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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, October 29, 1905

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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

Edited and Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland; Apiary, Willow Tree, N.S.W.
Circulated in all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

VOL. 13. No 7

OCTOBER 29, 1904.

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3. To advise members as to suitable localities for establishing apiaries.

4. Any beekeeper can become a member on approval of committee, subscription 2/6 per annum.

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6. No member be eligible for office who has less than 50 effective hives, or his subscription is in arrear.

7. The Association to consist of a central body and district branches affiliated with it.

8. The principal officers be such as will undertake to meet each other in committee at least once in twelve months.

9. The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Executive Committee.

10. After the first election of officers, arrangements to be made by the Secretary to call for nominations for office-bearers, and issue ballot papers prior to the next annual meeting.

11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.

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Devoted to Beekeeping —
Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of
Australia — New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope

E. TIPPER.
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
WEST MAITLAND & WILLOW TREE.



MAITLAND, N.S.W.—OCTOBER 29, 1904.

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in our present issue:—

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N.S.W.

BEE-FARMERS ASSOCIATION.

I attended the meeting in Sydney on Fri-
day, Oct. 7, at 12 Spring-street. Antici-
pating there would not be many present,
in the circulars sent no special business
was mentioned, save conversation in the
present state of the industry. I received
a number of apologies for non attendance.
No business, therefore, was done.

At the meeting of the Chamber of Agri-
culture in the evening I read the follow-
ing paper:—

E. TIPPER, HON. SEC.

GENTLEMEN,—I think it only right I
should give you some of the objects and
aims of our Bee Farmers' Association.
When, some thirteen or fourteen years
ago, the bee fever was introduced into
New South Wales, certain people, who
thought they saw in it a great scope for
money-making by selling hives and
appliances, put abroad the notion that
the bee industry and exportation of honey
would in a very short time exceed the
butter industry. Beekeeping started in
every direction. Not only farmers, but
government officials, and hundreds of
others, thought a bonanza had been
struck. The government sent out a
lecturer, who travelled the length and
breadth of the country booming the in-
dustry. Prices soon began to moderate.
From £1 a 60lb. tin it rapidly fell.

Several bad seasons followed. Hundreds of so-called beekeepers were unsuccessful. They had discovered that it required something more than simply buying a hive of bees to become a beekeeper. Result—hundreds of empty hives all over the colony. I could have bought them by hundreds. Then, it was announced in the press that all these empty hives were the result of a disease called "Foul Brood"—a thorough falsehood—and an Act of Parliament was necessary to deal with such. The real meaning, however, was to get government billets for men who could also act as travellers or agents for the sale of bee materials. The bill was not passed, as the matter was placed before the members of the Bee Farmers' Association which was then formed, who by a majority voted against it. It is four or five years since, and for that time such a thing as foul brood has never been mentioned among beekeepers. Science has also discovered that the microbe of the disease is a common one, and only necessitates certain conditions of damp or cold to develop it. Conditions which every beekeeper, who values his bees, can prevent. Conditions which also does not greatly prevail in a dry climate like N.S.W. possesses.

The English market has turned out a failure; as, in the first place, our honey has not been acceptable to the English palate; and honey is produced the world over. England only imports some £34,000 worth of honey altogether; and her own people are striving to produce that, and crying out against foreign honey, among which Australian is classed. West Indian honey is sold in Great Britain at 2d per lb. It does not pay, therefore, to import it from Australia. Again, our great competitors are butter and jam. When these are plentiful honey does not sell.

Now, there are a number of men, who, having put perhaps hundreds of pounds into the industry, with a view of providing for and bringing up their families, may still get a decent living out of

it, but for one or two causes. They are necessarily living mostly in out-of-the-way places, where the comforts of civilization are limited. Fruit—Too-pushing supply dealers and their agents. One man in Victoria recently stated he had made £700 in one year and told the Minister for Agriculture in Victoria, at a deputation, Victoria could not supply her own demand for honey, and there was a great market for our own honey in other parts of the world. Another man, travelling in the Richmond district, wrote to the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* that beekeepers were making £300 a year, and there was a sure market in England for its sale. I will not say what was the object of these statements and falsehoods. Our Australian population is only a little over 3,000,000, and without the aid of foreign markets, which has been tried for over and over again unsuccessfully, there is an over-production, the commission houses being glutted everywhere, and even where sales are effected, it is over six months in most cases before cash returns come to the producers, and it is expected there will be a great honey flow this coming season. Now, the Bee Farmers' Association is in the interests of the men who have gone into beekeeping for a living, and who are scattered in most out of the way places all over the colony. Previous associations consisted of perhaps a few supply dealers, and a few amateur beekeepers in the immediate neighbourhood of towns. The N.S. Wales Beekeepers' Association consists mostly of the men who have tried to make a living out of it; live great distances away, cannot afford to come to Sydney too often. No supply dealers or commission agents can belong to it. Every subject to be discussed, and officers to be nominated are placed before them, by letter or their official organ the "A.B.B." They have votes according to the number of hives they own, and can vote by proxy. Thus, if not able to attend a meeting they can send their proxies to any member in whom they have confidence. They represent 4000 hives.

This, gentlemen, is the object and

scope of our association. Our greatest troubles are, unscrupulous falsehoods, as to the simplicity of beekeeping and the great returns to be made out of it; the unjust devices of buyers and commission men, to make the beekeeper take less than its value for his honey; uncertainty of tenure when located on crown lands, or uncertainty of continuance of flow when situated on private or other lands. The result, many are driven to give up beekeeping and go into other pursuits. The remedies are to discountenance such falsehoods. The government regulation for forestry seems to be all we could wish, according to an advertisement of government land for sale I have. The only question is: Are those regulations being carried out?

I have made these remarks suggestively. Perhaps some of my hearers may now or at a later period evolve something practical to help the industry.—Applause.

CUBAN COMPETITION.

The following is interesting reading to those who believe Australia cannot produce too much honey:—

Someone asked W. L. Coggsall why he located so many bees in Cuba. Foreseeing the condition which is now upon us, and destined to become worse, Mr. Coggsall replied: "I wanted to be on the other side of the fence when the rabbit got out." According to information from our readers who have large crops to market, the "rabbit" is out now. One correspondent recently wrote that he produced this season something over 200 32-gallon barrels of extracted honey. But, like Dr. Blanton, he finds the market has gone to smash; and a trip to New York, a distance of over 1,000 miles, elicited no other satisfaction than hearing long and strong Cuban honey talk on all sides. The largest buyer in the City was, in fact, then in Cuba investigating the honey situation. It becomes daily more evident that the beekeeper was a prophet when it warned producers of the seriousness of the West

Indian problem. Mr. Morrison's idea, and that of some of our contemporaries, that the American producer has nothing to fear from this source, is even at this early date becoming buried beneath a burden of actual conditions that are depressing in the extremo. With Cuba blocking the seaboard markets and Mexico coming in on both sides, it is time the American producer did a little thinking, even though he may "fear" nothing. —"American Beekeeper."

SCOTLAND.

We have received another communication from our old friend, Mr. Meiklejohn. In it he says:—We are at present having a holiday on the shores of the Firth of Clyde, at Dunoon, a very pretty place, about which I have said something to you before. We have only been here two days or so, and have not begun to trip further afield yet. We are likely to do some land trips as well as some sailing into the Highlands, if the weather should prove favourable. I had a very nice trip two weeks ago to Glencoe. This is a place I have had a great desire to see since I was very young. The scenery all along the route is very grand, and Glencoe is noted for its wild grandeur. It was here as you will know that the massacre of the Macdonald Clan took place in 1692. There are a few traces of the dwellings of the clan left. I enquired of some of the natives of the glen about these and other things, but they appear to take less interest in the affairs historic and otherwise than strangers from all parts do. Very great numbers of people, from all parts of the British Islands, as well as Americans, visit this historic glen every year. I saw at least a hundred pilgrims on the road the day I was there. It is astonishing the number of tourists who do the Highlands every season, and since the advent of the motor car they must be much more numerous. I see cars every day passing from all parts of England. The heather is in full bloom at present and where bees are close by they ought

to be gathering in the honey. I am doubtful as to whether I will get any from our hives this season, they being rather weak. We had our flower show last week, and there was a very good display of honey, and a lot for sale. Some of it looked very queer. I saw some dark; I don't know what sort of taste it had, but it was as black as tar. I heard some one say it had been gathered from elm and beech trees, or perhaps the oak. Since writing the above I have been away on tour by steamer to a place called Campbelltown, in the south of Cantire. We went by the turbine steamer *Queen Alexandria*—the queen steamer of the Clyde. The day was an ideal one, sea smooth and bright sunshine. We skirted the coasts of part of Ayrshire, and the islands of Cumbræ, Bute, and Arran. The scenery of Arran in particular is very wild and grand, with rugged mountains casting gloomy shadows across the glens. The lower parts of the mountains are clad in blooming heaths at this season of the year. Many pretty retired dwellings and cotters' houses stud the immediate coast, but so far as could be seen from the steamers there was not much land under cultivation. Campbelltown is a pretty large place. There are a good many whiskey distilleries in it, and I noticed also that a good deal of fisher folk were about. The more I see of Scotland I am the more impressed with the thought that for grand scenery it would be hard to beat by any other country.

