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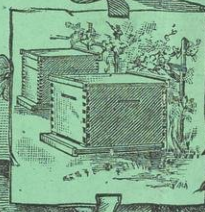
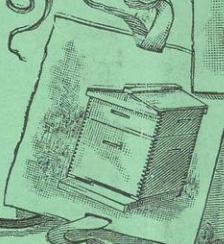
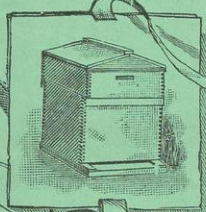
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PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND KINDRED INDUSTRIES.



PUBLISHED BY
LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO
HIGGINSVILLE, MISSOURI.

W. H. LEAHY, PROPRIETOR
HIGGINSVILLE, MO.



JULY 1905





.. Contents ..

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Good Things in the Bee-Keeping Press | - - | 171 |
| The National Convention | - - - - | 174 |
| The Adulteration Law Enforced in New York | | 175 |
| Honey Packages | - - - - - | 175 |
| Treating Old Combs or Capping | - - - | 177 |
| Texas Convention | - - - - - | 178 |
| Chicago & Alton Electric Train Bulletins | - | 179 |
| Editorial | - - - - - | 180 |
| A Bee Hive Incubator | - - - - - | 183 |
| Unripe Honey | - - - - - | 184 |



The Progressive Bee-Keeper

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Supplies

VOL. XIII.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., JULY 1905.

NO. 7

GOOD THINGS IN BEE-KEEPING PRESS

SOMNAMBULIST.

The above cognomen fits your humble servant extremely well, but last month I must have been more than usually sleepy, for glancing over the first page I find "reeds" (meaning plants native to wet lands, or sleys, (in the present case) I am at a loss to know which) used for reads. The word term where I meant to have item, and forse for force, I have not the heart to further pursue this investigation so I leave that to the readers of the Progressive begging pardon for carelessness?

Too many irons in the fire is no excuse so I will not hint in that direction.

How is this for news? Taken from the Kansas City World: "An old man in New York, 83 years of age, while handling bees was stung by the "King bee" from the effects of which blood poisoning set in and he died in a few hours."

New York's "King bees" must be dangerous. Having never had the honor of an acquaintance with a King bee I am now not likely to court the same.

To off-set the above I submit two other paragraphs found in different exchanges:

"The Platte County Argus tells a story of how a Platte county man once had a swarm of bees settle on his head. The farmer saw the bees in the air and followed them. They settled on a tuft of grass and he bent over to look at them. Suddenly they rose and swarmed

on his head, covering his left ear. The farmer remained quiet and told his son to run and get a hive. When the boy brought the box the farmer by giving a sudden jerk threw them into it. He was stung only once and that was on the back."

"William Selser is among those who are gathering bees' stings for medical purposes. His method is to let angry bees sting his arm and he declares that it is not even uncomfortable.

Brother Miller in the Progressive Bee Keeper, is determined we shall know the merits of saw dust for smoker fuel. Wonder if he is not a believer in Nature's methods which let nothing go to waste?

Absolute merit in it. That kink about using a half of an old honey can for a smoker receptacle is another instance of the same general plan and is a good thing. I'll venture to guess his wife is a believer in "a place for everything and everything in its place." Eh?

Oh yes, a man sometimes comes naturally by good traits (inherits them from his mother you understand) but few of them, however, will deny being greatly influenced by the opposite sex.

Although as he remarked, there was considerable smoke about his article, the old rule of where there's so much smoke there must be some fire held good. His advice of improving our bees, if heeded, will add greatly to enhance our interests in more than one sense.

A few years ago there appeared an article in the American Beekeeper which I would like for some one here

in Missouri to test, and having tested, let his light shine so as to give the Progressive readers the benefit thereof. Here is the article:

IMPROVEMENTS OF STOCK.

I have no queens for sale, so don't think this article a free advertisement to increase our trade. What I have to say is paid for by the editor, so you will see that I have no personal interests to advance.

Our celebrated queen-breeders tell us that they breed up quality by selections, etc. I am not going to tell you anything about patent cell-cups nor argue for the merits of any particular system, but simply state my own method of queen rearing.

I have combs built part way down and give these to queenless colonies to start dummy cells on lower edge, which I use by putting in larvae, changing again in from about 12 to 20 hours; that is, taking out those first inserted and substituting a new batch. "Oh that's nothing new," you say. Now hold your tongue and wait until I am through.

My cell-building colonies are broodless—composed of bees not one of which is under ten days old. You say, "Why go contrary to orthodox rules?" Because young bees like "pap" better than old ones. To satisfy yourself upon this point, just give a frame of eggs to a colony with no bees under ten days old and another to a colony which has just been deprived of all brood and eggs. You will find that the former are much better fed than the latter.

Now for my plan of selecting queen mothers: I select a queen that has just begun laying, regardless of what she may prove afterwards, as to color, etc. I closely follow up this method from generation to generation, from April to October. Thus, it will be seen, it is possible to get ten generations in one year—forty generations in four

years—which is about the extreme limit of a queen's life, which is used as a drone mother. Now observe that it is thus possible for a queen to be a half-sister to her fortieth grandmother. You inquire, "Well, what do you gain by all this?" Well, I gain a long stride ahead of Nature, and, I believe, a queen whose workers have few equals and no superiors.

I am willing to back up my claims by having anyone of my queens tested by the editor of any of our bee journals, in 1904, and in case of my failure to prove my claim, will forfeit \$2.00 and the queen against any competitor. If any one wants to test it, "holler." Don't be afraid of hurting my feelings.

G. B. CRUM.

Pearson, Ga., July 29, 1903.

'Tis passing strange to me that more of Missouri's beekeepers do not share their experiences through the medium of the Progressive.

