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"THE BESTO" BEE

VOL. 2.

DENVER, COLORADO, JANUARY, 1924

NO. 1

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

Happy, Happy New Year, good friends and members! May these snappy nights and days we've been having lately take from you none of your ambition to get a bigger honey crop next year nor let last year's partial failures discourage you from giving every colony all the care and all the feeding it needs to be in prime shape for the honey flow. * * * We can't be too watchful of the reserve stores of our little friends when the warm days come. Lucky indeed and prudent as well, is the beekeeper who set aside last fall at least one surplus full-depth frame of good white sealed honey for each colony against the time of need next spring. Too many of us didn't, and our oversight is apt to cost us dearly. * * * Before another Thebesto Bee is in our members' hands, it will be time for the annual meeting, which comes in the early part of March now. There are two matters that your manager urges upon your attention now, while members are less busy than usual. First make up your mind to be at that meeting! Your attendance will be helpful to your association, and valuable to you far beyond its cost. Second: Give a bit of thought to the subjects that you would like to hear discussed at the meeting, and who you would like to have lead in their discussion. If you will just give this matter a little thought now, and write your manager, it will aid him in preparing a real program, one that is bound to be helpful. * * * Sometimes the members of a successful co-operative association after several years of reaped benefits, take its continued success entirely as a matter of course. That it might fail to function properly and its benefits be lost in part or altogether doesn't occur to them as a possibility. Yet no organization such as ours can long succeed without the fullest co-operation of its members, because, if you will stop to think about it, its only possible income is from the commission on sales and the profits on sales of supplies. Should all the members of a cooperative marketing organization suddenly decide to buy their supplies elsewhere and market their own crop thru some other source, there would be no pos-

sible course left for the association but to close its doors. This is an extreme illustration, of course; but the principle involved amounts to just that. Every member who fails to sell largely or wholly thru his association, who fails to buy his supplies from his association, takes just that much from its success. Then if he doesn't take sufficient interest in its affairs to talk for it, boost for it, attend its meetings when possible, even at some expense, he is making it just that much harder for its manager and board of directors to keep it successful and prosperous. * * * The conscientious manager of every co-operative organization welcomes criticism of the right sort. Tell him where you think he is wrong, but at the same time, be sure to tell him how to remedy the thing that you criticise. If you can do just that you have the finest, best co-operative association in the country. Criticism that only complains, without suggesting a way out, isn't very helpful.

WHAT SHALL HE CHARGE?

Beekeepers frequently have calls for small quantities of beeswax, from dentists, shoemakers, nurserymen and others. What shall he get when sold in this manner?

Too many beekeepers sell wax in small quantities as they are inclined to sell their honey:—at wholesale rates. While the amount involved is small the principle is wrong. Go to a drugstore and ask the price of beeswax. They will ask all the way from 50c to 80c per pound. Then why should you demand only 30 or 35? As a matter of justice to yourself you should get approximately double the quotation of your C. H. P. A. This for ten pounds or less. Your customer will demand choice, clear beeswax, and you'll have to melt and strain it to get that quality. Should your local druggist wish to purchase, he should of course have a lower price,—about half way between, perhaps.

A number of apiaries are listed with the C. H. P. A. for sale. Some belong to members, others do not. A list of apiaries for sale is on file at Association headquarters and particulars may be had for the asking.

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Published when the spirit moves, for our members and for western beekeepers, by the Colorado Honey Producers Association, at 1224 Market St., Denver, Colo. Frank Rauchfuss, Manager.

WINTER FEEDING

The beekeeper who has failed to provide his bees with enough honey to carry them until the mild weather of spring, and who has also failed to set aside extra combs of sealed honey for feeding, is up against a hard proposition to keep his bees that are dangerously near starvation, from dying before he can feed syrup to advantage.

Root's A. B. C. of Bee Culture give the following recipe for making a hard candy without the use of honey, for winter or early spring feeding, to be followed closely, with the most careful precaution against scorching the candy, which would be fatal to the bees at this time of year. We do not know of any beekeeper who has tried this recipe in Colorado, but those who have colonies of bees near the starvation point during January and February may well give it a fair trial, and then report results for Thebesto Bee.

