the apparent intention of inviting them to follow and leading them to bees' nests which it has already discovered in the forest, is a species of the same genus as the European cuckoo, and is peculiar to Africa. It was not known in the latter part of last century when Goldsmith compiled his "History of the Earth and Animated Nature," or else he would not have failed to tell some amusing stories about it; but in a note to a revised edition of that work, published in 1847, it is described as follows:—"In Africa there is a remarkable species called the Honey-guide Cuckoo or Indicat r. Its colour is rusty grey, and white beneath; the eyelids are naked, black; shoulders with a yellow spot; the tail is wedged, rusty; the bill is brown at the base, and surrounded with bristles, yellow at the tip; feathers of the thighs white, with longitudinal black streak; the quill feathers above, brown, beneath, grey brown; first tail feathers very narrow and rusty; the next sooty, the inner edge whitish; the rest brown at the tip of the inner web. The honey-guide cuckoo inhabits the interior parts of Africa; is six inches long; is fond of honey; and not being able to procure it from the hollows of trees, by its note it is said to point it out to the inhabitants, who leave it a part for its services, and so highly value it on that account, that it is criminal to destroy it."

Professor Sparman has given us the following remarkable account of the honey-cuckoo, which he first saw at the Cape of Good Hope:—

"The bird has nothing striking either in his size or colour. On a superficial view he appears very like the common grey sparrow, though he is somewhat larger, and has more of a yellow tinge; he has a small yellow spot on each shoulder, and the feathers of his tail are streaked with white. Properly speaking

it is merely self-interest that induces him to show men where bees' nests are situated. For honey and bees' eggs are his favourite food; and he knows, that in plundering bees' nests, a part is always lost which will then fall to his share, or that a portion will be expressly allotted to him for his services. Nevertheless, the manner in which the bird executes his design is very remarkable. The morning and evening seem to be his principal meal time; at least it is then that he chiefly endeavours to attract the attention of men with his shrill voice. They then approach the bird, who, continuing his cry, flies on where the swarm of bees is to be found. They follow him, taking care not to make him too shy, either by much noise or by too numerous an assemblage of people; but answer from time to time with a very low whistle, to give him to understand that they are following him. I have observed that when the bees' nest was still at a greater distance, the bird never halted till after a long flight, and to solicit them again to proceed; but as he came nearer to the nest, he always flew shorter distances at a time, and repeated his cry with greater earnestness and frequency. When he has at length arrived at the nest, whether it be situated in the cleft of the rock, or in a hollow tree, or under the ground, he hovers for some moments over it, then takes his station in a neighbouring tree or bush, so that he cannot be seen by the men. They are always sure they are near to a bees' nest when the bird is quite silent. When they have discovered and taken the bees' nest, under the direction of the bird, they generally reward him by leaving for him a considerable portion of the bad combs, which contain the grubs of which he seems particularly fond."

Since the above account was written, most of the expeditions which have thrown so much light upon Central Africa have taken place, and given opportunities to observe the habits of this curious bird. I have only seen it noticed in the works of Livingstone and Stanley. The former mentions having first met with it on

December 2, 855, when in Bakota country on his journey down the river Zambesi to Quilimane:—

"We remained near a small hill, called Maundo, where we were frequently invited by the honey-guide (*cuculus indicator*). Wishing to ascertain the truth of the natives' assertion that this bird is a deceiver, and sometimes leads to a wild beast, I inquired of my men the result of their experience. Only one of the 114 men could say that he had been led to an elephant instead of a hive, and I am quite convinced that that the report was a libel on the bird, and that the majority of people who commit themselves to its guidance are led to honey alone."

Speaking generally of his journey down the valley of the Zambesi, he says:—

"The honey-guides were very assiduous in their friendly offices, and enabled my men to get a large quantity of honey.

... As my men frequently left the line of march in order to catch korwes, or to follow the honey-guide, they excited the astonishment of the guides, who were constantly warning them of the danger they thereby incurred from lions. I often kept considerably ahead of the main body of my men on this account."

Livingstone, in another place describes the peculiar cry of the honey-guide, to be like "chicken, chicken, chick, churr, churr." On his second expedition (1858-64) he alludes more fully to this bird—this time also on the Zambesi River near the Victoria Falls. He says:—

"The honey-guide is an extraordinary bird. How is it that every member of its family has learned that all men, white or black, are fond of honey? The instant the little fellow gets a glimpse of a man he hastens to greet him with the hearty invitation to come as Mbia translated it, to a bees' hive and take some honey. He flies on in the proper direction, perches, on a tree and looks back to see if you are following; then on to another and another until he beguiles you to the spot. If you do not accept his first invitation, he follows you with pressing importunities, quite as

anxious to lure the stranger to a bees' hive, as other birds are to draw him away from their own nests. Except while on the march our men were sure to accept the invitation, and manifested the same by a peculiar responsive whistle, meaning as they said 'all right, go ahead, we are coming.' The bird never deceived them but always guided them to a hive of bees, though some had but little honey in store. Has this peculiar habit of the honey-guide its origin as the attachment of dogs, in friendship for man, or in love for the sweet pickings of the plunder left on the ground?"