What is any thing worth if it can not be shared? The mere possession of anything to the exclusion of others is surely small pleasure.

Miller's wholesome respect for economy comes again to the front when he exhorts us to save the bits of wax.

Were bee-keepers to give in their experience as to what wax had secured for them, what an array of comforts not to speak of necessities would be presented. Come brother and sister beekeepers would you not enjoy an experience meeting through the columns of this paper?

Missourians are naturally socially inclined and her bee-keepers are no exception, why not prove it? Don't be over modest. "The countryman who hez got hayseed in his hair an' knows it hez got more tew brag erbaout than the city feller who hez got hayseed in his hair and don't know it."

Don't be a drone, remember he is an ideal loafer. He does nothing but eat.

It requires several days more to hatch a drone than a queen or worker, showing they are even to tired to come into this world.

Someone has said, "blame yourself if you are not making a success with bees," and I will add blame yourself if you find the pages of your bee-journal uninteresting. If you have naught but failure to report make one less failure by reporting the same and thus cut short the large crop of failure, which seem ever ready to present themselves.

In a Saturday Evening Post of a year ago Rene Bache presented an able defence of the poor toad. Among many in teresting thoughts advanced was the following, which I know beekeepers will be pleased to see:

"It is said that once in a while a toad will take a position at the mouth of a beehive, capturing the bees as they go in and out, but they cannot do much damage in this way, inasmuch as they feed habitually at night, when the honey-gatherers are fast asleep."

As a remedy for cockroaches he advises the introduction of two or three toads in the house. He concludes his artield with, Nature has denied to it the gay colors of bird life, and even the sinuous beauty of some of its reptilian relatives; yet judged by the standard of good works, it does not suffer by comparison with any of the lower animals, which should point out how small and contemptable it is to despise any work of creation however insignificant.

On sowing Alsike clover seed Hasty has to say (in the American Bee Journal) "Something like this Alsike clover is the most promising honey plant, as we can get farmers to sow the same, while nothing will induce them to sow white clover. Our writers, as well, have doubted if there is a better honey

plant than Alsike clover.

One of Dr. Miller's Straws reads:

"By aid of the government bred bacteria," says Prof. Cook, page 586, alfalfa is now grown in the Eastern states. It may be no harm to say again that such bacteria are not needed if alfalfa is sown on land where sweet clover has grown, and may Sommy add sweet clover will take, any where, along the barren roadsides, on step and in accessible hillsides, and by the way I have recently come across alsike growing among the same, wonder if it prepared the soil for its advance?

How many interesting problems in Nature remain yet a mystery to those who come in daily contact with the same yet never stop to think, or give scope to their natural reasoning powers? How much of life such people miss. And the same class will race to the cities, or cross the broad ocean, to see the sights, just as if there were none at home to enjoy.

I seriously doubt it far famed Italy herself can furnish more entrancing sunsets than can the regions of the Missouri river, yet who ever heard of the latter being glorified in print? And is it not the few who even give them a passing glance? Didst ever stop to think, if neglected opportunities were all charged up to us what the reckoning would be?

What will the harvest be? What a depth of meaning?

Now that active work in the apiary is on, we can most thoroughly understand the following from Louis Scholl in Gleanings, Page 64I:

"Cleaning the inside of the hives and the frames of burr-combs and propolis, and replacing crooked and drone combs with good worker combs, or foundation, in the spring, when there is very little honey and brood in the way, has been found very profitable. Besides, it makes future manipulations

very much easier and more pleasant, while the better combs result in less worry, fewer drones, and more workers. This, I feel sure, is worth thinking about."

"Spring cleaning in bee-keeping is very much like the spring cleaning with the good housekeeper, and it is one of the things very much neglected by too many bee-keepers. It should include the cleaning up of everything in and about the apiaries, and putting all in apple-pie order for future work. This will make the work more pleasant, and, at the same time, more profitable."

On page 663 W. J. Oates of Lompac, California, treats us to an interesting and instructive article on "mustard" as a honey plant: "Requires little cultivation; seed valuable; blossoming period from a month to ten weeks; honey mild and of good flavor." He concludes with, "I don't know why mustard could not be grown in any part this country, as it is profitable for the seed alone (the average yield is 600 to 1000 lbs per acre and sells at from 3 to 8 cents per lb). It would be much more valuable to one who keeps bees, as a side issue on his farm."

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION TO MEET IN SAN ANTONIO, OCT.

18, NOV. 1.

The Inter National Fair holds its annual exhibition in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 21st to Nov. 1st. When this fair is in progress there are very low rates in force on the railroads out for 600 or 700 miles. Then there are Harvest excursions from the North on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. The 4th Tuesday in October comes on the 24th. Considering these facts, it has been decided to select Saturday, October 28th, as bee keepers' day at the fair. This will give

a ample time for members from the North to reach the city by starting the 24th. The regular sessions of the convention will begin Monday, October 30th and continue three days.

The Fair Association has designated Saturday, Oct. 28th as bee-keeper's day, and will so advertise it, and especial pains will be taken to have on exhibition, hives, honey, wax, bees, and other apiarian products. At this fair will be on exhibition all of the agricultural and other products of the South and Mexico, and a visit to it will really be worth all the trip will cost, to give one an idea of the south and her products.

Then the Texas members propose to give a genuine Mexican supper which will be free to all outside members. There will be Mexican band and toast making—in short it might be called a banquet. On Sunday the members can attend church or go on a trolley ride around the city. Side-trips to Uvalde and other places are planned for all who wish to see the country after the convention is over, bee-keepers at the various honey centers having promised to take bee-keepers around free of charge. Texas is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of honey producing State in the Union, and bee-keepers will now have an opportunity to see her wonderful resources, enjoy the hospitalities of her people and profit by meeting in convention, all at very small cost.

