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 **PACIFIC STATES BEE** 
 **JOURNAL.** 

DEVOTED TO INTERESTS OF HONEY PRODUCERS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT \$1.00 PER ANNUM.

VOL. 1.

TULARE, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 1, 1963.

NO. 2.

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PACIFIC STATES BEE JOURNAL.

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VOL. 1.

TULARE, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 1, 1903

NO. 2

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH BEES.

BY THE EDITOR.

In Fresno, California, in 1896 I met with an accident which caused me to be kept under the Doctor for nearly a year. And after having gone through this experience I felt much the worse for wear and my pocket book had "grown wings and flown."

When the Doctors told me I was now able to take up work again, I looked about me to take an inventory of my possessions, and to my amazement found that of the worlds goods I had but 5 cents!

I will not attempt to relate the details of my experience, but suffice it to say, that the few dollars I had saved were now gone and it was for me to begin again.

So I again turned my attention to my profession— photography. Not having the means to purchase a suitable outfit, I borrowed one from a friend and went to Selma, California, where I open-

ed a photo studio. I worked along doing a nice business but before long I realized that my health was not fully restored and upon consultation, was advised to enter into some out door occupation.

Having formed the acquaintance of Mr. J. F. Crowder, and then becoming much interested in bees I entered the employ of Mr. Crowder in the spring of '97, to learn the "bee business."

I began with making up sections and such work preparatory to getting off a crop of honey; before long we were working about the various apiaries, and the bees stung me thick and fast. In the course of a little time, however, bee stings bothered me no more. As the season approached we took Mr. Crowder's "honey house" and went from one to another of his apiaries and gave the bees such attention as they required.

But before the summer was half over I was convinced there was only one business for me in all the world. I was under a good instructor, and having taken such a deep interest in bees I felt it was the

move to make so I purchased an apiary of forty-five colonies of black bees, about 10 miles west of Selma. They were in all kinds of hives and were in a very poor condition, with reference to combs etc. I set to work with the assistance of Mr. Crowder, and in a short time had them all transferred to good hives and provided them with new combs etc. until they were in a reasonably fair condition.

Having done this much, I intended for them to store a good and sufficient supply for the winter, and left them to themselves.

About two weeks later I went out to my apiary to see how the bees were doing, upon coming in sight of the place where my bees were located I saw something that startled me: upon looking closer I found that from some cause or another, the bees were not there—the hives were upturned, bees gone, and all was confusion.

The apiary was completely destroyed. There was perhaps one hive left with bees in it.

Can you imagine my feelings as I stood there taking in the situation? It took me but a few minutes to get myself together and with my blasted hopes returned to Selma.

I am still looking for the man who destroyed my apiary.

My first adventure having proved so disastrous, I was content to complete my apprenticeship without owning any bees.

So in the winter months I worked at photography and in the summer months devoted my time to working with bees.

I have had many interesting experiences, as I suppose all men who have worked with bees, have had, and will relate them from time to time as "the spirit moves me."

PLANT BASS-WOOD TREES.

Not a long while from now Arbor Day will be upon us and a great many trees will be planted.

Here is an opportunity for bee-keepers to do themselves good. While trees are being planted for shade why not plant Basswoods, so that when they grow up, the bees will find them a source of nectar?

Our country school houses are surrounded by a good many shade trees, and it would be no more than taking advantage of an opportunity if bee-keepers would endeavor to have trees planted or furnish them even, that produced something besides shade.

Then there is another place where basswoods might as well grow as do our poplars and cottonwoods, and that is along the roadsides.

We do not know of any Basswood trees in this section of the country at this time but we believe they would readily grow and

thrive here.

Basswood trees do not yield honey every season, and what plant does? but when it does yield the supply is 4 to 1 compared with any other plant or tree.

Even if one has to wait 8 or 10 years for a basswood tree to grow to the size where it gives up a supply of nectar, and we are not here then to reap the reward of our labors, we have at least done something for the future generations when we plant the basswood tree.

Basswood trees grow very rapidly: young basswood trees require shade and should be so protected that cattle and rabbits may not get to them for they feed upon them, apparently with a keen appetite.

Trees from about four to five feet high should be planted, not more than ten feet apart: of course if this be too close after they grow a while they can be easily thinned out.

