

The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. 10, no. 2 May 27, 1901

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, May 27, 1901

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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY E. TIPPER.

Circulated in all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

VOL. 10. No. 2.

MAY 27, 1901.

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The Australian Bee Bulletin

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

— Edited and Published by E. TIPPER. —

MAITLAND, N.S.W —MAY 27, 1901.

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

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A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket only,
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The Farmers' Co-operative Company,
Ltd., Sussex street, Sydney.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

We have been very busy lately. Cold weather coming on, and one slight frost having actually occurred, went round and lessened all entrances. Our next job was to see to the interior warmth, so looked at every hive to see the oil-cloths were all right, also folded newspapers in addition on top. Many of the hives want painting. One or two tops have cracks. The latter must be puttied up. Our first care is for the tops. We paint a few spare ones, and put them on hives in place of others, using those others in the same

way. Then to the bodies, adopting the same plan. For any number of hives the cheapest way to buy paint is to get white lead and raw oil. There are, however, different recipes for same. Some beekeepers paint their hives red in winter, and give a white coat in spring. The red attracts the heat of the winter sun; the white subdues the heat of the summer sun.

We see A. F. Burbank, in *Queensland Country Life*, recommends re-queening now by the supersedure plan. That is, where queen-cells are started from inferior larvæ, replace the larvæ in the queen cells by larvæ from best queens. Queensland is a warm climate, and so allows queen-rearing at this time of year, also early in the spring. With ourselves, many of our queens have ceased laying.

We do not know if there is much advantage in planting for winter forage for the bees. We tried broad beans several years. No doubt the bees work well on it in winter, but you need to sow a large area, and every severe frost causes the flow of nectar to cease for a day or two.

As the queens cease to breed the swarm gradually lessens in size, so that what occupied two or three stories can now be confined to one. It is well, therefore, they should be put in the bottom box, seeing there is plenty of honey with them. The surplus boxes some recommend to store away, using precautions against moths. We are adopting a different plan. Leave the extra boxes on, but putting the oilcloth and paper above the lowest one. It is a good time to sort combs. See that none but worker comb is in the lower story.

It will be no difficult matter to look over those upper stories occasionally, to

see if there are any moths in them. Should there be, get an empty hive, place on ground, into which put an iron vessel or pan filled with sulphur. On top of the hive place another or more, to hold all the moth-affected combs. Set alight to the sulphur at bottom, and put cover on top of all to keep the fumes in. A sheet over all will assist in the latter operation by preventing any fumes escaping at cracks. Good Italian bees, however, will keep down moths to a minimum. In our 150 hives we have not seen half-a-dozen the past season.

THE N. S. W. Bee-Farmers' Association is now a hard fact. New members coming in every week. The subscription is 2/6. See advertisement and rules elsewhere. Will those beekeepers who take an interest in their own success and that of the industry, send in their names, number of their hives, also their honey returns (for private use only) to the Secretary, Mr. E. Tipper, Willow Tree? Also, if they can possibly attend a meeting in Sydney in the month of June or July? Will members use their influence with their neighbouring beekeepers to join?

Convenient size for extracting-house for out apiary 8x16 feet.

In warming extracted honey do not let the heat be more than 145° or 150°.

Narrow spacing has a tendency to keep out drone comb and drone rearing.

Bees never sting except in self defence or defence of their hives.

Country beekeepers enthusiastic in support of the new Bee-Farmers Association.

Skim milk sweetened may be fed in combs or feeders as a stimulant for brood-rearing.

A German, Dr. Leister, subsisted for six months on white bread and honey, exercising severely, and was well nourished.

Note what the Farmers' Co-operative Co. are doing in the matter of export of honey, see page 31.

Dr. Johann Dzierzon, the famous author of the theory that bears his name, was 90 years old on January 16th.

A cover with a hole in the middle, so the centre will cool first, is said to prevent cracks in cakes of wax.

In Germany they are using an uncapping fork, with adjustable needles, instead of a knife.

A pipette or fountain-pen filler is recommended for handling royal jelly in queen raising.

In colder parts of North America, bees are sometimes confined in cellars six months of winter weather.

Don't have too many hives in one location. 50 sheep will get fat in a paddock that 100 will starve in.

The careful beekeeper saves every scrap of old combs and scrapings, of hives and frames.

The guid wife, "Yes, but you know you can make so many more uses of jam than you can of honey."

For robbing rub a rag with kerosene on places where the robbers are trying to enter, and narrow the entrances. A wet bag or sheet over all is a good remedy, also nearly closing entrance, and put a piece of glass over it.

Cuba exported from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1899, \$19,506 worth of honey. Half went to Germany and half to France and the United States.

Doolittle says unfinished sections of the previous year may be used, and still furnish, when finished, a good grade of comb honey.

California has had failure of honey crop for three years in succession. A plentiful fall of rain now promises a big crop, but it is said, through the past bad seasons, there are not a third of the bees there were three years ago.

To clear extracted honey of bubbles. Keep the honey hot long enough for the bubbles to rise—not hot enough to injure the honey—then cool slowly.

For a good class of retail customers there is nothing better to us than a 2lb screw top glass jar costing perhaps 4d each, leaving 4d a lb for the honey.

We acknowledge receipt from the A. I. Root Co., Medino, Ohio, U.S.A., of their April Catalogue of bee goods manufactured by them. Very complete, illustrations, prices, and reading matter.

Putting frames with eggs and unsealed larvae at outside of the cluster, the bees don't want to store right in the middle of the brood nest, so put all surplus in the super.

The *Australian Beekeepers' Review* is a new journal, to be published by Mr. G. Colbourne, Jun. Mr. Colbourne used to contribute articles to the *A. Bee Bulletin*, and his writings were always good reading.

Quite a number of encouraging letters to hand, wishing success to the N.S.W. Bee-Farmers' Association. No important move will be taken by it without the majority approval of its members, whether able to attend meetings or no.

The yellow box in our district, generally comes into bloom about October, the buds kept back from coming into bloom till then by the cold weather and frosts. The present mild weather is bringing a lot into bloom now. Is it so well?

TANTALISING.—150 miles from us as the bird flies, a splendid flow of white box this past autumn. Thousands of white box trees near us; scarcely a bud the past two years; two years previous to that, bloomed in dead of winter.

We are sorry to have been informed of the death of Mr. Fathers, of Mundarloo, and deeply sympathise with his bereaved family. Since his death, Mrs. Fathers employed a person to extract from his 78 swarms, getting in two extractings a ton and a half of honey.

The Young People's Industrial Exhibition in Sydney, placed the Honey Pavilion at the R. A. Society's ground at the disposal of beekeepers free of charge. Mr. F. Ward, 180 King Street, Newtown is the Secretary appointed to receive and allot applications for space.

Four two-frame nuclei can be made in one 10-frame hive-body, by putting in three division boards. Allow the two middle nuclei to enter, one at each end of the hive, and the two outside ones at sides of hive.

Professor Cook gives the rainfall at his place in California for the past nine years:—From 1891-92, 12.54; 26.23; 11.17; 24.40; 9.58; 23.14; 11.05; 7.87; 10.65. He says, "I think Southern California has promise of an exceptionally prosperous year."

Fumigating the mails has been the cause of the loss of many queens sent from America to Australia and New Zealand. Editor Root has written to the U.S.A. Postal Department, asking if some special provision cannot be made by which bees will be exempt from fumigation while in confinement.

A writer to a contemporary says: I can produce foul brood at a few days' notice, by any of the following means:—(1) Strengthening weak colonies by adding brood. (2) Artificially dividing, slovenly done. (3) Giving a new swarm a full sheet of sealed brood. (4) Spreading brood and inserting combs, or starters in the centre. These are the main causes, and ought not to be practised.

"Dilston" writes:—Re remarks in last "Bulletin" by Mr. Beuhne reflecting on estimate of wax made by "Dilston" in "Australian Beekeeper" some months ago, the wax there was *pressed cappings*, cakes of wax not melted, not commercial wax. What the loss in melting these pressed cappings may be, and in reducing it to ordinary form, I have been unable through pressure of work to closely investigate, though I can say it is far greater than I anticipated when writing the article referred to. When my total season's wax yield is get-at-able and comparable with honey crop, I shall be able to publish a revision of my estimate of more value and reliable.

