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"THEBESTO" BEE

VOL. 1.

DENVER, COLORADO, OCTOBER, 1922

NO. 6

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

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

October. * * * The little bees have finished their summer labors, and the prudent beekeeper has been generous in the share which he has left for his workers. For the queen-mother is wiser in her day and generation than the children of men. If there is little food in store next spring she will regulate the size of her family accordingly. * * * With the human hive it doesn't seem to make much difference. Oh, for the wisdom of a bee! * * * Again we say, don't give your crop away. There isn't any great surplus. Comb honey has moved better than most producers expected, though the price received has not been high enough to show a profit in most western apiaries. Extracted honey shows a better demand as the fruit season closes. Prices have been hammered down in a retail way in many localities until the pound price is not much more than carlot prices. * * * A little investment in backbone might help. * * * Prices on supplies will not be lower next year, say the supply men. On some items there will be a raise. Iron steel and tinware, for example. Already we are advised of a 12% increase on nails and metal goods. Consult your manager and see if you can save money by anticipating your wants for next season and buy now. * * * Once again,—stiffen your spinal column on retail honey prices.

Car Shortage Handicaps

The strike of car repairers has brought about a serious shortage of serviceable freight cars. It is not uncommon to have to wait a week or more before a car for loading honey can be obtained, and the chances are that the car which finally is furnished is in such poor condition that the shipper has to repair it to make it fit to carry the goods. Delays of several weeks in delivery of cars are now often caused by repairs that become necessary in transit.

MORE STORAGE ROOM

Not one beekeeper in ten has sufficient equipment for the storage of a big honey crop. Every year or so he loses more than the cost of extra hive bodies in honey that "goes down the river;" honey that the bees failed to gather while they were waiting for more room.

Experiments were conducted by Frank Rauchfuss for four successive years in his apiary near Denver, using several average colonies, alike in age and strain of queen, number of bees, and amount of brood, each hive being placed on accurate scales. Readings of scales were recorded daily, together with temperature, condition of weather, kind and amount of bloom available, etc. These experiments have proven conclusively that during an average honey flow, colonies run for extracted honey and supplied with empty combs generously, so that there would always be an abundance of storage room, would show a considerable gain over colonies that were supplied with combs in the fashion customary with beekeepers running for extracted honey. As soon as these conditions were reversed, the colonies formerly having only scant storage facilities would at once upon being abundantly supplied with empty combs, show a very marked gain in weight.

The best beekeeping authorities claim that in Colorado and the intermountain region four hive bodies to the colony is not too much, or six supers in running for comb. How many of our members have that many?

This winter is the time to get ready for your next crop. The C. H. P. A. has a stock of hive bodies, supers and frames in stock, sufficient to meet your requirements. If you buy now you get a discount for early orders. Talk it over with your manager or write him.

The New Tariff

The new tariff law now in effect places a duty of three cents per pound on honey. This should be reflected in a slightly higher quotation on Cuban and South American honey. However, it permits Porto Rican and Hawaiian honey to continue to come in duty free. Those countries are American ports.

DENSITY STANDARDS

Covered by Bureau of Chemistry in
Letter to CHPA.

Having been pioneers in adopting a set of good stiff grading rules for comb honey that have established the reputation of C. H. P. A. comb honey throughout the country, your association took another step forward this year in adopting a color standard for extracted honey, and the new Lewis honey grader is the direct outcome of that action. Other associations are accepting the Lewis grader as the most practical standard of color.

In response to requests of the manager of the C. H. P. A. the bureau of chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has taken up the matter of honey density, and we now have definite light upon that matter. The subject is thoroughly covered in the following communication from the Bureau of Chemistry, which, due to its importance, is given in full herewith. Beekeepers should save it for future reference.

Sept. 28, 1922

The Colorado Honey Producers' Assn.,
Denver,
Colorado.

Attention of Mr. Rauchfuss, Secretary.
Gentlemen:

Your letter of August 19th to Dr. E. F. Phillips of the Bureau of Entomology has been referred to this Bureau for attention. We regret that reply has been somewhat delayed owing to an unusual accumulation of correspondence.

The standard for extracted honey as adopted by this Department will be found on page 11 of Circular 136, "Standards of Purity for Food Products." The composition of extracted honey should conform to the standard as given for "Honey":

"1. Honey is the nectar and saccharine exudations of plants gathered, modified, and stored in the comb by honey bees (*Aphis mellifica* and *A. dorsata*); is laevorotatory, contains not more than twenty-five per cent (25%) of water, not more than twenty-five hundredths per cent (0.25%) of ash, and not more than eight per cent (8%) of sucrose.