The basswood blossom gives a sort of aromatic perfume and the honey also has a strong aromatic flavor, and when basswood honey is fully ripened it compares favorably with most any other kind.

The day of the basswood in the East is drawing to a close.

The amount of basswood used in the manufacture of packing-boxes sections, furniture and paper is something terrific.

Already the Eastern bee journals are mentioning the fact that their most valuable source of nectar supply is being speedily reduced.

We shall furnish some basswood trees for planting on next Arbor day.

We do not know yet where they will be planted, but we trust that, wherever they are planted, they will be well taken care of and that we may know how much of a success basswood trees in this section of the country will be.

We have already arranged for a supply, which we will distribute among our subscribers, and those wishing any basswood trees for planting may send in their application at once. There will be no charge for the trees—simply the transportation charges.

CITY HONEY MARKETS.

In the November number of the Rocky Mountain Bee Journal—which, by the way, is one of the neatest and best edited exchanges that reaches our desk—the editor presents the following article, which we take the liberty to reprint here:

Every bee-keeper is interested in the marketing of honey, but not every bee-keeper studies market conditions closely enough to market his honey intelligently. There is a large class of bee-keepers (they evidently do not read the bee journals) who pay absolutely

no attention to the relative conditions of supply and demand, but dump their honey on the market at "any old time" and are, seemingly, satisfied with "any old price they can get. Such suckers are not only fat picking for the dealers, but they keep the market unsettled, and the price down below the level of legitimate profit to the honey producer. A national commercial organization that could pick up these odd lots that always reach the city market just in time to overstock it and demoralize prices, would be a real God-send to the intelligent class of bee-keepers who are striving to hold up to a living basis.

An analysis of the leading city markets today shows too much honey on hand and subject to call, to be conducive to satisfactory prices. If dealers' reports are to be relied upon, this condition has obtained in the Chicago market without cessation since the new crop began to move. "Supply large—sales forced and difficult," is the tenor of the reports we receive from that city. Of course, these conditions are relative rather than actual. With a normal supply, the demand would be reported as "active and sharp" and further consignments would be solicited. But when the supply exceeds the demand in a ratio of 3 to 1, it would take the tone out of best market in the world. The evil is not that there has been too much honey produced—it lies, rather, in its im-

proper distribution. Too much honey has been dumped into that particular market.

Other city markets indicate the presence of too much honey. A Cincinnati dealer recently wrote us that he was buying the best grade of white clover extracted at six cents, delivered. This price would mean a net of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents if the honey was produced west of the 95th meridian. In the case of alfalfa honey, which in that market is quoted about a cent per pound lower than white clover, the producer would have about $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents left, after paying storage and shipping expenses. No one can produce extracted honey at this price and live. The fault is not that too much extracted honey has been produced, but that too much of it is concentrated in certain centers, causing, locally, a supply far in excess of the demand.

Our advice to comb honey producers is to boycott the Chicago market until prices there become more stable, and they are raised, naturally, to a satisfactory level. Much of the honey now shipped to that point is local to other cities in a radius of four to six hundred miles. Better make the shipments direct, thus making a large saving in extra freights, commissions and other expenses.

Our advice to the Western producer of extracted honey is to shun the large eastern markets. There is a market in the smaller towns

and cities of the middle West for every pound of good table honey they can produce.

An ounce of experience is worth more than a ton of theory. Our own experience in this line bears out the foregoing assertions.

This fall we have sold several thousand pounds of extracted honey for local consumption and for shipment to Nebraska and Oklahoma. The price received was 7 to 8 cents per pound, f. o. b. Boulder. This is a fair price. We could not supply the demand. There is room for others.

National commercial organization is yet a long way off, but it is coming just as surely and rapidly as the natural process of evolution will permit. Among the great problems that it will solve will be that of distribution. No market will then be overstocked, and the price of honey will be just as stable as the price of—well, bee supplies.

CHIPS.

BY BURR STACEY MENTON.

Have you noticed how California honey is moving to Europe?

One pound of good honey contains as much actual food as five pounds of beefsteak.

Unsealed honey contains from 4 to 5 per cent more water than sealed honey.