An instance of the prejudice which still exists in some parts of the old country against Australian produce was given by a representative of the dairying

industry at the conference of the Butter and Cheese Factories Managers' Association in Melbourne. He stated that a friend of his, who had recently returned from England, had informed him that when visiting a shop in Dublin he saw what purported to be Irish butter for sale. The brand of a well-known Victorian butter exporter was on the box, and, on drawing the shop-keeper's attention to the fact, the latter confessed that the placard was merely a subterfuge to attract buyers. The butter was really Australian, but a more ready sale could be found for it if the article was labelled "Irish."—*Australasian*.

An old, old story, is the warning not to extract honey before it is ripe. But there is still a new light in which the subject may be viewed, and an important one. Honey may be thick enough when extracted, and it may have a fine flavor then; and yet it may be extracted too soon. In a few months that fine aroma will be gone, and the honey will be inferior, and will injure the market. It will not get thin, nor will it sour; but, since the same honey left on longer does not lose its flavor several months after extracting, as this does, we must conclude that honey may be UNRIPE even when it has a fine flavor, and is not thin. Taste is a curious thing, you know. But the proper way to test that would be to leave some combs on the bees a month or two months after they are capped, before extracting, and compare the flavor of that honey the next March with other honey extracted in the ordinary manner. Then they would find out that their honey is not so fine as they thought it was. And also the thickness, as well as the flavor, may be affected by atmospheric conditions after the honey is capped.—*Exchange*.

AUSTRALIAN PRODUCE IN BRITISH MARKETS.—The Victorian Government have for some years had a representative in London to look especially after agricultural and other produce. About two years ago the same Government took

some rooms in Leadenhall-street on the ground floor for the purpose of exhibiting the products of the colony of Victoria. These premises are in the very heart of the city of London, and the window has for a long time been filled with various kinds of grain and other products. The rooms are stocked with models of fruit, samples of jami, wines, bottled fruits, dried fruits, &c. A few weeks ago Mr. J. Sinclair, the Victorian representative, was called home on a temporary mission, and his place was taken by Mr. Hall, who superintended the Victorian exhibit at the Earl's Court Exhibition the year before last. During the last few weeks Mr. Hall has made his Leadenhall-street window a very attractive spot, to judge by the crowds of persons one may see every day before it. He has had Victorian mutton and lamb exposed and labelled in prominent letters that it is so. This week he has added Victorian butter and Victorian apples, and when one stands in the crowd for a few minutes and listens to what is said it is very evident that the new departure is doing good. People are surprised, and are not backward in expressing it, that such excellent products are grown or made in Victoria and can be sent to this country. Mr. Hall says he has many inquiries daily from onlookers who come to inquire where they can buy the goods shown in the window.—*S. M. HERALD*.

PRICES OF HONEY.

Sydney.—Dull of sale. Candied, 1½d to 2d; clear, 2d, choice, 2½d to 2¾d per lb. for tins containing 60lb.

Messrs. Allan & Co., Sussex St., Sydney, report:—Have a steady outlet for good light box honey at 2½d. There is still a glut of river honey and little demand, but good western box honey is firm at 2½d.

Melbourne.—Clear garden commanded from 3¼d. to 3½d.; dull lots being disposed of at lower figures. Beeswax.—Sales were limited at from 1/1 to 1/2.

Adelaide.—Honey, 2d; Beeswax 1/1.

Some Very Interesting Extracts

FROM AN OLD SUBSCRIBER'S LETTER.

Mr. J. F. Meiklejohn, a beekeeper, who twelve months since left Ard Glen to end the remainder of his days in his native land of Scotland, has sent us a very interesting letter, from which we make a few extracts:—

After staying at various places for some time, we got eventually settled down in an ancient quiet place. It is at what may be termed the entrance to the Highlands, and a very pretty place it is, and becoming a great summer resort for people from the more populous cities. We are only five miles from Stirling and seven from Bannockburn, and within a very short distance of other old historic battlefields. We are only a few miles from the country made famous by Sir Walter Scott in his "Lady of the Lake." Benolédi, Corlugh Venne, and Lomond are all visible in the distance, and not far distant. We can also see a great part of what may be called the Rob Roy country. So from time immemorial this and the immediate vicinity has been rather an interesting quarter, more particularly if we consider that there has been some hard knocks given and taken during past centuries. Then we are on the "Banks of Allan Water," in which I amuse myself frequently by trying to lure the shy trout. But I have not been very successful so far in my efforts in that direction, but I hope to do more execution when we get fairly into the summer weather. We have had a deal of wet weather since we came home, enough to make us take lingering longing looks back to Australia. But, considering everything we are on the whole contented with our lot. I think if I had a lot of bees to attend to that I would feel more stirring. Well I see a few hives about, but about the most extensive apiary I have come across yet in Scotland does not exceed five or six boxes. Of course there will be more extensive ones but I have not happened to see them, and what bees I have seen all belong to the black variety. Beekeeping does not appear to be by any means a flourishing industry here, and the produce of the hive appears to be very much at a discount as far as honey is concerned. It appears to me that the taste for honey as an article of food has not been acquired by the great mass of the people. I went into a shop the other day and asked if they kept honey. They said, "Yes, but they sold very little." They showed me two or three kinds, American, Irish and Scotch. I tasted them, but was not impressed with the flavour of any of them. I bought half a pound, for which I paid 5d. (10d. per lb.) and I was less impressed with its appearance. Were I going to grease the axles of a cart I would be justified in laying it on thick if it came handy to me. And I did not take the precaution to smell it before using it. Indeed it had such a vile appearance, will I call it, that I believe there are still 7ozs. in the house yet, though it is nearly a month since we got it. I was too long used to fine Australian white or yellow box honey to take kindly to such stuff. I cannot quite understand why it is, that the Australian article has not taken on here, if what was sent to England was as good and bright as you and I raised. This eucalypti flavour we hear so much about from interested middlemen, is all *fudge*—just the old trading story. It is naught! it is naught! You know I sent some home two or three years since to my relations. I have questioned them about it. The whole of them say it was grand, and was very disappointed I had not brought a lot more home with me. It appears to me, that it has not got a fair chance on the London market, and if indifferent stuff has been sent home, so much the worse for the trade in the long run, as I say, as in other things besides, a taste must be acquired for it, and if it is not put up in an attractive manner, both in flavour and appearance, it will be slow in taking its place as a healthful article of food. Were it not for the bother and expense of

bringing it home, I would never be ashamed to have a good dish of Australian box honey at all times on my table.

So much for honey. We have stood out the rigors of the Scotch winter very well. Hard frosts and ice, I enjoyed thoroughly. But on the whole the winter was mild. I have felt the colds of Ard Glen more than I have felt them here yet.

I am sending you a photo or two: "The Battle Stones of Sheriffmuir," on which the Highlanders sharpened their swords before the fray. It is covered with modern iron grating to save it from vandalism. Also "Dumblane Cathedral," founded 1145, destroyed at the reformation, restored a few years ago, at a cost of nearly £20,000. The Allen River is in the foreground. Ruins of Bishops Palace in front of Cathedral. Also the Choir of same Cathedral. It has a fine organ costing £1800. Three marble slabs on the floor cover the graves of three sisters Drummond. The centre one, Margaret, was the alleged wife of James IV. All poisoned through jealousy of nobles.

QUESTIONS.

316.—Italian queen mated with black drone, will her drones be pure Italians?

317.—It has recently been stated that N.S.W. is 'reeking with foul brood.' Will you kindly state how this refers to your district?

PETER RIDDEL.

316.—Theory says yes, but experiment gives it thus: 1st. As to the colour of the drones, from the first appearing correctly marked an increasing percentage with the age of the queen will show. 2nd. As to the progeny of such drones more definitely increasing will eventuate. I might add that such is beneficial to bee energy, especially in a yard of all pure Italian.