"2. Comb honey is honey contained in the cells of comb.

3. Extracted honey is honey which has been separated from the uncrushed comb by centrifugal force or gravity.

4. Strained honey is honey removed from the crushed comb by straining or other means."

For the determination of moisture in extracted honey a hydrometer of suitable range may be used, i. e., a Baume or Brix spindle. Since a Brix spindle is graduated to give directly the percent of solids, it is suggested that this type of spindle would be preferable. One having a scale graduated from 70° to 80° would have a sufficient range and may be read to one-tenth of a degree. In determining the density of honey, the spindle should be allowed to come to rest in the honey contained in a cylinder of suitable size and the reading taken. If the determination is made at a temperature other than that at which the spindle is standardized, a correction must be made. Spindles are usually standardized at 17.5° C. or 20° C. One standardized at 20° C. would be preferable. As the maximum moisture content allowed in honey is 25%, the Brix spindle should read at least 75° after the correction for temperature has been made.

Inasmuch as the Brix spindle was designed primarily to indicate the percentage of sucrose in a solution and the total solids of honey is made up in part of non-sugar substances, the total solids obtained by means of a Brix spindle will not be exactly the same as that found by drying. However, for your purpose it appears that the Brix spindle would afford a sufficiently accurate method of determining the percent solids of honey. In determining the density of undiluted honey the following correction for temperature may be applied to Brix spindles standardized at 20° C. (68° F.), correction to be added to reading found at any given temperature above 20° C.

Temperature		Correction
Centigrade	Fahrenheit	Degrees
20°	68°	0.0
25°	77°	0.4
30°	86°	0.8
35°	95°	1.2

We would further explain that for work where considerable accuracy is required the direct determination of density by means of a hydrometer is not well suited to a liquid of such high density as honey. When a spindle is used for such liquids it is customary to either determine the density at a comparatively high temperature or to determine the density after dilution and then calculate the original density on the basis of extent of dilution.

The directions in the "Official and

Provisional Methods of Analysis" of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists in cases where the sample is too dense to determine the density directly are as follows:

"Dilute a weighed portion with a weighed quantity of water, or dissolve a weighed portion and dilute to a known volume with water. In the first instance the per cent of total solids is calculated by the following formula:

Per cent of solids in the undiluted material equals $\frac{WS}{W}$.

S equals per cent of solids in diluted material.

W equals weight of the diluted material.

w equals weight of the sample taken for dilution.

When the dilution is made to a definite volume, the following formula is to be used:

Per cent of solids in the undiluted material equals $\frac{VDS}{W}$.

V equals volume of the diluted solution.

D equals specific gravity of the diluted solution.

S equals per cent of solids in the diluted solution.

W equals weight of the sample taken for dilution."

If you find that the above method is too time consuming, you could use the Brix spindle directly on honey without dilution and obtain results which would be fairly accurate and which might sufficiently serve your purpose from a comparative standpoint. In this case special care should be taken to permit air bubbles to escape from the honey before determining the density.

If the density of the honey is determined by Brix spindle after dilution, the following temperature corrections may be used provided the density of the diluted honey is approximately 30° Brix. (These corrections can be used with sufficient accuracy for any density of the diluted honey between 25° and 35° Brix.) These corrections are to be applied to Brix spindles standardized at 20° C. (68° F.), correction to be added to reading found at any given temperature above 20° C.

Temperature		Correction
Centigrade	Fahrenheit	Degrees
20°	68°	0.0
25°	77°	0.35
30°	86°	0.7
35°	95°	1.15

We would add that we have determined the density of a sample of honey with a Brix spindle with and without dilution. The Brix reading as determined at 20° direct on the original honey without dilution was 79.0°. The Brix reading on the same sample of honey as determined by the dilution method (temperature 20°) was 79.4°. You will note there is a difference of 0.4° and the reading 79.4° is to be assumed as the correct reading. This will give you an idea of the probable error if you determine degrees Brix directly on the honey without dilution. If an error of 0.4° to 0.5° is not regarded as of material importance for your purpose, it would be much simpler to determine the degrees Brix on the original honey without dilution.

If the above information is not sufficient for your purpose, please advise us and we will be glad to give you any further assistance possible.