The headquarters of the National Association will be at the Bexar Hotel (pronounced Baer, long sound of a), corner of Houston and Jefferson Sts., and rates are only \$1.00 a day, and up. The convention will be held at Elks' Hall, 125 W. Commerce St., only two blocks from the Bexar Hotel.

Everything is now all arranged except the program, and I wish that every one would write and make sug-

gestions in regard to topics and men to discuss them. If you have no special topic that you wish put into the program, you must surly have some question that you would like brought before the convention. Pour in the suggestions and queries, and let me get up one of the best programs that we have ever had.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Secretary.

THE ADULTERATION LAW ENFORCED IN NEW YORK.

A friend of mine who lived for several years in Medina transferred his business to Plattsburg, N. Y. As he and his wife know what good honey is, they concluded to see what they could find in the markets of this place. On inquiry at the grocery they were met by the response, "Oh, yes! we have honey for sale," and a package, or, rather a tumbler containing glucose and honey and a piece of comb was handed out. Near the top of the jar, in very large black letters, is the following:

75 per cent Corn Syrup. White-clover Honey Compound. 25 per cent Honey.

My friend wrote me, sending the label complaining of the vileness of the stuff, and said that the same was not like the real honey he used to buy here in Medina.

But the very conspicuousness of the wording is sufficient to show just what the customer is buying, and he therefore has a right to ask for a pure article if he can obtain it. Certainly there is plenty of it in the country.

I assume that this wording is strictly in accordance with the law of New York, which provides that all mixtures and adulteration shall in plain letters the exact proportion of each ingredient.

It can not be for long that goods can be sold in the United States or New York. It will be and must be that 100 per cent pure honey, even at a considerable advance in price, will

run the other article out entirely.

Honey producers do not object to adulteration or mixing, providing the per cent of said adulteration or mixing is properly placed in conspicuous letters on the bottles or packages. It is the misbranding, or misquerading under false names and colors, that provokes the wrath of the bee-keeper.

Do not forget that three-fourths of the States have pure-food law; and we hope the day is not far off when the other fourth will fall in line.

I see in a few stores, even in Ohio, occasionally, packages of honey compounds, each package labeled a certain per cent of glucose and a certain per cent of honey. But I note with much pleasure that these packages are getting to be soiled, dirty, and fly-specked; and the grocer is beginning to learn that such stuff will not sell unless it is labeled pure honey. But misbranding in Ohio has come to be a crime; and under our present law, which is none too strict, the evil can not grow to any great extent; and I apprehend that the new-fangled name "Karo" will soon be recognized for what is—glucose, or corn syrup, which under those names won't sell.—Gleanings.

HONEY PACKAGES.

I have often wondered why beekeepers stick so tightly to the 69lb tin for putting up their bulk honey. Certainly it is not the most convenient nor desirable packages. Firstly, it is rather heavy for continuous handling and putting in and taking out of cases. How many times have you tried to lift a full sixty from a case and found it impossible? the handle usually being pulled off in the attempt. How many times have you, in lifting one tin upon another for stacking, knocked the sharp corner of the tin you were lifting into the side or top of the one it

was to rest on? the weight making the tin awkward to handle. If you have received honey by rail, uncased, how many times have you had it arrive leaking from the same cause?—this is a point in favor of the round-cornered tin. So much for the weight, now let us consider the size. Nearly all honey granulates: I suppose there is hardly ten per cent. of the honey produce that goes on the consumers' table before it has granulated, and has to be liquified at least once. You may say granulated honey is as good. I admit it is, but have you convinced the consumer on this point? Educate the consumer to use granulated honey and most of the trouble of honey sellers will disappear, but while the consumer demands liquid honey he will have to be supplied with it, and so the troubles of those who handle honey, whether beekeepers or salesmen, will continue, and much honey will continue to be spoilt. Why is liquifying honey troublesome in 60lb. tins? The length of time the honey has to remain in contact with the heat makes it tedious and spoils the flavor and the lifting the heavy tins into the hot water is also awkward. Why has the 30lb tin not been more used? I consider it is more suitable in every way. For honey in bulk it is more easily handled. For putting in and taking out of cases it is handier. For liquifying honey it is vastly superior. There is a less body of honey to melt as the heat penetrates more quickly to the center of the tin, and the honey will be liquified in less time than half the time required in a 60lb. tin. This shortening of the time the honey is in contact with the heat will do much to prevent scorching the honey, and if the 30 lb. tin became a standard package, much less scorched, burnt and even dark honey will be marketed. Much of dark honey marketed is scor-

ched in the liquefying process—this is not to generally known, but it is a fact. Many grocers find it more profitable to buy bulk honey in 60lb. tins and re-tin it, but knowing nothing about the qualities of honey spoil it and supply such spoilt stuff to their customers who are frequently better judges of honey than the grocers. It would be better if all packing of honey were left in the beekeepers hands, there would then be a better chance of cultivating a market for it, being to the beekeepers' interest that the market be extended he is likely to be more careful and usually is not so ignorant of the care required. When sending honey by rail, uncased, 30lb tins will carry better, because they are more conveniently handled. A 30lb tin is a better family size than the larger, and the 14lb tin may be better still for most families. By inducing families to take family size tins the honey will cost them less, and they are more likely to become constant consumers. Honey in small size tins is always expensive to the consumer. This leads me to the subject of putting up small packages and the best size to put in. My advice is to follow the dictates of the consumer and use as large a package as he can be induced to buy, persuade him to take the larger on account of it being cheaper and if honey is demanded in glass or fancy packages by all means supply it, give the consumer exactly what he asks for, but don't forget to charge the extra expense to cover same. The size of packet demanded on the market will vary; a short time ago 9lbs were in great call, and 7 lbs. were introduced. Then beekeepers found they could get about the same price for 7lbs., so the 9lbs. have almost gone out of use, and the smaller size almost entirely adopted. Sizes will change, and the beekeepers aim

