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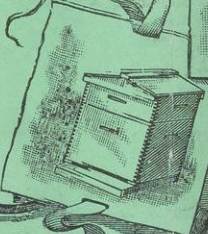
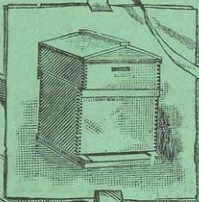
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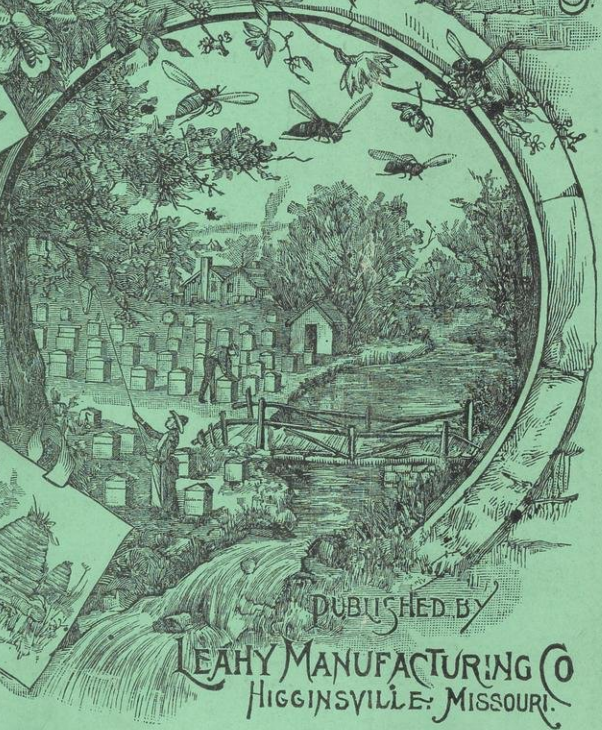
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PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND
KINDRED INDUSTRIES.



PUBLISHED BY

LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO
HIGGINSVILLE, MISSOURI.

MUNY-HEISS CLEV. O.

SEPTEMBER 1905

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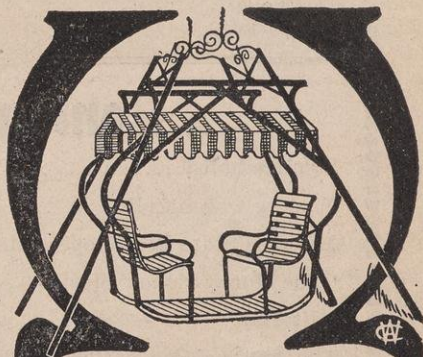
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The Progressive Bee-Keeper

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Supplies

VOL. XIII.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., SEPT. 1905.

NO. 9

SUNDRIES.

SOMNAMBULIST.

Ye editor, perhaps noting my propensity for wandering, or perchance craving a change of menu, is responsible for the above alteration. Being a worshiper at the shrine of Liberty, latitude, or space for freedom of action is to me a necessity. This accounts for my selection of "Sundries" to designate the fanciful caprices of one Somnambulist of Naptown, Dreamland. Haven't I given myself lots of rope? If you will permit the use of a slang phrase I feel "there are no strings on me," much the same as the liberated kite says by its actions as it soars skyward and is lost in space.

You do not have to remind me of the fate of those to whom too much rope has been given. I remember 'tis said "they usually hang themselves, as well as the freed bauble seems to secure its own destruction in its alighting."

All our lives, beekeeping and otherwise, are made up of sundries. Success and failure with intermediate conditions thrown in for variation.

Scrolling through "Farm Progress" (St. Louis, Mo.,) among the poultry paragraphs I find this item:

"A Paris chemist has produced a colorable imitation of the ordinary egg of commerce. The shell is made with a blowpipe from a moist combination of lime and bismuth. The white of the egg is made of sulphur carbon and beef fat and the yolk is composed of a mixture of beef blood and magnesia, colored with chrome yellow."

Is it any wonder that people cannot

be made to believe the impossibility of artificial comb honey? It would seem that we are not one whit nearer converting them to this belief than at the beginning. Small wonder that we grow disgusted and are forced to conclude that the gang of unbelievers are of a strip with the Dutchman who would not be convinced except by his own conviction. It's passing strange that the city "jay," being so thoroughly imbued with the artificial honey idea, is yet an essay mark, or willing victim to the street fakir.

An old flaring, glaring, beastly smelling and besmeared oil dripping torch, and the back of an old violin will draw and hold a crowd around most any corner, and said crowd will nibble at such baits as an everlasting goldine pen, four pounds of best note paper, 200 envelopes, a pair of cuff buttons, or holders, four of Faber's best Siberian graphite lead pencils and a paper of pins all for a quarter of a dollar; and though through the bite, they get bitten, they will continue on their course, to a contiguous corner, and will invest in patent medicine. A \$2 00 bottle for 50 cents or three bottles for \$1.00, or hang around the Mexican Elixir quick lather soap and grease eradicator man, until that gentlemanly salesman closes his valise with a snap and puts out his gasoline torches and invites these city Reubens to come some other time as they have completely cleaned him out of the Giant Dirt Killer at 25 cents an ounce.

How about handling pure honey at 25 cents per pound? Would it go off like hot cakes? I rather think if

through vivid imagination one could construct a yarn about the man of massive intellect who invented a process by which he could draw honey from the dust of the earth, and thereby sell \$1.00 a lb. honey for 25 cents, the jays would be plenty that would be caught by the ruse.