Yours very truly,

P. B. DUNBAR,
Acting Chief.

BEE MATING STATION

Through the co-operation of the Colorado Agricultural College it is hoped to secure the establishment of a queen mating station in some part of the mountains west of Fort Collins, where no bees are to be found at present. By means of such a station it will be possible to develop a strain of bees especially suited to Colorado conditions. Such a station consists of several colonies of selected stock for the rearing of choice drones, in a location entirely away from other bees, a dozen miles at least. To this station each week would be sent a supply of virgin queens in nuclei, the offspring of the best queen mothers that can be secured. After liberation and mating to this select stock of drones they would be returned to their owners and other nuclei sent in their stead. Thus in the course of a very few seasons there could be built up a strain of honey gatherers that would pay for themselves many times over in the intermountain country.

Beekeepers who have given Dandant's wired foundation a fair trial this season are well satisfied. The writer finds results best where two or four wires are put in into the frame in the usual way, and the sheet of wired foundation then fastened in with the top wedge as in ordinary foundation. So attached he has had no trouble either with sagging or warping afterward.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Association headquarters were favored the last of September by visits from two bee men from far countries. Mr. Eric Millen, Dominion apiarist for Canada, with headquarters at Guelph Ontario, made the trip to Denver to learn of our associations methods in co-operative marketing.

The other visitor was Mr. Lundy, of Cape Colony, South Africa, who is also in the employ of his government beekeeping bureau. Mr. Lundy has spent the past two years in Washington, D. C., and was travelling to the western coast by automobile and stopped over in Denver for a few days. He believes that beekeeping has a great future in South Africa. There are many drawbacks to be overcome there, however. And say! Talk about bee-yard thefts. In South Africa, says Mr. Lundy, the natives count the bee brood a great delicacy, and often destroy whole apiaries in their search for choice brood-combs well-filled with larvae.

JEFFERSON COUNTY ORGANIZES

Through the beekeepers' meeting held at Golden in August when Profs. Paddock and Boggs addressed the honey men, steps have been taken to organize and secure the appointment of a bee inspector in Jefferson county. About 25 names were secured to a petition for that purpose at the time and this paper has since been signed by others with bees located in that county. It is advisable that as many signatures as possible be placed on the petition, which has not been acted on yet, owing to the illness of one of the commissioners. Those interested may call at the C. H. P. A. headquarters and sign up, as it is desired to push the matter to a conclusion at the next meeting of the commissioners.

Queen Brings \$150

Amenia, N. D.—A half interest in "Achievement Girl," a queen honey bee of the Amenias apiaries, has been sold to J. M. Cutter & Son, Montgomery, Ala., for \$150, setting a new record for bee values, according to W. A. Crites, manager of the Amenias bee farm.

The queen was mailed to Alabama, where she will spend the winter, to be returned to North Dakota next spring. She was a member of a colony which last summer set one of three world's records for honey production, according to Mr. Crites.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Northern Colorado members who have comb honey which they expect to sell thru the association should bring it to the association warehouse in Denver at once, as it is difficult to haul or ship this commodity in cold weather. Do it now!

Shipping Cases

The new stock of C. H. P. A. shipping cases will, as long as the supply lasts, be sold at the following prices:

250 cases for	\$80.00
100 cases for	34.00
50 cases for	17.50

Less than 50 cases, each, 36 cents

Pine lumber has advanced considerably, corrugated cardboard 50 percent, paper 10 percent, nails 12 percent. So it begins to look as if shipping cases will be soon sold at an advance.

The car of C. H. P. A. shipping cases which we expected to reach us a month ago has just come in. We shall now fill all orders for cases in their proper rotation, as quickly as possible, and certainly regret that the above-described conditions have caused our customers serious inconvenience.

Glassware has recently been advanced 10 per cent. What stock of honey jars we have now is still available at the old price.

Why "For Sale?"

Occasionally stock in the C. H. P. A. is offered for sale at a discount, sometimes at bargain prices. If one traces the cause for such offerings as are advertised from time to time in Thebesto Bee it will be found usually offered for a good reason. Sometimes it is to close an estate. Sometimes the owner is leaving the inter-mountain region. Often approaching old age or other cause has necessitated the sale of the owner's bees, and he is no longer a beekeeper. In any event we are glad, whatever the reason for the change, to advertise members' bees, equipment or stock without cost, if they desire to sell.

For Sale

One-fifth share of C. H. P. A. stock. Price \$8.00. A. S. Parson, Owensmouth, Calif.

Having sold my bees, I wish to dispose of 1 1-5 shares of C. H. P. A. stock. W. G. Lindza, Eastlake, Colo.