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# "THE BESTO" BEE

VOL. 3

DENVER, COLORADO, APRIL, 1925

NO. 2

## JUST AMONG OURSELVES

The Golden Rule is as potent today as it was when The Master promulgated it 2000 years ago. If there are any beekeepers who are not familiar with it, such would find it fully as profitable for study as some of the trade journals. Some of us however, just forget naturally that it applies to us. For instance, as a beekeeper, how do you like it if some stranger beekeeper goes into your beeyard, and opens one or more hives without your knowledge or permission? Probably he does no harm, intends none. But do you like it? \* \* \* What of the perfectly good fellow who moves an apiary right up alongside of one of yours, dividing a pasture between two that was none too prolific for the one who was already there? Do you feel kindly toward such folks? You know you don't. Then remember the Golden Rule, and that it works both ways. \* \* \* Trouble with us humans is that we map out lines of conduct for our fellow men that would make this world a regular paradise if they'd only follow them, but in the mapping we have made no provision for taking our own medicine. \* \* \* The courteous thing is never to open another beeman's hive without permission. Also it may be safer. The courteous thing is not to move too close to a neighbor's apiary. We may try to justify our action by saying that our bees are starving, or some equally plausible excuse. If that is true, and we must move or feed, then why not consult with our neighbor, tell him the circumstances at least, before we move? Perhaps he might have a solution. Certainly he'd feel kindlier toward us for such a course. \* \* \* How often does the beekeeper caught by a hail or drouth or hoppers, who moves onto a neighbor in an emergency, move out after the emergency passes? Do you, my beekeeper friend? \* \* \* Two Good bee stories are just now running in current magazines, and both by noted authors. "The Bee Hunter," by Zane Grey is being printed as a serial in the Ladies Home Journal. "The Keeper of the Bees," by the lamented Gene Stratton Porter is appearing

serially in McCall's Magazine. \* \* \*

A new bee book by Dallas Lore Sharp, author of "The Hills of Hingham," is announced by the publishers, Harper & Brother. It is entitled "The Spirit of the Hive," and is readable and entertaining. It is literature, rather than beekeeping, to which latter it makes no pretensions. Its author, however, is a real, practical beekeeper near Boston, in addition to being a college professor and lecturer. \* \* \* Thievery of honey and pilfering of beeyards is increasing so rapidly that it has become a real menace to our industry. In this connection it may be suggested that the less said in popular bee talks, about smokers, bee veils, bee escapes and other tricks of the trade, the better for the apiarist. The time may come when we'll have to employ watchmen during the honey harvest and move our outyards to a central wintering place, at the close of the season. \* \* \* After living in rented quarters for a quarter of a century, C. H. P. A. has bought its present quarters, well fitted for our purpose. We've paid out in rent enough to have paid for a business home, and we believe every member will commend our present course. Given a few reasonably prosperous years and the continued coöperation of our members in buying their supplies, we'll soon own our building free of debt. \* \* \* Do Colorado beekeepers want to observe National Honey Week? This event was initiated last year for the first time thru the National Honey Producers League, and comes in November. Where an earnest united effort was made to push honey during that week, results were readily noticeable. Honey Week is up to the beekeepers themselves. If they are not willing to spend time and thought on it, surely nobody else will. We believe it is a project well worth furthering.

## KOA Broadcasts Honey Markets

The General Electric Company has through its model broadcasting station KOA at Denver given the beekeepers an opportunity to hear crop and market reports broadcasted by the Denver office of the U. S. Bureau of Markets. Have you a radio?



## THEBESTO BEE

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

## SUMMER FIELD MEET

Loveland, Saturday, June 6

This will be a joint meeting of the C. H. P. A. and the revived State Association, and is open to every beekeeper from Colorado and adjoining states, whether he belongs to either association or not. The program committee is working to provide a varied menu of good things for the beekeepers. While the program is necessarily incomplete as yet, here are some of the contemplated subjects:

Feeding in preparation for winter. Preparation of honey for market. Broadcasting and other Honey Advertising. National Campaign of bee disease eradication. Do we want a Honey Week? Beekeeping Ethics, or, Will the Beekeeper be compelled to seek another occupation in the near future? Home Marketing and Proper prices. Apparatus for Heating Extracted Honey,—something within reach of the average beekeeper. Storage of Comb honey for Late Market.

There will be amusements to give variety; something for the younger members as well as the grownups. A pie-eating contest is announced; bring your own towels! Egg and spoon race and other races for men over 45 and ladies under 30. Nobody barred. Section filling contest. Prizes to winners.