Don't put unripe honey on the market. To do this is as injurious to the honey trade as it is to the fruit trade to put immature fruit on the market.

John Walker, near Tulare, Cal., has three hives of bees which produced about \$60.00 worth of honey this season. Who can show better returns?

Every bee-keeper should take one or more bee journals. These publications are all doing all they can to make the honey business more profitable, in addition to the help they afford in other ways.

Tulare county will soon have some of the best bee ranges in the state "open for entry." Hundreds of acres of alfalfa are being sown this winter, and not a bee-keeper in sight.

The day for the honey business to be restricted altogether to the class of men who have been failures at everything else, is passed. Men of large capital and ripe business experience are looking to the possibilities of the honey industry as an investment. Speed the day.

Co-operation is the order of the day. Every branch of industry that is up with the procession, is now protected in this way, and the bee-keepers are coming to get themselves together more readily, for the purpose of organization. It is the business way; just as well try to do business without money as without organization.

there with Cuba as our competitor? Let the growers of fruit and beets, as well as the bee-keepers of the west, take some action in the matter. Let the National Bee-Keepers Association be awake to the end, that they formulate some plan of action along the line of protecting the honey interests against Cuba.

MODERN QUEEN REARING.

BY E. L. PRATT.

Queen bee-raising has become an important industry in itself in America. There are now numbers of expert men who devote their entire time and give their best thoughts to this important branch of apiculture—they are termed Queen Specialists; an entirely different type of bee-keeper from those who turn their attention to wax and honey production.

The commercial queen raiser is generally an enthusiastic person who pursues apiculture on purely scientific and business principals; he studies, thinks, experiments, and is quick to adopt short-cut methods, for the season in which good, long-lived, queens can be produced, extends over but few months of the year and unless marketable queens in plenty are on hand early, large orders are lost.

Marked achievements in queen rearing methods and devices have

been made in America the past few years. In cell-starting it was once thought necessary to de-queen a strong colony, and to afterwards cut from the combs what queen cells may have been started in their effort to supply for themselves another queen mother. This was of course slow, ruinous to the combs, and demoralizing to the colony. In fertilization of the virgin queens that hatched from these cut cells there was even greater loss in bee life, time, and material labor.

The professional queen rearer is forever casting about for methods to lighten his work and cheapen his product—thus the advent of so-called "Artificial Queen Rearing" in which the foundation stones were laid by the veteran specialists, Alley and Doolittle.

Not content, however, with the original plan of these old masters in the art, several modifications have of late been brought forward by a few of the younger men in the profession, until now it is simply a question of how to best harness the egg for quickest and best results, and how to best dispose of the queen cell obtained up to the time they are due to hatch, and thereafter.

In the fertilization of the virgins, very marked improvements have been made. The bees that were once used to fertilize one queen are now divided into fifty parts by use of small boxes. Each box is then given a young

SACRIFICING CALIFORNIA.

BY J. F. CROWDER.

A recent associated press dispatch announced that Senator Newlands would introduce a joint resolution inviting Cuba to become a state of the United States upon terms of equality with the states of the Union.

Do the bee keepers of the Pacific states realize what this means to the apicultural pursuit? If Cuba becomes a state with the same standing in the government with the other states, then it means that reciprocity shall prevail; in other words, it means free trade with Cuba. Reciprocity is a good thing, but sometimes it is just the opposite. Under this policy one government cannot be given special benefits at the expense of the other. And while it is well that our legislators give Cuba an equal chance with the other states, we doubt the wisdom of admitting her, practically on a free trade basis.

Self preservation is the first law of nature and the law-maker, and should be in commercial dealings. In the case of the Philippine Islands it was necessary to restrict trade, in order to protect not only interests here, but interests there. The difference between the Philippines and Cuba in the matter of preference, is not

apparent.

The United States owes Cuba no debt; Cuba does owe this country a debt which she will never be able to repay. It would be right that Cuba should place all her resources into the hands of this country, but let such restrictions be placed upon such of her products as to come into direct competition with our own that we shall not suffer loss. We are especially interested in the matter of honey. We do not want the cheap Cuban honey to come into competition with ours.

Too many times already has California been sacrificed for the benefit of the east. The position that the Pacific coast has come to hold in the last few years in the matter of an expanding trade, demands that we must be given due consideration. Rather than be legislated against, we demand that we be given proper and profitable legislation.