should be to supply the demand, better to do the packing himself than trust it to others who are inexperienced. I might here say a word or two on selling honey. As a rule the beekeeper is ignorant of the dodges of trade, and is generally too anxious to make a sale. This he openly lets the dealer know, and the dealer is never anxious to buy. Why? because if he says he is not needing honey it is likely to be offered at lower price, and he is afraid to let the beekeeper know he wants to buy for fear of being asked the highest price. Beekeepers should beware or they will be taken in every time, and when they have offered a line of honey at a certain price refuse to reduce that price. If a buyer once finds you will come down in price he will get you down in all future transactions, a buyer never wants to buy, and will only buy when lowest offers are made, and he gets you to offer a still lower quotation much better lose a sale now and then than be the tool of the dealer.—Australasian Beekeeper.

TREATING OLD COMBS OR CAPPINGS.

We have read a good deal of late of the different systems employed in dealing with old combs or cappings for the purpose of transferring them into a good saleable sample of wax. As the system I practice may be of use to other beekeepers, and as I fancy both in economy and efficiency, it will take some beating, especially for the small bee-keepers, it occurred to me that I should write it up for the A. B. K. I use a sample press made of a box, into which a kerosene tin will slip nicely; a kerosene tin with the top cut out, a block which will slip into the kerosene tin leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch space all around, and make of two pieces of board the same size nailed together, with the

grain laying crossways, through these are bored three or four $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes, and on the upper side two inch strips are nailed across the centre about an inch apart, for the purpose of holding the upright in its place; a piece of 2x1 inch batten 18 inches long; two pieces of 2x2 inch, 1 ft. and 5 ft. 6 in long, respectively; a bag about the same size and about 3 inches longer than the kerosene tin, made from a sound chaff bag, and a 5 lb. weight or bucket of water. In treating old combs, of an evening after supper I place a kerosene bucket, hardely half-full of water, on the fire (rain water preferable), and when boiling take it off and sit on a box opposite it with the frames of combs on my right, and supers in which to place the empty frames on left. Then with a blunt butcher's knife I cut out the combs and let them drop into the boiling water. By keeping them poked down twenty five or so may be treated at once, but the bucket must not be filled more than three parts full, or while pressing it will overflow. I then boil them until they are well melted. The piece of 2x2 in. x 1 ft. is securely nailed horizontally on a wall about two feet from the ground, the box containing the kerosene tin is placed almost under it, the bag is placed inside the tin and the mouth of it held open by three nails driven into the top edge of the box. The melted combs are then emptied into the bag and the mouth of it tied up, the wooden block is then placed into the tin and pressed down with the 2x1 inch batten. When the bag of dross is pressed down as far as it will go by hand, the end of the 5 ft. 6 lever is placed under the 2x2 inch on the wall, it is then brought to bear on the bottom and the weight is placed at the other end as per sketch. Thus the wax is pressed out of the cocoons while under boiling water, and the

dross in the bag is flattened like a pancake. The whole is left until morning when the weight is broken off and the cake of wax is lifted out of the tin on the 2xlin. batten. The dross is emptied out of the bag which is then rinsed and left ready for another lot the following night. Any refuse that may be on the bottom of cake of wax needs scraping off, and when the wax is chopped up and again melted and strained through a piece of clean chaff bag into a new kerosene tin or other receptacle, it is ready for market or use. Capping after they are washed are treated in a similar manner. The cost of such a system is almost nil. As for the efficiency, after the bush-fires at the end of December last I decided to go through the whole of my hives and take out and melt up all the drone combs I could find. I collected 23 superfuls of combs which, when melted, averaged about 3½oz. of wax for each comb, I made up a parcel of 56lbs. in four blocks with some wax I had melted from cappings and sent it to Sydney about the 25th of January last and it realized top market price.—Australasian Beekeeper.

W. AGER.

Meryla, Via Moss Vale.

TEXAS CONVENTION.

The Texas State Bee-keepers' Association will meet at College Station with the Farmers' Congress, and will be in session July 25-27. These annual meetings are usually largely attended, and are pleasant and profitable occasions. Visting bee-keepers from other States are cordially invited to be with us.

W. H. LAWS, PRESIDENT.

LOUIS SCHOLL, Sec.-Treas.

Beeville, Tex., June 24.

WILLIAM RUSSEL, INSPECTOR OF APIARIES IN MIN- NESOTA.

The Minnesota Bee-keepers' Association, headquarters at Minneapolis, have been putting forth strenuous efforts to get a foulbrood bill through their legislature, patterned something after the one in force in Wisconsin. Several times they seemed to be on the eve of success, and at one time went even so far as to announce that the law had been passed; but this, it seems, was a little premature; and now we are compelled to state that it just failed of passage. But the efforts put forth by the Association were not without good result. It appears that Mr. William Russell, of 4810 Thirty-eight Ave, South Minneapolis, has been appointed inspector of apiaries, and his commission takes effect August 3, and continues for two years. While not clothed with authority to destroy infested colonies, as he would have been had the foul-brood law passed, he doubtless will be able to do a great deal of good.

I am not informed whether some law did pass in amended form or whether there was some separate provision under an existing law by which the inspector could be given a certain amount of jurisdiction in stamping out foul brood.

The way has been paved, at all events probably, to secure a satisfactory foul-brood law at the next session of the legislature. Mr. Russell is popular and diplomatic, as well as an experienced bee-keeper. He is such a genial old Scotchman that he can get what he wants without force, so that the Minnesota bee-keepers, under existing circumstances are peculiarly fortunate in their man.—Gleanings.

THE STATE FAIR.