But the story of a God given creature with natural instincts whose wants are supplied by yet another division of Nature is too simple a story for belief. Not a mysticism. Only another example of "truth is stranger than fiction."

These people should be educated as to tricks in trade, having had ample opportunity, but continually let themselves be taken in and turn up a suspicious nose at sight of a pound of pure honey. Nor is this suspicious for the stomach's sake, for the adulterations in sugar, coffee, spices cereal foods and what not are apparently as eagerly bought and swallowed as if undeniably pure. From another exchange we cull this:

"The bee stings suffice to kill a sparrow in two or three hours. Analysis of the bee poison has shown that it contains three principles—one convulsive, one stupefying, and one which gives rise to acute inflammation."

To even the common people this is no news, yet the word is full of the venturesome and feel-hardy who rush into danger and having experienced just what they might have expected, yet blame the bees. As many are asking for a business that will profitably combine with bee-keeping, I copy complete an article furnished the Country Colendar by Mr. E. B. Powell for August:

SUCCESS WITH NINE ACRES.

E. P. Powell writes in the Country Calendar for August of his success with his nine acre place in New York State:

"For a while I had no other pur-

pose but to have and improve a vacation home. Instead of spending money at summer resorts, I began to invest it in a summer retreat of my own—and a possible old-age residence. Besides, each year I was learning something. It is a great thing to be able to kick up under your own apple trees, and roll in your own clover; to eat berries and milk of your own growing; not to have to pay for all the eggs and apples and plums, and even potatoes, which you wish to use.

"Each year marked some stage of progress, not only in my conception of country life, but on the road toward financial success. To renovate old trees; to make worn-out soil grow peas and sweet peas; to set new trees and plants; to work out ideas that were novel took time—years of time.

"Of the twelve sorts of orchard and garden fruits that I now raise, experience had taught me that about three will totally fail each year—cut off by frost or by drought, or ruined by insects or by blight. Yet you see there will still be nine sorts left each year. This is where intensive horticulture comes in ahead of extensive farming, which takes account of only two or three crops—all of which may fail in a single year, and leave you short of food and cash. After ten years the balance-sheet would read something like this: Raspberries, net \$250; currants, \$100; cherries and plums, \$100; apples, \$400; pears, \$100; blackberries, with gooseberries, quinces and grapes, \$100; miscellanies—including eggs, chickens, honey, and surplus trees sold \$200. Here is a snug little income of thirteen hundred dollars. Now you may knock out of this estimate any three of the above items that you please, as the contribution to fungoid and insects enemies, droughts and other hindrances to

horticulture. Only bear in mind that the raspberry failure will never be complete; and the apple failure, with proper care, will rarely decrease the crop one-half. In other words we are sure of an annual surplus of from nine hundred to twelve hundred dollars."

Our honored Mr. Tayler, formerly of Forrestville, Minn., hoped to have lived to demonstrate that a comfortable living could be attained from the proper management of a limited number of acres. Of course location would cut a necessary figure in one's calculation in this business as it does in most others.

Beekeepers will see at once that location and other things being favorable the sum total might have been considerably augmented. In discussing this article with friends one remarked that the final results were more than he could secure from 40 acres. Another openly confessed "there's too much work about it." I asked him who cared for work, beside did we not learn in our school readers that nothing is ever accomplished without the aid of old Mr. Toil? And since the days of our childhood have we learned any different? And having once become thoroughly acquainted with him, few there are who are willing to part company with him. Is it not plain that those who do relinquish his society but half live in more senses than one?

The question is frequently asked what constitutes the fascination connected with beekeeping? The answer would be so all embracing as to take too much space but to concentrate one might rely that it gives an excellent opportunity for "nature study," than which is more wholesome. And is not old mother Nature ever on the alert to teach us that it is only through struggle that we develop? In this way she incites to further effort and further effort brings additional reward. Not

always of a financial nature but we gain ethical values, which can not be estimated. Many will be anxious to know what has the harvest been. With us from one half to two-thirds of a crop. So no need to get much excited as to disposal. Orders coming in at a rate that would signify a surplus on their side, or in other words a shortage of the honey supply with which to meet them.

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HOW "WE" INTRODUCED A QUEEN.

BY MRS. W. M. BURKE

I am wondering if all beginners have the gay time we have had in trying to introduce a queen to a hybrid colony. By we I mean my husband and myself; and here let me say 'tis the same old case as "me and Betsey killed a bar." Joe played the part of me ever since about a dozen bees got under my veil in helping hunt for queen-cells; so he has had the "work" to do while I stand off a safe distance and cheer him up. But I'm ahead of my "tale of woe."

We sent away for a five-banded Italian queen, thinking how we would love some little yellow bees, such as we were at Dr. Miller's in East St. Louis, Ill., in 1904. Well, after nine or ten days of anxious waiting we one noon received her "royal highness." She was a queen amber-yellow color, and as my husband remarked, "on great shucks to looks at."

The directions we had read and re-read for introducing queens said, "Make your colony queenless;" "be sure your colony is queenless," etc, so we made sure by veiling ourselves and sailing forth and picking old Mrs. Queen and a small family of slaves out, and putting them in a box with a piece of screen over one side and a big slice of comb honey in one end. There we patiently (?) waited two days, with the new queen in her cage in the cupboard, then we followed to a dot the directions that came with her, except, as Mr. Root preferred leaving the cardboard over the candy-hole, we left it there instead of taking it off as directed.

