



## **The Pacific bee journal. Vol. 2, No. 2 February, 1897**

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P119

# The Pacific... Bee Journal



VOL. 2.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., FEBRUARY, 1897.

NO. 2.



UNION ENG. CO. L.A.

APIARY OF W. F. BERRY, ROXWELL, CLARK CO., WASH.

## CONTENTS

PAGE

Pacific Gems.....	B. B. Bees.....	5
Political Bees .....	J. B. Fagg.....	6
Pacific Bee Journal.....	R. E. Davison.....	6
The Importation of <i>Apis Dorsata</i> .....	J. A. Pease .....	6
Colorado as a Honey Country .....	F. L. Thompson .....	7
Controlling Prices Among Honey Producers..	A. Norton .....	9
The Bee Meeting .....	P. B. J. Reporter.....	10
Southern California's Great Fair.....	P. B. J. Reporter.....	11
Bees on the Desert—CONCLUDED .....	"Skylark" .....	12
Wonder Future of Apiculture .....	"Inventor" .....	13
A Condensed Review of Bee Journals .....	The Editor .....	14
Answers and Questions.....	The Editor .....	16
Editorial Comment on the Honey Market, Light-Weight Sections, and the Los Angeles Journal Honey Industry .....		17

# The Pacific Bee Journal

Devoted to the Protection and the Advancement of Bee-Keepers' interests.



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

B. S. K. BENNETT,

365 East Second Street

LOS ANGELES, - - - CALIFORNIA

B. S. K. BENNETT,  
Editor and Business Manager.

TERMS.—50 cents per year; two papers to same address, 90 cents per year; 3 papers to one address, \$1.25 per year.

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of some simple  
thing to patent?

Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1,800 prize offer and list of two hundred inventions wanted.



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I shall supply my customers with the same grade of foundation that I have furnished them in seasons past and shall endeavor to make my tissue foundation with thinner base than any I have yet sent out. The following prices are based on wax at 25c. a pound and are subject to change without notice.

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Brood Foundation cut to fit any sized frame. Tissue Foundation cut to fit the pound section. Good clean wax delivered here will be taken at all times in exchange for foundation, and I will allow you the market price for the wax at the time it is received. Your beeswax will be worked into brood foundation for 10c. a pound; into tissue foundation for 20c. a pound.

This advertisement takes the place of my usual annual price list. Order direct from this list.

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## MONEY-MAKING QUEENS QUEENS

BRED AT THE NORTHWEST  
HOME OF THE HONEY BEE

**B. J. COLE**

LATONA, KINGS CO.  
WASHINGTON

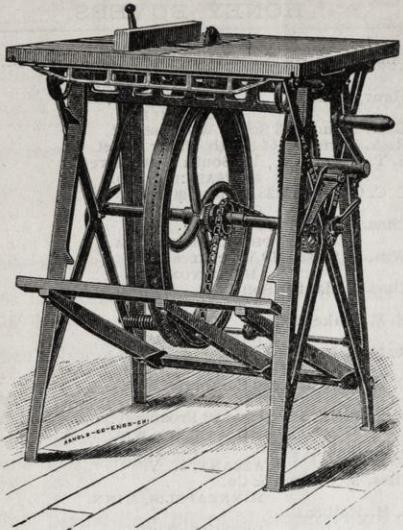
NOTICE.—One colony of our bees produced in 1893 132 lbs. of fancy comb honey—average of the apiary was 90 lbs. per colony, while the average yield of black bees in our vicinity was only 30 pounds per colony. These bees can reach more flowers and are quieter to handle than any other race. Sample of bees sent by return mail, for 10 cents in stamps. Dealers and heavy buyers of bees, queens, or bee supplies, write for special prices.

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	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
1 untested	-	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$ .75	\$ .75
1 select choice untd	1.75	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.00	1.25
1 tested	-	2.50	2.00	2.00	1.50	1.50
1 select tested	-	3.50	3.50	3.00	2.50	2.50
1 extra select tested	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.00	5.00	6.00

NOTICE.—The price of queens for October and November will be the same as in May; and December, January, February, and March, the same as in April. Write for special prices on large orders. Will mail catalogue free on application.

**This Paper (Monthly) 50 Cents a Year, if paid before, July, 1897.**



**BEE-KEEPERS!** Save money by using our FOOT-POWER CIRCULAR SAW in making Hives, Frames, and Cases. Can be used in many ways in the Apiary and on the farm. Machines sent on trial if desired. Catalogue free. W. F. & JNO. BARNES CO.

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## Italian LEATHER OR GOLDEN



NOW is just the best and wisest time to queen an Apiary, and it is the cheapest

I have an Apiary in the mountains, seven miles east of Fernando. My intentions were to Italianize last fall, but I did not, though I got about a dozen Italian queens in a dozen hives, and would you believe it, these dozen hives have two top boxes

### FULL OF HONEY THIS DRY YEAR, while

All the rest are being fed. Some got queenless, some had fertile workers, and others full of moths in one short month. This is the condition of all the apiaries around mine. I have not time to feed, so I guess I'll have only the twelve Italian left up there next year, though I have nearly 75 strong colonies in Los Angeles, building up all the time. QUEENS cheap. Have too ready.

Italian, untested. - - - each \$0.75 doz. \$ 7.50  
Italian, warranted, - - - each .85 doz. 8.50  
Italian, tested, - - - each 1.00 doz. 10.00  
Italian, select tested, - - - each 1.50 good breeders  
Select hybrids, 6 feet, 25c. each; \$1.00 for the 6.

B. S. K. BENNETT

365 E. Second St.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

### BEE RANCH FOR SALE

120 acres of land, 75 stands of bees, 125 bearing fruit trees, plenty living water. See picture.

W. F. BERRY, ROXWELL, CLARK CO., WASH.

# THE BEST GOODS ON THIS COAST

We have gained the reputation of making the **best on the Coast**, and this year we will endeavor to make goods **equal to the best in the United States**. We are sure of doing this as the Company **has made a large addition to its capital**. Our machinery is improved; our facilities increased; our stock is inexhaustible; our goods are made of soft, white, and sugar pine lumber, of which we now have a **large dry stock**. As we are **specialists** in bee supply goods making them in **large quantities** none can meet us in work or prices. We have arranged with railroads and boats to make **delivered prices** so that our customers will have **no freight to pay**.

We **guarantee our goods to prove satisfactory or money refunded**. We guarantee to fill small stock orders by next freight, and large orders in three to six days' time. We will trade our goods for customers' product, paying highest market prices. Our terms are cash with order. If you have not the cash, see or correspond with

# THE BENNETT BEE-HIVE CO.

365 E. SECOND ST., LOS ANGELES, CAL.

## Honey Market Reports.

The quotations in this column are based, as nearly as possible, on the grading adopted by the North American, and are the prices that the commission men get, and on which the commission for making the sales is figured. The grading rules referred to are as follows:

**FANCY.**—All sections to be well filled, combs straight, of even thickness, and firmly attached to all four sides, both wood and comb unsoled by travel stain or otherwise; all the cells sealed except the row of cells next to the wood.

No. 1.—All sections well filled, but combs uneven or crooked, detached at the bottom, or with but few cells unsealed; both wood and comb unsoled by travel stain or otherwise.

In addition to this the honey is to be classified according to color, using the terms white, amber and dark. That is, there will be "fancy white," "No. 1 dark," etc.

Dealers are expected to quote only those grades and classifications to be found in their market.

**SAN FRANCISCO.**—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 10@11; No. 1 white, 9@10; fancy amber, 7; No. 1 amber, 6@7; fancy dark, 5@6; No. 1 dark, 4@5; extracted, white, 5@5½; amber, 4; dark, 2½@3. Beeswax, 23@25.

**LOS ANGELES.**—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 9@10; No. 1 white, 8@9; fancy amber, 8; fancy dark, 5@6; No. 1 dark, 4@5. Extracted, white, 4@5; amber, 4; dark, 3. Beeswax, 20@22. Honey crop light, but no honey demand. None selling.

**CINCINNATI.**—*Honey.*—No. 1 white, 12@13; No. 1 amber, 11@12; No. 1 dark, 10. Extracted, amber, 5@7. Beeswax, 20@25.

**KANSAS CITY.**—*Honey.*—No. 1 white, 14; No. 1 amber, 12; No. 1 dark, 10. Extracted, white, 6½; amber, 5@5½; dark, 4@4½. Beeswax, 25.