The State Fair will hold its fifth annual exhibition at Sedalia, August 21-26, 1905. The greatest fair in the history of the state is already assured. The best horses, jacks, mules, cattle, swine and sheep bred in the United States, and many animals selected from the best herds in Europe, will be on exhibition. The display of saddle horses will include animals royally bred, thoroughly trained and unsurpassed in individuality. Matched teams and single drivers, the Kings and Queens of the American road horse, are now in preparation for an exhibition that will evidence the superiority of the breed, and of the intelligence of the American horse breeder.

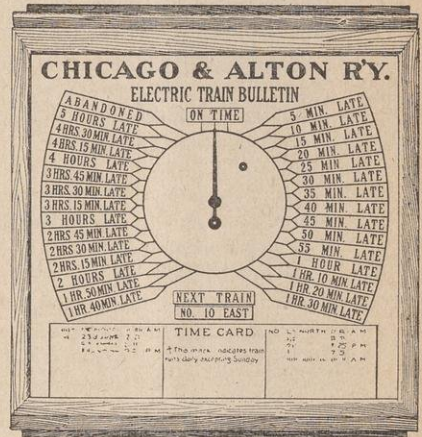
A number of Missouri counties and localities from other states have engaged space for an agricultural and horticultural exhibit. The agricultural building is one of the largest and finest in architectural design on the grounds. It will be filled to its utmost capacity with the various products of Missouri's fertile soil. The exhibit will be an unanswerable tribune to the state's agricultural greatness and an evidence of her wonderful resources.

The departments of Art, Textile Fabrics and Pantry stores will show the domestic qualities of Missouri women. No other state can surpass them, possibly they have no equal. Every Missourian should attend the Fair. If you cannot contribute to the displays go and learn something of the grandeur of the state its unlimited possibilities and the greatness it promises in the future.

CHICAGO & ALTON ELECTRIC TRAIN BULLETINS.

For the greater convenience of its patrons the Chicago & Alton R'y has installed at a number of its stations (with the intention of extending the

service as rapidly as possible to other points) an automatic electric device known as the train bulletin. The electric bulletin is, in appearance, like a large clock. A hand or pointer is moved upon the dial indicating whether the train is on time, or if not, the number of hours or minutes late. These electric bulletins are placed in station-waiting rooms and in the principal hotels in the cities and towns through which the Alton trains are run. They are all controlled by the operator at



the depot. All bulletins in the waiting rooms and in the hotels, register precisely similar at one and the same instant. The operator indicates on the bulletin the number of the train next due to arrive and the time of its arrival. The machinery is similar to a telegraph instrument controlled by a telegraph key, and simple enough to be worked by a child.

The "Alton" considers the new innovation of unusual convenience to the traveling public, as it saves station agents much annoyance in answering questions verbally at the depot and by telephone to the hotels concerning train time. The new automatic train bulletin answers all questions completely and authoritatively, and it requires the operator less time to make the indications on the bulletin than it does to answer a single question at his ticket window.

The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

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50 CENTS PER YEAR.

E. B. GLADISH, Editor and Manager.
S. E. MILLER - - Editorial Writer.
LEAHY MFG. CO., - - Publishers.

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|--|-------|
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| 14 agate lines, 1 inch, one insertion..... | 90 |
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| 56 agate lines, 4 inch, one insertion..... | 3 30 |
| 70 agate lines, 5 inch, one insertion..... | 3 90 |
| 84 agate lines, 6 inch, one insertion..... | 4 70 |
| 98 agate lines, 1/2 page, one insertion..... | 5 40 |
| 196 agate lines, 1 page, one insertion..... | 10 50 |

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No fake medicine or mining scheme, or advertisements of a questionable character allowable.

MRS. MILLER DEAD.

Readers of the Progressive will regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Edith Miller, who died at her home in East St. Louis, Ill., June 24, 1905. She was at one time editor of the Kansas Bee Keeper and gained a reputation as a writer. For several years she had conducted a branch house for the Leahy Mfg. Co. in East St. Louis and was successful. In her death there is universal sorrow among the readers of Bee Journals. May Our Heavenly Father deal gently with the family of small children bereft of a devoted mother and true father who preceeded the wife to the great beyond less than one year ago.

TO SECURE GOOD QUEENS FROM CHOICE STOCK.

S. E. MILLER.

The method which I give below is not new, yet it may not be generally known and as it seldom fails to give good results, give it for the benefit of those who wish to rear a few choice queens from their best stock. At a time when the bees are gathering nectar from the field remove the queen from a populous colony. In just about four days this colony will have under way anywhere from six to fifteen or more queen cells. Brush the bees from all combs containing queen cells and take them into the honey house. Next go to the colony having your very best queen and select a comb having larva one and one-half days old, and take this to the honey house. You should now take up your position near a widow or door where you will have a good strong light, and with a crouchet needle or similar instrument lift the larva out of the queen cells. Where two queen cells are so close together as to prevent removing one without destroying the other it is best to destroy one of them at once. Any cells that seem in any way inferior should also be discarded.

Now with a quill tooth pick properly shaped pick out larva of the proper age from the comb selected from the choice colony and insert them in the queen cells from which you have just removed the other larva. If you do not know how to select larva of the proper age I hardly know how to tell you as it is hard to describe the exact size of a thing so small in writing. I might say however that larva of this age (one and one-half days old) if straightened out would measure something near one-eighth of an inch in length. Probably the best way would be to insert a nice clean empty comb in the center of the

brood nest of a colony having a very prolific queen. Examine this comb every little while until you find eggs in it. Make a note of their exact location in the comb and then four and one-half days later go and examine the larva. You will then know just what sized larva to select when you wish to rear queens. But to return to the work.