We laid the cage, wire side down, over the top of the brood-frames and shut up the hive. We left it five days, as directed, although it was a great

strain on the nerves, and at the end of that time our curiosity was at the bursting-point. We hustled into veils, gloves, jackets, etc., and rushed out to the hive about 9 o'clock one morning. My faithful "pardner" cautiously lifted the hive-cover, and I stealthily lifted out the cage, and lo! our queen was still therein, and not more than three or four bees paying any attention to her, and not even the pasteboard over the candy-hole was nibbled a bit. Such hateful bees! I felt that I despised them. I commanded my husband to put the cage back and come away, which he did somewhat sulkily, for, be it known he has a great fondness for poking around in and out of a hive (not shared by me).

We retired and meditated over the contrariness of bees, and finally my husband said. "Let's take out our new queen and see if the bees have started queen-cells."

I hooted the idea, with this queen practically in the hive, but consented and we removed the "Dago," as we called our new queen and waded in. We found and cut out one queen-cell, unsealed, and then the bees got so wrathly we retired to give them time to cool off. After an hour or so we went at them again, and cut out five more queen-cells. One was sealed over. That did disgust us and the bees seemed to go crazy, and a dozen more or less, got up under my veil: and, by the way I moved and felt, I am convinced bee-stings will cure rheumatism, old age, or any old thing. I haven't moved so lively, nor, I may say, so gracefully, in all my life before—went over pea fences, potatoes, strawberry-beds, and rasp-berry-vines like a bird. They stung me in my hair, on my neck, chin, hands, wherever they could get a toe-grip, and wept because I wasn't larger. I nearly

lifted my scalp in my haste to shed veil and hat. My "pardner" nobly stayed with them, and got every thing in ship shape before he left; but then, he wasn't being stung.

After cutting out the queen-cells we waited until night, and putting some long wires around the queen cage, we spaed two brood-frames and lowered the cage down among the brood. This was the night of the sixth day since we started to "introduce" her. We waited two days or more, and then attacked the for again to see what had been done.

On drawing out the cage we found it covered with and as full of bees as it could stick; and, after brushing some off, there was the queen yet in the cage!

Is she a hoodoo? I almost believe so. I advised my long suffering husband to pry off the screen and let the poor thing out, even if they ate her up. He did so, and she flew against the inside of the hive and dropped on a partly empty foundation and hid from our view. Only two or three bees took after her, and none acted as if they meant to hurt her. Can it be she is finally introduced? or is there more agony in store for her?

My husband said she looked larger and thicker and yellower. But isn't "introducing," as practiced by us, exciting work?

When I get my colony (we have engaged two swarms from a neighbor I think I will buy a nice young three-banded Italian (if Mr. Root has any warranted to feed out of my hand, and her bees never bite, he's made a sale), pick out the old queen, wait half an hour, and then just open the hive and let my new queen run out of her cage into the hive. If they ball her I'll put them to soak in a tub of water; and if they let her alone, well and

good. It is not so harrowing on the nerves.

My husband disapproves of my frivolous attitude regarding bee-keeping; but when one is such a favorit with them as I. I must have some fun to repay me for a stiff neck, worse than rheumatism and large aggressive jaw that causes my most intimate friends to look apprehensively at me, and the good man himself to keep a wary eye on me. My appearance is fierce with it, and all together, I am sure a very swell affair.

I've written this yard or two of letter merely to ask if some kind bee-keeper won't tell me how old larvae can be, and the bees yet create a queen from it. I'd like to know, for our warriors may yet have a queer of their own making up their sleeve. Nothing would surprise me in these bees. They even enthusiastically fly indoors for one nip more at me.

In three days more, if I am nerved up to it, I will hint to my wayward "pardner" that we take a still hunt for the Dago. I think I'll get more nibbles, but its all in a lifetime.

Ladue, Mo., May 15, 1905.

[When younger larva are not available the bees may take anything unsealed and try to make a queen of it.—Ed.]

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FINDING QUEEN CELLS WITHOUT OPENING HIVES.

Some time ago Editor Hutchinson, in the "Bee-keepers' Review," stated that a bee-keeper in New York state had a plan of detecting when queen cells were started in a hive without going to the trouble of opening the hive or moving frames. The discoverer of the plan refused to give the secret to the fraternity without remuneration, and Editor Hutchinson asked for a number of bee-keepers to forward a dollar each and if enough money was raised, the plan would be published in the "Review." Nothing further has been heard of the plan, and we have been wondering if the hive-tipping clamp written of in May "Review" is the plan before referred to. Clamps are so constructed as to hold supers fast to the hive body, then a lever is attached and the hive is tipped up from the bottom board, allowing the apiarist to "squint" up among the combs and see if any queen cells are started. Suppose it would work all right with small hives ran for comb honey, but with my "barns," with extracting supers on, block and tackle would have to accompany the outfit.

UNRIPE HONEY—A DEALER'S OPINION.

Glad to note that that extensive honey handler of Chicago, Mr. R. M. Barnett, in no uncertain tones condemns the practice of putting unripe honey on the markets. In an interesting article in "Gleanings in Bee Culture" among other things he says that the green stuff has done more than all other things combined to kill the extracted honey market. Surely it is time for the "green goods" man to call a halt.

JOTTINGS FROM THE APIARY.