317.—If you define N.S.W. as a box of mismanaged starving bees adjacent to the metro-

polis, the expression "reeking" with foul brood would be open to question. But N.S.W. in its bee country, where the bulk honey is found, the "reek" of foul brood is unknown. For mile upon mile by day is the rush of busy bee wings, swift, and honey laden, and by night the odor of the honey stored from bush and apiary. It would be difficult to show that of the total number of bee colonies in N.S.W., 1 per cent has disease of any kind. As to foul brood, it is only found where nature demands it. The wax moth will generally be found on the spot before the inspector. No bee farmer can afford to harbour it, foul brood or himself must quit. It is, however, the least of the drawbacks the beekeepers have. It is one, moreover, that legislation cannot remedy, but certainly could aggravate, and if a Bee Disease Act is twisted in under foul brood, there will be ample field for much increased trouble to the already burdened. I am personally acquainted with a large bee area here, where are many snug apiaries absolutely free from foul brood. While going back some years I have met only once with one case of foul brood, and that was in a neglected lot of a few hives in a place where bees should not be left.

PAUL VOLTZ.

316.—If we accept Dr. Dzierzon's theory as correct, the drones must be pure Italians.

317.—No, Sir! Foul brood had nothing to do with the decrease of bees in the Upper Hunter District. Bad seasons assisted by low prices are responsible for the decrease. There was a little foul brood in this district some four years ago, but of late I have seen or heard nothing about it.

W. GEE.

317.—During all my years in beekeeping, I have never seen one case of foul brood. In Campbelltown, Camden, Appin, or any of the surrounding districts, foul brood is not known. Mr. Editor, I am surprised at Mr. Gale saying that N.S.W. is "reeking" with foul brood. It is certainly untrue regarding these districts. I think it is a great slur on the beekeepers. I am glad that you took the action you did, in preventing the foul brood act becoming law, for I believe it is the voice of every bee-keeper. Mr. Gale said there is not half the quantity of bees at the present time, as there were three years back. If he knew much about the country, he would find out that it was the drought that destroyed the bees. We have had three good years in this district, and the bees have increased four fold. I had thirty hives and lost them all but four hives in one year owing to the drought. There are about twenty beekeepers in the surrounding districts, who have from ten to one hundred and fifty hives. There is not one in favour of the foul brood act.

F. W. PENBERTHY.

316.—An Italian queen mated with a black drone will produce Italian drones.

317.—There has been no foul brood in this district. I believe a great number of the so called foul brood cases are black brood. It is a recognised fact now in America that foul brood has always a strong smell like bad glue, and the rotten matter is rosey. I know black brood has been in N.S.W., and in its worst form it is like an epidemic, and you can do very little for it until it has nearly spent itself. You cannot infect a colony with it, if the conditions are not favourable for the disease.

QUESTIONS NEXT MONTH.

1.—What kind of honey does melilot or sweet clover give?

2.—Which is best. Swarms hived on starters or on full sheets?

J. HEYWOOD.

3. Are half (Hoffmann self-spacing frames) an improvement on the large frames?

4. Do you advise the use of end spaces (staples), also tin rabbits?

5. Has any new uncapping device been introduced and price?

EXPORTATION.

We have received the following from the Farmers' Co-Operative Co., Ltd. :—

Sydney, 8th May 1901.

Mr. E. Tipper, West Maitland.

Dear Sir,—Honey :—We expect to have another lot for export to London in about two weeks time, and if you care to avail yourself of this opportunity we shall be glad if you will advise us. An immediate advance will be made, and the balance either way can be adjusted on receipt of final returns when we will hand over London Account Sales.

Yours Faithfully,

For the FARMERS' Co-op. Co., LTD.
C. C.

Early in the history of extracted honey adulterated honey was sold in 60lb tins in California, the result a prejudice against them, and now many bee-farmers there prefer barrels instead, so says a writer in the *Progressive Beekeeper*.

NOTICE.

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

E. TIPPER.

N. S. W. BEE-FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

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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.

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 distr. ct 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.

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SPRING MANAGEMENT.

I find that all the time spent in trying to build up very light colonies in the spring is thrown away. If they make a live of it they can be handled to advantage later in the season.

At the beginning of fruit bloom I examine all of my colonies. From all that need more room, those that have brood in six or seven frames, and as many spaces well filled with bees, I take one frame of brood from the brood-nest, selecting the one containing the oldest brood. I shake the bees off in front of the hive, and put a frame containing all worker combs in the middle of the brood-nest in place of the frame of brood I have taken out. I now put on my queen-excluding honey-boards, and leave them on till the close of the season. The reason I take this frame of brood from the brood-nest is that I find the queens will lay much faster in the middle of the brood-nest than they will in the outside combs. This being the case, right in the middle of the brood-nest is where we want our queens to do their work. We are after all the young bees we can get. Now I will tell you why an eight-frame hive is far the best in building up colonies early in the spring. It is far better to have the brood in six or seven frames in the eight-frame hive than to have the same amount in four frames in a large hive. The frame of brood that I remove, is put in an extracting super directly over the brood-nest, and the super filled on each side with empty combs. The bees go right to work in this upper story. If the weather is warm, and a little honey is coming in, I can, in four or five days, take from this same colony another frame of brood. If it is a strong colony I take two. They are put in the extracting super beside the first comb of brood.—I take out one or two combs, as I need, that were beside the first frame of brood put in the super, and as the bees have cleaned these combs and put a little new honey in them, they are just right to put in the brood-nest in place of the brood

removed. The queen will occupy such combs right away. We must be a little careful not to take too much brood early in the season from the brood-nest, or we may discourage the queen. While our object is to stimulate the queen to lay to her fullest capacity, I sometimes think our best beekeepers do not know just what a queen is able to do, provided the conditions of her colony are just right—and we keep them so for 30 days.

In a short time I take more brood from the brood-nest. This time I put it in another super and set it under the first, or over the brood-nest. At this time I destroy the queen cells that have been started in the first upper story. The bees will not swarm if a dozen queens hatch in the upper stories, but when I extract I shake the bees from these upper stories in front of the hive, and, if there is a young queen with them she will crawl in the hive and destroy the old queen, and I lose the use of a laying queen for eight or ten days just at the time I need her most.

We must recollect that there is a certain time during the life of a colony, each season, when we can build it up faster than at any other time during that season. I expect to find not less than 13, and in some of my best colonies as many as 25, frames containing brood and honey—there is more or less brood in all of them. I think my colonies are 40 per cent. better than they would have been if I had given the queen the two lower stories and let them build up without any of my assistance.

Two years ago I set apart five colonies that were better than the average of the yard, and I gave the queen of each the two lower stories, and let them build up just as suited their notion; adding upper stories and extracting as they needed. With the remainder of the yard (77 colonies) I used my method of management. At the end of the season I had 1800 lbs. of honey, extra, to my credit from the 77 colonies. This is about 23 lbs. per colony; and I sold this honey at 6½ cts. on

board the cars. I tried this experiment in an out-yard, three miles from home. It took one-half day to go to this yard, put brood in upper stories, destroy the queen cells, and return home. I did this eight times, requiring four days of time, and I had this 1800 lbs. of honey to pay me for my four days' labor. The showing in favor of the 77 colonies would have been much better if there had not been a number that did not amount to much on the raspberry. This is not all; my bees *never think of swarming*. I am complete master of the situation, under any and all conditions. This alone is worth the four days' time—S. D. CHAPMAN, in *Beekeepers Review*.

ANOTHER OPINION.

London Notes BY THE DRONE IN
Australasia.

The matter of marketing honey is referred to by "Ligurian" in your issue dated 29th December, and the main cause of low prices quoted as "over-production." With all deference to "Ligurian," and I have gained much pleasure from reading his articles, I cannot subscribe to this doctrine of "over-production." No nation can produce too much of a good thing, but when a nation discovers that it has produced more than it can distribute except at a loss to the producers, it should look to its sources of distribution rather than attempt to curtail its output. I remember the time, before butter factories were in existence, when Victoria glutted her markets with butter. By looking to her sources of distribution Victoria is now able to export at a profit, though at a lower price than formerly glutted her markets, more butter than she then ever produced. If the idea of forming a ring to reduce the output had been put into operation in those days, it might have resulted in Victoria being content to supply merely her own limited market, whereas by improving means of transit, and looking to her methods of distribution, to-day she stands forward as one of the world's butter-

producers. If there is sufficient energy in Victorian beekeepers to attack the London market, I believe that market can be secured. When in Australia I was told that Australian honey had a peculiar flavour, and English people would not eat it, and so constantly was this gentle lie circulated that I believed it, as also did the majority of beekeepers. The fact of the matter is that there is no general consumption of honey in England. A very few people buy what they call "English honey" in sections, at 1/- per lb. or section, but the majority of the English housewives are far too "thrifty" (I don't like to say mean) to spend so much money on so distinct a luxury. The problem for beekeepers to solve is, "Can we produce such huge quantities of honey at such a low cost that we can undersell cheap jams?" Never mind the colour of the honey; flavour does not particularly matter either; "quantity" of good clear type should be aimed at, each type being kept separate, and labelled with distinctive brands. If the Australian beekeeper can produce this honey in thousands of tons, at a price that shall commend it to the consumer, then there are millions of throats that it will lubricate in this little spot called England alone.