It is hoped that two new extractors can be shown at this meeting, as well as other new beekeeping equipment.

No beekeeper within 300 miles ought to pass this event up. Come and bring your friends and your basket lunch. Coffee, cream and sugar furnished, as well as lemonade.

## NEW CATALOGUE COMING

Preliminary price-list of bee supplies has been sent association patrons. The regular catalogue will be issued shortly. Many prices are lower; including sections, hives and bodies, frames; while foundation is higher, account advance in wax prices. Beeswax is up, and you are advised to sell. Association pays at present 28c in cash or 30 cents in trade, f. o. b. Denver for good average beeswax.

## EDUCATE 'EM!

The C. H. P. A. is every day demonstrating the fact that a market can be developed for granulated honey, both comb and extracted, if a serious effort in that direction is made. Not as an inferior article, at a lower price, but as a healthful, dainty food, as easily served as in liquid form, "and at no higher price." Just try it on your customers, teach them how to serve it, (like butter or jam,—in small slices,) explain, where advisable, that granulation is a natural, chemical process, which in no manner injures either the quality of flavor. Beekeepers of the United States have been more than lax in respect to the marketing of granulated honey, to their great cost. Our Canadian neighbors have been educated to demand the granulated article, and most of the Canadian crop of extracted honey is marketed to the customer in that form. We beekeepers know that granulated honey is not an inferior article, and our conscience can be clear and our purse fatter, if we'll do a bit of educational work along Canadian lines.

## BUYS BUSINESS HOME

At the annual meeting of the Stockholders in March the board of directors was authorized to purchase from the owner the three-story and basement building at 1424 Market St., Denver, Colo., which has been occupied by the association for over ten years. Sufficient money is in the building fund to make a very substantial payment on the property, which will have cost, when the deal is completed, something under \$22,000. Deferred payments will be not much greater than the monthly rental, and we should own the property free of debt in about five years. Of the 530 shares of stock represented in the vote, 495 1/5 were cast in favor of the purchase, 34 4/5 against. Following the announcement of the result of the vote, Dr. Calkins moved that the board of directors be authorized to make the purchase. He was seconded by A. A. Lyons, and the motion was carried unanimously.



## OUR ANNUAL MEETING

C. H. P. A. held its annual stockholders' meeting and election of officers March 2-3, with a fair attendance and a varied program. President George Miller's address reviewed the last year's progress and touched upon changing markets and general conditions in the honey industry, and the necessity of meeting them, by cutting production costs, and also the advisability of closer grading and the sale of off-grade honey locally in competition with that of non-progressive farmer-beekeepers' ungraded stuff.

The secretary-manager's report dealt with the uncertainty of nectar flow and spotted condition of honey yield in 1924, and asserted from experience in C. H. P. A. territory that honey seasons run in cycles. Market conditions for comb honey were satisfactory at the beginning of the season, but sagged badly later, with considerable price-cutting among producers and even associations. Beeware prices ranged steady to downward on many items. Few changes upward.

In spite of a bad honey year, with its accompanying poor business in bee supplies, the association made a little money, not enough however to pay the usual dividend. By unanimous vote the surplus, \$1380.20, was turned in to the building fund.

The talks and the discussions they brought out were both interesting and informative. State Bee Inspector R. G. Richmond gave a talk on bee inspection. Colorado spent \$1500 for inspection in 1918, which sum was increased in 1921 to \$3000 per year. His department is asking for \$4500 this year, but results are doubtful. There are 100,000 colonies of bees in Colorado. Wisconsin, with about an equal number, appropriates \$16,000 for bee inspection. Monday night's session brought out a fair attendance, and the session was informal. Granulated honey, thieves and reward signs, wired foundation and split bottom-bars, afforded material for the evening. Members differed as to the value of reward signs, but all agreed that tight wire fences, with good locks and a locked outer gate to the field, were discouragers.

Tuesday morning Prof. Richmond spoke on "Where Do the Profits Go?" He suggested reducing overhead, giv-

ing better winter protection, treating foul combs instead of melting, and pushing the National League work.

The afternoon session was consumed in balloting on the purchase of the Association building, and the election of a new board for the coming year. Following were elected: George Miller, Littleton; L. W. Howsam, Denver; F. G. Rauchfuss, Englewood; F. Rauchfuss, Edgewater; C. H. Wolfe, Greeley; M. Cantowine, Longmont; Harvey Said, Pueblo.