Cuba, with her present tariff, is no worse off than is California with her exorbitant freight rates. The Pacific states already feel the effects of Cuban products—make her a state with us and what would be the effect? The fruit grower, the agriculturist, and the sugar beet grower of this coast should not let this matter pass lightly by. With her cheap labor and her cheap transportation to the large eastern markets, what can we do

QUESTION BOX.

Under this head we shall attempt to answer such questions as may be submitted.

S. W. C.—What is the best way to move bees? I have some that are about 150 miles from where I want them. Am thinking of shipping by freight.

Bees can readily be shipped by freight, the distance you mention. The first thing to do is to see that your hives are all in good condition, and that the combs are all right. The bottoms and covers must be securely fastened. Some ventilation must be provided. Usually if the entrance is covered with a piece of wire cloth, the ventilation is sufficient, but it might be well to be a little more particular about this matter if the bees are to go by local freight. In this case take off the cover and place on a frame covered with wire cloth, being careful to fasten it down securely. Before shipment, however, you will have to get all the bees you can inside the hives. To do this you will close the entrance and move the hive to one side. Place a new hive with some combs in it in the place of the old one so that the bees that were away when the old hive was moved may come and settle on the combs. At night you may take these bees and put them into the original hive.

In the course of two days at most, you will have them all. You are then ready to ship. In shipping any great distance it is well to see that the bees have plenty of stores.

R. W. E.—What is "Good" candy? I have been reading about feeding bees this candy, and wish to know what it is. Am only a beginner, hence this query.

"Good" candy is used for feeding bees, and especially queens, while being shipped considerable distances. It is made of extracted honey and powdered sugar. Enough sugar is worked in to make a stiff dough. First take the honey and heat it till it becomes thin, being careful not to boil it; then stir in the sugar. We do not know why it should be called "Good" candy, unless it is that it was introduced into this country by I. R. Good, of Nappanee, Ind. This candy was invented by a German named Scholz, and in Europe it is called "Scholz" candy.

A. E. E.—Does it pay to hunt for wild bees, in trees and such places as they may be found, or would it be cheaper to buy them?

We rather think it would hardly pay to hunt wild bees, unless you are an expert at it. Bees can be bought for \$1.00 to \$2.00 per hive, and to us it seems this would be the better way to get them. Of course, if enjoy hunting bees for the "sport" there may be in it, that is another story.

queen it is found that she will fly as naturally from it as from the large hive, thus reducing the expense quite materially and rendering marketable fifty queens in the time of one.

The "Swarthmore" method of queen rearing is perhaps the most extensively used plan because of its great saving in time, excitement and material. It is adapted to all makes of hives, capable of much modification to meet individual desires, and is in every way desirable to both the Specialist and to those who wish to rear but a few queens for their own use.

The Swarthmore plan in brief is as follows: A few young bees are practically "borrowed" from the strong colony and confined in a screen covered box for a few hours in order that they may become aware of their queenless condition. In their confinement away from the main colony, they mourn their separation from their mother queen and brood to such an extent that a surplus of chyle, which would have otherwise been fed to the larvae of the main hive, is secreted.

During a certain critical hour of their mourning, larvae, in artificial compressed wax cups, on little blocks of wood, the several holes at the top of the screen-covered box which larvae at once accepted by the queenless bees and are fed as naturally as though given in combs from the

hive. These bees being without a queen, however, feed the larvae more rapidly and nourish them with more care than usual thus the life of the grubs given is changed from the state of "ordinary workers" to that of "queen" Therefore queen cells are constructed about each one and an unusually large number of royal subjects in embryo, conveniently attached to removable wooden spools, is the result.

So few bees, however, cannot maintain this liberal feeding of royal food very long, therefore the cells must be divided, after a few hours, among several strong colonies, in normal condition, for completion. For this, a special cage is used, having perforated zinc on either side which excludes the mother queens of the several hives in which they may be placed. The nursing worker bees however, being smaller in the thorax, readily enter the perforations and carry on the work of queen cell construction, building upon the cups that were started by the confiner bees during the preceding night.