When all queen cells have been thus grafted with larva from the choice queen, mark each cell by pushing a piece of a match through the comb directly over it. This precaution is necessary as otherwise some of the grafted cells may be torn down and other cells made over the brood in the comb and in this way our principal aim be defeated. After all is ready the combs should be returned to the colony and placed near the center of the brood nest, being careful in putting them in the hive, not to injure any of the cells. As an extra precaution it is best to look over the combs some five or six days later and destroy any queen cells that may have been started on the combs in other places. About ten days after the cells have been grafted they should be used as wanted either by cutting out and giving to a queenless colony, or in case a comb has only one queen cell on it, it may be given to a queenless colony or nucleus.

We might delay the removal of these cells to the eleventh day but it is not safe, for should we happen to have chosen a single larva that is as much as two days old and the weather is very warm this one might hatch out before that time and destroy the others and then our work has all been for only a single queen. Of course such queen cells are not as convenient to handle as where built by the Doolittle or some of the other methods where in each queen cell is separate from the comb but I believe that the average bee-keeper will find it more certain of success, and

queens reared by this method will prove to be first-class in every respect, which is not always the case where some one of the more artificial or unnatural methods are used. This method does not require the breaking up of a good colony for if we wish to we can introduce a laying queen to the colony as soon as the cells are removed and by this plan the colony will have been without a reigning queen for only about eighteen days.

WAX AND WAX RECEPTACLES.

When using cheese cloth to strain honey as it comes from the extractor it will finally become clogged with little particles of cappings and requires to be washed. Never use hot water in washing it. If you do the particles of wax will melt and adhere to the cloth and it is then almost impossible to clean it with water and soap. Have the water at a temperature little if any above one hundred degrees F. and even if it is down to 60 or 70° no harm will be done. Pans and other utensils used in rendering wax should be kept for that purpose and left with the coat of wax adhering until wanted again. It is cheaper to keep several vessels for this purpose only than to attempt to clean them each time after using. It may not look as well as if the tinware is bright and clean, but if you will hang them away in the honey house just as they are it will save you lots of work and worry. A galvanized wash boiler that can be bought for one dollar will be found very handy for melting wax in. Whatever you do, do not use your wife's kitchen utensils about the wax rendering and then expect her to clean them up. If you do you should not be surprised if it causes some family jars. Remember that a coat of wax on a utensil will not injure it. If anything it will cause it to wear longer.

SHOULD WAX BE HEATED TO THE BOILING POINT.

I cannot now readily lay my hand on

the article but somewhere not long ago I read that in rendering wax it should not be allowed to come to the boiling or words to that effect. The writer I think said that to allow it to heat to so high a temperature would injure the quality of the wax. I cannot but believe that this is a mistake. Rendering wax is a slow and tedious enough business at best and if one has to be careful not to allow the temperature to rise to the boiling point it makes the process still slower. When I render wax I want to get it to boiling or as near that point as possible when it goes into the wax press. I nearly always send my wax to a supply dealer and receive the top price for it. If heating wax to the boiling point injured the quality I believe three-fourths of the wax on the market would be injured. Have plenty of water under the wax and do not be afraid to let her boil. Probably it is the water rather than the wax that boils.

NAIL SPACED FRAMES.

Anyone who is familiar with the writings of Dr. C. C. Miller knows that he is a strong advocate of nail spaced frames. In June 15th Gleanings, page 662, R. Buehne, of Tooborac, Australia, describes and illustrates a nail spaced frame which he is using extensively. He also says he knows of six other apiaries where the Hoffman frame is being discarded and nail-spaced frames used instead.

Probably the greatest objection to a nail spaced frame is that when uncapping the knife is apt to come in contact with the nails and be dulled. Also the nails are likely to catch in the meshes of the comb basket in the extractor and thus cause trouble. I have never used a nail spaced frame but can readily see that they possess some advantages not to be found in any other kind of a spacer. I will therefore make a suggestion

and if any manufacturer thinks it worth while he might investigate the matter further and try the plan. My suggestion is a lead washer about one-fourth or five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter and of the proper thickness. Through it should be a hole of the proper size to receive a suitable nail. One end of this hole should be slightly counter-sunk, so as to allow the nail head to come down flush. Anyone knows that lead will not seriously injure the keen cutting edge of a sharp instrument and I think a projection of this kind would not be as apt to catch and cause trouble as a nail head. Probably all of this has been suggested before and possibly such washers would be too expensive, but it seems to me that with appropriate machinery they could be turned out at a slight advance over the cost of the lead.

NO SIGN OF A DUCK'S NEST.

I have heard it said, "That it is no sign of a duck's nest when you see a drake sitting on a log." It is also no sign of a big honey crop, at least not a certain sign, when we see a profusion of white clover bloom. White clover commenced to bloom earlier than usual this season and during the greater part of May pasturers were a sea of bloom. The weather however was too cool and cloudy for the bees to work most of the time. From this condition it turned suddenly to a severe drouth which in a few weeks turned the pastures to a brown parched looking color. This drouth was not broken until June 28, when we had a copious rain and have had several others since. Basswood bloomed and passed away without showing any results of importance. Sweet clover has been the main reliance for the past two weeks and is still blooming freely, but there is not enough of it in the immediate vicinity to supply a surplus for a large number

of colonies, hence the bees are gathering just about enough for their daily needs and have been doing no more than that for about the past two weeks. I have not yet taken any honey from the hives and cannot say just what the crop will amount to but think it will be less than one-third of what it should be up to this time. Unless a flow of nectar comes from some unusual source there is little to be expected until the autumn flowers begin to bloom, and the Star apiary is not likely to overstock the honey market. Let us hear from beekeepers in other parts of the state as to the prospects of a crop.

DON'T DO THIS.

Don't keep a worthless queen in your apiary. A queen that only keeps her colony up to a strength where they make a living for themselves and give no surplus is worse than useless for a colony of that kind is a drain on the nectar resources of your vicinity and brings in no revenue.