**CLEVELAND.**—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 13@14; No. 1 white, 11@12; No. 1 amber, 9@10. Extracted, white, 6@7; amber, 4@5. Beeswax, 22@25. Beeswax is still scarce, and would sell readily at quotations.

**CHICAGO.**—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 14; No. 1 white, 12@13; fancy amber, 9@10; No. 1 amber, 7@8; fancy dark, 8@10; No. 1 dark, 7@8. Extracted, white, 6@7; amber, 4½@5; dark, 4@5. Beeswax, 25@26.

**PHILADELPHIA.**—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 13@14; No. 1 white, 11@12; No. 1 dark, 7@8. Extracted, white 6@7; amber, 4@5; dark, 3½@4. Beeswax, 25@27. Market dull on honey; beeswax in fair demand.

**ST. LOUIS.**—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 11@12½; No. 1 white, 10@11; fancy amber, 9@10; No. 1 amber, 8@9; fancy dark, 7½@8; No. 1 dark, 6@7½. Extracted, white, in cans, 4½@5; amber, in barrels, 3@3½. Beeswax, 25½@26. Strained and extracted honey especially slow; as a rule it goes to bakers and manufacturers. Little new honey coming in.

**MINNEAPOLIS.**—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 12@13; No. 1 white, 11@12; fancy amber, 10@11; No. 1 amber, 8@10; fancy dark, 6@7; No. 1 dark, 5@6. Extracted, white, 7@7½; amber, 5@5½; dark, 4½@5. Beeswax, 23@24. A better demand has prevailed, and Eastern honey moving better since the unfavorable crop reports from California, but actual trading is light.

## HONEY BUYERS.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.  
Simpson & Hack Fruit Co., 136 S. Los Angeles st.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Henry Schacht.

CHICAGO ILL.

L. A. Lamon, 43 South Water street.  
R. A. Burnett, 163 South Water street.

S. T. Fish & Co., 189 South Water street.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

C. C. Clemons, 423 Walnut street.

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Chas. F. Muth & Son.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Wm. A. Selser, 10 Vine street.

HAMILTON, ILL.

Chas. Dadant & Son.

BOSTON, MASS.

E. E. Blake & Co.

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ST. LOUIS, MO.

D. G. Tutt Grocery Company.

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Williams Bros., 80 and 82 Broadway.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

A. V. Bishop & Co.

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

S. H. Hall & Co.

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M. H. Hunt, Bell Branch, Mich.

## The Bee-keepers' Review

Has several points of superiority. 1st. It gives the reports of the Michigan Experiment Apiary—gives them each month, as soon as possible after the work is done, while they are fresh and of newsworthy character, and can be of some benefit. 2nd. It gives Hasty's monthly three-page review of the other bee-journals. 3rd. F. L. Thompson, a practical bee-keeper and thorough linguist, reads twelve of the leading foreign bee-journals, and, each month, furnishes the gist of what he finds in them that is valuable. There are other points of excellence possessed by the Review, but these three are to be found in no other journal. The Review is \$1.00 a year. Ask for a sample, or send 10 cents for three late but different issues.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON,  
Flint, Michigan.

## Sick Bee-keepers.

Perhaps not very sick, but many of you suffer more or less, and that isn't pleasant. On invitation of our editor, Mr. Bennett, I am glad to talk with you a moment about an honest, efficient remedy. It cures Pain and Fever. Especially useful in all Fevers, Headaches, Colds, Grip, Rheumatism and Neuralgia. Cures serious as well as common ailments; and very quickly. No narcotics; perfectly safe; easy to take, and delightful in effect. A most useful household remedy, and every box guaranteed to please you or money refunded. Hundreds of bee-keepers and others over the country are using Yellowzones, but no customer ever yet asked for return of money, and they talk this way:

"It's a rare pleasure to find such a remedy."  
"No one could believe their wonderful healing powers, and so quickly too, without trying them."

"Have used Yellowzones to a bilious and nervous headache that has been the bane of my existence for twenty years, and they knock it CLEAR TO THE HORIZON!"

"Been laid up 6 months with rheumatism. Got more relief in 12 hours after taking your Yellowzones than from all else, though I am a skeptic and did not believe they could do it."

I refer with pleasure to editor Bennett as to our own integrity, and the value of Yellowzones.

1 box of 18 tablets, by mail 25 cents. 6 boxes, \$1.00. Most orders are for 6 boxes. Let me at least send you an interesting circular.

W. B. HOUSE, M.D. Lock box 1. DETOUR, MICH.

# The Pacific Bee Journal.

DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BEE-KEEPERS' INTERESTS OF THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

Published by B. S. K. Bennett, 365 E. Second St., Los Angeles, California. 50 cents per year, Sample Copy free.

VOL. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1897.

No. 2.

## Pacific Gems.

BY B. B. BEES.

A. I. Root of Ohio, is visiting a brother in Arizona.

Bee robbers in Bakersfield, we understand, are quite numerous, and it seems that in that part of the country some people are making a business of robbing bee hives of honey, as well as bees, and some of the evil doers have already been landed behind the bars.

San Bernardino Board of Supervisors, on January 11, 10 a. m., at a regular meeting, upon motion of Supervisor West, duly seconded and carried, granted a petition asking appointment of A. W. Hatch as bee inspector, and Mr. Hatch was declared appointed.

The orchardists of Riverside are waging war against the bee-keepers, and a petition is being sent to the city trustees asking that body to compel the bee men to remove their apiaries. In other words, to get out or off the earth. Bee men, here is your chance to retaliate, and order the orchardists to get out.

Buyers of bees are cropping up everywhere. Now that the prospects are good there are very few to be found who wish to sell bees. There is always an advertisement in nearly every paper we pick up—it is purchase for spot cash bees in any kind of hives. Those who have bees to sell might let this paper know.

A Riverside bee-keeper, T. O. Andrews, by name, the owner of an apiary of 500 colonies three miles from Rincon, is figuring closely on the honey prospects, for he has kept a record of the rainfall for the last two years, and gives the following: Rain to date, nine inches. Last year up to present date, one and one-half inches. The record shows that one and three-quarter inches fell in one hour. This, so far, is only one and a half inches less than the total rainfall of last season.

Prospects for a large honey yield on the Pacific Coast is the sentiment voiced by bee-keepers all over our land, and may we ask, could the prospects be better, with a warm

spring and gradual rains that the ground takes up so admirably, and the weather clearing away, giving us the weather that tends to increase the growth of nature's beautiful carpet, and the secretions of tons upon tons of nectar. This is the bee man's one great wish, and surely that wish is being fulfilled this season.

A cargo of sweetness. A dispatch from Santa Ana received at the steamship company's office this morning, states that the Pacific Coast Steamship, Protection, is due tomorrow morning at this point for a cargo of honey for Rosenberg Bros. & Co., San Francisco. The honey is shipped by Kelly Bros. of Santa Ana Cañon. The shipment consists of 200 cases or 14 tons in all. This is supposed to be the largest shipment of honey made from this port for some years. The steamer Protection will surely have a sweet cargo.

A Bakersfield paper says of the Bee Convention, lately held in Los Angeles, that the honey industry is receiving considerable attention. The general trend of the meeting was for a more thorough organization of bee men; to secure a better system of packing their product; and to work for lower freight rates, which now, it is claimed, are most prohibitory. Says also that there was a small legislative sentiment developed in the meeting. That several bills and memorials to Legislature and Congress were passed; so that now bee conventions in Los Angeles are attracting a great deal of attention, and that in other parts of the country it would be well to carry out these splendid organizations and meetings.

A prehistoric bee-hive, found by workmen engaged in a stone quarry one mile south of the city of Atchison, Kansas. In quarrying a large rock in one of the cliffs, a hole fifteen feet in diameter had been drilled with a steam drill, into which explosives were tamped and fuse attached. After this there was a great blast and a great upheaval of rocks. When the workmen went to ascertain the results of the blast, they discovered a great cavity in the rock that they think had been many years a great bee-hive. There were no bees, but plenty of honey, as the rock had been many hundred feet below the surface of the earth. That the honey was palatable, is vouched for by all of the workmen, but the debatable question—is that the product of bees of this age or prehistoric?

### Political Bees.

EAST MILL CREEK, SALT LAKE CO., UTAH,  
January 9, 1897.

FRIEND BENNETT:

Yours of December 26th at hand. I do not know that I can be of any service to you for I am not used to having my opinions published, although some of my papers have got into print. But if, as you say, you tell us what is wanted, I will try and help all I can.