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The Executive met on the evening of 20th October, at the office of Mr. V. R. Davey, the President taking the chair.

The secretary reported that 36 new members had joined the Association since the Conference, 55 old members had paid up, leaving about 50 subscribers yet to pay. These were shortly to be personally written to to make their names good on the Association's books. The number of beekeepers on the rolls had increased

from 150 to between 300 and 400, and he hoped to secure a fair share of these as members during the coming year. Correspondence was read from Mildura branch, Wartook branch, Lands Department, Victorian Railways, Mr. P. Smith, and a complaint from Mr. F. Howard, that a neighbour was endeavouring to block his bee license.

Mr. Wills moved and Mr. McFarlane seconded that the Lands Department be thanked for their action, and informing them that this Association will be pleased to assist them in the matter.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. R. Beuhne, seconded by Mr. McFarlane, that the secretary write to the Wartook and Mildura branches congratulating them on the successful formation of their respective organizations, and that the resolution relating to the subscription fee as carried by the Mildura branch could only be presented to the annual conference as a notice of motion from the said branch.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Wills, seconded by Mr. V. R. Davey, that Mr. Smith's recommendation be acted upon, and that the secretary take the necessary steps to carry out the suggestion.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. McFarlane, seconded by Mr. W. L. Davey, that as the president was willing to undertake the drafting out a new set of rules, the matter should be left in his hands, and dealt with at the next sitting of the Executive Council.—Carried.

It was resolved to hold over Mr. Howard's complaint pending the result of the enquiry by the Lands Department.

Moved by Mr. Wills, seconded by Mr. McFarlane, that the hon. correspondent undertake the arrangements for securing the necessary samples of honey and pollen for the analysis by Drs. Howell and Cherry.—Carried.

Moved by the President, seconded by Mr. McFarlane, that secretary write to the Federal Premier asking that the Federal Government undertake the speedy establishment of a Federal Department of Agriculture.—Carried.

The following questions were arranged to be sent to the branches :—

1. What distances apiaries should be located from each other?

2. Why?

3. What number of colonies should constitute an effective occupation of a bee site?

W. L. DAVEY, Secretary.

[COPY.]

Department of Lands and Survey,
Melbourne, Sept. 14th, 1904.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of 8th inst. regarding the complaint laid against Mr. Howard, of Glenorchy, who holds a bee farm license in the parish of Glenorchy, and am directed by the Honorable the Minister to inform you that the local Crown Lands Bailiff has been instructed to investigate the matter.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.

WM. SKENE,
Secretary for Lands.

To the Sec. V.A.A. Assn., Fairfield.

September 27, 1904.

Sir, I have the honor by direction of the Minister for Lands to acknowledge the receipt of yours of 21st ult. in regard to allowing beekeepers to pay a royalty for the use of the blossom on green timber within a certain radius of their bee licenses, and to state that due consideration will be given to your requests when new legislation is being prepared.—Yours, Sir,

WM. SKENE,
Secretary for Lands,

To the Sec. V.A. Assn., Fairfield.

Victorian Railways,
Melbourne, August 18, 1904.

Sir,—In answer to yours of 16th ult. I am directed to state that no reduction can be made in the published rates for beehives, and honey jars or tins.

It has, however, been decided to modify the rates for hives containing bees, and these consignments in small quantities will be carried at class 2, instead of class 3 as heretofore.

It is understood that the truck rate will remain as at present.

R. LOCKHEAD,
Chief Traffic Manager.

To W. L. Davey, Esq.,
V.A. Association, Fairfield.

According to the *Irish Bee Journal*, the bee industry is being well pushed in Ireland, the aristocracy taking it up, and at the different country shows the winners often include titled persons.

MY NOTE BOOK.

W. L. DAVEY.

CORRECTION.—I am credited on page 119, September issue, with saying I have been "president" in all conferences for eight years past. What I did write was that I have been "present" at all conferences, etc.

THE NEXT CONFERENCE.—I want unofficially to say a word as a beekeeper to beekeepers on this matter, and to ask all those who have yet to vote as to the place of meeting to be very cautious how they vote. I can see serious trouble ahead as to the location of apiaries. For instance, there are a number of Gippslanders who would like to look around Stawell, Wodonga, Bendigo, Horsham, etc. If, for instance, Stawell wins the voting, it will probably be a sorry day for some of our friends there, because in an organization such as the V.A.A. there will always be found some who are willing to kick over the traces and put their bees in other beekeepers' back yards if they can only once see his country.

When voting ask yourselves the following questions :—

If I vote for Bendigo, Stawell, etc., will the meeting to be held there result in more usefulness to the industry than if held in Melbourne, etc.?

Will the beekeepers who attend be sure to refrain from annexing my bee country?

Now I am voting for Melbourne, not because I live there, but for the following reasons : The people whom we have to look to for the improvement of our industry are only found in Melbourne, such as Lands Department, Agricultural Department, Railway Department, etc., the heads of these departments will not take much notice of a half-dozen delegates from a country meeting. They want a deputation of from 30 to 50 strong to move them an inch in the way of giving us our dues.

I also vote for the city because no bee licenses can be granted in Collins or Bourke Streets, consequently no friction, no jealousy, no breaking of rules will result from the Conference. I say vote for

Melbourne, because it is central for all Victorian beekeepers, even if you cannot come that far, and you will prevent the thin end of the wedges of dissension and strife from entering our ranks in a wholesale manner, undoing in a short time all the work of nearly five years.

The holding of a meeting in Bendigo, Stawell, etc., if it comes to pass, is going to be the rock on which I think the Association will be shattered and shipwrecked.

Those who are young in the industry want to try the famous Wartook, Horsham and Stawell country; those who have their established homes and bee farms on other lines, and who cannot move, say they cannot travel down one line to Melbourne and then up another long line, and so will leave the Association. I say, use your intelligence as beekeepers, and vote to make the Association better and stronger and more useful.

PARALYSIS, AND THE DISAPPEARING TROUBLE.

R. BEUHNE.

My attention has been drawn to the P.S. of Mr. Abram's article on Paralysis in August issue, which I had not noticed before. The article on preparing colonies for winter, which Mr. Abram refers to, was but the concluding portion of one I published in the LEADER. Although I do not wish to deprive Mr. A. of the pleasure of thinking he has made a convert, for the information of those located in districts similar to my own I must state that I have neither altered my practice nor my views on the subject of wintering. This will be evident to anyone who has read the whole of the article in question, as it appeared in the LEADER of May 7th and 21st, and articles on the same subject back to 1895.

Of course I am willing to learn, and at the same time quite agreeable to differ in practice from others differently situated as to climate, flora, etc.

A medical man finds it necessary to examine a patient to get at the cause of a disease. There are, however, clairvoyant healers, who on receipt of a tuft of hair

diagnose a disease, and there are beekeepers who can tell what is wrong with other people's bees without ever seeing a leg or wing, and without having any personal experience of the matter.

There have been very heavy losses again from this mysterious disappearing trouble, and although I have myself escaped, the interest I take in the matter is as great as before. If those who have suffered will communicate with me, a set of questions will be sent to them to answer. The answers will be submitted to an expert, who will be asked to make a scientific investigation.

Indications point to the food being the cause of the trouble, either honey or pollen. Dr. Cherry's (very imperfectly reported) lecture pointed to deficiency of nitrogen in bee food (result of climatic influences) as a cause of imperfect development and lack of vitality.

In support of the food theory, several beekeepers who during the previous mortality attributed it to various other causes, have since written to me blaming the stores for the trouble.

On a previous occasion I went to a lot of trouble to get correct information for the benefit of all. I had no axe to grind. I am just as anxious now to do what I can, but I shall not enter into any newspaper controversy.

FORESTRY.