The difficulty of supply being got over—and it can be overcome without doubt—there yet remains the difficulty of distribution. English retail merchants do not pretend to be philanthropists. If it pays them they will help in the great distribution—if it doesn't, they will as ruthlessly trample you down as a horse tramples a worm. Competition is the spur that goads the English on, a competition so severe, that the whole nation ignores its instincts of humanity to struggle for a crust of bread. Give this struggling mass something cheaper and better than what it is used to, and it will

Honey Labels a specialty at "Bee Bulletin" office. Send for samples and price list.

Push to obtain it, but do not expect it to go and look for it. You must place the bait under the nose of the animal in such a manner that it shall not be necessary for it to do more than hurriedly snap at it, and when it finds it good, it will return for more.

The difficulty to be overcome is the grading of the honey in Australian centres, and the second handling in London. The beekeepers' associations ought to be able to engineer the former; but a special man, with brains and energy, will be needed at this end; backed up by the united beekeepers of Australia, and supported, to commence with, by Government patronage and financial aid. With a central depot in Melbourne, and another in Sydney, packing honey of varying types, each into its distinctive barrel, marked by the associations' mark, and branded by the Government as pure—this is the first step in the distribution programme. Next comes the journey by the cheapest boats; the concentration in the London depot, then the bottling and labelling. Lastly, the distribution to the consumer, forcing him to buy, the advertising, and sample. It all means labour and waste in energy, but it means also the establishment of an industry in Australia that shall employ thousands of men settled in honey-producing districts, earning a healthy living—benefitting the nation of Australia and this country of England.

[Will some of our readers have a say on this]

A STORY WITH A MORAL.

A man was too stingy to pay for a newspaper, and as he could not get along without it, he sent his little boy to borrow the copy taken by his neighbour. In his haste the boy ran over a \$4 stand of bees, and in ten minutes looked like a warty summer squash. His cries reached his father, who ran to his assistance, and, failing to notice a barbed-wire fence, ran into it, breaking it down, cutting a handful of flesh from his anatomy and ruining

a \$4 pair of pants. The old cow took advantage of the gap in the fence, and got into the cornfield and killed herself eating green corn. Hearing the racket, the wife ran, upset a four-gallon churn full of rich cream into a basket of kittens, drowning the whole flock. In the hurry she dropped a \$7 set of false teeth. The baby, being left alone, crawled through the spilled cream and into the parlor, ruining a brand-new \$20 carpet. During the excitement the oldest daughter ran away with the hired man; the dog broke up eleven setting hens, and the calves got-out and chewed the tails off four fine shirts.—*Kansas Item.*

BOTTLING.

The process of bottling. Have your honey liquefied, if candied, holding the same at 150 deg. for two or three hours. By using a gasoline stove you can regulate to a degree, almost. Be sure not to over heat it. It will stand 170 to 180 for a short time, but I prefer not to risk losing the aroma and injuring the delicate flavour. If you are compelled to buy honey, always buy in 60lb. tin cans, as they are more convenient to handle. While you are liquefying your honey, wash your bottles, using clear soft water with sal-soda and shot to remove dirt and particles of glass if new. Then rinse in clear water, and place bottom upwards in racks to drain. This will make flint jars clear and sparkling. I use my extractor (with cross-arm and basket removed), raised to a convenient height. I prefer to bottle honey hot, as it runs quicker, retains its aroma, and will stay liquid longer than if bottled cold. Place the pan under the honey-gate to catch any drippings. You will soon learn how to cut off the flow just right the first time. Pass the jar to an assistant at the right, who presses the cork (cost 75 cts. per gross) in the mouth, then dips the jar into melted wax and paraffine, half of each. A second assistant puts on the tinfoil (costs 75 cents per

gross) in place; winds a capping strap around the jar with the right hand; then holds the jar with the left hand, running the head up and down on the strap until the cap is nicely smoothed down. A paste-board, about 12 x 20, covered with dextrine (costs 10 cents per lb.) is covered with labels in front of the operator. She lays the jar down flat, deftly catches the label by the corner, removes it from the board, attaches it to the centre of the jar, smoothing it out with a soft cloth; then she places the jar in the case at the right, holding a dozen each. After a little practice, three persons can easily fill, cork, wax, tinfoil, label, and pack 800 lbs. a day, and not spill a drop of honey by this method. The corks used for honey jars are seconds, and ought to be covered with wax to effect an air-tight sealing while the honey is hot.--*Exchange.*

The Honey Bee the Most Powerful.

I notice by the papers that Mr. Felix Plateau once conducted some experiments of a most positive character. He caused little carriages filled with heavy weights, to be drawn by beetles, thus transformed into miniature horses. Insects with good flying powers he changed into imitation birds of prey, by loading them, and he established the fact that the muscular power is in ratio contrary to size, the smallest insect being capable of putting forth the greatest effort. He established the fact that a beetle is infinitely stronger than a horse, that is, is fully twenty-one times stronger, and that a bee is thirty times more powerful. The horse can only exert a force equal to the sixty-seventh of its weight, and a beetle draws easily a load equal to fourteen times its weight; while a bee, fastened to a little carriage, can easily put in movement a weight twenty times that of itself. In other words, a beetle can draw or pull fourteen of its companions, and a bee twenty. Good for the bee, says Doolittle. —G. M. DOOLITTLE, in the *Progressive Beekeeper*.

TREES FOR SHELTER & TIMBER.

Many years ago the Emperor Napoleon III. appointed a commission to inquire into the system of agriculture in practice in England. One thing in this report struck me, and that was the surprise expressed at the quantity of growing timber the members of the commission found in the cultivated areas. I noted the same thing when I first gazed on an English landscape. Naturally, I expected to see the cultivated lands entirely bare of trees, as was then, and is now, the case in Australia. I fancy the trees that were so numerous in English hedgerows and field corners have greatly decreased since the time the report referred to was written, as there is a general feeling in England at present that the quantity of growing timber in the country is much below what it is in other equally populated lands. That a small country like Britain cannot grow sufficient timber for its own requirements one can easily understand, but the disafforesting of large areas in sparsely-populated countries, which has been going on for some years, points to a world-wide dearth of timber. In no country have the native forests been more wastefully swept away than in the Commonwealth of Australia, and this waste has been more prominent in Victoria than many other states. Over large areas the native forests were not of much value, and their removal converted the country into valuable arable and pastoral land. It is in the ranges, and in country unfit for cultivation, and not of much use for pasture, that the waste and neglect is most apparent. Many of these forests contained excellent timber trees which were rapidly used up, and the country left to lapse into worthless scrub. Ringbarking has been permitted on Crown lands that could not benefit by the process from a grazier's point of view, and nature's efforts to re-afforest the land have been hindered by the cutting down of young trees. Many years ago I advocated the establishment of Arbor Day in Victoria, but, though the plan has been adopted in other states, the Victorian

Government have carefully ignored it. Throughout Victoria the ranges are everywhere rapidly assuming the appearance of "bald hills," owing to the way in which the trees are being destroyed. In some parts of the state the landowners are making efforts to plant trees for shelter and for future requirements. The proprietors in the centre of the Western District set a praiseworthy example in tree-planting, and though the benefits resulting therefrom have been demonstrated time and again, the example has not been generally followed in other parts of the state. Shelter is quite as much required on the level country north of the Dividing Range as it is on the western plains.—*Australasian*.