Stanley, when upon his search for Livestone in 1872 on his way from the East Coast to Lake Tangenville, he fell in with the honey-guide in the forests through which he had to pass, and describes the bird in much the same way as Livingstone did, as follows:—

"The honey bird is very frequent in these forests of Ukonongo. Its cry is a loud, quick, chirrup. The Wakonongo understand how to avail themselves of its guidance to the sweet treasures of honey, which the wild bees have stored in the cleft of some great tree. Daily, the Wakonongo who had joined our caravan brought me immense cakes of honeycombs containing delicious white and red honey. The red honey-comb generally contains large numbers of dead bees, but our exceedingly gluttonous people thought little of these. They not only ate the honey-bees, but they also ate a good deal of the wax.

As soon as the honey-bird describes the traveller, he immediately utters a series of wild cries, hops about from twig to twig, and from branch to branch, then hops to another tree, incessantly repeating his chirruping call. The native, understanding the nature of the little bird, unhesitatingly follows him; but perhaps his steps are too slow for the impatient caller upon which he flies back, urging him with louder, more impatient cries, to hasten, and then darts swiftly forward, as if he would show how quickly he could go

to the honey-store, until at last the treasure is reached, the native has applied fire to the bees' nest, and secured the honey, while the little bird preens himself, and chirrups in triumphant notes, as if he were informing the biped, that without his aid he never would have found the honey."

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE GERMAN HONEY MARKET.

The following is a list of firms who are in the honey trade. Kindly furnished us by Mr. Carl Hartmann, of Bremen, Hamburg---

Oscar Teuscher, Bayreuth; Wilhelm Behrendt, Am Ostbahnhofe, 13, Berlin, O; Berliner Honigwerke, Friedrich Wilhelm Schulz, Proskauerstr, 20, Berlin; Gebruder Blass, Blumenstr, 80/81 Berlin O; H. Brendicke, Elbingerstr, 75 Berlin NO; Friesel & Fackler, Gneisenaustr, 27 Berlin SW; H. Guhler, Elsenstr, 3 Berlin SO; Conrad Meyer, Alte Schonhauserstr, 23 Berlin C; Gebr. Nissen, Oldenburgerstr, 22 Berlin NW; P. Quicker, Badstr,

9 Berlin N; Ferd. Roseler, Koniggratzerstr, 95 Berlin; Otto Schulz, Mohrenstr, 37 Berlin; P. Seiler, Warschauerstr, 6 Berlin; Julius Staeger, Invalidenstr, 123 Berlin NW; F. Rath Nachf, Celle; Adolf Scheunemrur, Celle; F. R. Fassmann, Oststr, 43 Chemnitz; A. Nitche & Co., Rosenstr, 100 Dresden; A. Dammann, Johannisgasse, 13 Leipzig; Alwin Franz, Funkenburgerstr, 1 Leipzig; Carl Herrmann & Co., Waldstr, 51 Leipzig; E. Jauch, Hohestr, 31 Leipzig; Louis Go. Kuntze, Mockernschestr, 13 Leipzig; Theodor Zinck Nehf., Kochstr, 138 Leipzig; Adolf Bernhardt, Querstr, 22 Mannheim; Rudolf Eckardt, Gontardstr, 6 Mannheim; Carl Gschmitzer, Gabelsbergerstr, 52 Munchen; Gottfr. Lohnwe, Claude-Lorrainstr, 15 Munchen; Riethmuller & Co., Prielmaserstr, 14 Munchen; Sybilla Schlachier, Augustenstr, 51 Munchen; F. Bohm, Potsdam; E. Fredzdorff, Lindenstr, 12 Stettin; Friedrich Leyrer, Engestr, 2 Stuttgart; Wilh. Bohling, Visselhovede; Norddeutsches Honig und Wachswerk, Visselhovede.

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Yours truly,
JAS. CONWAY.

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The above can be bought for a sum equal to $2\frac{1}{3}$ years of my nett average income for the last six years, from the bees. This season will increase my average, judging by the price my honey is selling at in Sussex Street at the present time.

Reason for selling is wishing to retire from active work. Books open for inspection. Any other information supplied

May 17th, 1905.

F. W. PEMBERTHY

ELSMORE.

PRICES OF HONEY.

Maitland Mercury.—Honey, 2d. per lb. Small tins 2s.

Melbourne Leader.—Honey. — There is a small demand from prime to choice honey at 2½d to 2¾d. Inferior, cloudy, and dark lots are practically unsaleable at lower prices. Beeswax is dull, at 1/- to 1/1½d.

Melbourne Australasian. — Honey — Business is the reverse of brisk; prime clear samples are saleable at from 2½d to 2¾d, cloudy and congealed realising from 2d to 2¼d. Beeswax. — Prime clear wax is selling freely at up to 1/2, medium to good being on offer at from 1/- upwards.

S. M. Herald.—60lb tins prime extracted 1½d to 2d, some choice lines 2½d lb. tin lots, 2½d per lb. Beeswax, dark 1/1½, prime clear 1/2 per lb.

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Buangor—Dear Sir, The selected queen I got from you is very prolific, her young queens being as much alike as peas in a pod, and are real beauties. Anyone getting your bees will want more, as they are an exceptionally fine strain.—T. G. Matthews.

Claremont, N.S.W.—The queens arrived in splendid condition, and have started to lay.—W. H. Farley.

Vasse Road, Bunbury, West Australia.—I am pleased with the last queen you sent; there was not one dead bee in the cage. Please send six untested and one tested.—John A. Ayre.

Willow Tree, N.S.W.—The two queens I got from you worked up well and quickly. Unfortunately there has been no flow yet to test their honey producing qualities or their offspring, but I have no fear for them.—E. Tipper.

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