Owing to the increased attention called to the preservation of forests in all parts of the world, New South Wales is also getting more particular. The following extract from an advertisement of land for sale will be of interest to bee-keepers:—

The lessee shall leave firebelts five (5) chains wide within the area leased along the range boundaries; but the scrub and undergrowth three (3) inches or less in diameter, which would form a harbor for rabbits and other noxious animals, shall be destroyed.

The lessee shall, except on the firebelts, effectually destroy all scrub of non-edible nature, or of the character of seedlings set down for preservation by these conditions.

The lessee shall carefully preserve all edible scrub; subject to the provision that the Minister for Lands may grant permission for a speci-

fied period to cut, lop, or whip these scrubs for stock-feeding purposes in times of drought.

The lessee shall carefully preserve all sound straight stringybark and box trees of six (6) inches or over in diameter measured at three (3) feet from the ground, which are useful or are likely to be useful for fencing or building purposes, or for railway sleepers; no stringybark shall be rung except subject to the direction of the local forester.

The lessee shall also carefully preserve all fodder trees and trees necessary for shade or shelter, subject to the provision that the Minister for Lands may grant permission to lop or whip these trees for stock-feeding purposes in times of drought.

The lessee shall thin out stringybark and box saplings and seedlings under six (6) inches in diameter measured at three (3) feet from the ground to distances of fifteen (15) feet apart, and in so doing shall select the best and straightest saplings or seedlings for preservation.

The lessee shall not cut or remove any timber for sale or otherwise except as before provided.

The lessees shall destroy all trees and saplings not exempted by the previous conditions by ringbarking or otherwise.

The lessee shall begin operations mentioned in the previous conditions within three (3) months from the commencement of the lease. During the first year of the lease the lessee shall operate on not less than one-fifth (1-5th) of the area leased, and during each of the succeeding four (4) years the lessee shall operate on an additional one-fifth (1-5th) of the total area leased, so that the whole area shall be dealt with as prescribed in the foregoing conditions within five (5) years from the commencement of the lease. After any part of the land had been cleared of scrub and undergrowth, the lessee shall keep it clear; and after any part of the land has been ringbarked, the lessee shall keep it free from suckers and seedlings.

The lessee shall collect and stack all thinnings, fallen timber, or scrub, in neat heaps at intervals of not less than one (1) chain apart, and shall totally clear them off year by year during the currency of the lease, and if in so doing the lessee uses fire the lessee shall prevent the spread of fire from extending to and injuring the standing timber or the adjacent country.

Bee Keeping As A Business.

In reply to the query, "What will best mix with bee-keeping?" I have always replied: "Some more bees." When the conditions are favourable, I am decidedly in favour of bee-keeping as a speciality—of dropping all hampering pursuits, and turning the whole capital, time and energies into bee-keeping. If bee-keep-

ing can not be made profitable as a speciality, then it is unprofitable as a subsidiary pursuit. If bee-keeping must be propped up with some other pursuit, then we had better throw away bee-keeping, and *keep the prop*. General farming is very poorly adapted for combining with bee-keeping, yet the attempt is probably made oftener than with any other pursuit. There are critical times in bee-keeping that will brook no delay, when three or four days' or a week's neglect may mean the loss of a crop, and these times come right in the height of the season, when the farmer is the busiest. Leaving the team and reaper idle in the back field while the farmer goes to the house to hive bees is neither pleasant nor profitable. Drawing in a field of hay, while the bees lie idle because the honey has not been extracted to give them storage-room is another illustration of the conditions with which the farmer-beekeeper has to contend. The serious part of it is that the honey thus lost may be worth nearly or quite as much as the hay that is saved. Some special lines of rural pursuits, like winter-dairying or the raising of grapes, or winter-apples, unite with bee-keeping to much better advantage than general farming; but when bee-keeping is capable of absorbing all of the capital, time and energy that a man can put into it, why divide these resources with some other pursuit? It has been said that bee-keeping is a precarious pursuit, that it can not be depended upon, alone, to furnish a livelihood, and, for this reason, it should be joined with some business of more stable character. It is true that there are many localities where there is often a season in which little or no honey is secured, and, in the Northern States, winter-losses are sometimes very heavy, hence it would be risky to depend entirely for a living upon keeping bees, in a *limited* way, in such localities; but, if the average profit from bee-keeping, one year with another, is not the equal of other rural pursuits, why keep bees?—*the beekeepers Review*.

First, have your queens mate with drones as distantly related to the queens themselves as possible; second, use queens as closely related to the imported or dark Italian stock as possible, where working for extracted honey, for there are no bees in the world, in the world, in my opinion, that excel such for gathering and storing honey in combs already built, and in close connection with the brood. Third, where white capping of combs and a readiness to enter the sections is the object worked for, as is the case when working for comb honey, then choose the golden Italians, on account of their qualities in that direction."—*Doolittle.*

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SOME TRUTH.

The Spirit of the following remarks by G. W. Cummins, in the *Australian Agri-culturist*, though alluding to poultry, apply very truthfully to beekeeping.—No good can accrue to the State or the individual by running men into a business at which they are almost certain to lose money. Ever since the laying competition at the Hawkesbury made it clear that there was money in poultry when properly managed, there has been a persistent effort by some interested persons, and poultry papers especially, to run people into poultry farming. It has been stated over and over again that 'poultry farming will not pay,' yet we continually see advertisements stating that if a man had so many 'pullets like mine at the Hawkesbury they would keep him.' When I read such I wonder why the men who insert them do not get the requisite number of pullets and give up their present calling; the reason is, they know better. It goes without saying that a few pullets (pullets only, mind) will pay anyone, and a large number will pay a man who knows how to manage them, never a beginner. Now, to return to the Hawkesbury. It would be impossible for anyone to get 420 pullets like those at the Hawkesbury at a price that it would pay him to give, because they represented the cream of 70 different yards, which breeders would not sell. No one would sell the best six pullets in his yard. A win at the competition is worth at least £100; that explains why breeders are so anxious to pour in their best birds for nothing, but they would not sell the birds—at a price that another could afford to give. Even at the price obtained for pullets at the auction rooms it would not pay to buy them, hence the man who wants such must breed them. To start with, he would require an immense number of stock birds to enable him to rear 420 pullets, arriving at the ages, over seven and under twelve months, on the 1st April. But we will assume those stock birds have been bred up gradually as they should be and are paying their way, so we need only deal with the

chickens required to produce 420 pullets of the ages mentioned on the 1st April. It would be necessary to hatch at least 1,200 chickens, half of which would be cockerels, on which, under the most careful management, there would be no profit, and in nearly every case certain loss, and that loss, whatever it was, would have to be passed on to the pullets. But to simplify matters we will suppose the cockerels are picked out very young and sold, leaving us with 600 pullet chickens. Deaths from one cause and another are numerous; birds, cats, dogs, other hens, accident, &c., cause the disappearance of many, and I think it doubtful if anyone could get 420 laying pullets from 1,200 chickens. But we must take some number, so let it be 1,200, reduced to 600 by getting rid of the cockerels. It would be impossible, under any ordinary conditions, to have the pullets all one age, so we will average them at nine months. The Hawkesbury shows that it 6/ a year, or 6d. a month, to feed them; so we have cost of rearing 420 for nine months, 4/6 a head, to say nothing about feed consumed by those which died, or by the ne'er-dowells, culls, &c., or we will assume that all those cost nothing, and we select the 420. But at the outset note that the expence of rearing has reduced the profit by half, and instead of a profit of 10/ a head, we now have only 5/6. But it is absurd to have it so. The cockerels did not pay, no matter when they were sold, and all that died do not pay, or the culls. Loss on all those heads must be added to cost of rearing pullets, which still further reduces the profit on them. I would like to see the pullets kept at the Hawkesbury for two or three years, because I doubt very much if they would show any profit at all the second year; but, if so, it would not be much. Then they go to market and fetch 1/6 a head for prime. Now, let us suppose the usual practice is followed. All the chickens reared, the cockerels would have cost the profit on the pullets to rear them, and the price obtained for them be only a drop in the bucket compared to the cost

of pens, houses, &c., to say nothing of time. Under no possible set of conditions will they pay if a man charges for supervision. A few fowls are all profit; it is a poor house that cannot feed some on the scraps boiled up, and bones crushed up with an axe; but beginners, beware, 'make haste slowly,' and feel your way.

The South Australian *Garden & Field*, commenting on it says: - Mr. Cummins takes up the position which, to our way of thinking, is the sound one—that commercial poultry-keeping pays under favorable conditions, but in no case can it be expected to yield a profit even approximating to the Hawkesbury returns.—M.P.