CAPPINGS.

From American and other Bee Journals.

In moving bees they should have abundance of ventilation, and the removing should be done at night, when possible. Cold water sprinkled on the bees helps to bring them through in perfect condition.

It seems to me that I have known more failures in beekeeping to come from rapid increase than from any other cause; and I don't know, but more than from all other causes put together. It does not pay to go into bees, and when there comes a poor year, sell out, or let them die, and go crazy over something else. Many sections of our country are undoubtedly unfit for profitable beekeeping, as much so as are parts unfit for wheat growing, or the raising of fruit, and there is nothing to be gained by trying to make ourselves believe we can succeed with bees everywhere. Such sections can be easily determined by the flora, and the experience of those who have kept bees for some years in such localities.—J. H. Crane, in "Beekeepers' Review."

In Canada there are several kinds of bumble-bees, some very small and others

all the way to very large. They are variously and beautifully marked with pleasing colours. The smallest of all are the rarest, but their nests are the richest in honey. The medium sizes winter generally in the woods under old logs, where there is a large accumulation of old leaves. The smallest and largest may winter in the same fashion, but I don't know about that. I have often wondered if it could be that they migrate to the South like the birds, and spend a season there, and return North the following spring. Only the queens live through the winter. I have handled a good deal of wood, logs, rails, and timber in my day, but never found any of the smallest or the largest kinds in winter.—*American Bee Journal*.

I have caught in the fields, and at the entrances of the hives, hundreds of bees that were loaded with both pollen and honey. As a rule, they will not when carrying both have nearly as large a load of pollen as when gathering pollen alone, but will apparently have a full load of nectar; that is, they will eject, when pressed, a large drop that looks to be as much as can be obtained from one loaded with nectar alone. But sometimes the conditions will be reversed, and those carrying both will have a good load of pollen and but a small one of nectar.—Writer in *American Bee Journal*.

The *London Daily Mail* gives the following from a Mr. Shackleton:—"To Messrs. Donald Currie & Co.'s steamer Tintagel Castle, must be granted the palm for the greatest number of refugees carried away from South Africa. Mysterious was their arrival, no less secret their departure. Leaving Cape Town on May 8, we noticed large numbers of bees flying around the ship, and one Sunday when in latitude 13 deg. South, 1 deg. west, from forward arose a swarm which, settling on a ventilator, completely covered it. Never before, I think, has there been so curious a place for swarming bees as a varnished ventilator on a ship in mid-ocean. We constructed a nondes-

cript hive, and there content they remained for the next seven days. On the 20th we drew near to Cape Verde, passing about nine miles off, and going that morning to see our little colony found it had flown.

I will tell your readers how I make honey-vinegar of about twice the strength of ordinary vinegar. Get a good vinegar barrel or any good oak barrel, knock out the head and use domestic for cover. Cord the cover on tight with fish cord, so that nothing can get in but air. Put in about 2½ lbs. of honey to the gallon of water. Don't ever mix any yeast or anything else with it. Just keep it in the hottest room you have till it gets clear and so strong that no one can drink one tablespoonful at once. Don't do as I did the first I tried to make. I concluded it was spoiled and poured it out. When it gets bitter and tastes like all the mean things you ever did taste, then it is making vinegar. Just let it alone till it gets clear, not like water, but like brandy. The main things are a large vessel, plenty of air in the vessel, not in the house, and the hottest house you can make. Black sheet iron is just the thing to cover the house with.—L. L. Skaggs in *Southland Queen*.

At the Ontario Beekeepers Association —Mr. Perry read a short paper on "Home-raised Queens versus Imported." He holds that we must grow our own queens in order that they may be acclimated and adapted to one's locality and management. By continuously producing comb honey the bees, he thinks, will develop into a comb honey strain. If you practice cellar wintering they become a strain that will winter well in the cellar etc. He believes that most of the money we have paid out for queens has been worse than thrown away. Mr. Olmstead could not see that it could have any influence upon the progeny of the queen what sort of work the worker bees were kept doing, as they had nothing whatever to do with reproduction. The discussion swayed back and forth and at times got

into rather deep water. Mr. Hutchinson thought it advisable to introduce new blood from time to time if that blood was superior, and that the honey producer should test the purchased queen in his own yards. Mr. David Coggs shall reported that the introduction of a few purchased queens had made a whole yard a very vicious lot with them.—*American Beekeeper*.

A fixed strain of bees is very desirable for the sake of continuing good qualities without change. But the "fixed strain" idea may be worked too hard when it comes to the matter of improvement. With a strain so fixed that there is no possibility of variation, there is *no possibility of improvement*. Continuation of good traits comes from fixedness. Improvement of traits comes not from fixedness, but from variation. The trouble with a cross is that its characteristics are not fixed, but that does not argue against the *possibility* of greater improvement in the cross, and then it is the province of careful breeding to make that improvement fixed. I am an advocate of pure stock; but if I had the purest and best Italians on earth, and a cross that would beat them in storing by 50 per cent, I'd drop the purity and try to fix that 50 per cent.—[Yes, but I believe you will find that crosses would have a very strong tendency to sport back to the original stock, either one of which would be poorer than the mixture.—*Editor Gleanings*.

W. McEvoy in reply to a question in the "Beekeepers' Review," about foul brood combs, says:—All clean, dry combs that *never had any brood in* are perfectly safe to use, and cannot disease any colony of bees; but if you should have any combs on hand that have ever had foul brood matter dried down in them, you cannot make such combs safe by disinfecting them. So, be very careful what class of combs you do use; and don't place any dependence whatever in any drug method for treating foul-broody combs; because that disease has never been cured or even checked by the aid of any drug.

Where any beekeeper has a quantity of nice white combs, that *never had any brood in them*, he has something very valuable if properly cared for; and to destroy such fine combs because they have been used on foul broody colonies would be a very serious mistake. Every one of these very choice combs can be saved if the beekeeper will extract the honey out of them, and then give them back to the same colonies they came from, and leave them there until the bees *lick them clean and dry*. After these nice white combs have been cleaned out perfectly by the bees, they can be used in any apiary.

If I should buy an apiary from some farmer who had attended to them as farmers usually do, allowing each colony to swarm two or three times each season, I could not expect the same results for several years; so you see, it is a matter of education, to a certain extent. I can give you also the opinions of a Wisconsin beekeeper of far greater experience than myself. I had a talk with him this present summer on the same question. He thinks as I do, that bees can be made to lose their desire and tendency to swarm, by proper management. He related how at one time he purchased a good-sized apiary from a farmer, and worked them the same as he did his other yards, but was surprised to find these bees casting swarms right along, while there was none in the other apiaries. In apiaries of bees that he has owned and operated for a number of years he has so little swarming that it is not necessary to keep any one in on the watch,—*Gleanings*.

For rendering old combs I use a tank 15 inches deep and 19 inches square on top. I have it these dimensions so it is suitable for holding four square 5 gallon cans of honey for liquefying. This I place on a brick furnace with pipe sufficient to give a good draft, and fill two-thirds full of water. When boiling I put in old comb until the tank is full. I then have a screen made out of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch lumber, 5 inches wide, and the size just to fit the

inside of the can; the lumber is put together in the form of a box. On this I fasten firmly screen wire (window-screen) with a brace through the middle. When the wax is boiling vigorously I place in this frame, with the screen up. The 5 inch frame prevents the slungum from coming up, and the wax will come through the screen. When the frame is prest down I dip off this, and by agitating the frame it churns the refuse, the wax is liberated and comes on top. I then take out the frame and screen and stir vigorously, then put in the screen and repeat the dipping off. I then weigh down the screen with heavy weights, and leave over night. The heat of the brick and the coals under the furnace will keep the tank at the boiling point for a good many hours, and in the morning wax can be taken off in a cake. This leaves the slungum quite free of wax.—“Progressive Beekeeper.”