Having just finished clipping over 200 queens, a few remarks as to how to do it may not be out of place. Previous to this season have been used to catching queens with right hand, transfer-

ring to left and then clipping the wings with the scissors. This plan has the objection of sometimes causing the bees to ball the queen, as I have found out last year with at least two good queens. During the winter I read of someone who clipped the queen on the comb without touching her with the fingers at all. When I first tried the plan, I thought it simply impossible but after a little practice came to the conclusion that it is the plan par excellence. Hold the comb with the left hand and with a small pair of scissors in the right catch the wing or wings, and the job is done without the queen or bees hardly being aware of the fact. Re the advisability of clipping, believe it would pay some bee-keepers if they were forced to practice clipping; at least one thorough examination of the brood chamber is made each year, and foul brood is not likely to make such headway as it does in some cases I have known where the hives were hardly ever opened.—The Canadian Bee-Journal.

Nominations for candidates for office to be elected next November by the National Beekeepers Association. The following terms expire Jan. 1, 1906:

President, J. U. Harris; Vice-President, C. P. Dadant; Secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson; General Manager and Treasurer, N. E. France; Directors, J. M. Hambaugh, C. A. Hatch, Dr. C. C. Miller.

Members are requested to mail me by Sept. 20, their nominations for each of the above offices. The two receiving the highest number will be considered candidates to be voted on in in November election.

N. E. FRANCE.

Platteville, Wis.

THE MISSOURI STATE BEE-KEEPERS MEETING.

J. W. ROUSE.

We had the best and most enthusiastic bee keepers meeting at Sedalia that the writer has ever attended, yet there are a very great many bee keepers that have never attended any meeting that we ever had, and quite a good number that are even members of our association. There should be a great many more to attend than do so; it is quite a treat at least to us to meet people we have heard about, besides it gives us much pleasure to meet those we are acquainted with and not only exchange greetings, but we also exchange ideas, and plans of work among the bees. We know many think that they can get these ideas from the bee journals but many speak at our meetings about ideas that I have never seen in print. Surely our pursuit owes us a treat of meeting at our convention once a year any way. Some may think that they cannot afford the expense of attending, but we have never attended a meeting of our association yet but what we have felt most amply repaid for all expenses that occurred. There are quite a few that we used to meet in our old association meetings that we have not had the pleasure of meeting in these last few years. Come out brethren, and sisters too, as we have had most harmonious meetings and let us make our meetings in the future greater yet. Many of us are working for the welfare of the bee keepers of the state who will reap the benefit of what we are to accomplish whether we can have their co-operation or not. We are at work now for a foul brood law which we are compelled to have if beekeepers are to continue the business in the state as this being a most infectious disease, if not controlled and eradicated will destroy our bees and

thus drive bee keepers out of the business. Many do not know that the benefits derived from the bees are much greater other than honey and wax. There is perhaps on an average of \$20,000,000.00 of fruit raised in the state and bees cut quite a figure in this business in causing fertilization during the blooming time. Many of the horticulturists know of this help from the bees and many secure some for the benefit of their orchards; we feel sure that a brighter day is dawning for bee keeping in Missouri.

None of the officers that have been serving the association was re-elected except the writer who has been elected to the chief office for the third time and even served before that in the capacity, as the president for that year died in about 10 days after the convention met. We are made to feel the honor of which we have, and the hearty good will of our preferment among the bee keepers of our state, especially when there are so many worthy bee keepers that are fully suitable and proficient for this office and honor. Bee keepers let us urge you to take more and greater interest in this our chosen pursuit and make greater successes in the future than we have ever done in the past, attend our conventions and become better acquainted and so enjoy our well known recreations together.

Mexico, Mo.

"THE HONEY-MONEY STORIES."

The above is the title of a 60-page pamphlet published by Geo. W. York & Co., Chicago. It is tersely written, well printed and interspersed with pleasing illustrations, arranged in an attractive manner, calculated to increase the desire of the reader for the best of sweets. This pamphlet can be procured from the publishers for the price of 25 cents. We congratulate Mr. York on the manner in which this book is gotten up.

The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

Entered at the post-office, Higginsville, Mo.
as second-class matter.

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E. B. GLADISH, Editor and Manager.
S. E. MILLER - - Editorial Writer.
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INTRODUCING QUEENS.

S. E. MILLER

I give below a method of introducing a queen that I consider the best method, when one wishes the queen to be introduced and laying the shortest possible time. There is nothing new about this method, but I believe it has not been in general use in introducing laying queens.

I think G. M. Doolittle is the originator of the principal points involved in this method. While all well informed bee keepers are familiar with the principal points, there are probably many novices who are not acquainted with them.

It is a well known fact that bees that are allowed to fill themselves with honey and then deprived of their queen and all brood and confined in a properly ventilated box or hive, will soon set up a cry of distress at the loss of their mother and the babies. This is quite

natural, for the bees to realize the loss of their mother and at the same time the means of rearing another queen, under these conditions, bees will accept almost anything in the shape of a queen, from a quite young virgin to an old laying queen. This method has been in use for a number of years for introducing virgin queens, but I do not remember ever having seen it recommended for introducing laying queens.