SOME EXPERIENCES.

Dear Sir,—Now that we are beginning to lay aside the pursuits that occupy the happy apiarist during winter hours, such as painting, frame repairing and constructing, manufacture of hive, etc., one feels an inclination to adopt new ideas gathered during the moments devoted to study since the last busy season. I have been making hives from all sorts of boxes and odd pieces of lumber during the winter; principally from kerosene cases. You will remember from my last letter, my ambition is to increase from 50 to 150 colonies, which included making the hives.

One copy of the "Bee Bulletin" contained an item that was just beginning to dawn upon my mind, viz.: treatment of stings. My infant sweetheart aged 2, ventured out to the hives to gain her first experience with bees, and I hope will not forget the lesson. She had a straight piece of fencing wire, and began to poke the end into a hive, no doubt gleefully watching the little fellows coming out. It happened to be a cold day and the bees were not at first in a hurry to come out. The first one settled down hard above the eye, and I, in the workshop, heard the acclamation of surprise, and in a few seconds was carrying the luckless student out of danger's way. The first sting had been too long delivered to prevent swell-

ing or pain, but we found half-a-dozen others, and removing the stings we squeezed the spots and the treatment proved effective. Speaking of stings, I came across a case of a person stung on the inside of the throat whilst eating honey-comb. I have an idea that if the person submitted to two or three stings immediately on the outside of the throat the outside swelling would prevent the widepipe being closed up.

Another item from the same source, I think worth a trial, namely, an entrance at the top of the hive to prevent swarming.

I have made a number of hives eight inches wide out of odd scraps which I intend putting in trees away in the scrub, for travelling swarms to select for their homes. Stocks are all in a healthy condition, and now that the dandelion are beginning to bloom, the outlook is cheerful, many eucalyptus have been flowering all the winter and have been covered with parakeets.

On 31st August I sallied forth with axe, saw, ladder and hive to begin to cut out again; selected a red gum, with a good strong colony. Half-an-hour afterwards saw me hurrying off to the nearest hospital. I placed the ladder against the trunk, and put the saw in about a foot below the bees, and about 9 feet from the ground. The only way I can account for what followed, is that in falling one of the limbs struck another tree, broke off and flew back on the ladder, and down I came mixed up with the pieces of ladder. I escaped with a few scratches and left arm broken, between wrist and elbow 2 bones. After indulging in first aid I was driven to Narracoote hospital, 32 miles distant, nearest doctor, sentence, 6 weeks holiday. There is no pain attached to the offence, so I must make the best of a bad job and stay here a month, and lose an additional two weeks at home. Six weeks off work, a serious item just now. However, its no use worrying, I must read and think, and enjoy myself in the meantime.

J. P. C.

THE ORANGE BLOSSOM.

The orange flower itself is a white, six-pointed star of great purity, and is very fragrant. The somewhat fleshy petals, after opening curl out and backwards, thus disclosing a round wall of straight, more or less grown together, pollen carriers, within which there is hidden the fruit germ, surmounted by the central stamen. It is in this inner temple wherein occurs the offering of the sacrifice of the nectar and of the sweet odor. Like all flora, orange is richer in nectar some years than in others. There have been seasons when the nectar secretions for the very abundance ran out of the blossoms, causing the foliage of the tree to become sticky with it all over. But whether rich or poor, because of the immense mass of it, there has always been far more of it than all the available bees could take care of.

In producing bloom the orange tree is simply immense. There are thousands and thousands of blossoms on every tree that never come to anything at all; there are other thousands that open, set a tiny orange and then drop off. There are, finally, a few, comparatively speaking, that open, set a fruit and eventually grow into the golden apple of the market. Now, if one examines orange flowers for nectar, he will find some rich with it, some showing a trace, and some none at all; though just how closely these two sets of facts are related to one another is probably exactly known by nobody, but it is certain that the totally dry flowers are barren in their very nature and drop off fruitless. As a honey producer, the orange blossom is often over-estimated as to quantity, but never as to quality. Of the latter too much can hardly be said; for I am sure that pure orange blossom honey has no superior in any one of the three qualities, color, body or flavor; the essentials that go to the making of a perfect product. It is, in fact, one of Nature's most nearly perfect productions; and, like most such, quite limited in quantity. While working among the orange trees the bees

seem brisk and happy, and return to their hives well laden with pollen pellets, but their honey sacs, though invariably containing some nectar, are never filled to repletion as when gathering from other sources.

The full volume of the orange flow lasts at least two weeks. It starts ten days or two weeks before that, and straggles along for about an equal length of time after. There is no uncertainty about its yearly coming, nor doubt about its abundance. And if we had the meteorological condition necessary, we could harvest from 50 to 100 pounds of honey per colony every year without fail.

—*Exchange.*

Something About Comb Honey.

At the beginning of the season all colonies that do not seem likely to begin work at once in supers are given a set of extracting combs. The bees will begin storing honey in these readily, thus forming the habit of storing in the supers *early*, which is very *important*. The ideal condition for a colony at the beginning of the honey flow would be to have every cell in the brood chamber full of either brood or honey, so that the very first honey gathered must, perforce, be stored in the super. Since we cannot secure this it is well, as the next best thing, to get them started there as soon as possible. Bait combs are good in their way, but even a whole super full of drawn combs in sections is not as good as a super of nice extracting combs for this purpose. This super of extracting combs may be left on until it is completed, a super of sections being tiered under it as soon as it is well under way, but I prefer to remove it in most cases as soon as it is about half full. I would rather leave it on, but the bees show such a preference for the combs that unless the honey flow is very heavy they will do little or nothing at the sections until the combs are completed, there will always be some colonies that will not do good work in the sections, because they are not strong enough in numbers, because they are not good comb builders,

or because they do not cap their honey nicely. The extracting combs may be tiered up on these to any desired height and left to be finished. If these colonies get into good comb honey condition before the end of the honey flow, the combs may be removed, extracted, and stored away until they are needed again. When a colony swarms, its comb supers should go with the swarm, while a set of extracting combs should be placed on the old colony. Any colony that at any time during the honey flow, is found to be doing poor work in the sections, should have those sections promptly removed and replaced with a set of extracting combs.

As the season draws to a close, instead of giving sections that may not be completed, give extracting combs to the colonies that are doing the poorest work in the sections, giving their sections to others to be completed. In this way you not only secure a larger amount of finished honey, but you avoid having a lot of unfinished sections to carry over until the next season, and which would much better be still in the crate in which they came from the factory.—*Beekeepers' Review*.

FOREIGN NOTES.

From Exchange.

The price of honey has fallen greatly in France for the last few years. The customary price for 100 kilo. used to be from 110 to 130 francs. Now 90 francs is the highest price paid, and many beekeepers are thankful to get 75 francs for their crops. It is said that large quantities of honey are imported, upon which no duty is levied.

During 1903 there were imported into Germany, in round numbers, according to "Die Biene und ihre Zucht;" From Chili, 1,980,000 pounds of honey; from Mexico, 636,000 pounds of honey; from Cuba and Porto Rico, 1,267,000 pounds of honey; from the United States, 840,000 pounds of honey.

"Apiculteur" says that there are seventeen different kinds of linden trees in Siberia which blossom in close

succession, thus furnishing the bees a long continued, most excellent honey season. The principal hives used are American hives. As the winters are very severe, only strong colonies are taken into the winter. Indoor-wintering alone is practised.

An Irish writer laments that more bees are not kept in Ireland. The land produces now but 700,000 pounds of honey and could be made to produce as much as 40,000,000 pounds. He advises his Irish brothers not to emigrate to America but to stay at home and go into beekeeping.—*Leipz Bztg*.

It is stated in "Ung. Biene" that bees were kept more extensively in Russia a thousand years ago than now. At the present time the number of colonies kept are 5,106,722, the amount of honey they produce 65,418,880 pounds, the wax represents 10,797,760 pounds. Russia consumes more honey and wax than she produces. A great deal of these products are imported from Hungaria.

A brigand named Nebi was pursued by the Turkish "gendarmes." He finally took refuge in a small house which like all the oriental houses, had but few windows, just big enough to enable the brigand to shoot down the "gendarmes" at his own convenience. In a garden nearby were some bees hives. The sergeant of the gendarmes finally took one of the hives and managed to throw it through the window into the house then occupied by the unfortunate Nebi. The result can easily be guessed. What may not be so easily guessed, is that the unfortunate Nebi died in the hospital at Smyrna the next day, from the results of the stings received.—*L' Apiculture*.