## NEW CAPPING MELTER

The C. H. P. A. has perfected a practical combined capping melter and wax separator suited to the beekeeper with from six to 50 colonies, and it will be listed and priced in the new catalogue to be issued shortly. The contrivance is circular, in the form of a large galvanized iron washtub, with suitable stand. Most of the interior, at one side, is partitioned off, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the height from the bottom, this part being covered with a soldered top, which serves as a tray upon which the cappings fall. The tank part, in which the cappings drop, is filled with water, kept hot by a 2-burner gas stove placed under the melter. As the cappings melt, honey and wax run off the melter bottom and down into the separator portion, where they are automatically separated, the wax being drawn off near the surface, and the honey from a lower level. The melter is quite simple, is "fool proof," and moderate in price. A cut of it will appear in the new catalogue.

## Reports Wanted

On present condition of colonies will you run for comb or extracted honey? Have you planned to make increase by purchasing package bees? What are your prospects for a honey crop?

## C. H. P. A. BEE-VEIL

Made of good quality tulle, reinforced hem and good stout "puckering string," with a hoop in center of veil that will hold it away from the face. Well worth the price asked, 85 cents. Made special for association customers who want something different from the usual wire screen veil.



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## THEBESTO BEE

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## NEW HONEY SIGNS

In large apertures, run for section honey, considerable time is required to clean supers, section holders and separators for the coming season's crop. To produce attractive looking comb honey it is necessary to use clean equipment.

To cut down overhead expenses, Mr. Sprague, one of our members who formerly lived in Colorado got up a machine with which both sides of a separator could be scraped at the same time, more and better work could be done with this machine run by hand than by the old way of cleaning one side at a time.

For the past 6 years, machines with feed rolls, and supplied with accurately ground knives, run by electric motor have been used by some of the large comb honey producers in Northern Colorado.

One of the machines was demonstrated by Mr. Howsam at the last annual meeting of The Colorado Honey Producers Association.

Mr. Howsam related that in one day he cleaned all the separators of 700 eight-frame supers, making a total of 3500 separators and that the machine had already paid for itself in the amount of time saved and the lessened amount of damage to separators.

## THE MARKETS

No carlot market for comb honey. The association has moved comb honey recently in less than car lots in satisfactory volume, and expects to clean up all that is left before new honey comes. Extracted honey is quiet, and we have ample stock on hand until new crop comes. Crop outlook is none too good in our territory, and poor near Denver. Front range watersheds are light in snow and sweet clover scarce in most localities.

## Sting-Proof Working Glove

Weather proof, oil proof, dustproof, low price. Whether you are fussing around the furnace, cleaning the car, working in the garden, or working with the bees. Will outwear several pairs of ordinary work gloves. 25c per pair; by mail 30c postpaid.

At the annual meeting of the C. H. P. A. an attractive roadside honey sign was shown, and met with uniform approval. It is of heavy sheet iron, with a substantial frame or moulding, size 21x40 inches. The body is a dead black, with red border, and white lettering. The words, "Stop for HONEY" are in good-size, readable letters across the top, then ample blackboard space for advertising any other items, then a couple of lines in smaller type at the bottom reading, Beekeepers Supplies, "The Besto Quality" the Colorado honey, 1424 Market St., Denver, Colo. By buying them in quantities the association is able to sell these signs for \$2.00 each, or one sign will be given free with an order of supplies amounting to \$50 or more. Only one sign will be given free with a single order, regardless of its total. Such a sign could not be made individually for less than \$5, so these are real bargains, any honey producer can make the price back in a few days by its use at the home gate.

## BEEKEEPING BULLETINS

Thebesto Bee finds much interesting matter in the various "house organs" from beekeepers' associations which reach our desk periodically. The number of such publications is steadily increasing, and the information thus disseminated is very considerable. Recently copies of the following have reached us: Bulletins of Missouri State, Michigan, California State Association, Oregon Beekeepers' News Letter, Nebraska Beekeepers' Assn., Anderson, N. C., County Beekeepers' Assn. Even foreign countries find the bulletin method worth while. A creditable publication finds its way regularly to Thebesto Bee from Vienna, Austria, the "Bienevater," the "Father of the Bees," literally the Beemaster, or the Beekeeper."

WANTED—Dovetailed comb honey supers. Must be in good condition and cheap, both eight and ten frame size. Address Manager Colorado Honey Producers' Association, Denver, Colo.