Don't extract your honey before it is ripe and then expect to get the top price for it and don't expect to sell honey again to a customer to whom you have once sold unripe honey.

Don't wait too long to dispose of your crop of comb honey. Shipping comb honey in cold weather is attended with considerable risk and as a rule the price is no better later on than it is before Christmas.

Don't let any honey where the bees can get to it at a time when there is little or no nectar to be gathered from the flowers. It is much less trouble to be careful about letting honey exposed to the bees than it is to break up a bad case of robbery after it is well started.

Don't keep bees unless you mean to give them the proper care and attention. If you can't do that you had better leave someone else keep the

bees and buy your honey from him.

Don't imagine that you know it all and cannot learn anything by reading a bee-journal.

Bluffton, Mo., July 3, 1905.

A BEEHIVE INCUBATOR.

Henry Decker, of Rome, O., by repeated tests has demonstrated that a setting of eggs may be successfully hatched within an ordinary beehive as the incubator. As more than a dozen eggs can be cared for at a time, it is claimed that one hive can be made to do the work of eight hens, and also produce 100 pounds of honey annually.

Mr. Decker, who has previously used an incubator, one day while handling a swarm of bees observed that the temperature within the hive was similar to that of his incubator. His supposition was later verified by placing a thermometer in the hive, and comparing the temperature with that of the incubator. Thereupon he placed twenty eggs in the upper section of the hive, separating them from the working apartment of the bees by a cotton cloth. Around the sides a cushion made from a quilt was placed, and over the eggs another cushion. Eighteen of the twenty eggs were hatched.

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UNRIPE HONEY.

BY DAN WHITE.

Now, Mr. Editor, if you will give me room I will say something again. You know I have from time to time been making strong pleas against unripe extracted honey getting into our markets. I have tried to show the benefits to be derived if every bee keeper in the land would do his part in this line; but before going any further I will be honest, and tell you that I've been getting quite a bit of free advertising out of my articles. You remember the article that came out last June, headed "Quality or Quantity." Well, sir, orders come all the way from six to eight hundred miles from here for some of that "Fancy No. 1" honey I claimed to have. I wish you could see the compliments and good words received after these far-off customers got their honey. But I will tell you this much: In every instance the second and third orders came back with the understanding that they look to me for their honey supply in the future. Then without any solicitation on my part, families club together, as they can get 100 pounds by freight as cheap as less weight. But, hold on! if I tell much more you will never allow this in print, giving away all this good advertising, so I will switch off and tell my excuse for writing at this time. Gleanings, for April 15, is before me. On page 416, an article headed "Unripe Extracted Honey, by E. D. Townsend, inspired me. Say, how I would like to shake hands with Mr. T.! Then here comes Virgil Weaver, on page 297, with his article, "The Production of Extracted Honey," and how to get quantity and quality at the same time. I am just as ready to shake hands with Mr. Weaver—yes, and give him credit for being the first one ever to refer or

say one word about my article. "Quantity or Quality." You see I have been so enthusiastic over quality I lost sight of everything else, and actually tried to be so outspoken, and almost say mean things on purpose to see if some one would not come back at me. Think of it! Gleanings has been coming to me ever since its second year of existence. Think again! has there ever been much said through any of the bee-journals concerning this nefarious practice, as Mr. Townsend puts it, of throwing out the unripe stuff, and by some hook or crook palm it off at the regular market price? What I mean by much never being said, the subject has been one, as I take it, of so little importance, or considered so by the mass of bee-keepers, that they have simply kept still. If we go back twenty years, when, I believe, everybody extracted unripe honey (we seemed to know no better), I was one of the number, but soon learned to know I was doing injustice to myself, was dishonest to my customers, and helping to give extracted honey a reputation that would not only deprive me of a home market but do a lasting injury to the business all over the land. I was just as outspoken some twenty years ago as to-day on this subject, and tried to say something through the best papers; but, sir, they came back at me by the dozen with arguments in favor of extracted honey, and various ways of ripening, evaporating, and curing the stuff ready for market. Was there anyone to take sides with me at that time? No, sir; I tell you, the way I was handled caused me to feel for years after like a kernel of wheat in a bushel of cockle.

The very first encouragement from any one was a few years ago when the editor of Gleanings was ready, and has been outspoken on this line. Now, here

comes two new recruits in print, and I believe we are about ready to prove to everybody interested in extracted honey that it is their duty to do everything in their power to help repair the most radical wrong that could possibly happen to the industry.

Much has been said in print and at bee-keepers' conventions about educating the people to buy and eat honey. Are we going to keep on talking and trying to educate the millions whom we expect to consume our products, or shall we turn our attention to the few thousand honey-producers and try to educate them? How different it would be if honey were a food that people have to buy, like meat, milk and many other articles of diet! The authorities would have looked up the dishonest part of it, and enacted laws to protect the people long ago. Supply and demand make the price on almost anything. If people buy honey that just suits them they not only buy again, but they take special pains to speak of it to their friends and neighbors—yes, and even if it is the right quality, and extracted honey, they will put it on the table for their visitors. But if they buy honey they do not like they can hardly be persuaded to buy again; and if anything is said about it to neighbors and friends it will not be words that will persuade them to buy. Can any one imagine the damaging effects on the one side that have been going on for years? Then, on the other hand, had nothing but a high grade of honey ever got into our markets, I for one can imagine, at least, that the supply of to-day would not equal the demand, and our product would be bringing better prices. I could refer to hundreds of instances to prove the stand taken in the matter. There is no end of positive proof; but for the benefit of our friend Weaver, and hope others, I will say something in the way of pro-

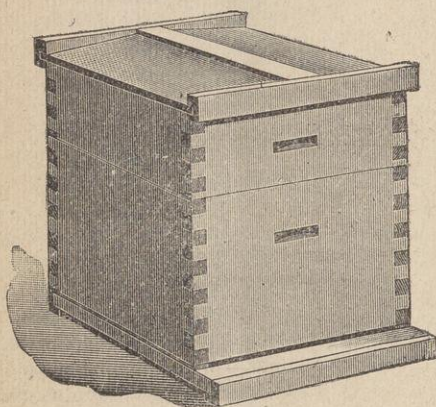
duction of extracted honey. All that friend Townsend tells us is true. He has learned from experience. He says we must have a good supply of combs; and I will say the best investment I ever made was to get stocked up with plenty of combs. Without them I could not get quantity or quality. I have my own way of manipulation that came to me as circumstances demand and I do not feel satisfied unless I think I am working my bees for every ounce of honey possible.