CHINESE BEES.

Two kinds of bees exist in China. One of large size is dreaded by the natives, and nothing has been done toward "robbing" their nests or to keep them in hives.

The other is much smaller. The workers are only three-eighths of an inch

long, and the queens nearly half an inch. They are black, with less hair than the European kind, and that hair is of a rusty color. When the abdomen is distended, a yellow streak or spot is seen occupying about one-third of the width of each skin between the rings. The stinger is short, the venom glands more developed than those of the European kind, but the sting is less painful than that of the European bees.

Their nests are hung under the limbs of trees or some other more or less sheltered but not completely inclosed place. Hunting wild bees is not always easy; so the natives are in the habit of putting here and there on some trees, pieces of bark about six feet long, and placed horizontally or nearly so, so that the under surface furnishes the wild bees a sheltered place to hang their nests. Of one hundred pieces fixed that way, from twenty to forty are soon found occupied swarms, and can easily be harvested. If possible, the tree called tram (*Melaleuca leucodendron*) is chosen, as the bees seem to have a preference for it. The "harvesting" is usually done in August. Each nest furnishes one or two pounds of wax and a quantity of honey. To climb a tree, the hunter uses a number of bamboo spikes, which he drives in the bark of the trees. These hold the weight of a man as well as an iron spike driven in a telegraph pole. The woods are divided in portions and these leased to those who will take what honey, gums, resins and other wild products are there. These bees are also kept in hives; that is, hollow logs, closed at the ends with pieces of bark or boards fastened with "buffalo chips" mortar. When the robbing is done, it is merely a question of cutting the combs, driving the bees off with smoke, mashing combs and all, and melting them to separate the honey and the wax.—L'Apiculteur.

Ask your neighbouring beekeepers to write for sample copy of the "A.B.B." which will be posted free.

CAPPINGS.

The average man thinks every other business better than the one in which he is engaged. Sometimes he is so sure of it that he makes a change, and then comes to a discovery. He finds that the new business, which at long range looked so rosy, has a full complement of thorns, not altogether different from those which beset his old occupation. Instead of indulging in such day dreams about other people's affairs, men would make more progress by employing their spare time in nipping the thorns that annoy them.—*Exchange*.

HOW TO MOVE BEES WITH OPEN ENTRANCES.—I move bees over rather rough roads, in spring or fall, without springs or hay, and with no loss. I have just finished moving an outyard of 115 colonies a distance of seven miles. Some of the colonies were in old box hives recently purchased; and as it was almost impossible to fasten the bees in, owing to cracks and crevices, we threw a large waggon-sheet over the load and tied it down at the corners. By occasionally pouring a good volume of smoke under the waggon-sheet, which retains more or less of it for some time, the bees are subdued and kept so. This has proved a very useful "kink" to me when moving old hives.—*Gleanings*.

One thousand colonies in one apiary is what Mr. E. W. Alexander, of Delanson, N. Y., proposes to try the coming season. For a series of years he has been getting good results from a large number of colonies in a single apiary. Last year he had 700 colonies in one yard, and secured from 100 to 150 pounds of extracted buck-wheat honey per colony. He admits that his locality may be exceptional.—*Beekeeper's Review*.

PUT "BAIT SECTIONS" IN THE CORNERS OF THE SUPERS.—The first supers we select for these old colonies are arranged with one section of drawn comb in each corner, the rest of the sections being filled with full sheets of foundation. These combs at the

corners start the bees to work the corners first and that means that they will work the sections altogether, thus causing all the sections to be sealed at nearly the same time. The usual way of putting one bait comb in the centre, causes this part of the super to be finished, sealed, and, perhaps, travel stained, before the outside sections are sealed, and ready to come off. With our super arranged with drawn combs in the corners, and full sheets of foundation in the balance of the sections, and with the blanket of bees we get with these two fence separators between the super and outside row of sections, we have practically put our outside rows in the centre, as they are all finished at the same time, before there is a particle of travel-stain, thus doing away with the only objection there is to leaving the super on until all the sections are finished.—*Beekeepers Review*.

The Bingham is really the only uncapping knife worth considering. First, it must be kept sharp. Next, it must be kept free from honey and wax. This can be accomplished by having two or three knives, standing them in water when not in use. As soon as a knife becomes daubed up and sticky with honey and wax, drop it into a dish of water and pick up a clean knife. The water soon dissolves off the honey leaving the knife clean and ready for business. Whether the knife shall be kept in hot water, or whether the water shall be cold, depends upon circumstances. If the extracting is done in hot weather, and the combs uncapped as soon as taken from the hives while the honey is warm, fresh and comparatively thin, a cold knife is preferable but if the extracting is not done until the season is over, when the honey and combs are stiffer from ripeness and lower temperature, then the hot knife is more desirable.—*Beekeepers' Review*.

DOES A QUEEN MEET A DRONE MORE THAN ONCE? MORE PROOF THAT SHE DOES. In 1884, while standing by a hive I saw a queen enter, evidently having just mated. As I had watched and seen one go and return with the

drone organs attached two days previous to this, I was astonished. My first thought was that a queen had entered the wrong hive. On opening the hive I found but the one queen moving quietly over the combs, and she appeared to be at home. Up to this time I had accepted the statement of others that queens mated but once. After this I spent all the time I could spare watching queens but saw nothing more that season.

June 22, 1885, I saw a queen take her flight, and return, evidently having met a drone. The same queen flew out and returned June 24, with the same evidence of having met a drone. July 10 I saw another go out, and return with the drone organs attached. The same queen flew out and returned with the drone organs attached, July 24.

Now, to me this does not seem strange or unusual. Copulation does not always impregnate. There is proof of this in all domestic animals, and why not with bees and other insects? Mr. Phillips also says, page 286, that the copulatory organs of the drone are, after a short time, ejected. Is he sure of this? Some time in the '80's Thomas G. Newman, in the *American Bee Journal*, made the statement that they are mostly absorbed. My own observations confirm this. If Mr. Phillips will rear a queen this season in a single comb hive, with glass sides, and, after she is mated, go once in two or three hours he will see that the drone attachment will slowly diminish in size, apparently drawing in until, by the second morning, it will disappear.—HENRY JONES, in *Gleanings*.

The *Gazette Apicole*, a French journal, gives the names of 78 bee-papers; of these 15 are in the English language; 23 are in French; 16 German; Italian, 4 Russian, 9; Dutch, 4; Spanish, 3; Norwegian, 1; Swedish, 1; Bohemian, 1; Roumanian, 1.

I am coming more and more to believe the Germans are right who hold that sugar is never to be fed except as a matter of necessity; that strong brood can not be reared on sugar as well as on honey;

that every pound of sugar fed is just so much interference with the honey market in short, that the perfect bee-keeper will make it his aim never to feed an ounce of sugar.—Dr. Miller in *Gleanings*.

"Why do insects exist?" and then comes the answer, "To preserve the balance between the constructive forces and the destructive forces of nature." If there were no insects, plant life would soon overrun the earth. Insects keep down the plants. But, on account of the extreme productiveness of insects, they would soon overrun the earth, and neither plant nor man nor beast could exist were it not for other insects that prey upon the plant eaters, and for parasites that prey upon both.—Professor Gould, in *Cleveland Press*.

HELP MEDIUM RATHER THAN WEAKEST COLONIES.—When a colony has four or five frames of brood well filled, it is in condition for rapid development, while a colony with only two or three frames partly filled will remain at a stand-still till hot weather comes. The beginner may think that his first care should be to help the weakest. Not so; let the little ones wait; a frame of hatching brood may be given to a colony with three frames well filled with brood, and it will not be long till that colony will be able to help others; whereas the same brood given to one of the weakest colonies would still leave that weakling a long time in becoming strong enough to help others. In general, draw from colonies having five or more Langstroth frames of brood, leaving them with four, distributing this brood among the strongest colonies that have less than four frames of brood. When there are no longer any stronger ones to help, it will be time enough to help the very weakest.—*American Bee Journal*.

In early spring we commence at one side of the yard and examine every colony carefully. Those that are weak in bees, yet have a good queen, we mark; and, as soon as they have some larvæ in their combs, each is taken to a good,

strong colony, and set on top, with a queen excluding honey board between. If there is no larvæ at this time in the weak colony I give it a frame from the strong colony, so as to keep the bees from leaving their queen, and all going below. I close up all entrances except that of the strong colony. The bees will divide themselves about equally between the two queens; and in about four or five weeks I can separate them, and, in nine times out of ten, I have two good, strong colonies. For twenty years I have treated all my weak colonies in this way in early spring. Sometimes I have had 100 weak ones on top of strong colonies, and I don't lose five per cent. I think it is a much better way than to try to build them up alone, as there is no trouble from robbers, and they don't require any attention until it is time to separate them. Don't keep them together too long, as the young bees, when over two weeks old, are liable to sting one of the queens.—*Exchange*.