I have had some sixteen or seventeen years with bees and I do not think I have been asleep all the time. If I had I should have woken up a time or two, I assure you. I do not know how the bee-keepers of California came out last year. Mine did scarcely anything, but thank goodness there will not be another election for President for four years, and the bees can give politics a rest or take a rest from them. They must have been studying politics, for I can't see what else they were doing.

We have a very good climate for bee-culture in Utah, and I think it will be made a great source of revenue yet for the State. Let me know what you want and I will see what I can do.

I remain yours,  
JOHN B. FAGG.

### Pacific Bee Journal.

BY R. E. DAVISON.

Perhaps you're a "cor" hereaway ere this; Well then there's room in the waste-basket for this.

MR. EDITOR:

Our apiary report for past season is briefly: Scant winter rains, not supplemented, and in consequence a progressing but brief nectar flow; an unusual multiplication of bees (almost), no swarms or surplus, and large inroads on the accumulated hive stores.

Helped in our emergency by as very favorable fall and winter, I have heard of little or none of either feeding or "starving out." Still, it was expected, and for months bee-keepers felt as Bryanites are supposed to feel since election returns were in.

But a change came. Early, frequent, well timed and abundant rains in last three months have "boomed" vegetation. The manzanita bloom appeared first (I noted that November 18) and a day later saw the wild pea and a malodorous low bush, with a four-petaled small white blossom. A month later saw the wild lilacs and yellow weed (tangle-foot — wild alfalfa), yellow sorrel (portulacca), durtis and chillicotes out.

The busy hum in the pepper and oak arrests the passer's attention. And see that stranger! You can't tell from his beaming countenance whether he's thinking of his work in the McKinley campaign or of those "stands" on his ranch.

The promise is now favorable for a prosperous season for apiarists, if we do not have too severe cold or a long dry spell to — Pshaw! what's the use of such "ifs." "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Vivimus, vivamus! [Means "while we live let's rejoice"! Don't it?!] Well, we have much to rejoice in. E. g. *A local "B. J." A greatly improved B. J.*

*The assurance of a monthly instead of a Q. (Once in three months don't fill the bill) and so on ad infinitum.*

Black Mountain P. O., Cal., San Diego County.

Here's an item, not local (here), but will be news to many of your readers who think they know something of aparian natural history. It appears in the *Metropolitan and Rural Home*, New York, for December, Vol. vi, No. 6, under title: "Management of bees, Kate C. Buck. Within two weeks after the loss of a queen, the eggs of fertile workers will be found. Fertile workers are only drones, a few of which are necessary."

### The Importation of Apis Dorsata from a Bee-keeper's Standpoint.

BY JOHN A. PEASE.

In the American Bee Journal of December 10th, page 789, Prof. A. J. Cook has an article on the importation of *Apis Dorsata* into this country, in which he doubts the wisdom of the action taken on the subject by the North American Bee-keepers' Association at their convention at Lincoln, Neb., and at the risk of being considered presumptuous for attempting to blow my little tin whistle in opposition to his big trumpet, I would like to offer a few friendly criticisms on the points he offers, through the columns of the PACIFIC BEE JOURNAL.

He says: "I think that there is a lack of enterprise shown in this matter by a large number who have recently spoken". If it were a movement, the results of which would be of undoubtedly or even of probable benefit to the bee-keepers of the country, then doubtless it might justly be considered lack of enterprise or lack of wisdom, or both, on the part of bee-keepers to oppose it. Even if it could be proven that it would benefit the country at large, though a detriment to bee-keepers, we might let patriotism outweigh our selfishness and still favor it. But so long as there exists in the mind of many the idea that it would be a movement of doubtful utility with the probability strongly on the negative side of the question, it seems to me that it would be worse than lack of enterprise, it would be downright foolishness on the part of such not to oppose it. That such an idea does exist is plain, from the fact that so many have written and

spoken against it, and that that sentiment was strong enough at the Lincoln convention to adopt the resolution opposing it, for, although there may be some who would allow their prejudice against an individual to sway them against their better judgment and their own self-interest, yet I cannot believe there are many such, certainly not a majority of the eminent bee-keepers who met at Lincoln.

He says he believes that we might secure valuable results if this bee were brought to our country and that the enterprise is too great for private effort, and refers to the benefits derived from the introduction of the Italian bee and the Australian lady bird beetles.

I will not attempt to deny the great benefit derived from those insects, for it is indisputable, but unless I am greatly mistaken, their value in their native countries was known in this country before any attempt was made to import them, and from all accounts that I have been able to obtain in regard to the introduction of the Italian bee, the attempt on the part of the Government was a failure, and they were finally introduced by private enterprise.

Again he says: "None of the honey-gathering bees are ever in the least degree mischievous. They are always and everywhere friends". I think the Professor has never had very much experience in handling the Cyprian or Punic bees, or else that his ideas of friendship, or the manner of expressing it, are very peculiar. It is true that they have some very valuable traits, but their undesirable traits so greatly outweigh their desirable ones, that it would be hard to find anyone among experienced bee-keepers who want anything to do with them. Indeed, with the possible exception of the Carniolan, none of the races of foreign bees introduced into this country have proven of any value above the natives.

Again he says: "Without any doubt these bees have longer tongues than our ordinary bees", etc. On this point I cannot dispute, never having had an opportunity to test it. I suppose he arrives at this conclusion from the fact that they are a larger bee, and if they were of the same race, this would be strong presumptive evidence in favor of this conclusion, but as he says they are "an entirely distinct species", and therefore may have an entirely different structure. The bear is a much larger beast than the cat, but he has a shorter tail, and it may be so with this bee's tongue.

Again he says: "It passes understanding, to me, why anyone should object", etc., I think I can see more reasons than one why they should object, but as this article is already too long, I will not give them here. Perhaps I may do so at some future time if this don't find its way into the waste basket.

I will say this, however, that Prof. Cook, although an acknowledged authority on bees and bee culture, with few equals and no superior, yet he is still more a scientist, and I think he is looking at this question from the scientist's standpoint instead of the bee-keepers'.

Monrovia, Cal., Dec. 15, 1896.

## Colorado as a Honey Country.

BY F. L. THOMPSON.

Bee-keepers here depend almost entirely on the alfalfa bloom. Hence a statement of some conditions of alfalfa culture will at the same time go far to show what may be expected in the way of honey.

If all our great fields of hundreds of acres were left to grow for seed, the flow would remain constant. But as a matter of fact it tapers off before it commences—if a bull may be excused. The alfalfa raiser, with only just force enough to get through the season in good shape in favorable circumstances, soon gets so that he is very careful not to have the last day's cutting of a crop come very near the ending of the bloom. A few days make a great difference in the marketable qualities of the hay. Hay made after the alfalfa gets a little too old, has an inferior appearance, being coarse and woody, with a less proportion of leaves to stems, has a dingy color, and much of it is wasted by stock when fed. Early cut hay is finer, and makes little waste. When cured right, it has plenty of leaves, is bright and green, and sells at sight for a good price. Usually there is so much to cut (being not one of many crops, but one of the chief crops), that great quantities must be cut early in order to get through at all. Rains may come, stopping work, and making more work in turning the haycocks over; in providing for such contingencies, the date of cutting is set still farther back. And with all this, really first-class hay is not very abundant. Care is required in curing and stacking, which it is impossible to give to all alike, on account of the abundance to be handled.

Hence, as time goes on, and alfalfa raisers gain experience, the tendency is for it to be cut earlier and earlier. Mr. Aitkin, for example, has for some years been informing us that in the northeastern counties the bee-keepers do not depend on the alfalfa fields themselves, but on alfalfa which has been broken up for wheat, when some of the tough roots, which have evaded the plow, will grow up among the grain; and on stray bunches by the roadsides and along ditches. That stage has not quite been reached in the central counties; and in the southern and southwestern counties, particularly the latter, we hear of old-fashioned crops. But it is safe to say that, in general,

the interests of the hay-raiser and the bee-keeper are not the same, and that sooner or later bee-keeping in nearly every part of the State must be limited, compared to what it might be.

No great dependence can be put on seed fields. It is only occasionally that a field is left for seed; and a single field of forty to eighty acres does not cut much of a figure in the production of honey. Mr. H. R. Ranchfuss, after taking certain data into consideration, has reached the conclusion that eight or ten acres of alfalfa bloom per colony are required for the bees to do their best work. It will be seen that the amount of nectar in each blossom is very small.