My first work in the spring, before bees are too numerous, is to see every queen and clip her wings; and as the season advances I make the strong help up the weak by stealing. I call it—hatching brood combs from the strong ones, and giving empty combs in place of them. In this way I have my colonies well evened up and all strong ready for business through the honey-flow. Honey is what I want, and not swarms; and I am quite successful so far as swarms are concerned. As soon as surplus commences to come in I begin to put in my surplus combs, using a division board, and from day to day I put in combs until my chaff-hive chambers are filled with 12 or 13 combs. If honey is coming in rapidly the critical time is at hand; and if I could not look back and see plenty of empty combs I should say the time is both serious and critical. The critical time is at hand because swarms are liable to issue—no room for honey in the hives. It would be serious to commence extracting, you know. I won't do that, so in this case I commence to get my increase by simply taking a few combs of best brood from No. 1 with enough bees to care for them, putting my empty dark brood-combs in place of those removed; then pass on to No. 2, and do the same.

(Concluded in next issue.)

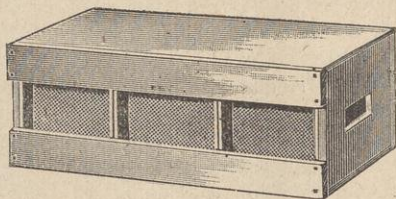
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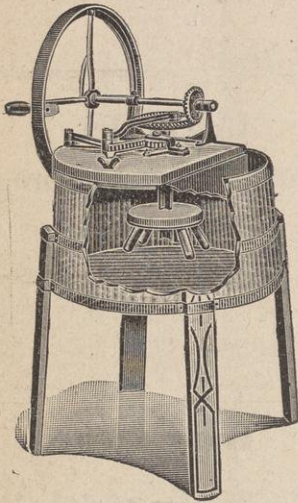
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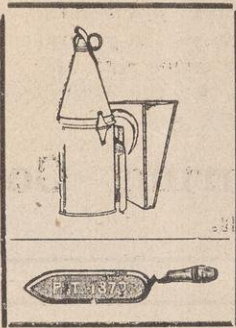
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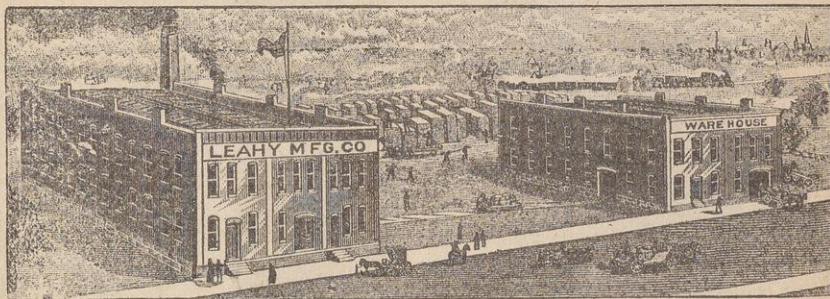
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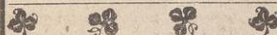
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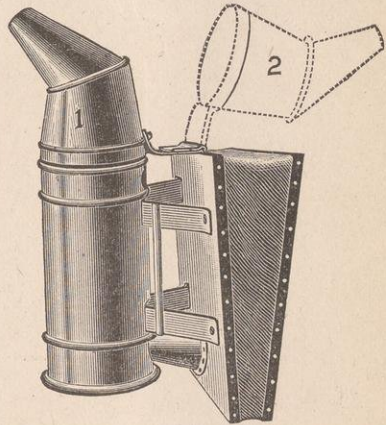
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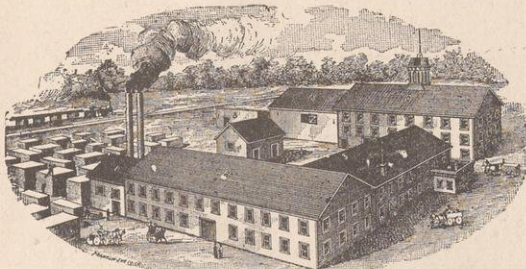
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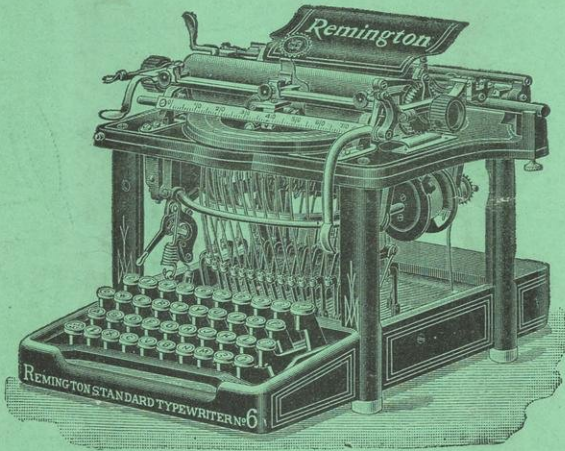
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