"Into a dish of hot water on the stove slowly pour an equal amount of sugar, stirring constantly. Make sure that the sugar is all dissolved before boiling commences. If this precaution is not observed, some of the undissolved sugar is likely to burn, injuring the flavor of the candy and almost surely causing trouble with the bees later. If you have a candy thermometer, watch the temperature, and do not let it go above 275 to 280 degrees. Test frequently by dropping a very little of the syrup into cold water, (about 50 to 55 degrees.) When the boiling has continued long enough the drop of candy, when cooled in the water, should be hard and brittle when taken out; but when placed in the mouth it should soften slightly, so that it is tough. When this time has arrived, pour the syrup immediately onto parafined or waxed paper on a table. Have the table perfectly level, and around the outside of the paper put wooden sticks $\frac{1}{4}$ inch high to confine the syrup and prevent it from running off. When the candy is nearly hard, crease it or cut it with a heavy knife so that it

may be broken up into right-sized squares when hard.

"The color of the candy when cold should be about that of light basswood honey. If it is darkened very much it is scorched, and unfit for the bees. To prevent the scorching, reduce the fire toward the last so that the syrup shall boil but slowly.

"When" the candy is first made it is hard and glassy, and perfectly transparent; but after it stands for a little time it becomes somewhat watery and crystalline, but this is all the better so far as the bees are concerned, for they are enabled to take it more easily.

"The thin cakes of candy, being only $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick, may be placed over the frames and under the regular cover, and in this way a colony may be saved that would otherwise be lost.

"Caution: Whoever makes the candy should clearly understand that if the mixture is scorched, even the slightest, it will be unfit food for spring or winter feeding. When the syrup is cooked nearly enough, there is great danger of burning, and it is then that the greatest care should be exercised."

NO SAVING

Beware of the cheap shipping case, made of pasteboard or of solid wood instead of the standard double-tier glass front case. Members who use anything else will find that the lower price at which they must dispose of their crop will more than offset the saving in favor of a non-standard case.

GET THE PRICE

In spite of the scarcity of honey both locally and nationally this year, we hear of beekeepers right along in Colorado who are offering honey at retail in pails as low as \$1.25 and \$1.35 for a ten-pound pail, with fives at about half as much. Their neighbors get up to \$2 a pail for the same grade of honey.

Professor Newton Boggs, state bee inspector at Colorado Agricultural college, has a leaflet on timely hints for beekeepers that has just come off the mimeograph. These can be had for the asking, by dropping Mr. Boggs a line at the college, Fort Collins, Colo.

GET READY

Spring work in the yards will be on us before we realize it. The fore-handed beekeeper is already performing his shop work, going over his supers, sorting combs, melting wax, making frames, putting up sections, nailing up hive bodies, and giving his equipment a general overhauling. All these things can be done quite as well now as later. Brood foundation is rather better for waiting until April or even the first of May before being put in the frames. But the frames can be made and wired now, then it is but a short job to fix the foundation when the weather becomes warmer. Those who use Dadant wired foundation should be governed by the direction sheet that is now sent out with each box unless they have learned a better way of their own.

With the long evenings of winter there is a fine chance to read the bee journals, and those books you bought but never had time to read thoroly after you got them. Now your brain is clear and your body rested and you can get a lot of good out of what the other fellow has learned and put into print, if you'll take time to read it.

Make up your mind to get a bigger crop next year, colony for colony, than you ever had before, if conditions are right. Much of it is up to you, good season, or poor.

QUEEN CLIPPING KNIVES

We can now supply a high quality pocket knife with small scissors in addition to the usual blades. It is the finest little tool for clipping queens that you ever handled, because the scissors are always with you. Some of our members have used these knives for several years, and like them immensely. Until now the price has been almost prohibitive. We can furnish them made from the finest steel at a reasonable price. See circular enclosed with this issue of Thebesto Bee.

REDUCED FREIGHT RATES

The Burlington Route has issued a new honey tariff sheet applying on shipments from Billings and Bighorn, Wyoming points to Sioux City, Omaha, St. Joseph, Kansas City, Denver, and some other points that makes a material reduction in freight to the points affected. Apply to your local agent for particulars.

GRAFTING WAX

The following formula for making grafting wax used in grafting fruit trees and for covering fresh wounds and to protect the surface of valuable tree trunks where large limbs have been removed, may at times be worth knowing.

Take of rosin four parts, of tallow two and one-fourth parts, of beeswax three-fourths part. Melt carefully over a slow fire and thoroly mix. Pour into cold water, and as soon as cool enough to handle, work it with the hands like taffy. This makes it easier to handle, and lighter in color. It can then be moulded into balls and will keep indefinitely.

PARCEL POST PREFERABLE

Members should look up parcels post rates before sending small quantities of wax or supplies by express. Quite often the saving by using the mail is considerable. One patron of the association sent a shipment of wax by express on which the charges were \$3.42. Parcel postage for the same shipment would have been 42c. This is an extreme case, but material savings can often be made by finding the cost in advance by both mail and express.