I have heard that considerable seed-car-loads, in fact—is raised about Rocky Ford, in the Arkansas valley. But it is evident that there never can be such a demand for it as there is for clover seed in the East. While the first few years' growth may have a few more plants to the square rod than in subsequent years, yet it practically lasts forever without re-seeding. It continues to produce just about as much hay, though not quite as fine, as at first.

However, the flow from alfalfa here may always be relied on to a certain extent. Though scanty in some years, it always yields something. To my mind, the best idea of a honey country may be obtained, not from its best results, but its low water mark. I do not remember to have heard that this has gone lower than 10 pounds of surplus per colony (that is, in the apiaries of experts, and when there were no diseases), and that was in the northern counties. But side-issue bee-keepers here as elsewhere, frequently get nothing at all. Mr. Aikin, for example, in 1892, reported that out of 3,000, possibly 4,000 colonies in Larimer county, less than 1,000 produced all the honey shipped out. The same class do much harm to the local markets by selling at low figures.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that we cannot, like California, say to Eastern bee-keepers, "Come on!" There may be some unoccupied corners in the southwestern counties; but if so, they will not long remain! Bee-keepers here are unanimous in saying there are enough of us already; and one of the most extensive, Mr. N. C. Alford, says there are four times as many bee-keepers here as there ought to be. Arizona and New Mexico may have more room.

Of other honey plants, sweet clover helps out some, especially at the end of the season. But there is not very much of it, except in a few localities. *Cleome Integrifolia* in some places yields a surplus, but has off years. In one or two of the mountain cañons I have heard that bees will keep themselves going on native plants alone, and pro-

duce a little surplus once in a while. But in the eastern half of the State native honey-plants do not amount to anything to speak of. As the irrigated region is comparatively small in area, there are many localities on the plains where one could mate queens with certain results, as well as on an island. Of course the bees would have to be fed.

But while the alfalfa regions do not produce more than a respectable quantity of honey in proportion to forage area, in quality their honey stands at the head. Mr. E. T. Abbott, who eats honey 1095 times in the year, and the editors of the American Bee Journal and Gleanings, are certainly impartial judges; and their verdict is, that alfalfa honey is the finest flavored of any produced.

There is not much of a winter problem, but there is a spring problem. The proportion of weak colonies is apt to be large. Except in the fruit-raising districts of the western counties, there is practically no honey-flow until the main one, about June 15, but the bees alternately fly and cnddle together, according to the numerous changes of weather, all through the spring, to the great detriment of their vital powers. None of them succeed in building up any too soon.

Perhaps a little theory would not be amiss here. It is well known how dry and healthy "dugouts" are throughout the arid region. Mr. H. Ranchfuss has suggested that house apiaries be tried, consisting of excavations in the ground to the depth of about two feet, or enough to bring the tops of the hives on a level with the outside ground, and thick adobe walls for the remainder—not ordinary adobe, however, but very slightly moist black loam rammed tight in a form with heavy beetles, so as not to crack when dry. Such buildings are used for storing grain above ground in Saxony. They are quickly made, and some of them are as good as ever after a hundred years' usage. The suggestion is a promising one, coming as it does from one familiar with Colorado drawbacks. In this way one would have all the advantages of cellar wintering, while allowing the bees to fly if they wanted to; the temperature would be more even at all times; there would be less winter consumption, which is considerable here; the bees would not fly so much in spring; in summer there would be a cool place for the bees and bee-master in the daytime, and not an undue loss of heat to retard comb-building in our cool nights; besides all the advantages of the house-apiary.

Foul brood in Colorado is well under control. Paralysis has showed itself in two apiaries near together for several years, but has not spread. A strange kind of spring dwindling afflicted all the bees around Denver last spring, more like a subtle poisoning than anything else.

Our greatest need is a good market.

There is reason to believe a home market could be created, if attempted in the right way. The consumption of honey has greatly increased in the last six years, though still far from being adequate.

2229 Clarkson St., Denver, Colo.

## Controlling Prices Among Honey Producers.

BY A. NORTON.

Since you have chosen the subject you wish me to write about, I will try to handle it with due regard to the many threadbare places.

A great many elements enter into the composition of this problem; and how soon they can all be successfully combined seems somewhat problematical. Coöperation will have to be simply perfect before the problem can be perfectly solved. To control the price of honey, for example, producers will have to agree upon a price that is fairly remunerative to all. A price that is below the profit-point of the producer who labors under the least favorable conditions, will simply be a freeze-out price; it will drive a portion of the producers out of the business, or oblige them to leave their locations for some neighborhood or territory where bee-keepers do better. This would tend to induce over-stocking and general disadvantage. If a price were once determined, favorable to all, concert of action in selling would at once become important, to establish this price against the ruling market price, whose rule is generally hard to combat.

The first thing to do, perhaps in this direction, is to reform the selfishness and obstinacy of human nature.

Many members of unions, who enter to further their own private ends will forsake the same, or stealthily violate the provisions thereof for their private ends. And, as labor unions find workingmen who will underwork them if they demand more pay, so producers find other producers ready to undersell them whenever they try to raise the price. Concert of action, therefore, must be of the most thorough and systematic kind, in order to accomplish its end; and no doubt California producers are already trying the most practical scheme that has yet been devised. But no plan of concerted action can be perfectly successful unless it contains as an element the provision for sustaining temporarily those who are in need.

Hungry families impel many a working-man to underbid his fellows in applying for employment; and pressing debts and urgent needs are every reason absolutely compelling producers of all kinds of crops to sell just as soon as they accommodate the market. If an association or union knows of some way to get money at a low rate of

interest, to be advanced to producers upon their crops at a low rate, without making a profit out of that part of the transaction, or only a small one, then the producer will not have necessity to urge as a reason for selling too low. In saying this, I do not wish to advocate the practice of going into debt. No greater financial cause of trouble can be imagined than this promiscuous habit of contracting debt. But this would be, perhaps, the least objectionable form of debt, since it is really but a part payment for what one has produced and turned over as value given for value received. Henceforth he expects only the remainder of the value of his product when sold. And the most objectionable feature is the constantly growing interest on the portion already taken.

Another element in concerted action is the constant study of the field. Instead of sending carloads of honey to some special point, where, from all directions others are shipping also, it is better to be on the lookout for markets, though in smaller quantity at various points, where honey is not largely produced. The movement could be kept constant and active if pure honey were being constantly sent to all the smaller centers of territory, where at present a regular market for it is unknown. This would take greater watchfulness and more constant care on the part of the managers than shipping to Chicago; but it would be more fruitful in results.

Still another very important point in trying to control prices will be seen in looking at the question from the consumers' side. We are to remember that honey is not like sugar and flour—a necessity—and that we cannot form a honey trust, as wealthy producers can form lumber, coal, and leather trusts. Just as soon as even these necessities are forced up too high, the demand begins to lessen, because consumers endure privation when they cannot buy. But in the case of honey a high price makes it simply a luxury, which is more easy to do without than are many other things. I do not presume to speak for lovers of honey in general, but for myself I am so partial to honey as an article of food that I eat it about as freely as Dr. Gallup tells us of his family in the American Bee Journal. I have seen whole families that would eat it as freely. Unfortunately for producers there are many more who seldom taste it. It is "too sweet" for them. But in the case of a family of persons who would eat it as freely as above mentioned, a fancy price would simply be a prohibition, for the average family income wouldn't stand the drain. And, judging by my own feelings, when a lover of honey does eat it, he wants to have it in plenty and not in skimped quantities that are more of an aggravation. True, the business world goes by the worldly maxim,

"everyone for himself"; but it is like the newly-born man, though not like the old Adam, to have consideration for the consumers, the mass of whom are having as hard times as the producers. One important consideration, however, is the great difference between the price realized by the original producer and that paid by the ultimate consumer. This has been plainly shown forth in some of the articles from the California Bee-Keeper Exchange writers, and we find here a chance to bring two extremes nearer together by advancing the one and reducing the other, which would produce a mutual benefit.

But, finally, though no other consideration is of more vital importance, no attempt to control the price of honey can succeed until imitations and frauds have been fully separated, and either forced from the market or compelled to compete entirely upon their own merits. This is a difficult task. It is about as hard as securing purity of elections. Too many lawyers are elected to our legislatures. Lawyers would suffer loss of business by having all laws so framed that there would be no chance for questions of construction and interpretation.