Here is the way I have used this method with uniform success with quite a number of colonies within the last month. I might mention in the start that so far I have only practiced it with queenless colonies, but I believe it would do just as well with a colony having a queen up to the time we commence proceedings, provided of course that we kill or remove the undesirable queen as the first step. Go to the colony to which you wish to introduce a new queen, remove one or two combs well covered with bees, smoke a very little and jar the frame so as to alarm the bees. Set it aside for a few minutes to allow the bees to thoroughly fill themselves with honey. When they are well filled shake them into a ventilated hive or box. A box made for the purpose having two sides covered with wire cloth and one of these removable and a convenient sliding door through which to drop the queen without permitting any of the bees to escape, is the best receptacle for the purpose. When bees are in the box, stand it away the in a cool shady place.

Doolittle, in his book on queen rearing I think, recommends that they be left there for something like two hours, but my experience indicates that from thirty to sixty minutes gives better result. Therefore at the end of that time proceed to drop the queen into the box, after first setting

the box down suddenly and jarring the bees to the bottom of the box. In fifteen to thirty minutes the bees should be quiet and nicely clustered in one corner of the box. Now proceed to the hive from which we took the bees and to which we wish to introduce the queen. Set hive bees and all to one side and place an empty hive body on the stand. Now take two or three combs of brood without bees and place in this hive near one side. Shake the bees and queen from the box into the hive near the opposite side of the hive and quickly draw the combs over them. The bees will at once crawl up on these combs and the queen will be with them. Now proceed to shake the bees from the original hive in front of the new hive and place the combs of the brood in the new hive. When the combs have all been thus transferred to the new hive, close it up and the work is done. If this is done in the afternoon of one day the queen will often be found laying the next morning.

I have taken considerable space to minutely describe this method and it may seem like a rather bothersome and busy method, but it is not as much work as it might at first appear. I would not advise resorting to this plan in all cases, but there are often circumstances when we wish to have a queen introduced and laying with the least possible delay, and I know of no better way under such conditions. I have not used this method with queens that have come through the mails but I can see no reason why it would not be successful. Where a queen is introduced by the cage method it is usually four to five days from the time she is placed in the hive until she is laying. By the method described above there is not so much loss of time to the colony and if the queen to be introduced, is taken from

a colony or nucleus in the same yard, she is scarcely checked at all in the production of eggs.

NOT ALWAYS A SUCCESS.

Practical bee keepers and especially those who have much to do with rearing and handling queens, know that bees do behave the same under all circumstances. Therefore the novice who thinks he has discovered some new kink that is infallible, may be greatly disappointed to learn some fine morning that his discovery is a total failure under changed conditions. The axiom that "one swallow does not make a summer" will apply to many things in bee keeping.

There are times and seasons when queens may be given to queenless colonies with very little ceremony and be readily accepted. At times virgin queens may be run in at the entrance of queenless colonies or nucleus, by simply puffing in a few puffs of tobacco smoke. Let the queen run in and follow her with a few more puffs. If we open the hive when the queen is about ten days old we will find her laying and everything lovely. At other times and under changed conditions we may follow the same course only to find that a large per cent of the queens have been killed and the colony or nucleus rearing queens according to their own ideas. The method of introducing laying queens described above I have only tried under favorable conditions, that is when there was a fair to good honey flow. Under adverse conditions it might not prove so successful, but I mean to test it thoroughly next season, if I do not have time to do it this year.

We should always bear in mind that during a prosperous flow of nectar, bees are as a rule in a good humor and not inclined to find fault with a

strange queen. At least they are not hard to please, but when there is a dearth of nectar and robbers are ready to dip in their bills whenever a hive is opened, we should use every precaution in trying to introduce queens.

ARE BEES LIKE PEOPLE?

In many respects bees are very much like the human race. When times are good and we are prosperous we are likely to be in a good humor and not inclined to find fault. We are to some extent careless about our property and not inclined to watch things closely. Let hard times come petty thieves are on the lookout for anything that they can pilfer; and it is then that we lock our corn cribs and smoke houses and keep the shot guns handy. When there is a bounteous flow of nectar we see very few guards at the entrance and if we open the hive the bees offer very little resistance. They will accept a new queen with very little ceremony and allow the drones to go and come as they please. Let the flowers fail to secrete nectar and we see conditions changed entirely. Numerous guards will be seen at the entrance with their hair all standing the wrong way, ready to pounce upon any petty thief that has the assurance to attempt to enter the hive. The drones are led out by the ear and told to go look for their board. If we open a hive we are given to understand that the honey belongs to the bees and they mean to keep it.

Altogether the honey bee has a higher power of reasoning than most of the animals that naturalists have classed as a higher order. Probably this is instinct rather than reasoning but at any rate we find this propensity sadly lacking in many of the so called higher order of animals. Take for instance the horse and the dog,

many people consider these next to the human in intelligence, but who ever heard of a horse of his own volition attempting to preserve food for future need. Instead he destroys and tramples under foot a large per cent of what is required for his subsistence. In this the dog is ahead of him for whenever he has more than he needs for immediate consumption he sets to work to store it away for future use.

QUEEN CELL BLOCKS.