W. L. Coggshall, In *A. B. Journal*,—The best smoker of all—everybody has the best thing—is phosphate sachs, or burlap; that is the best thing we ever had. Leave them out in the weather and let them rot partially, and then get them thoroughly dry; set a couple of nails in your work bench, about four per haps. It takes two to roll the burlap, a boy and a man; take a rod out of the back end of the waggon box and roll this burlap over and over until you have a roll of burlap of the right size for your smoker; have strings cut just about size long enough to go around that burlap, and tie it every four inches; pull out the rod when the roll is large enough. Then take a common axe, cut up the rolls into pieces as long as you want them for the smoker, say four inches. Be careful not to roll too tight, for if you do you might have to untie the string so the smoke would go through. Put some salt-petre in a pan, and add water enough to have it about half an inch deep; put in some blueing to color the water nicely, dip the end of the pieces in this salt-peter water, and then put out to dry. Light with a match, and it will go like gunpowder. A

bushel of this will last an apiary all summer. It is one of the nicest things I ever used, I will not except anything. Rotten wood and hard wood are too heavy and hot. I have laid a smoker down in a waggon and driven ten miles and had a good smoke then.

In dysentery, I have succeeded in finding several forms of fungi and water bacteria, none of which were isolated or determined; neither were the experiments made with cultures capable of reproducing the disease in prosperous colonies. I have quite a number of times repeated these experiments without arriving at any satisfactory conclusions. I have found as many as a dozen forms of fungi, besides numbers of aluids, water bacteria, etc., growing in cultures made from bees of a single colony; this, at first, was somewhat strange, but further investigation showed that the pollen (bee-bread) found in these combs furnish many of the same forms which, on suitable media, grew luxuriantly. Cultures made from the excreta and body contents gave similar results. Here allow me to mention a point worthy of attention, since it has been taught and is very generally believed, that old bees do not consume pollen when in a normal state; that they may be successfully wintered without it; that they do not require it except for brood-rearing; etc. I have always found more or less pollen in the stomach of all bees, both old and young, whether suffering from disease or in a healthy condition. I have always found pollen more abundant in the bees during confinement, especially in the spring months, but I have examined them during all the months with the same results. Climate may have something to do with it, as bees here are usually not confined over a week at a time during winter months. In all bees suffering from dysentery, that have fallen under my observations, they have had an abundance of pollen, heavily charged with various forms of fungi in their excreta. These outbreaks of dysentery usually follow a period of activity

closed with a few days of confinement, on account of showers or cold weather sufficient to prevent daily flying. Frequently pollen has been gathered from flowers upon which the rain has fallen; this may have had fungi from the branches of the plant or tree conveyed to it by the rains. The warm, wet weather of spring starts to life thousands of forms of microscopical animal and vegetable organisms. Trees, plants, ponds, pools, etc., become literally alive with groves and swarms. Through the water many of these forms find their way to the hives, bringing about unsanitary conditions, which, to a greater or less extent, influence the general health of the colony, giving rise to spring dwindling, and possibly dysentery, paralysis, etc. I have seen yards badly affected with paralysis and dysentery cured in a few days by feeding artificial pollen and pure water in the hive, when the weather was too bad for bees to fly; or fed in the open air when the weather was fair. Good water, plenty of honey in the field, fresh pollen and hygienic environments, will generally put an end to paralysis, dysentery, and pickled brood,—DR. HOWARD.

It might be regarded as extravagant to say that such a man could well afford to pay \$50 or \$100 dollars for a queen of the right sort. Let us see. It is not hard to believe that in many apiaries the bees are of such character that the introduction of good stock would bring up the average annual yield of each colony to 10 or 20 pounds more than it now is. Say there is a permanent increase of 10 pounds that can be sold for 6 cents a pound. That would be 60 cents for each colony, or \$60 for the hundred colonies. Now what can a man afford to give for a queen that will make a permanent addition of \$60 to his annual income? At 6 per cent interest it would take \$1,000 to bring in \$60 annually. So if a new queen is as good to him as \$1,000 at interest, it ought to be a great bargain to get it for \$50 or \$100.—*Progressive Beekeeper*.

VICTORIAN CONVENTION.

Report of the Conference of the Victorian Apiarists' Association, held at Melbourne, on May 9th 1901.

BUSINESS MEETING.

The President, Mr. T. Bolton, as Chairman, called for the Treasurer's and Secretary's report, which read as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Amount of cash received from

Members' subscriptions .. £6 4s 6d

Expenses £4 13s 0d

Balance £1 11s 6d

£6 4s 6d

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The work accomplished during the past twelve months has been of a most satisfactory character, not so much in aggressive work, as in the work of securing the support of beekeepers to this Association.

I am sure you will be satisfied in knowing that since our last meeting when 11 beekeepers formed the nucleus of this Association, by walking out of that very unsatisfactory meeting, termed a "Conference," twelve months ago, we have increased to 47 paid up members, and letters have been simply pouring in during the last few days, expressive of sympathy with our aims and objects.

By the formation of the Victorian Apiarists' Association, the bee booming of a few enthusiasts has been most effectually checked.

With reference to Beekeepers' Licenses on Crown Lands, we have been successful in securing a recognition of our industry by the Lands Department. The wording is as follows: "The Minister may grant to any applicant a license for the purpose of a bee farm, not exceeding one acre in extent, upon any Crown Lands, or upon

any lands held under a pastoral lease or a grazing area, lease or annual grazing license."

Having gained this first practical recognition by the Lands Department of our industry, let us make it the thin edge of the wedge, in a persevering demand until we shall secure that British justice which shall say "woodman spare that tree," that justice which shall preserve us places where we may gather in the harvest that nature alone supplies, and beekeepers alone know how to appreciate.

An appeal has been made to the Minister of Lands at the suggestion of Mr. W. J. Phillips against his decision, which, however, failed in its purpose.

We have also drawn attention to two other actions by the Lands Department, and have lodged an appeal on behalf of the Industry, protesting, at Mr. Bolton's suggestion, against the throwing open of certain blue blocks at Glen Isla, and asking that certain mining reserves be kept intact from Selection in Gippsland at the suggestion of Mr. Garrett.

An apparently adulterated sample of honey was secured by Mr. Bolton, and handed over to the proper authorities to deal with. The sample, however, upon analysis, reached the "standard of pure honey."

In concluding I may say that the prospects of this Association depends not so much on Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, etc., as upon your efforts in your own district during the ensuing twelve months in endeavouring to promote that sympathy and support amongst beekeepers generally, which I am sure the Victorian Apiarists' Association fully deserves.

Thus I place before you, Gentlemen, the Annual Report of our first year of existence.

W. L. DAVEY.

A Resolution that both reports as read be received, was carried unanimously.

Correspondence expressive of sympathy of the writers with the Association, was read from the following beekeepers:— Messrs. O. Ludlow, E. P. Penglase, J. Yates, S. Hallam, W. S. Humphrey, C. E. Jelbart, W. S. Millington, Wilson Bros., New South Wales Bee Farmers' Association, C. Willyan, E. Garrett, D. M. Morgan, S. Lewis, C. J. Duncan and J. Bassett. Most of these were apologies from members for non-attendance, but the Conference appreciated the expressions of sympathy and goodwill expressed by all.

The Secretary said that from present indications he expected a large influx of members, and he would like to see the Association placed on a better footing; he therefore asked the Conference then assembled to adopt an additional series of Rules, for the future working of the Association. A rough draft of Rules was placed before the meeting. After much discussion and an amendment or two, the additional Rules were adopted as follows:—

1. The Rules may be altered, added to or rescinded, by the Annual Meeting upon fourteen days notice of motion being given in writing to the Secretary. (Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Smith.)

2. In the future establishment of apiaries by the members of this Association, it shall be a recognised rule that a distance of at least three miles shall be kept from any other member's apiary, unless otherwise mutually arranged. (Moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Beuhne.)

3. In any dispute between members of this Association, as to the locating of apiaries, in accordance with Clause 2, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Council, for their decision; any member disregarding the decision of the Council shall thereupon be disqualified from membership. (Moved by Mr. Jackel, seconded by Mr. Thompson.)

4. Any member, being proved guilty of engaging in adulterating the products of the apiary, or who may be convicted of any fraudulent dealings, as a bee-keeper, shall be disqualified for membership. (Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Thompson.)

5. Any person wishing to become a member, must be engaged in beekeeping and be recommended by a member of the Committee, before he or she is eligible to become a member of this Association. (Moved by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mr. Willyan.)