It is hard to get a law passed in the interests of the mass of producers; and should the dishonest beneficiaries of fraudulent trade conclude that it were the best policy to let a restriction law pass with apparent opposition, yet whenever it should be tested in the courts, there would turn up some "little joker," some flaw that would render it inoperative. But, nevertheless, through unity of effort this end should be earnestly striven for. All producers of agricultural products should be united in one body on this line. By forming an organized force which would be potent on election day, and vigilant at all times, proper laws could be secured which would not stop with defining the misdemeanor, but which would also provide the means of enforcement. For if a law proves sound enough to pass the ordeal of the courts, it must still have the vitality of enforcement.

The various phases of this question have been fully discussed and shown forth frequently before. But in your request to have it written upon again, I think I see the correct conviction that it is not so much getting something new as having the subject kept ever in view; that is the essential element of successful solution.

Monterey, December 7th, 1866.

### The Bee Meeting.

The long-looked-for rain appeared to have settled down for a long stay on the 12th, the first day of the meeting of the California Bee-keepers' Exchange, a corporation. Though the rain had started in the day pre-

vious, and had kept up a constant drip of water "that was wet," it did not seem to frighten the apiarists from their bee meeting, for the convention was called to order by president Richardson with a goodly attendance of bee-raisers and honey-slingers, and business moved on rapidly and with a good deal of enthusiasm.

After a few preliminaries, a bill against the adulteration of honey was placed before the members by Mr. C. H. Clayton, the director for Los Angeles county. The bill covered the subject of adulterating honey, while providing an adequate punishment and the amount of \$50 for the cost of analysis of any honey under suspicion. Copies of this same bill had been sent previously to the State legislature and had been placed in the hands of men who would look after its passage, and the facts on record that the bill was placed on the first day to be the second bill on the calendar. Quite a little discussion came up as to whether the bill included comb honey. As it did not, some of the members were in favor of having the adulteration of comb honey incorporated in the bill. As these members had known parties to feed a honey and glucose mixture in producing comb honey, Mr. Kubies of Redlands here acknowledged that he had experimented extensively along the lines of such feeding back, though admitted that it was not a financial success, and here the matter dropped.

The fore part of the afternoon session was taken up in electing a board of directors, and as the ballots were made out containing the names of the old directors, and space for the names of the new, the old directors were of course re-elected. The votes ran almost altogether unanimously in favor of all the county directors. There were 165 votes polled. The votes did not run very numerous on the directors at-large, through a misunderstanding of the ballot, though Mr. Richardson received 51 votes, Mr. Martin in the neighborhood of 50, Mr. Pond in the neighborhood of 50, Mr. Brodbeck 21. The business of electing directors then being over, Mr. Kubies of Redlands presented a bill remodeling the present inadequate "foul brood law," claiming that the inspector did not have sufficient power, and that as "foul" brood was found to be curable, that they do away with the old law of destroying colonies so infected; also that they include bee paralysis and the nameless bee disease, as a work for the inspector. After a good deal of argument the bill was recommended to the State convention.

The bill next before the House was in the form of memorial to Congress recommending a tariff of one cent a pound on extracted, two cents on comb honey of foreign production, and that a revenue tax of two cents a pound be placed on glucose. The last clause

of course created quite a bit of surprise as well as argument. Some held that glucose men would retaliate on the bee men by asking for a revenue tax on his honey, but finally that proposition was floored, as it was found that revenue taxes could not be collected on vegetable productions. The meeting then adjourned for the day to reassemble the next day under the auspices of the California State Bee-keepers' Exchange.

The morning of Wednesday the 13th dawned with the rain still pouring—the bee man's favorite desire. The State convention assembled at ten with nearly 50 bee-keepers present, though Mr. Newman, Mr. Root and Mr. Cowan, all world-renowned bee men, were not present, as expected. There were quite a few distant but very prominent honey men to be seen among the members. Mr. French of San Diego, a very pleasant and entertaining gentleman, Mr. Doherty, the king of honey producers of central California, located at Bakersfield, the owner of 1400 stands, and a very fine appearing gentleman; Mr. McCubbin of Selma, with his little boy; Mr. Medleson, a prominent Ventura specialist bee-keeper; Mr. Wilkins, a bee-keeper of vast experience, of Ventura, as well as a number of other prominent and large honey producers, all lending a hand in making the meeting a great success.

The first speaker of the day was Mr. Hatch, a Wisconsin bee-keeper of vast experience, who the past year had been trying his luck with bees in Arizona, and made known his intention of trying California the coming year, gave a splendid little talk and read a paper on the production of comb honey. Mr. Hatch's paper called forth some arguments on the use of the separator in the production of comb honey, and the matter was finally put to a vote to see how many favored separators and vice versa. The vote came very near being a unanimous one in favor of the separator, the wood separator receiving unanimous praise. The queen excluder also received a good recommend. The bee escapes were thought to be indispensable. The bill recommending the revision of the "foul brood" law being brought up and discussed, was finally passed by a vote in its favor, as was also the adulteration bill and the memorial to Congress on the tariff of honey, an international revenue on glucose.

The election of officers being next in order was taken up and new officers appointed. It was moved that the secretary, H. E. Wilder, should have \$10 for his services, which he got.

Mr. Smith of the American Fruit Growers' Union then took the floor, and explained that he wished to offer the Bee-keepers' Exchange the machinery of his Union in the handling of the honey crop for the ensuing

year. After giving a splendid talk was plied with questions in regard to handling of shipments. Mr. Courtney, the candidate for manager of the Bee-keepers' Exchange, then took the floor and gave a very interesting talk on the handling of the business of the Exchange, and created a very favorable impression, he being a man of fine appearance, well versed in business matters and an intellectual talker. The convention then adjourned to meet at the call of the Executive committee.

### Southern California's Great Fair.

Our October number of last year contained arguments pro and con of the profits of fair exhibits. Quite a little space was placed at the disposal of this subject, as well as the prize-list of premiums of the exhibition, in the department of bees, honey and apiary supplies. Despite the arguments of Mr. Jno. G. Corey, there was quite a bit of interest manifested in the exposition, there being two full entries made, besides a smaller one. C. W. Dayton and the Bennett Bee-Hive Co. were the main exhibitors, and strongly competed against each other for a fine display. Mr. Dayton's exhibit of comb in most marketable shape received second premium, and though not a large display, showed great care in putting up. His display of extracted carried off second prize. His display of comb, quality to govern, received first premium, while the extracted 20 pounds in glass, quality to govern, received second premium. This display of extracted was very tastily arranged on a little stand covered with comb foundation. The first tier of honey Mason jars having a shelf placed on them of plate glass, and a second row of glasses, then a plate-glass shelf and a fancy display of pretty tumblers on top. His best granulated, a little dark in color, received second prize. His colony of bees was displayed in a glass hive, the top being arranged with a space above the brood frames, in this way leaving room for the bees to hang from the top of the box, and of course attracted a great deal of attention. This received second prize. Mr. Dayton had a very pretty display of queens. The display case was made in little squares, the groundwork of which was covered with very white paper. In a little corner of the square was a hole in which the candy was placed, the whole case being covered with a light clean glass. There were five queens of different kinds displayed and a few drones, which drones were the largest and brightest in color of any drones we have seen, and the fact of their being kept at this late season of the year, shows clearly that Mr. Dayton understands the handling of drones and queens. Beeswax, Mr. Dayton received second prize. Comb foundation for surplus, second prize.

Comb foundation for brood, second prize; and honey vinegar, second. Of the diplomas received by Mr. Dayton, though quite numerous, the writer does not recollect all of the articles; suffice to say that his hive received one, being very unique in pattern; his comb foundation machine, honey extractor, foundation mill and package for retailing honey, received the only diploma awarded.

The Bennett Bee-Hive Co. had a very tastily arranged booth close to the main entrance of the hall. The background was arranged with a glass cage, wherein was placed a hive with glass sides that contained a colony of pure Italian bees. The back part of this cage had a pair of spring doors so as to allow the admittance of a person in such a way that when the doors were closed none of the bees could escape from the cage, the operator being free to manipulate the colony of bees. Mr. Bennett got into the "lion's den" nearly every day with his little pets, as he calls them, took the hive apart, showing the visitors the interior of the hive, as well as handling the bees in his hands, and placing them on his bare face, but no harm came to him as he and the bees were great friends. Adjoining this cage on either side was a great bank of comb honey nearly eight feet high, with its clean, full glass cases and white capped honey, was a pretty sight to be sure.