As most of the readers probably know, many queen raises are now using small blocks of wood with a hole bored nearly through and the hole coated with wax and formed into a shape like a queen cup on which to have the queen cells built. These blocks are now on the market and can be bought of supply dealers at reasonable price. For those who wish to try a few of these blocks and do not care to order them I will give a very cheap and simple way of making them. The Elder a fruit bearing shrub, and in many places a nuisance, grows I presume in nearly all parts of Missouri and in many other states. Cut a cane of Elder that will be about three-fourths of an inch in diameter when the bark is peeled off. Remove the bark and saw into sections about five eighths inch long. Push out the pith and fill the hole with a ball of soft wax. Now form a hole in the wax by using a stick having the end so shaped as to form an imitation of a queen cup. The block is now ready to receive the royal jelly and larva that is to make the queen. A dozen or more of these blocks when prepared with royal jelly and suitable larva may be pastened to a stick or two and the sticks fastened horizontally in an empty frame. This frame with its prepared blocks may be given to a strong colony of bees that has been made

broodless and queenless for three to four hours and confined in a hive that is well ventilated. A colony of bees that is thus confined should be given several full combs of honey and one or more combs containing some pollen and should also be provided with water poured into one of the combs.

In a few hours after these blocks have been given to the bees, we should find a large percentage of them being developed into queen cells and may then be given to some strong queenless colony that is in the right condition for queen cell building to finish, or they may be left where they are and the bees given back their brood in a day or two and the entrance opened so as to permit them to fly.

These block cells as I call them are very nice to handle as there is no danger of washing or damaging the base of the cell. They may be used any where that we can use a protected cell and do not require a protector. This last hint I learned from Mr. Alley or Mr. Pratt I am not sure which, but most likely it appeared in an article by Mr. Pratt. Before I learned this I had been placing the block cells in a protector when introducing a cell, but now I simply place the block between the top bars of two frames and press them together until they hold the block firmly in place. In this way one is not obliged to remove a single comb when giving cells to queenless colonies or nucleus while with the west queen cell protector it is necessary to remove one or more combs. If these blocks are allowed to remain in the hive for a few days after the honey has emerged the bees will clean out the remaining royal jelly and polish the inside of the cell as smooth as a bald head and all that is necessary is to cut the cell down to the proper depth and it is ready for use again.

BLACK BEES.

Last spring I bought several colonies of black bees and it has been no little bother to keep the drones of these colonies from flying and mating with my Italian queen. Did I hear some one say, Oh that's easy enough? Simply use drone traps or entrance guards. Sounds all right! Don't it? Another fellow says allow no drone comb in the hives! That sounds well too, but who ever saw a colony of bees that would not manage to rear some drones if they have any intention of swarming. Of course I was obliged to use traps and guards but these are truly a necessary evil and I seldom look at a colony having either of these contrivances over the entrance, especially on a hot day, but what there is a feeling of regret mingled with pity comes over me. The entrance guard if properly made is at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch high and 2 or more inches broad, and as long as the full width of the hive, but even with these the bees seem to want more ventilation. The drones in trying to get out, shut out a part of the ventilation that the bees would otherwise receive. Then there is danger of the colony swarming when the bee keeper is not present, and after a second attempt they are likely to kill the queen. Then the young queens that they rear are unable to pass the guard. Likely fret themselves to death, and we have a hopelessly queenless colony. The drone and queen trap as we find it on the market provides less ventilation than a properly made entrance guard and hence is a greater evil. However I started to speak of black bees, rather than about entrance guards and queen traps.

I would keep Italian bees in preference to black bees if there was only one difference, viz: the difference in disposition or temperament. Their inclination to run to one corner of the comb one is handling; form in a clus-

ter and drop off. Their nervousness; their habit of buzzing around ones head and in front of your nose bantering for a fight, and the inclination of the queen to hide when the hive is opened makes a colony of black bees disagreeable to handle when compared to the quiet even tempered Italians I have a few colonies that were in large boxes when I bought them and the colonies were so powerful that I did not wish to kill the queens in the spring so have left them to go through the summer. They have done some noble work considering the poor season but now the queens must go owing to that bad temperament.

Bluffton, Mo., Aug. 22.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO.

Ever since the breaking out of the yellow fever in the south, I have been receiving letters from all parts of the country, suggesting that the place of meeting for the National convention be changed to some Northern city. To all for a long time, I returned the same reply: "Let's wait and see how things turn out. If the fever is crushed out of existence, or controlled, then we can go to Texas just as well as ever."

To a certain extent the fever has been controlled, but there seems to be no probability that it will be done with before the time that has been set for holding our convention in San Antonio. The time has come when we can wait no longer. If a change is to be made, it must be made at once, that bee-keepers may be planning accordingly.

Before taking up the matter with the Executive Committee, I wrote to the Directors, the editors of the leading bee journals, and to several of the most prominent bee keepers asking for their views on the subject. The

majority was overwhelmingly in favor of a change. The matter was then taken up with the Executive Committee, and every member favored a change to Chicago, during the fat stock show, the first week in December. It is possible that some other Northern city has greater claims than Chicago for the holding of the convention, but the meeting must be held where reduced railroad rates will be assured and the fat stock show at Chicago furnishes these.

It is possible that there is no real danger from the fever at San Antonio, but the fear of it is real, and would have kept away the Northern people. The bee-keepers of Louisiana and Mississippi would also have been shut up in their own States. Texas has had a slim crop of honey this year, and, taken all in all, a convention this fall in San Antonio would have been a pretty slim affair. I think that even the Texans themselves would rather wait until another year, when, if all goes well, the convention could be held in San Antonio with every assurance of a big crowd.

Arrangements have been completed for holding the meeting in Chicago, at the Revere House, corner of Michigan and Clark Sts., on the 5th, 6th and 7th of December. This hotel can accommodate at least 300 bee-keepers, and the rates are 75 cents for a room alone, or 50 cents each where two occupy the same room. Meals are extra, they may be secured at near restaurants.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Secretary

BEE SWAX.