E. F. Phillips describes experiments he has undertaken in conjunction with Dr. D. B. Casteel, of the University of Philadelphia, to determine the reasons for the variation in the bodies of drones. The facts brought out by the measurements were that "the drones vary more than the workers, and that the variation depends on the cell from which the bee hatches." A drone from a worker-cell is long and narrow, with long, narrow wings while a drone from a full-sized drone-cell is fat, and has wide, strong wings. He points out that, as the size of drone and his development depend on the cell from which he comes it is of the utmost importance that full-sized drone-comb be furnished when the drones are to be used for fertilising queens. If nothing but worker foundation is given to the bees, the drones will be small, and their organs will not get a chance to develop as they should, and their wings are not strong enough to support them when they take the marriage flight with the queen. Although a small drone can fertilize a queen, it is from the largest and strongest

that a strong progeny can be excepted. *Gleanings.*

The Beekeepers Record of June says: "Not for some years has the outlook been so full of promise or the signs more visible than point to a prosperous season for our craft." The same journal, speaking of Scotland, says. —" At the present time bloom is everywhere abundant. Hornets are troublesome to beekeepers in Cyprus and Egypt. In the latter place a beekeeper used to destroy the hornets in hundreds by killing them with a flat piece of wood as they alighted on the flight-boards of the hives for catching and carrying off the bees in scores prior to eating them.

A Swiss bee-journal says that the rocking of the bees and the shaking of the abdomen is only seen when colonies are strong and the ingathering is good. In weak colonies these movements do not take place at all, and seldom occur even in strong ones if nectar gathering has been suspended for some time. He thinks that these movements are an expression of pleasure. Many years' experience has assured him that these movements are a sure sign of approaching swarming. When, on a comb, nearly all the bees are shaking, and making a distinctly heard noise, a swarm may with certainty be expected the next day.

The bee-keeper gets only a small percentage of the nectar the bees gather. The brood is fed, the heat and energy of the bee has, through food, to be provided for; the brood has to be warmed, and the process of ripening through raised temperature and the fanning of atmosphere in and out, all has to be done at the expense of food consumed. We masticate food and change starch to sugar. By the addition of certain secretions in this, the food undergoes the first stages towards digestion. The bees by nature are compelled to gather nectar a little at a time; they again transmit it to fresh bees at the threshold of the comb; again, as it is moved about from cell to cell in the process of ripening, in all these as in the

slow process of mastication, the honey is being inverted, and in honey we have a partially digested, or predigested, food ready for assimilation. No other sweet on earth can boast of this in its favor. —Exchange.

Mr Kinsella, Chief Dairy Commissioner for New Zealand, has made his report on Argentina to the Minister of Industries and Commerce. The whole position is summed up in Mr. Kinsella's last paragraph. "In my opinion the Republic of Argentina is favored with a combination of advantages over many others, or, perhaps, over almost every country in the world. I am still further of the opinion that if the Argentine agricultural and pastoral industries were developed on anything like up to date lines, within very few years they would be able to land their products on the markets of the world almost beyond competition." —Sydney Meat Trades Journal.

As far as I know, all, or almost all, of our northern honey has the peculiar characteristic of becoming solid, crystallizing, or, as it is commonly called, granulating. The more delicately flavored honey, such as clover, even in expert hands, rarely goes through the process of liquefying without perceptible deterioration in its delicate flavor and aroma. This may be disputed by those of less sensitive palate, yet remains true, and will stand the test. That the change which honey undergoes by overheating is important the polariscope proves. Long-heated honey not granulating tends also to show that the nature is changed; its color, flavor, and aroma, as we know, may also be lost.—Morley Pettit, in *A. B. Journal*.

Cleaning Sections can be very easily and quickly accomplished by rubbing them over a piece of coarse mesh wire cloth stretched over a stout wooden frame, provided the propolis is not down in a "bee-way" where the wire cannot reach it.—Exchange.

Turpentine applied at once to a sting gives instant relief.

QUESTIONS.

Have you worked any apiary with queen excluders and Porter bee escape for extracted honey, and with what result?

F. W. Penberthy.—Reply to question in A.B.B. of September 29th.—I would only use Porter bee escapes for clearing bees out of sections. I have used queen excluders for several years, and find they save a lot of time; no queen or brood in the supers leaves you free to brush off the bees very quick. Brood in the supers is the cause of a lot of unripe honey getting into the extractor. Keep the sealed honey out of the brood apartment. There will be no need for the queen to go into the super. Bees will work as well through an excluder as they will without it here.

ANOTHER GOOD MAN.

—, Western Australia.—I am forwarding postal note for one pound on behalf of that brave soul (A Sorrowful Letter), who is in need of a helping hand, and I hope some more of our brother beekeepers will respond likewise. Trusting you will forward it as soon as possible. I would like to know later on how she is getting on. No names need be mentioned. If we have a good season (as I believe we will) I will try to be a bit more liberal. Hoping the season will be more favourable to all interested in beekeeping in your state. I am getting the A.B.B. regularly now, and find it very useful and interesting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

E. J. R., Wyee.—I am sorry indeed I cannot attend the meeting. I cannot afford to spend money in travelling, etc. I will have to move as early as possible and hope for better times. I cannot sell my honey just at present. However, my

time is up next month, so I will try and get somewhere where I can do something else as well as bees, for it is useless trying to live by bees alone at Wyee. I hope you have a good meeting and some good results come from it.

T. J. B., Wallabadah.—Just a few lines to tell you I will not now be able to get down to the meeting on Friday, for which I am very sorry, owing to sickness in the family. I can only wish you success. The bees are now doing fair here, but white frosts nearly every night has destroyed the fruit crop to a very big extent. I think I have about half a crop left up to the present.

J. F. D., Bellinger River.—Your note to hand, also note from Mr. Rumsey intimating the meeting of beekeepers. I must apologise for not being able to get down, but it would take a couple of weeks for me to get from here and back, and I am expecting swarming to start at any time. I will strain a point to get down at Easter if at all possible, but I cannot tell yet. I know you will do your best for the industry. Just now I am feeding to induce breeding with warm syrup just before night, and the interior of the hives are fast beginning to hum. I can tell you everything around here looks well.

W.H., Telegraph Point.—In answer to Mr. F. W. Penberthy's of August 29th re his price of box honey, I don't think it would make the slightest difference to the north coast beekeepers. I sold my honey at very good prices all through the dry seasons, and I can stand to let some one else have a show now. John Bull did not take to the box honey, but he don't know what's good for him. The north coast beekeeper has come to stay, and be a source of trouble to a man who would like to see the small man wiped out. They should work hard and become big beekeepers, like Mr. Penberthy. I have lived in Bathurst, Mudgee, and Rylestone districts, and I have seen bees die of want, but we did not have a name for it. Spring dwindling might be a better name for it. I have never seen any of it on the north coast, but matters are lively here at present.

J.C., Bulli.—Last season was a very bad one on the South Coast; no honey whatever, and the bees went into winter in a very poor state. The result was that 75 per cent. of the bees in the district died through the winter. I have 25 left out of 80 to start the season with. We are hoping for a good season this time to build up our shattered forces.

W. C. H., Telangatuk East, Vic.—Just a line asking you if you will discontinue sending me the "A.B.B." as it is really no use to me. as father gets it and I see his every month. I like the paper very well and will highly recommend it to any beekeeper who does not get it.