REGULAR FRAMES O. K.

Some of our customers seem to hold the idea that the Dadant vertical wired foundation can only be used in split-bottom frames. This isn't true at all. While split-bottom bar Hoffman frames give excellent results, it isn't necessary or advisable for beekeepers to discard their old frames if they want to use the wired foundation. Fully as good results may be had with standard frames by a little care.

W. G. LINDZA PASSES

Since the last issue of Thebesto Bee we note the death of one of our loyal members, Mr. W. G. Lindza, of Eastlake, Colorado. Mr. Lindza was a member of the C. H. P. A. from the early days of the association, and for more than 20 years gave it loyal support.

LEWIS PUTS UP PRIZES

The G. B. Lewis Company offers prizes aggregating \$275 for the best ideas for marketing honey. The contest closes May 1. This contest should bring out lots of good ideas.

NOT PROFITABLE

Shall members put up their honey in ten-pound pails for marketing in carlots? The question is asked frequently by producers who have a good grade of honey and believe that by putting it in small containers it will bring a better price.

Our experience in honey selling is that it is almost impossible to dispose of a car of pail honey for members at anywhere near the ruling price for extracted honey. One reason for the difficulty is that few producers are fitted up to can honey properly for direct shipment to jobbers to sell to the retailer. There is little market for granulated honey in small containers; the consumer demands it in liquid form. The bottler of honey has to heat and strain even the best of the honey he handles before it is ready for the retailer. The greater the experience of the average beekeeper, the firmer his conviction that bottling honey in glass, or tin in smaller quantities than 60 pounds, except in a limited way for local trade, is an undertaking for the association or other dealer that handles the article in a large way. So, unless you know positively before you begin, just where you are going to find a market for your pails, at a right price, better leave it in the sixties.

HONEY AND RADIO

Radio fans who are also beekeepers have been especially interested in a bee and honey talk that was broadcasted from State College, Washington just the other evening. Unfortunately the writer failed to catch the name of the broadcaster, but his talk was a really good one, in which he included something of bee life from a popular, non-technical viewpoint, told of the many advantages in the use of honey, and closed with a brief digest of the progress of beekeeping in the state of Washington.

It occurs to us that even a broader use of radio might be made in this direction. From many stations these evenings, domestic science teachers are broadcasting recipes for cookery. If we could get some of these cookery experts to include a few of our more simple, thoroly-tried-out recipes for use of honey in cookery, and its value in the household, we might add materially to its popularity among present non-users. The thing is practical, and can be readily accomplished.

MIDWINTER MEETING

The midwinter meeting of state beekeepers held at the Auditorium hotel in Denver Dec. 3-4, proved more than usually interesting, and was attended by honey producers from all parts of the state. Dr. E. F. Phillips of the federal bureau of apiculture was present and was the principal speaker. The meeting was held under the auspices of the extension department of Colorado Agricultural college, with Profs. Jones and Boggs in charge. A banquet given by the beekeepers on Monday evening was thoroly enjoyed.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Our March meeting can be made doubly interesting if members will write now, to the manager of the association and suggest topics for discussion at that meeting, as well as the name of the speaker to lead that discussion. This will give ample time to confer with experts on the subject mentioned, and also with the suggested leader, and in case it is impractical for the correspondent to be present at the discussion, if he will put any question in which he is interested, in writing, same can be answered and reply sent him direct.

FOR SALE NOTICES

Two frame Cowan honey extractor in good order. Price, \$17.00, delivered at Silt, Colo. Address Frank Neu-bauer, Newcastle, Colo.

Two-fifth share of C. H. P. A. stock, \$15, net. R. W. Coleman, 2505 So. Williams St., Denver.

Will sell 300 colonies bees in 1-story, part ten, part eight-frame hives. Locations go with the bees. Delivery March to June. J. Rush Stoner, 1931 Mapleton, Boulder, Colo.

Piaries at Manzanola, Colo., property of G. W. Ingalls, offered for sale, consisting of 440 colonies, 900 hives bodies drawn combs, 8-frame power extractor, 4-frame extractor, Peterson capping melter, one 120-gal. honey tank, two 60-gal. honey tanks. Sell all-or any part of above. Address the owner, at Manzanola, Colo.

Having removed our bees from the vicinity of the C. H. P. A. territory, want to sell six and two-fifths shares of C. H. P. A. stock, at \$48 per share. Address Geo. D. Mitchell, 1716 Rose St., Berkeley, Calif., or manager of C. H. P. A.