We are paying 26 cents per pound cash or 28 cents in trade for good bees wax delivered here. It is to the interest of all bee-keepers, either large or small, to save all bits of comb, render them into wax, and exchange for supplies which will be much needed when the honey-flow begins.

THE WEATHER AND THE HONEY-FLOW: THE CAUSE OF QUEENS BALLING.

I have read carefully Mr. Crane's article, page 306, also the one by Mr. Classen, page 486. Our main flow this year was in just such a time as Mr. Crane described. I don't think that blunder has the same effect that he says it does. But we have a very sorry crop of honey, but more swarms than we have had in ten years. As to whether or not a dry season darkens honey, our best honey is made in a dry spring. When we have a wet time we always get a bad lot of honey. We have only amber honey, but some of it looks dark and smoky, and is always thin.

I want to ask a question. I hived a swarm with a clipped queen. The next day was rainy; but the next they came out, I put the queen back, but late that evening I found her dead. What was the cause? I hived one off a pine. As soon as they went in I moved the old hive and put a new one in its place. In a minute or two they came out and went back to the pine. I looked and found the queen balled. I put the ball in cold water. As soon as I could get the queen I put her back in the new hive. The swarm soon came back, and has been all right ever since. What do you think was the cause? As indicated above, about the only thing we got this year was swarms and robber bees.

J. S. PATTON.

Havana, Alr., June 3.

[A swarm will very often ball the old queen, because there is a virgin present that suits its fancy more. It will, if it make repeated attempts to go off, and the queen as often fails to follow, because she is clipped, finally kill her. When the first attempt is made the swarm should be properly

hived, and even then a virgin may come into the family with the result that the old mother is sacrificed. Or it may happen that a small swarm will unite with a large one unbeknown to the apiarist. There will then be some balling business going on in all probability.—ED.]—Gleanings in Bee Culture.

FEWER GRADES MORE DESIRABLE.

Mr. Editor:—The writer has been reading your letters on the grading of honey. So far as our market is concerned, A number 1 honey will bring us much as "fancy" when it comes to selling in a jobbing way. Now and then one might find a grocer with a strictly fancy trade who might pay ten or fifteen cents per case more for the fancy honey than for the No. 1; but this is an exception to the rule. We do a strictly jobbing business, and find that, by classifying our A No. 1 honey, and honey marked "fancy" under one head, we never have any complaints.

"Strictly No 1" is the term we most use, as we hardly believe in any one quoting anything as "fancy," that word signifying something different from what almost every person uses. We believe that, the fewer grades of honey there are, the better it is for both the receiver and the producer of honey.

We ourselves believe all honey should be classed according to weight, the white honey as heavy, medium, or light, and amber the same way. In this way we believe the honey producer would get more money out of his honey than he does at present. The popular demand seems to be for heavy-weight honey, and in several instances we have been able to get from 15 to 25 cents per case more on account of the weight when the quality, according to

the grading given in Gleanings, would not grade over No. 1 stock.

The marketing of honey in this section during the last few years has been done by the case and not by the pound. The dealers seem to think this a better way to buy, as it saves figuring, and we ourselves find this method more satisfactory, as hardly any two scales weigh alike, and this causes more or less dispute and claims for shortage. At one time last winter we had on our honey platform five or six different styles of sections. We believe the bee men should work in unison, and adopt a uniform section case. Where we have shipments from twenty-five or thirty shippers, all put up in different sizes of cases, you can readily see how hard it is to fill an order for twenty-five or thirty cases and give parties a uniform-sized case. The demand in this section seems to be for a twenty-four section case.

C. C. CLEMONS & CO.

Kansas City, Mo., June 2.

[It would be hard to find a greater diversity of opinion than we have here on these grading rules. It appears too, that no two of our commission men follow exactly the same rules, and that no two bee-keepers who do attempt to follow the same rules grade alike on the same grading. One commission man wants more grades and another wants less. The Bee-Keepers Review has been recommending one set of rules and Gleanings has been putting at the head of its honey column another. It begins to look as if every bee-keeper and every market has his or its own system of grading. This is not as it should be; for under present conditions the quotations for one market cannot be compared with those of another. If, for example, I am offered 15c for fancy in New York, and 16 cents for the same grade in Chicago, with equal freights I send to Chicago. I then learn that

my fancy is only No. 1 in Chicago, and this brings only 14 cents. Then I wish I had shipped to New York. I send the next lot to the eastern city and get my price. It is certainly demoralizing to the trade to have such confusion. It is high time that we struck at more uniformity. As it is we were depressing prices by this way of doing. Our columns are open to any discussion that will get us out of this mix-up.—Ed.]
—Gleanings in Bee Culture.

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ADVANCED BEE CULTURE, by W. Z. Hutchinson; price 50c.