Bennett's display of queens was quite interesting, as he had one in her little apartment with her dozen attendant bees, that had cost him \$10, as also a couple of compartments containing pollen gatherers, with the bright color of the pollen on their baskets. These pollen gatherers were a pretty sight, as the shades of pollen varied in color as much as the colors of a rainbow.

Bennett's display of aparian supplies, bee-hives and honey, attracted quite its share of attention. The October number of the BEE JOURNAL marked "sample copies" disappeared quite rapidly, and it was found necessary to replace the stacks quite often. The Bennett bee-hive exhibit carried off all the first prizes with the exception of one, and six or seven diplomas, which now adorn the walls of their office.

The exhibit hall at the fair grounds was well filled with agricultural displays, and not many visitors failed to review the interesting sights of the Pavilion, though we believe Mr. Bennett will admit that too much interest is being made manifest in the horse races to make the exhibiting of agricultural products as great a success as it should be. Mr. Bennett himself being after a week of recreation, forsook his exhibit quite often to view the races, and his wife, having a complimentary pass, was sure to be found in the front seat of the grand stand every day, picking out her favorite horse.

On the whole, Mr. Bennett thinks that the fair was a success from his standpoint, the premiums and diplomas, and that possibly, by a little different management, the fair next year could be made more instructive and interesting to the fraternity. We should by all means encourage these fairs and to use them to keep before the people the fact that there is a large industry back of honey production.

### Utah Has a Bee Convention.

They seem to have had a large one, from the fact that they discussed a bill to be introduced at the next session of the legislature to be entitled the Foul Brood Law.

### BEES ON THE DESERT.

A Mule that Founded a Large Apiary and Now Educating a Young Lady.

BY SKYLARK.

### CHAPTER V.

LAWRENCE, Oct. 10, 1886.

Dear Grandpa: You are a good guesser. We have just got our returns for honey shipped to San Francisco, amounting to \$1,504, clear of all expense. We bought 100 more hives, 300 extra top boxes and frames, for we had to tier up three stories high. *Oh, how they did pile in the honey!* From your little

DAISY.

LAWRENCE, Nov. 1st, 1887.

Dear Grandpa: Bees did not do as well this year as last—only got 200 pounds to the hive. They got no honey on the Coast this year. I had 205 hives and Dick took 65 more from the cave—270 in all, spring count. Cousin Dick got also from the cave \$200 worth of honey and \$50 worth of wax, we sold in San Diego \$3,500 of honey. Why, grandpa, that cave *was as full as ever!* Pa says that bees beat wheat raising, but still raises wheat, or rather has cousin Dick do it, who now has entire charge of the farm. Pa is now only bee-keeper.

I send you again the postal order for \$10, which you returned to me. Ebenezer *must have shoes*—“gaiter boots” as you call them. But who has a better right to pay for them than I, whom he has led on to fortune, as you truly say?

From your little

DAISY.

[THE END.]



## CHAPTER III.

Next day Basil goes over to Mike McDow-an ranch to engage Mike to help with the work he had in view that evening. On nearing Mike's cottage Basil sees the Irishman coming towards him as fast as his short legs will allow, with arms moving, a perfect whirlwind.

"Why, Mike, what's up," inquires Basil.

"Begorry, it's Mister Boyoton, an' oi's been makin' a windwharl of me arms to kape the baa's away that after sthin an' chasin' me. An' oi did foind those baa's in a tree up on the ould hill. Oi wants some of that swate stuff, an' put me hands in the hole, an' those pratty Italian baa's would a sting the loife out of me skin. Begorry, thar's one of them devil's neow; be gon away yez wid tha sharpe tail, oi want no more to do wid yez."

"Mike, I want you to help me carry some bee-hives this evening," said Basil.

"Holy saints! Yez want me to pack baas. Me hivens, that a devil's job wid thos ofle terrors. Vat oi'll troi, an' com wid yez thas varry evenin', an' of oi get kilted, an' thin oi'll havin' me money. Oi wor after havin' me loife inshured yesterday."

"Well, but Mike, if you get killed you are dead and cannot use the money."

"Give yureself no consarn. Yez know we are after havin' a waike."

"Well, Mike, I can depend on you this evening at the forks of the road at two hours after sundown."

"Sure, Mister Boyoton, oi'll be thore."

Basil goes home, prepares himself with a canvas blanket, two pairs of rubber gloves, and a heavy rail and some rags, and then awaits sundown; then taking the saddle-horse, goes down the road and meeting Mike they both go to the apiary, tying the horse with a light rope on the outskirts of the apiary. Basil begins the night work by stopping up the entrance of the hives with the rags and replacing the covers, while Mike stands quietly looking on.

"Mister Boyoton, phwat ar' yez doin' thot fore? Oif yez up to eny thricks oi'll ba after gettin' a gait on me laigs."

"Mike, we stop up the hives so the bees can't get out and sting us."

"How yez goin' ter carry them hives? on yez shoulder?"

"No, Mike; we carry them in our arms."

"Bot thin thim hives ma' ba hot an' me tried moustard phlaster too meny times. Oi'll carry them on me scholders."

The work of closing these hives is finally finished. It is now about midnight, and the hives can be carried up to the recess opening without arousing anyone, unless Mike makes a mishap while near the recess opening.

The carrying is begun by Basil placing a hive on Mike's shoulder and picking another up himself in his arms, they have no trouble, and set the two hives in line close to one side of the bluff, and so on till forty hives have been carried up and all placed within six inches of each other. The last hive Mike was to carry he got it up on his shoulder, but did not start.

"Mister Boyoton, thim baas is raisen tha devil in thare. Phwat'll oi do with them? Oi thim holy devil is chrawling on me neck, and tha hive is tothering. O, Mister Boyoton, phwat'll oi do?"

Basil comes rushing to save Mike, but too late, the hive goes crashing to the ground. Mike makes a misstep and down he goes with his head right into the bursted section of the hive.

"Mither, me Lord, St. Patrick, oi'm in tha devil's own mess. Mister Boyoton, yez can hive tha baas and oi'll git out of this."

And Mike does, without looking where he goes, over brush and down into the cañon. Basil knows he is not badly hurt, so does not follow, believing rightly that Mike will now go home. Basil gets the last hive and places it in position, then after removing the rags from the entrances, he places his two improved Colt's revolvers handy, and lays

[CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

## A Condensed Review of Bee Journals.

BY THE EDITOR.

The first instalment of the review in the last issue of this paper proves so satisfactory to our readers that we feel it a pleasure to continue, knowing it is a great help to all to get the particular and important work in the different bee papers, and especially to those who wish the news, but cannot afford to take all the papers.

The American Bee Journal gives in the October number a description of bee paralysis. Adrian Getaz claims that several times he has seen brood thrown out of the hive and could not account for it, but was suspicious that paralysis was the cause. A most extensive observation was made in California some three or four years ago. Bee paralysis is most apparent in the early spring. Nearly all of the bee affected colonies are almost completely hairless and look as if they had been polished. They are also more or less stiff and move as if they were partially paralyzed. If the colony has not gone too far they succeed in rearing enough brood to take their place. As the season advances, the comparatively healthy young bees become old and numerous enough to take the lead in the management of the colony, and evidently they throw out the old and diseased bees. During the operation the appearances are almost like a case of robbing. After that the colony seems to have recovered, or almost so, but sooner or later it re-appears in a different way. The first symptoms are a peculiar twitching and twisting of the back and wings, and as the disease grows older the twisting decreases and is replaced by an increasing stiffness and finally by the hairless stage of the disease. During the honey season this last stage is rarely reached, partly on account of natural causes which shorten the life of bees, because the decidedly sick bees are supplied by the comparatively healthy ones.

### Honey as Food—Why It Should Be Eaten.

BY PROF. A. J. COOK.

The bees gather the nectar from the flowers, and as they sip it or draw it from the flowers they mingle with it a kind of saliva or ferment from the upper head glands and the large glands of the thorax, thus transforming it into honey which contains almost exclusively the reducing sugar, and not cane sugar; thus bees do to nectar what we do to cane sugar. They transform it to a more esmotic and a more assimilable glucose like sugar. We call this, in our case, digestion of the cane sugar, and it is just the same in the case of bees doing it. If anyone prefers, he may call it transformation. In any case, it makes honey a safer food than cane

sugar, and we do well to eat it more generally, as it is especially desirable as food for children.