P. Smith, Sandon, Vic.—Yours to hand re honey production being over done. If we had more honey to export we would be more able to keep a market supplied with honey. I cannot see that beekeeping will be boomed to such an extent as to be overdone. The ruling price for Australian honey in London is 12s to 18s per cwt. What sort of honey can this be when New Zealand honey fetches from 25s to 40s in the same market. I will apply to our Secretary to have some samples of this honey imported for examination at the next conference, as such might enlighten us as to the class of honey exported which seems to ruin our reputation. The eucalyptus flavour seems to be against us in the London market. In America things are different. Dr. Tinker's New Beekeeping for Profit, page 106, reads as follows: The eucalyptus or blue gum will undoubtedly become as great a favourite in our Southern States as it is in California, and it is said to be a superior and beautiful honey producer. Now if our produce agents would do a little it might help us a great deal with our honey. You will find enclosed a clipping from the *Argus*, 13/7/04. How carefully Mr. Taverner leaves the products of the apiary out in his displays of colonial produce. As for supply dealers booming our industry, it is impossible, as they cannot make us buy what we do not want. Many of our leading beekeepers make their own hives

by having small saw mills of their own, thus saving expense. What attracts people to beekeeping is the great reports of honey yields, such as Mr. Bolton's 43 tons of honey for the season 1902-3. Most beekeepers keep their business to themselves. What passes between us and our secretary is strictly confidential, so that the public are not aware of our yields of honey. You would notice in the report of our last meeting that the members of our association produce 7/10ths of the total of the honey produced in this State, Victoria, as against the other 4,301 non-member beekeepers, shewing that the leading beekeepers are united, and that those outsiders are representing the failing beekeepers. We were always aware that there were 95 failures in every 100 who started in beekeeping, so that we have no fear of our industry being boomed.

E.B., Gouldsville. — My bees did very well last summer, that is the remnant of them that was left from the last drought, but what is the use of them doing well when we cannot sell the honey.

E. J. R., Wyee. — I hope you had a good meeting in Sydney. Did you do anything about civil servants entering into competition with beekeepers? It would be a good plan for all beekeepers attending next annual meeting to get a list of all these people, and find out how many hives they represent. If they took a tally as they were proceeding to Sydney we could then perhaps have some grounds to work on, and get a deputation to the Commissioners or other persons in authority. I believe some in the postal department carry it on also.

W.S.H., Glengarry, Vic. — The past season with me was very good. I extracted 67 tins from 32 colonies, and have also a fair promise for the coming season. I sell all my honey locally at a fair profit getting from 17/6 to £1 per 60lb. tin. I have liquefied two or three tins of candied honey lately by placing tin in hot water, not allowing water to boil, and when melted there would be a white froth on top of honey, sometimes enough to fill

a pint pot, and the honey had a peculiar flavour, different I thought to what it had when I extracted it. I do not use a settling tank, but run through cheese-cloth bag into kerosene cans, and solder down at once. I thought it may not have been sufficiently ripened, although I am not in the habit of taking honey from hives until the bees have sealed at least two-thirds of the cells. If not natural can you explain the cause in your next issue?

A large settling-tank is what you want, with steam pipes inside, the exit steam pipe being outside, so as to liquefy if it candies, and pour off only when it has stood a few days, to allow all that sediment to go to the top.

A. L. M., Rowland's Flat, S.A.—In looking over an old number of the A.B.B. of June, 1902, I see you were advertising a foundation machine for sale. Is that machine still on the market, or do you know of one for sale? Who is there in New South Wales that imports them for sale?

A. Hordern and Sons, Haymarket, Sydney, have them in stock.

F. H., Glenorchy, Vic.—The bees are doing well with us, wintered without a single loss, and are very strong. I never had such early swarms as this year. It is nearly always October before I get any. There is a week to go yet before October comes, and I have 20 swarms out now. I had the first out on the 19th September. We have every prospect of a good season. The trees are loaded with buds, and some of them are beginning to bloom nice, but we are having severe frosts, and that checks them.

A. T. Crute, Mountain View, Vic.—Beekeeping in this locality is going ahead by leaps and bounds. Myself and Mr. Geue and my brother have brought about the forming of a branch of the Apiarist's Association with great success. We held our first meeting on 7th October, and it was attended by most of the leading beekeepers in the district. We succeeded in getting eleven new members, and altogether there are 18 on the roll, and we hope to get as many more by next meeting. Our meeting was

held at 7 p.m., so as to allow the beekeepers a better chance of coming, as swarming is at its height now, and they could not get away in the day-time. Our leading and oldest established beekeeper, Mr. H. Russell, was voted chairman, and after explaining the aims and objects of the head association, and reading the rules, etc., it was proposed that we form a branch, which was supported by every one present. Mr. Russell was proposed as our president, but he declined the honour with thanks, as he explained he was president of another society, and could not well manage both. Mr. H. A. Geue was then proposed and seconded, and the motion was carried with acclamation. By his request, however, Mr. Russell kept the chair for the evening. Mr. W. Crute was appointed secretary and treasurer. Ringbarking and the price of honey was discussed, also exportation of honey, but as this was our first meeting nothing of importance was agreed on. I consider it a move in the right direction, the forming of the branch, and I think before the year is out we shall have a branch almost as strong as the head association itself. All that I interviewed on the subject were anxious and willing to join, and there are a lot yet that I think I can get to join. Swarming is at its height now, and the prospect of a good harvest is very evident.

W. Ferguson, Bungowannah.—Re the increase of beekeepers and the price of honey, I did not intend to start a discussion when I wrote to you. But as you have published what I wrote, and asked others to give their opinion on it, I will take the liberty to give a few reasons for my opinion. For one thing your idea of decreasing the number of beekeepers is not practicable. If a man has a fancy to keep bees, how are you going to stop him. And then, you publishing a bee paper tends to increase the honey production, by giving the beginner practical instruction in the best methods of working his bees, and by advising him to show it to other beginners, who also in turn do likewise, and then you also publish the

advertisements of those supply dealers whom we are told in your article to watch and shun. You also publish reports of big yields got by beekeepers in good seasons and good situations, and persons who are thinking of starting jump to the conclusion that they can get these big yields every season and anywhere. Now, Mr. Editor, if you are in earnest about decreasing the number of beekeepers you should immediately stop the publication of the BEE BULLETIN. And what has the supply dealer done that such an outcry should be made against him? Finding there was a demand for bee goods, he got in a stock of requisites, and notified the general public of the fact through the bee and other papers. He also published illustrated catalogues containing hints for beginners. Now the makers of agricultural machinery not only do this, but they also send travellers all over the country persuading and cajoling farmers into buying their machines, yet we hear nothing of the impending ruin to agriculture by their means. No doubt beekeepers in the past have done a lot to start others by talking of their big yields and profits in a good season, and saying nothing about the bad seasons. But it is human nature to blow. The farmer blows about a big yield of wheat or oats, the squatter about a big clip of wool, or the number of fats he has sold, and the dairyman of the quantity of butter he gets from his cows, yet none of these industries are ruined by over production. P. M. is a little astray in his remarks about Federation, as N.S.W. was a freetrade colony before federation, and was open to the honey from the other colonies when there was a local scarcity, so we are no worse off in that respect under federation, but we are much worse off in another respect, as the federal tariff has considerably increased the cost of beekeepers' requisites, and the necessities of living. Your remarks about the impossibility of exporting call to my mind a lot that was said and written when the first attempts were made to export Australian beef and mutton. Did

the graziers give up because the first attempts were failures? Did they try to restrict the supply of cattle and sheep? No, they took steps to place their beef and mutton in the hands of the consumers, with the result that to-day there is a large and profitable export trade in beef and mutton. Now in my opinion, there is only one thing to prevent the same being done with honey, and that is the want of a sufficient quantity to make it worth while. New Zealand has established a profitable export trade in honey, and what is to prevent us doing the same? With regard to fettleers and other civil servants keeping bees and under-selling those who are getting their living by bee keeping, the same thing happens with other industries, such as poultry keeping and gardening, and the latest complaint is from professional musicians, who complain of civil servants who have organised a band competing against them in supplying music to dances, parties, etc. I am not prepared to say that civil servants should be prevented from engaging in any other industry, because such a law would lead to gross hardship in individual cases, just as their competition leads to hardship in some cases. Establish a reliable export trade and you get over the difficulty, because the civil servant would not sell his honey to the local storekeeper for less than the exporter would give him, just as no farmer will sell his wheat to the local miller for less than he can get from the wheat exporter.

[The proof of the pudding is in the eating. A newspaper is, or should be a photograph of the state of the industry it caters for, and the opinions of all its members. For ourselves we should be very pleased indeed to see that reliable export trade. But with all the evidence to hand, what hope is there of it.]

Overstocking Varies with the Flow and with the Season.