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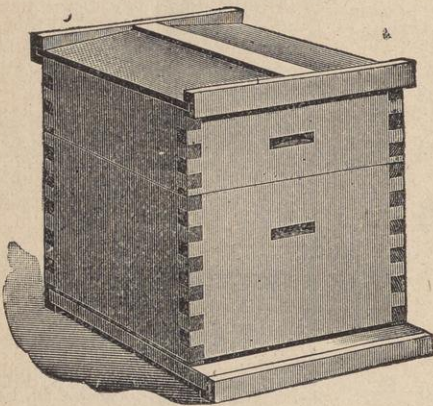
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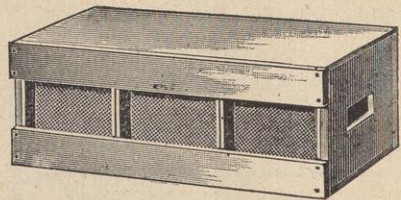
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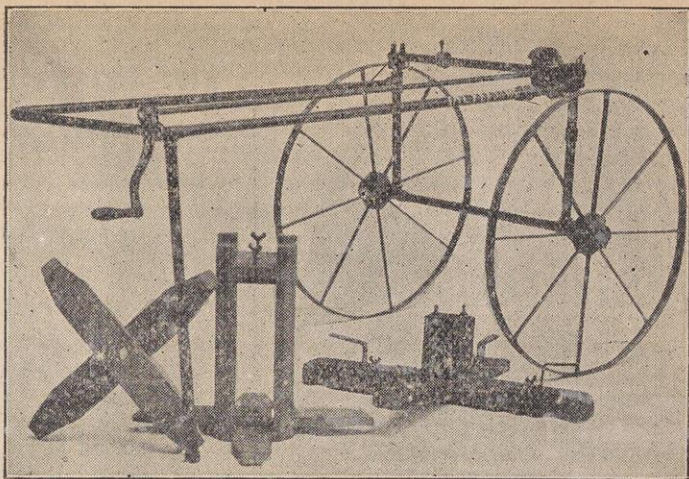
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EDWARD FREESE.

New Haven, Mo., R. F. D. No. 1.

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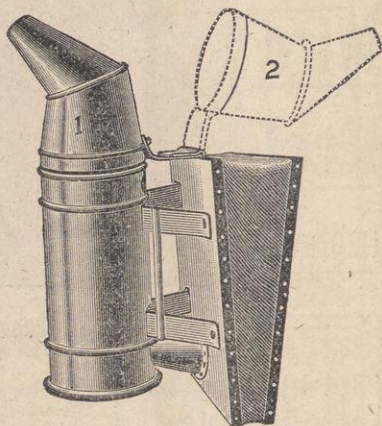
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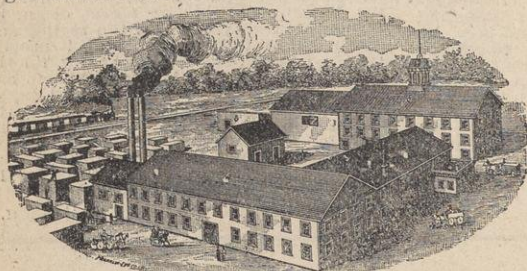
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Made of sheet-brass which does not rust or burn out, should last a lifetime. You need one, but they cost 25c more than tin of the same size. The little pen cut shows our brass hinge put on the three larger sizes. No wonder Bingham's 4-inch Smoke Engine goes without puffing and **Does Not Drop Inky Spots.** The perforated steel fire grate has 384 holes to air the fuel and support the fire. **PRICES:** Heaby Tin Smoke Engine, four inch stove, by mail \$1 50; 3½ inch, \$1.10; 3 inch, \$1.00; 2½ inch, 90c; 2 inch, 65c. Bingham Smokers are the original and have all the improvements, and have been the Standard of Excellence for 22 years. With a Bingham Smoker that will hold a quart of sound maple wood, the bee-keepers trials are all over for a long time. Who ever heard of a Bingham Smoker that

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One-half Gallon.....	1.00
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Five Gallon Can. per gallon.....	1.50

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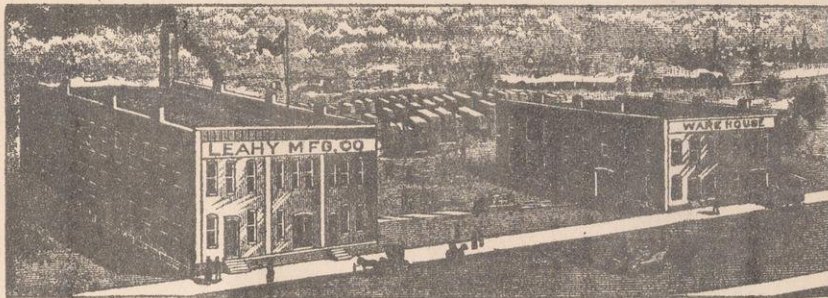
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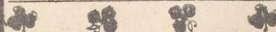
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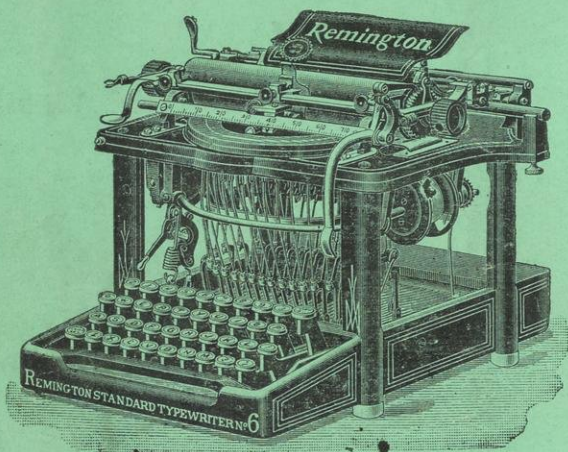


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