In Editorial Comments we find the question: Who establishes the price of honey? Of course Dr. Miller and Editor York do not know, but there happened to be a bee-keeper and honey dealer present when the above question was asked of York. "Why, it's this way," says he, "the buyer who gets the honey from the commission men establishes the price in nearly every instance in the market." Truly this does seem to be the case, and they make up their minds to establish a very low price in buying that honey and do get a very fair price in selling.

### Marketing Honey to the Best Advantage.

BY L. F. ABBOTT.

To reach the market, pleasing both the dealer and the consumer, we must adopt a plan whereby the goods can be handled both without breakage or leakage, by keeping clean and in nice condition and presenting an attractive appearance, and above all, in case of extracted honey, that it be just what the label on the package affirms it to be. Of course, every bee-keeper is desirous of obtaining a fair price for his honey. A few years ago thirty cents a pound satisfied him, after a while twenty-five cents proved a satisfactory price. Of late years California and Western bee-keepers have set the price for the eastern product. At first at twenty cents a pound for comb and later eighteen cents the wholesale price, which is low enough for the nicest grade, but in selling honey in either form give honest weight. In putting extracted honey on the retail market use small glass jars; jelly tumblers of two sizes do very well.

### Granulation of Honey.

In a re-production from the British Bee Journal we find that the temperature for keeping comb honey liquid as long as possible to be between 65 and 75 degrees generally considered the best for the purpose. To store it either at a higher or at say ten degrees lower than this temperature is not nearly as effectual as a preservative. The keeping properties of extract honey are largely dependent upon the bee-keeper himself, so far as knowing what samples are likely to remain in good condition. Those in which fermentation is sure to be set up if kept beyond the season in which they are gathered. Thin honey, we mean thin extracted honey, never keeps well; moreover, the watery portion which rises to the top of the honey in bulk should never be mixed along with that intended for keeping. A small portion of such thin watery stuff, instead of being itself ripened by the blend-

ing of ripe honey of good consistency, will rather tend to spoil the lot by setting up fermentation.

#### Importance of Watering an Apiary.

Hon. E. Whitcomb, of Friend, Neb., says: Many bee-keepers have entirely overlooked the importance of watering the bees in an apiary and thus allowing the bees to search for themselves as best they can, and usually at a great loss to the colony, especially during the warm days in winter and early spring. Like a farm or dairy, it is the close attention to the small items that pay best. And negligence in the apiary is just as prolific of losses as when applied to other industries. The necessity of water by the honey bees is to dissolve honey which sometimes becomes candied in the cells and in brood rearing; they can make but little progress without an abundant supply of water. In the early spring, when compelled to go long distances or to secure a supply from hydrants, tanks, brooks or drains, the losses will be beyond comprehension, and the careful apiarist is fully aware of the value to these little water gatherers in the spring of the year. One advantage in providing water for the bee is to avoid the disease called thirst; second, when allowed to forage away from the apiary they obtain oftentimes that which is impure, or of so low a temperature that it is injurious to the delicate organism of the bee, and it becomes chilled and cannot return to the hive, therefore I bring the water in close proximity to the colony in all its purity and in the condition of temperature best suited to meet the requirements of the delicate form of the bee.

#### Mountain Laurel Honey.

A short report by S. B. Smith cautions the bee-keepers to be more studious about poisonous plants, although, he says, for many years he has had in the flower garden numerous of these poisonous plants that the bees have gathered honey from, but they have never felt any injurious effects in consumption of that honey; still, he believes that we may get sufficient honey plants without bothering with poisonous ones that may prove unsatisfactory.

#### Educating a Honey Taste.

Mr. James Bennet says: When a person acquires a taste for one variety of honey he prefers that variety to any other. All Australians think the eucalyptus the finest honey in the world, but England will have none of it, notwithstanding the earnest efforts to make a market of it.

#### Gleanings in Bee Culture.

The first October number contains a paper on the experience in bees with grapes, which goes to show that the bees will not break the

skin of the grape. The writer selected a large bunch of grapes from which there had been one grape broken off, nor had the skin of any grape been broken. He laid the bunch of grapes directly on top of the frames in the colony of bees and left them there forty-eight hours. Upon taking the grapes out of the hive he found them to be just as sound as when they were put in.

#### Present Status of Bee-keeping in Cuba.

The honey industry in Cuba is almost extinguished. Only the bee-keepers near Havana can boast of tranquility; even here we come in contact with the contending parties at war much oftener than we desire to, while in the interior all the apiaries have been abandoned, and in some instances destroyed. In nearly all of the districts the farmers have been compelled to move to the cities by order of the Captain-General. In the provinces of Havana there are still twelve movable comb apiaries, containing in the neighborhood of 2000 colonies; three of these belong to James Warner, two to Dusaq & Co. (Frenchmen), the remainder to Cubans. The annual product from these apiaries amount to from 50 to 100 tons of extracted honey, with only a few pounds of sectioned honey. During the last four years six apiaries, containing about 1200 colonies, have been destroyed by foul brood.

#### At What Age Will Bees Gather Stores.

F. Greiner, with the plan of experimenting on this question, formed a colony of bees just hatched, in this way: On the 4th of June he took four nice, clean combs, all of regulation size, and gave them to as many different colonies, placing them in the center of their respective brood nests. On the 25th of June they were collected and placed in a previously and especially prepared hive with wire screen bottom, separating the whole from the populous colony, quilts and cushions were removed, and after wrapping them up they were left to be examined again on the 28th. At that time he found quite a number of bees had gathered, forming a regular cluster within the opening and fly hole about two inches from the bottom board for the entrance. The bees in this colony were now just three days old, and not one came out, not even peeped out that afternoon, but when three to five days old, there was a sudden commotion at the hive, and the bees were seen flying forth apparently in play. One bee was found to have a tiny lot of pollen, and there was quite a number with rather more pollen. By July 1st the little experimental colony sent out its workers as regularly as any colony in the yard, bringing both honey and pollen. No bee was at this time quite six days old. On examining the colony in the evening no

honey was found that was so thin that it would drop from the comb when held in a horizontal position.

**The Southland Queen—Holy Land Bees.**

In speaking about them, Ph. J. Baldensperger asks: Are they worse fertile workers than other bees? The writer in his experience does not find them greater producers of fertile workers than other races of bees. And thinks that Palestine bees, when dequeened, are very quick in replacing the lost queen, and that only eleven days later their new queen is hatched. The period of queenlessness may always be nearer twenty-five days than less, cell and virgin. Very often forty days elapse before the last laying of the old queen to the new laying of the daughter, but the fertile workers are the exception and not the rule. I may say even more; in Palestine and here in the south of France the fertile workers are a great exception, and they do not appear only when the virgin is lost on her wedding trip and they have been abandoned for any length of time. The editor of the Southland Queen finds that the Holy Land bees are more easy to accept the queen, when infested with laying workers than any other race of bees that they have handled.

Writer T. S. Ward finds that salt is invaluable to the bee-keeper. Every close observer has noticed bees resort to unsavory localities for salt. Last spring his bees outstripped those of all his acquaintances, both in gathering honey and in swarming. They nearly doubled in number, while his brother having nearly or quite the same number of colonies had only one swarm last spring. The only difference in the management of the two apiaries, which were a quarter of a mile apart, was that his bees had access to a large number of simplicity feeders placed side by side and filled up every day with salty water, and says he, it was astonishing to see the quantity they consumed; a bucketful lasted only two days, and they never have appeared so healthy and built up as rapidly as they did last spring.

In The Canadian Bee Journal appears an article entitled "A New Discovery." Honey vinegar for freeing combs from granulated honey, pollen, etc., giving directions. First, take the cappings after the honey has been drained out and put them into a tub of luke-warm water and allow them to remain for twenty-four hours or longer, then squeeze the cappings from the liquid; the liquid will be ready for use in the course of six months. Then uncap the comb and place it in the liquid, allow it to remain there twelve or twenty hours, according to the strength of the liquid; your comb will come out perfectly clean without being injured. Old combs may be cleaned in the

same way. This liquid for cleaning the combs may be formed in another way. Into a gallon of water put a pound of honey and let it stand for some time, the length of time will vary according to the temperature of the place. If kept in a warm place it will be ready sooner than if left in a cold place. The above method the writer claims to have proved a great success.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**

BY B. S. K. BENNETT.

I would like to ask THE PACIFIC BEE JOURNAL what can be done with old, moldy combs? Will the bees clean them so they can be used again in the super?—G. F. H.