6. That the members fee shall be fixed at 2/6 per annum. Moved by Mr. Willyan, seconded by Mr. Bennett).

—————):o:(—————

CONFERENCE.

GREY BOX HONEY.

THE CHAIRMAN said that it was a serious and important matter to the industry if there was anything in the grey box honey to cause the loss of bees that had been reported.

The Conference should use its best endeavours to find out if there was a something in the honey, which endangered the prospect of the apiarist; he would call on Mr. R. Beuhne, to place his experiences before the Conference. He (the Chairman) had not been long enough in his district to say anything on the subject.

MR. R. BEUHNE

stated that there was no honey flow during the season preceding the winter in which his losses were so heavy, the hives being depleted of stores, when in the Autumn the grey box bloomed, and the hives rapidly filled up the brood chamber with winter stores. The season had been very dry, followed by a prolonged fall of rain and cold wintry weather, before the timber bloomed, he noticed that the bees seemed intoxicated when returning with a load of honey, otherwise the bees were in the usual state for wintering safely.

When, however, they started breeding in the spring, they did not gain in num-

bers, but seemed to get less and less in numbers, and would dwindle rapidly after two or three fine days. He removed the stores and substituted sugar syrup, with the result that some of them recovered themselves.

To further test the matter, a few frames of grey box honey was given to swarms arriving from other localities, which dwindled away exactly as the others had done. He came to the conclusion that the honey was the cause, and thought that the climatic condition prevailing that season had caused some sort of fungus growth in the blossom or tree which had made the honey unsuitable for bee food.

From information gained since, he found that 20 years ago a similar experience had fallen to the lot of the beekeeper.

MR. THOMPSON

said that his experience with grey box was the same, the bees disappearing in the same manner as the previous speaker's had done.

MR. NOLAN

had experienced great flows of honey from the grey box, but had never known his bees to suffer from wintering on the honey. He thought it was a good honey, and that grey box timber was very useful to the beekeeper.

MR. MCFARLANE

said he had never lost any bees through grey box honey. He had experienced a flow every year, until this season, and he was of the opinion that the timber was a good one for the honey producer.

MR. W. L. DAVEY

said he had experienced two seasons in the Wimmera with grey box, but had noticed no peculiarity with either the bees or honey. He thought probably other bloom being available during the winter months would probably work off the effect, if there should happen to be any peculiarity with the grey box honey.

THE CHAIRMAN

asked Mr. Beuhne if he would be afraid to place his apiary into a grey box district, or did he think the timber was a bad one for beekeepers.

MR. BEUHEE

stated in reply, that the experience he had with grey box inclined him to the view that grey box was a good timber for the beekeeper, and he did not feel afraid of its effect on the whole.

A general discussion then took place on the value of timbers. Upon the vote being taken, Yellow Box and Red Gum were given pride of place, and Grey Box was placed as third in value.

FOUL BROOD.

MR. FLETCHER

said that he was a fruit grower as well as a beekeeper, he had seen the working of the Fruit Diseases Act, and had noticed that the inspectors under that act had paid special attention to the large fruit growers, whose interests were such as to ensure them keeping down the diseases in their orchards; for their own sake, but the inspectors did not bother about the few fruit trees here and there in small gardens, etc., which were overrun with disease. As a beekeeper he thought inspectors would do more harm than good. They would examine all the large apiaries and neglect the box hives, which would probably have the disease. It was unsuitable to have inspectors coming to examine the apiary, on any day they choose; if they came on cold damp days, instead of finding foul brood, they would cause chilled brood, for which he would have to pay the inspector a salary out of our own pockets. He was therefore opposed to a Foul Brood Act.

MR. ———

expressed the opinion that it would be far better to have a scientist appointed, to inform us as to what the different diseases were, and how to effect a cure, not only in foul brood but in all diseases.

THE CHAIRMAN

doubted if a man well enough up in bacteriology, could be found in Australia to undertake the duties. It had his support as a splendid suggestion, as there might, in all probability, be some diseases in Victoria or Australia, that were not known in America, or elsewhere, and it

would therefore be a wise step to endeavour to gain such a step by the Government.

MR. BENNETT

was in accord with the idea. He noticed in "Gleanings" that the Americans had a disease which they named Black Brood, and another which was known as Foul Brood, he thought it would be a good thing to have the necessary knowledge of these diseases.

It was decided, after a general discussion, to ask the Minister of Agriculture to take the matter up.

PARALYSIS.

Continued next issue.

VICTORIAN NOTES.

R. BEUHNE.

As much of your space will be taken up with the report of our convention, I will confine myself to a few remarks on Associations.

According to "Deutsche Bienenzucht" April number, the Central Beekeepers Association of Austria has 5536 members. Its members produced in 1898, honey, 97,019 kg., wax, 6,427 kg., or in English weights, about 213,441 lbs. honey and 14,139 lbs. wax. That is about 90½ tons honey, a quantity produced annually by about a dozen of the best Victorian apiaries.

As another instance, "Rheinische Bienenzeitung" contains the annual report of the Association of the Rhein Province. The Association has 6,111 members, owning 17,741 colonies in Frame hives, and 5,711 in box hives. The income of the Association amounted to £350 and the expenditure to £429, the deficiency being covered by the surplus of previous years.

Any one interested in these figures can for themselves figure out the small average of colonies per member, and the (to us) small yield of honey per colony and per beekeeper. Yet these people must find it to their advantage to join

these Associations (there are very few beekeepers who are not members). The Associations are subsidised by the State and are fully recognised by the Governments in all matters bearing on Apiculture.

How is it that so comparatively few beekeepers join Associations in Australia? It is true that the greater distances which separate them act, to some extent, as a hindrance, but is not our calling here sufficiently more remunerative to counterbalance two-fold this disadvantage.

There is no doubt the management of Associations in years past is accountable for a great deal of distrust and indifference. Our splendid natural honey resources are being destroyed fast. Beekeepers, remember that numbers tell, and we cannot carry out the very many objects before us, nor will our voice carry sufficient weight unless every beekeeper actively support us. All you need do is to send in your name and subscription if you are not prepared to do more.

HOME MADE HIVES.

PAUL MOORFIELD.

I am sending you a description of how I make hives out of kerosene cases; it might be of some use to some of your readers. I do not know if you can make it out the way I have made it, but I hope so, and that it will be of some use to you. I am glad that you have got the Association going, and that it will be well supported by the beekeepers, and that you will still keep it to the front. Now that we have federation we will have the border thrown open, and as I live on the border, and Melbourne nearer than Sydney for me, although in N.S.W., I think we ought to try and see if we cannot get the two Associations (Victoria and N.S.W.) federated also, thus we can help one another and hold meetings alternately in Melbourne and Sydney. Wishing you success in the good work you are doing for the beekeepers of this colony.

In last month's A.B.B. I saw a description of how to make hives from kerosene

boxes. As they would not do for practical beekeepers on account of the bottom being fastened, I thought I would give you an account of how I make good and strong supers out of kerosene cases, that are strong and will work with bought hives. I have all 8-framed hives, as I commenced with that size, and do not care to have different sizes in the apiary. To make them for the standard 8-frame, I cut a piece of one of the cases for a gauge, 2in. wide x 21in. long; I then nail a small piece at the end, 2in. x 1½in. for a guide to run along the end of the boards to be cut; then in the gauge that is made I bore holes, the first one 12½in. from end, for measuring the ends of the hive, the second 20in. from end for the sides. After you have made your gauge break the cases up, being careful you do not split the wood; take all the nails out and straighten them, as they will do again; then get the ends of the kerosene cases (the thick ends) and lay them on a bench or table. In the first hole in the gauge place a lead pencil, then place it on the end of case, keeping guide on gauge close up, and run across. The pencil point you will find has left a mark. Saw them off at this mark, and continue until you have the number you require, and if you have been careful you will find you have them all the same length. After doing the ends you will then want to do the sides. Take the pencil out of the first hole and put it in the second; mark off as before, and cut. You then have the sides cut 20in. long, and the ends 12½in. The next process is to put in the handle holes into the ends. This is done by measuring off 4in. from each side, and 2in. and 3in. from the top, which leaves a hole 1in. x 5in. The way to put it in is to get a ½in. or 1in. chisel in it along the mark, and take a circular cut, not straight cut, down, you will then make a nice circular hole for the handle. If you want to make a nice job of it you then plane the wood to take off the brands, &c. Then get the ends, and cut in the rabbets for the frames to rest on, ½in. deep by ½in.