Directly they are capped, these queen cells are again drawn like corks, and are placed in cages having division tins between each cell space and wire on either side in place of zinc for incubation, in which cage the several queens hatch in due time, each to find herself in a separate compartment, unable to engage any of

her sisters in royal combat. Food sufficient to last several days is placed in each compartment, but the bees of the main hive will feed the confined princesses at certain seasons through the meshes of the wire netting,

By a special device the bees which have been confined in the screen covered boxes over night, are automatically divided among the several small mating-boxes, containing two combs each, after which each box is given a young queen; then the next day all are set out in the open field and in due time the virgins will fly in the open air to meet the drones or the male bees, returning after copulation, each to her own little colony, never to fly again for the same purpose, they being fertile for life.

In a few days the mated queens will begin to lay at which time each is placed in a mailing cage and forthwith posted to the customer, far or near.

The mating boxes are then supplied with other virgins in perfect cycle. For foreign the mailing cages are made somewhat larger than for domestic delivery.

Food sufficient to carry a queen and her train of worker attendants to any part of the world is furnished inside each cage. When received by the customer, he introduces the queen to a queenless colony he may have, or some old and inferior queen is killed and the new one

substituted. A new colony is often formed for the reception of the queen received by mail.

DEPARTMENT OF THE
Central California National
Honey Producers Association.
By F. E. Brown, President.

The directors meeting called to meet in Hanford, on Friday, the 4th inst. was not well attended. There was no quorum present.

Director Weems has just returned from San Francisco, where he has been for the past four weeks. He reports market conditions considerably better. Mr. Weems spent the time pulling the string of the eastern honey market, and his efforts were rewarded by the placing of one-half the honey he was offering, at a good figure.

Director Epperson, of the Fresno district, is selling honey to the Washington market, where he is realizing a price exceeding 5 cents @ lb f. o. b. Fresno.

The honey market has been for a long time practically at a standstill, caused by the producers, east and west, placing their honey upon the market too fast. However, the glut is moving off and the conditions are easing up and demands are sharper.

Mr. I. D. Flory, of the Nevada Honey Producers Association, is in New York City. His trip thro' the east is in the interest of the honey business. He reports that all through the east are having plenty of honey for their buck-wheat cakes this winter.

Director Crowder from Selma reports that he shipped one of the largest cars of honey that ever left Selma. The car contained 60,025 pounds of extracted honey. It was sent East.

Mr. Brodbeck, of Los Angeles President of the Calif. National Honey Producers Association, reports that conditions in the honey market are improving that the demand is more brisk with better prices offered.

Director Hyde of Visalia District, says that they are not moving much honey but are holding firm for association prices, and expects the change to come soon when honey will move out as usual.

Director F. D. Lowe from Bakerfield district, reports that he has just returned from the East, and has not given association matters the attention he otherwise would, as yet we have not learned what the mission was, however we presume it was sweet.

Membership fees to the Central Calif. National Honey Producers Association, is \$1; the membership fees to the National Bee-keepers Association is \$1, and the subscription rate to this Journal is \$1. but

the Association has made arrangements with the Journal, so that those who become members to this association and pay \$1. will also receive the journal, and those who wish to join the National Bee-keepers Association can do so by paying 50 cents extra. In that way all three will cost but \$1.50 You can send in your orders to the Journal or to any of the Directors: all we ask is that you do not delay the matter.

Director Flory from Dos Palos district says that while they are not moving much honey they are of good courage and holding firm for the association prices.

There some little calls for bees and those who have some to sell will do well to place an ad in this journal, as all the membership is expected to be subscribers.

The Membership who wish to keep up with the workings of the association will find it to their interest to have this Journal.

On November 1st a thief made away with 250 gallons of extracted honey belonging to Mr. J. A. Bone the bee inspector of Kern county. This makes the second theft of this kind that has been reported from that section this season. We cannot express ourselves as to what SHOULD be done with these thieves, but we believe that the bee-keepers will see to it that the law is brought to bear down on these miserable wretches who take other peoples' property.