Four years ago I had one apiary within half a mile of a large and productive field of cleome, and another apiary four miles away. Both worked on the same field; but, in the fall, the colonies close by had

averaged two supers of surplus more per colony than had those that were four miles away. Overstocking does not show up during a good flow, or, perhaps, what might be called an *unusual* secretion, but it is during a light honey-flow, or dearth, that the bad effects of overstocking show up. I believe, that, during a good flow, the secretion of honey goes on all the time, night and day; and it matters not much *how often* the flowers are visited, the honey is there at all times for the bees to gather. But during a poor yield it is different. The bees will lick up the field by ten o'clock and then lie idle the rest of the day, or spend their time trying to rob and pilfer. Three years ago, 1,000 colonies, that were located on *one square mile*, did as well during a long, good flow, as those farther out, but during the next season, which was a very poor one, 600 colonies on the same field did much less in storing surplus than did apiaries farther out and in naturally poorer fields. I think, that often more bees can be kept upon a given field than is laid down by the law makers, but Nature, in this, as in all other matters, has certainly placed a *limit*, and I believe that limit is under from 700 to 1,000 colonies. In the field in which I am now operating 1,000 colonies, and which is practically speaking 10 x 18 miles in size, is located over 5,000 colonies. My apiaries run from 75 to 150 colonies, in each apiary. Two of my apiaries are located in the centre of this field, closely surrounded by other bees, and these apiaries have to be fed, both fall and spring, if the season is not good, while my other apiaries, located on the very outside, or, rim, so to speak, of the field, get some honey even in poor seasons, and are nearly always in good condition. My average is much above the average for the whole field. In poor seasons I think this is due to my advantage in location, but in good seasons I think it is, perhaps, due to the fact that my bees have better care than the average of the district. I feel certain that some of my apiaries could be doubled in number, and the results per colony be the

same in *good seasons*, but who knows, with any degree of surety, when we are going to have favourable or unfavourable seasons?—M. A. Gill, in *Beekeepers Review*.

PRICES OF HONEY.

Maitland Mercury.—Honey, 1½d to 2d per lb.

Melbourne Australasian.—Honey, prime clear garden, from 3d to 3½d; medium quality, from 2½d; congealed and inferior lower. Beeswax, unaltered at 1/3.

Melbourne Leader.—Honey—Prime clear garden samples had sale to-day at 3d; cloudy to good, 2d to 2½d. Beeswax—First-class clear lots were disposed of readily at 1s 2d, the range for medium to good lots being from 1s to 1s 1d.

Garden & Field, S. A.—Clear extracted 2½d to 2½d per lb., dark and inferior 1d to 1½d.

S. M. Herald.—Choice liquid 2½d per lb., candied and good liquid 2d to 2½d., inferior 1d to 1½d.

Tamworth News.—Honey, 6/- per dozen bottles; 1/8 per 7lb tin; 9/- to 10/- per 60lb tin.

HONEY.—

Owing to the congested state of the Sydney Market at present, we would advise shippers to withhold consignments until present stocks are reduced.

BEESWAX.—

There is a strong demand for clear samples from 1s 1d to 1s 2d per lb. Dark lots from 1s per lb.

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CAPPINGS.

FEEDING BACK EXTRACTED HONEY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF COMB HONEY.—After an experience covering several seasons, and having had my efforts crowned with success, it may not be out of place for me to say it *can* be done, and done easily, and

at a good profit, and especially feeding back to finish unfinished sections. We usually have several thousand such sections at the end of the main honey flow. We first assort our unfinished sections, get our supers ready, and then begin by filling our supers, putting the fullest ones in the corners and outside rows; but be sure to uncap all sealed cells. If *you* don't the bees won't, but will build new comb on top of the sealed cells, making what we call double-deck combs. After you fill your supers, put not less than two on any good strong colony whose brood chamber is well filled with sealed brood and honey. For feeders we use a box made of thin lumber, and which will hold a gallon or a little more. Set this box *on top* of the supers, fill it with thick honey, throw a handfull of coarse excelsior on top of the honey; then cover the whole up bee-tight. You will find that the bees will store about all of the first feederful below, not making much of a show in the sections; but be sure to keep honey in the feeders day and night until the sections are nearly as full as they should be; then taper off rapidly with the feed, and the bees will seal the combs, and you will find them as smooth and perfect as if built under normal conditions. Take these supers off and replace with empty ones, and you will get them filled; but I would advise you not to use the same colony for more than two lots, for on the third lot they seem to think they have done enough, and will not take the honey. Now, this is all about finishing unfinished sections, but the same plan holds good if you use sections filled with foundation instead of partly finished sections. I do not claim that the foregoing is a universal plan that will work everywhere and under all conditions, whether the conditions are known or not, but I will say that it works with us on a large scale, and we are satisfied.—Exchange.

Always have the little records under the cover to show the individual needs of each colony. And its surprising how quickly three people can go thoroughly

over 100 colonies, where all fixtures are uniform, where proper individual records are kept, shake 10 per cent. of all the old colonies in the apiary, and be ready to leave for the next apiary. On several different days the past season, my wife and I and our helper would drive 18 miles, go over 350 colonies, and shake from 25 to 40 of them; and I offer as evidence of thoroughness the fact that in all our nine apiaries we didn't have *one* prime swarm in the air; at least, we never missed one, and we did no cutting out of cells to speak of, and only found where five old colonies had cast a second swarm.—M. A. Gill in *Beekeepers Review*.

In the valley of Anning, China, a tree known to the scientists as *Ligustrum lucidum* is found in abundance. In the spring the bark of the trunk and the limbs, becomes covered with excrescences about the size of a pea. Cutting these "peas" in two, shows in the interior something like flour, but which is really the eggs of the insect known as the white wax worm. These "peas" are gathered and brought to the city of Chiating. Around Chiating are immense orchards or woods planted with a kind of ash tree (*Fraxinus sinensis*). The "peas" are put in very small sacks and the sacks hung to the trees. The sacks are made with small holes so as to permit the insects to come out when they hatch. The females lay their eggs in the cracks of the bark. The males are provided with glands similar to those that produce the wax from the worker bees. They plaster up or rather varnish over the bark of the tree when the eggs have been laid with that varnish. This varnish is really a kind of wax quite white. To harvest it the bark covered with the wax, is raked off the trees and put in boiling water. The melted wax comes to the top. A good wetting with a spray pump, or with a bucket or brush is a great inducement to a swarm to settle. An apiculturist of Switzerland put a comb of eggs and young brood in a queenless colony, twenty queen-cells were built. Of the 14 cells, two failed.

Among the 12 queens obtained, nine were large, and three small, or rather smaller than the other, six were almost black, four more yellow and two well marked. These two last were among the largest. Right here, is an important lesson. In our text books and bee-papers the advice is often given, in order to prevent second swarms, to destroy all the queen cells but one. But as we see by the above, the one cell left may fail, or give an inferior queen. Why not cage the last cells and select the queen after the hatching?

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.—In reference to samples of honey for analysis by Dr. Howell, and pollen for investigation by Dr. Cherry as per announcement in circular sent to members, the Executive at their meeting held yesterday decided that, with a view of preventing the receipt of a plurality of samples of one kind and a dearth of others, beekeepers willing to send samples should first communicate with the Hon. Correspondent, when particulars and directions will be sent to them, and also to other members who may not have volunteered but samples from whom may be necessary to cover the whole field.

In view of the importance of the matter, we hope that members will readily respond to this request, and in terms of the conditions contained in directions to be forwarded to them.

In regard to losses of bees from various causes during winter and spring, members as well as non-members are requested to at once communicate with the undersigned, giving full particulars. The information supplied is not for publication, and will be considered private, but is required as a basis for investigation of the cause of losses.

R. BEUHNE, President.

We acknowledge receipt of *Hamilton Spectator*, containing an account of Mr. Bolton's exhibit of honey, etc., at the local show there. We are compelled to hold same over to our next issue.

A new American journal to hand, *The Rural Beekeeper*. Beautifully printed, a good selection of reading matter of a useful and practical kind, it ought to have a long and useful life.

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Book your Orders now for Golden or Red Clover Queens early in September.

Read what others say about my Queens :—

Tooborac—Dear Sir, The tested queen is a very nice one. I have one lot of queens from her laying now. They are very uniform in colour, and started to lay at the same time, notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions.—R. Beuhne.

Bangor—Dear Sir, The selected queen I got from you is very prolific, her young queens being as much alike as peas in a pod, and are real beauties. Anyone getting your bees will want more, as they are an exceptionally fine strain.—T. G. Matthews.

Claremont, N.S.W.—The queens arrived in splendid condition, and have started to lay.—W. H. Farley.

Vasse Road, Bunbury, West Australia.—I am pleased with the last queen you sent; there was not one dead bee in the cage. Please send six untested and one tested.—John A. Ayre.

Willow Tree, N.S.W.—The two queens I got from you worked up well and quickly. Unfortunately there has been no flow yet to test their honey producing qualities or their offspring, but I have no fear for them.—E. Tipper.

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
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