We would say, throw them away, though we believe the bees will clean them, as we have often seen in the early spring after a damp winter, moldy combs in the hive, but had not noticed that they were moldy when we began extracting, so that we believe the bees will take good care of them. However, for experimentation, we would suggest that the combs, if not numerous in number, be put into a mixture of vinegar or vinegar honey, which we see has been recommended for cleaning old combs, and especially for removing candied honey from combs.

When is it safe to prepare for a honey crop? Should we wait for 15 inches of rain?—A. J. G.

If you wait for 15 inches of rain you will most likely be in the height of the honey flow, and without being prepared, will lose the flow, so that I would prepare for a honey crop every year, and would not wait for an assurance of a flow—as you can always use the goods, and it would be better to have a little money in supplies than to lose a large amount of honey. Of course, this year the prospects are good. Eight inches of rain to date and most favorable conditions for more, and a bright, warm spring. The blossoms, you will find, are already starting, and if you are thinking of buying a large amount of hives, now is the best time to order, as they will come cheaper than later on, and the manufacturers are in shape to dispatch the order more rapidly, so that you get your goods altogether and have them ready before swarming begins.

What are the advantages in the use of queen excluders?—J. M. A.

Why, my friend, have you not heard of the queen excluder keeping the queen out of the top box? They are used either in comb or extracted honey, but more extensively with extracted honey, as it keeps the queen from filling up the nice honey combs

with brood, thus saving you a great deal of work in removing and placing back brood combs, and in straining the young bees out of the honey. Keeps the queen down in the lower box where she ought to be, keeping the lower hive full of brood, and allows no accumulation of honey there, thus stimulating the bees to place the honey where it should be in the surplus box. Then again they may be used for rearing queens or keeping more than one queen in a hive by the separation of the queens with the excluder.

## Editorial Comment

### HONEY MARKETS.



Honey, honey everywhere, but not a drop to eat, is the cry we get from Randsburg. Oh, bee men, where art thou, down in Los Angeles where they are flooded with a combination of low prices and stacks of honey. Why cannot some

of our readers and friends that are near these mining camps trot in with a load of honey. These mining camps are numerous in this part of the country, and as a usual thing the miners are great lovers of honey. There is no reason why we cannot look out for these small markets which will surely pay well. The wholesale dealers have quite a nice market for this product in Nevada, Idaho and Montana, and I am thinking that a great deal, if not all, of it goes into the mountain camps. This, I feel sure, will enable some of our neighbors that are nearer to these camps to use them to more advantage than they have been doing.

### LIGHT-WEIGHT SECTIONS.

The Los Angeles market has been somewhat demoralized of late by a misunderstanding among the buyers in regard to prices of comb honey, which has been brought about by light-weight sections a few weeks ago. The wholesale price of number one comb honey was ten cents per pound, retail about twelve; and while these prices were maintained as long as the sections held out full weight, the coming into the market of the light-weight section has made it almost impossible to maintain that price per pound, for a bee man in marketing his light-weight sections, will make two propositions to the buyer, one at pound rate and one at section rate, the price per

section being one cent and sometimes two cents below the pound price; and while in either case the bee man will receive his price, the buyers will often quote the lower price with the understanding that that is the price per pound, and this of course causes a drop in the market price of the product.

This fact alone we consider a great argument against the production of the light-weight section of honey, for even though the producer gains the same price whether he sells at nine cents a section or twelve cents a pound where the sections only weigh three-quarters of a pound, still it gives the buyer the opportunity of manipulating the lower price, and in buying the next lot of honey at nine cents a pound. So bee-keepers, I say it is to your interests to discard the production of comb honey in pound sections weighing less than a pound. Let us make the path of these buyers a rough and rugged road to travel.

### THE LOS ANGELES JOURNAL HONEY INDUSTRY.

The Los Angeles Journal of January 13th contained a well written article on the honey industry, the contents of which is a matter of history, and had been gained through the kindness of the Bennett Bee-Hive Co. Our real intention was to bring the matter, as to the volume and amount of the industry, before the people of Los Angeles, and did not intend that it should be referred back to the bee-keepers as a bit of information to them; but it seems that the manager of the paper, or some of his helpers, believed that the bee-keepers should be educated in regard to the honey industry. Of course we know that the proprietors of the papers are looking at the advertising side of the paper, and not being able to interest our Company in its columns, as we could see no benefit to be derived therefrom, as the article was supposed to go only to consumers of honey, they accepted a big, long ad. on the manufacture of bee-hives by a box company of this city, in which they begged for recognition as the largest manufacturing enterprise connected with the bee industry, and said that Raze & Arnold are entitled to all the credit of this great industry, the manufacture of bee-hives. As a matter of fact, the first manufacture of bee-hives was started by our Mr. Bennett. Mr. Arnold joined him in the industry as partner. Mr. Arnold, though having a little money, had no experience or knowledge whatever of the honey industry, or the manufacture of bee-hives, but after being with Mr. Bennett one month felt that he knew all there was to be learned. A company was then formed and the business of making boxes was added to the work of the factory. Box work requiring less accuracy

than bee-hives they finally ran into that business nearly altogether. As for this company being the greatest bee-hive manufacturers west of the Ohio no bee-keeper will believe, for they know that the Bennett Bee-Hive Company ranks far ahead. True, as they say the making of bee-hives requires great skill and the use of the very best material, but we know that the skill for the making of bee-hives cannot be acquired without one has the practical experience in an apiary, and, above all, has the knowledge of all the original frames made throughout the State, and without this it is perfectly safe to say that one is not in position to make hives that will meet the requirements of bee-keepers. Their factory is fitted expressly for the making of boxes, and we do not see any reason for the misrepresentations of the article as to their facilities for the making of bee-hives.

We give this information as a matter of fact, and a simple truth to be able to block any misrepresentation, and to be able to furnish our people with a true state of affairs and not allow any one, not even ourselves, to impose upon the much-imposed bee men.

### Honey Buyers Manipulating the Honey Market.

The one great drawback to the honey industry, is the low prices realized by the producer. This is more the fault of the producer allowing the buyers to manipulate or to work them in the buying and selling of their product. A few points in the marketing will surely not be amiss in giving the producer the privilege of manipulating to his advantage, and not knowing some tricks of the trade. We find from experience that one cannot sell to a good advantage or even at the market price, if he does not know how to meet the buyer and to maintain his prices, or in lieu of not having any price at all, to be able to ascertain the market price. These men, with which the inexperienced bee men have to deal, have all the business training and sharpness that is to be found in our cities, and use this advantage too much to their own ends to satisfy small selfish desires of gaining all there is, undivided, for themselves. We fully believe that in order to maintain the price on honey, either the bee-keepers must cease selling, or they must become educated as to the methods used by those with whom they deal. Almost the first question of the honey buyer, upon the inquiry of the bee-keeper, is as to the amount of product there is in the sellers' hands. The bee-keeper should always avoid giving a direct answer, and should not be allowed to be drawn into the "trap" of giving his ideas of the amount of product held by others, as these two points enable

the buyer to figure as to how low a price the seller will take. The buyers' great lever is gaining a low price, is a great game of "bluff." Even though the market price of the extracted product is five cents, buyers, even the man with whom you are dealing, have been known to pay that price; he will invariably try to make you believe that he has bought for half that; but one wants to be as big a bluffer as he is, and let him feel sure that you know he has not bought at less than the market price, and that you will not treat with him if he still maintains the proposition. Above all do not let the buyer know that you are hard up or pushed for money. We find from experience that it is not advisable to treat with more than one or two buyers in a single town per day; nor is it advisable to display samples unless requested, and be sure to guarantee and do not show any hesitancy in standing back of your grades. You all know that the buyers have telephone communication between each other, and though competitors, it is a business matter to let each other know when there is a so-called "sucker" in the market. For that reason we take a great deal of time in interviewing the different buyers. It would be well, if you have the time, to interview a buyer, previous to acquainting him with the fact of your having something to dispose of, in rather a distant manner. For instance, to review the industry; find out what he knows about the amount of product; how the price is standing and how the goods are selling. Thus you are enabled to use his unbiased information in the selling of your goods. Above all do not give your goods away, which, I need hardly add, has been the case with nearly all of the poor bee men. Friends, there is as much knowledge and experience required in the advantageous marketing of your product as there is in the producing of it, and if you wish to be a successful seller you must knuckle down to as hard study, and the looking after the small points as well as you do in the care of bees.

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