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DISCONTINUANCES. This journal will be sent to subscribers until orders are received or its discontinuance. We will give notice just before the subscription expires, and if we do not receive notice to stop the paper we shall assume that the subscriber wishes his Journal continued, and will pay for it soon.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 mo.	2 mo.	3 mo.	6 mo.	1 yr
1 in.	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$6.50
2 in.	1.75	2.75	3.50	6.00	11.50
¼ pg.	3.00	4.50	6.00	10.50	18.50
½ pg.	5.00	7.50	10.50	17.50	32.50
1 pg.	9.00	13.50	18.50	31.50	58.50

A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you!

This office acknowledges the receipt of a copy of The California Blue Book, sent us by Mr. C.F. Curry Secretary of the State. It is a valuable book, and is a credit to the compilers. We are pleased to have been favored with this copy.

The way subscriptions are coming in is away beyond our fondest hopes. Every mail brings in more subscriptions and money to pay for them. Congratulations on our effort and our purpose have

been frequent as well as laudatory. We believe we are safe in saying that we are "here to stay," so watch us grow. Our reception by the bee-keeping fraternity warrants this assertion. Send in your subscription and be one of the crowd.

We are about to get out a pamphlet of recipes, using honey instead of sugar or syrup. Do you know a good recipe? If you do, send it in to us. We will give you credit for it. To the person sending in the best recipe we will give free a years subscription to the P.S.B.J. Our purpose in getting out this pamphlet is to induce more people to use honey, and in this way we think we can be of some service to the honey producer in creating more of a local demand for honey. Now let us have your best recipe, showing the use of honey.

The bee-keeper in California has no worry as to how he is going to get his bees through the winter. When he finishes harvesting his crop he leaves his bees with a reasonable amount of stores for the winter and goes his way. He knows that when spring opens up his bees will be there, that is so far as the weather may affect them. Our friends in the east are always figuring on the proposition as to how they are going to get their bees through the winter. If here in this section bee-keepers had this "wintering question" to contend with, we daresay that a good many would say that it is

easier not to keep bees than to keep them. Do California bee-keepers appreciate the advantage they have over their eastern brethren?

Buyers of honey on this coast are trying hard to convince the producers that there is nothing in the "Association business anyhow. Well, that is to be expected from that source, but just the same, if the buyers only knew it, the honey associations are the best thing in the world for both the producer and the buyer; best for the producer because he knows that he will get a living price for his honey, and best for the buyer because he may know that if he pays 7 or 8 cents for honey the price will not come down to 3 or 4 cents the next day. Look at the raisin association and see how that organization redeemed the country from its depleted condition. It's the business way to do business. Get under the umbrella, and pull your neighbor under with you.

We are obliged to crowd out several communications and contributions this month owing to the fact that they were received too late. We are always glad to have these articles, but suggest that they be sent in as early as possible in the month.

Take this Journal for a year and if you don't like it—why, just take it another year!

CLUBBING LIST.

We will send this Journal with any of the following for—

Bee-keepers Review,	\$1.75
American Bee Keeper,	1.35
American Bee Journal,	1.70
Gleanings,	1.60
Rocky M'n Bee Journal,	1.35
Live Stock & Dairy J'n'l,	1.60
Out West,	2.50
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WANTS AND EXCHANGES.

Advertisements inserted in this Column at the rate of ONE CENT A WORD for each insertion cash with the order. No order accepted for less than 25 cents.

For Sale—A good second-hand J. & C. Fischer Piano. Address this Office.

For Sale or Trade — A 6½ x 8½ Rochester View Camera, Rectagraph Lens (very fine) 7 plate holders, tripod, carrying case and shutter. Cost \$125. will take \$50. or a good trade. Address this Office,

For Sale—50 hives of bees in first class condition; \$4.00 per hive. This Office.

For Sale—100 hives of bees at \$2.00 per hive. This Office.

For Sale—A years subscription to this Journal and Gleanings \$1.60.



They are Good!

During the 15 years we have been in the Photograph business we have made a great many extra fine California views. We desire to call your attention especially to the line of views we have of the Big Trees—the biggest trees in the world—one of them measuring 45 feet in diameter—plenty more of them from 20 to 30 feet in diameter and 200 feet high. We cannot describe these views to do them justice—better let us send you a dozen—on'y \$4.00, delivered. They are of the best finish. Size, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, on good cards 10 x 12 inches. Your money back if don't like them.

Adelsbach Photo Studio

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