wide. If you have not any tin rabbets that you can buy very cheap of any one advertising in the A.B.B., you can make them by cutting pieces of a kerosene tin into strips 1in. x 12½in., and turning down the edge about ½in., so as to have a round top, and nailing tins down projecting about ½in. above the rabbet. You have now everything ready for nailing together. Get the sides that have been cut, and place them on the ends, driving some of the nails that came out of the cases, and between each put some 4in. light cemented nails. Keep the hive square, and you will find you have thus a good box, but the sides being only ½in. are too light. Then take the boxes, and get some gas tar, which is very cheap, put it into some old tins; make a fire outside so that if the tar catches fire it will do no harm; get it hot, and with an old brush paint the insides of the boxes, ready for the next process. Get your gauge and put in another hole 18½in. from end of guide, and with that mark off some of the sides of the kerosene case for to line the inside of the hive against the tar. When you come to the top you will want to leave two ends of the linings with two points ½in. long and ½in. deep, so as to fit into the rabbets. Nail the inside lining the opposite way to the outside, that is, through the ends. Then get a few of the 1in. nails used for frames, and nail hive and lining through the side, clinching any that come through. Along the edge rub with a bit of sandpaper, give a coat or two of white paint, and you will find you have a hive that will stand any kind of knocking about, and look as well as if you had gone to Hordern's and bought them, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you made them yourself. By tarring them inside before putting in the lining it makes them waterproof and damp-proof, and also keeps any insects from laying their eggs between. If you make a good job of it you will not see any joins, and the tar will only appear as the black streak on the top. If you want to make 10-frame hives do not cut

the ends at all, as they are just the length without. For the bottoms get some packing cases, and cut some pieces 2ft. long by 2in. wide; then cut some pieces 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and nail to the pieces across, until you make a board 2ft. by 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, then out of kerosene box sides cut some pieces 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 1in., and nail as to bottom, across end. Cut some more 19in. by 1in. and put on side. You then have the pieces to rest the hive on, and form entrance. If you can get a case that will make the top in one piece it will be better and nail down top and bottom to keep from warping. Some might say I can buy hives cheaper than go to that trouble, but when one has plenty of time it pays to make them, as every little saved helps a beekeeper nowadays. I shall be glad if anyone can tell me of any improvement that can be made in these hives.

J. A., Chiltern:—I have been trying to keep the bees going for 3 years in this place, but find that they can hardly obtain their own living, so must give them best until such time as I can remove to fresh fields and pastures new.

J. F., Rawdon Island:—My bees have done fairly well in honey, but no swarms. Very poor price for honey, no sale locally, and I suppose you know what the Sydney market is.

J. P., Inverell:—Splendid flow from white box and white stringy bark. My bees have supported me for the past eleven years without a foul brood act, and I think they will support me without one now.

C. S., Westland, N.Z., writes May 3: We have our own trouble to market our products here as well as the Australians. It would seem that the production of honey out strips the demand, and every addition to number of bee specialists aggravates the evil.

W. G., Campbelltown, May 14—There has been a great honey flow this season in Campbelltown and surrounding districts. The flow commenced in December, and has continued up to the present.

The honey flow started with the broad and narrow leaf iron bark, mahogany, black butt, and grey gum. The greatest flow of all is the blood-wood, it has been flowering two months. I have taken one hundred and fifty 60lbs tins of honey from fifty hives. Mr. Editor, you must remember our season generally finishes here at the end of April, but this year it will run through May, as the blood-wood is still flowering.

P. G., Green Hills, May 16:—Re the Foul Brood Act I do not think there is any Legislation necessary, at all events for this division of the colony, as foul brood is not known here. But the want of something for the bees to do, and scarcity of honey for several months of the honey season is the greatest drawbacks we have to contend with here.

H.M., Merimbula, April 22:—I always look forward with much pleasure to the arrival of "A. Bee Bulletin" and consider it to be the most newsy and best paper of its class which I have read.

H. N. Yangan, Q., April 29 —Hope you have had a prosperous season. No honey this year, but hoping that next will be better.



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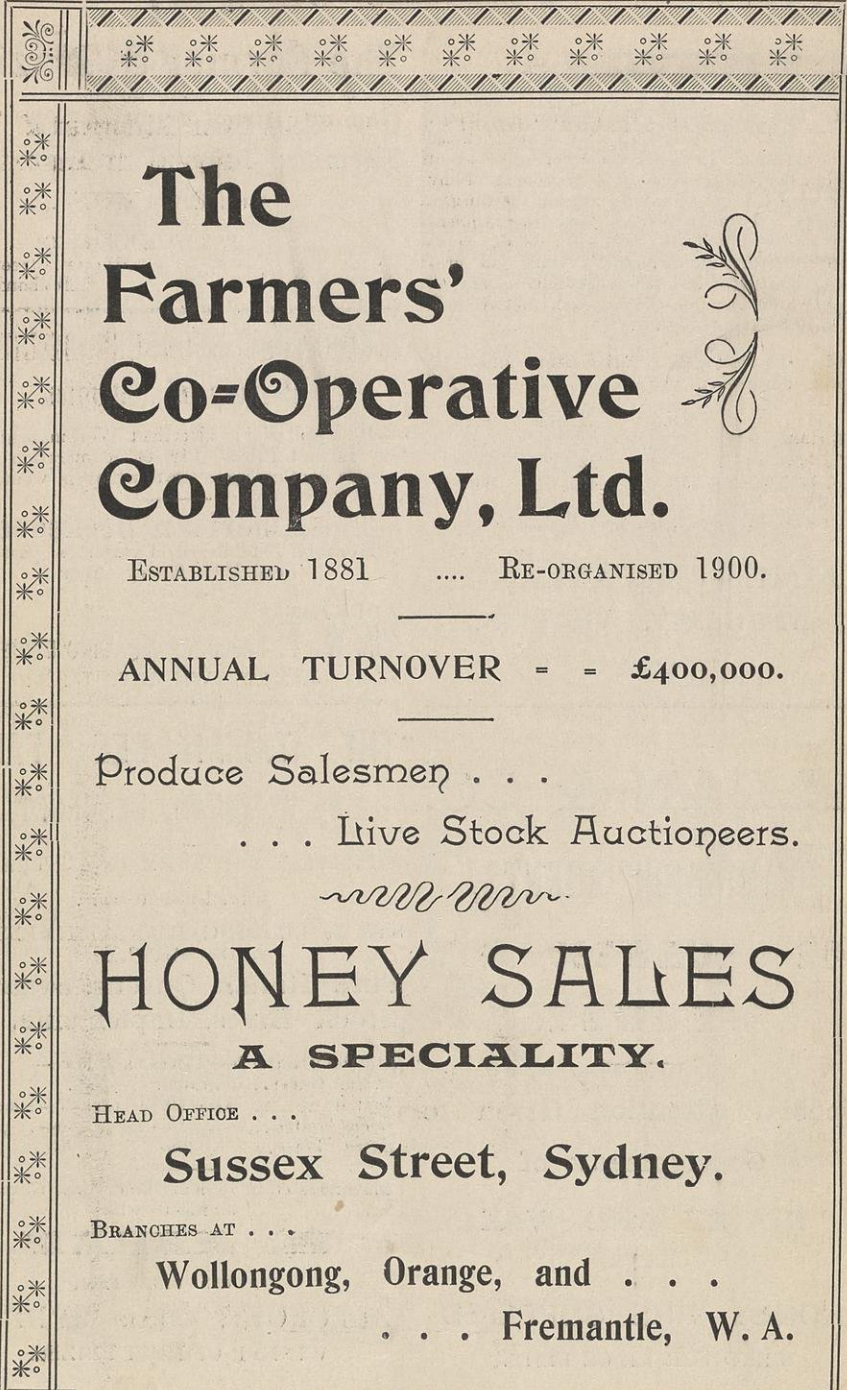
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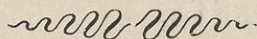
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