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## **The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. 10, no. 4 July 27, 1901**

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, July 27, 1901

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# THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY E. TIPPER.

Circulated in all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

Vol. 10. No. 4. JULY 27, 1901.

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# The Australian Bee Bulletin

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

— Edited and Published by E. TIPPER. —

MAITLAND, N.S.W. — JULY 27, 1901.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue :—

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A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket, Sydney.  
The W. T. Falconer Manufacturing Co.,  
Jamestown, N.Y., U.S.A.  
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A. A. Roberts, Muswellbrook, N.S.W.  
Jas. McFarlane, Lyndhurst, Victoria.  
Mrs. Jennie Atchley, Beeville Bee Co.,  
Texas, U.S.A.  
J. W. Miner, Ronda, N.C., U.S.A.  
R. H. Jervis, Moss Vale, N.S.W.

## Miscellaneous.

A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket only,  
Sydney.  
Allen & Co, 242 Sussex street, Sydney  
The Farmers' Co-operative Company,  
Ltd., Sussex street, Sydney.

WE heard a statement made while in Sydney that the honey industry was capable of *great expansion*. Is it so? Our local market is surely well stocked. The quotations in the Sydney daily papers give the prices from 1½d to 2½d per lb. We have read in American, Canadian and English newspapers, it does not pay the producer if he gets less than 3d per lb., and they have their markets, their towns, and cities close to them. No sending perhaps hundreds of miles per train and scores by road.

What are the markets to which the expansion can refer? We cannot send to America. There are duties equal to 2d a lb all over it. Ditto to Europe. England receives honies free of duty from all the world to compete with our honies. She is almost our only market. And our best only gets £25 per ton there, it costing some £8 to get it there. So the commission houses state. Seemingly *our only great expansion* is our own market, our own increase of population, and our own greater consumption per head, if that can be obtained.

What then can be done to help us? To help those who have sunk most time, capital, and brains in the enterprize. The giving them opportunities of going on forest reserves; see no honey bearing timber is unnecessarily destroyed or ring-barked; and let not the Government at the instigation of interested persons, create a crop of disappointed beekeepers, who will produce inferior honey in addition to lowering the general prices, also lower the quality and name of our honey not only at home, but in such foreign markets as might be secured.

Perhaps, however, there is one source of sunshine. The good sense of the public. They will not embark in enterprize that give no prospect of payment, and when they do so and get disappointed they soon give it up. Hence the fact there are not one third the bees in the colony there were three or four years ago. —interested people who publish otherwise to the contrary, — Truth will always rule. The Government placing of samples of our honey in London for inspection by the general public, and the efforts being put forth by



such men as manage the Farmers' Co-operative Co., give us more hope than any other means yet adopted.

**R**ESPECTING the alleged adulteration of honey in Sydney, we have been assured it must be done by bottlers, *i.e.*, men who buy off the commission agents in Sussex street or elsewhere, and afterwards retail it in bottles. We have no idea what the adulterant is. It is said it would not pay to do it with glucose, as glucose is almost as dear as honey. We have had samples of honey sent us, with the request to ascertain if it was adulterated or no. On being sent to the proper authorities it has been returned with the answer that it was pure honey, but of a very poor quality.

We will not say, there is no adulteration carried on. The well known American beekeeper Dadant, on a recent visit to Europe, said there was plenty of what was called honey sold there without a particle of honey in it, and he could not detect that it was other than true honey. Perhaps Dr. Ashburton Thompson will arrive at the truth, whichever way it is. One way of detecting adulteration with glucose is said to be, to mix honey with spirits and water, well shake, and allow to settle. If adulterated, the mixture will be turbid and whitish, if not adulterated it will be clear.‡

The lighter foundation is the better for all purposes.

In Wiltshire, England, honey is retailed at 6d to 8d per lb.

An early spring in Great Britain, gives great hopes to beekeepers there.

Will you see that your neighbouring beekeepers get the *A. Bee Bulletin*.

Both Dr. C. C. Miller and G. M. Doolittle only paint tops of single-walled hives.

If queens' wings are not cut do it early in the spring. They are easier found before the hives are too populous.

In consequence of a large quantity of copy to hand, we are unavoidably compelled to hold a lot over till next issue.

Mr. J. Blackbourne is appointed acting conservator of Victorian Forests. His salary is £400 a year, with an extra allowance of £137 a year.

Slitting queens' wings in the direction she walks, not clipping them, is said to prevent her flying, without impairing her beauty.

Very few persons are immune to bee stings at first. Some can never keep bees on account of the fearful effects on them of the stings, but the majority of people become almost completely immune in time.

A bee tent made of light wood strips, covered with mosquito netting, large enough to go right over the hive, with possibly a bee escape at its apex, is useful in cases of robbing.

Rose honey sold in Europe consists of four parts white potato syrup, one part pure honey; mix thoroughly and add two drops of warm honey-water to the mass. Sold at 36 cents a pound. Cost price 6 cents.

A LOST SUBSCRIBER.—A Victorian beekeeper asks us not to send the "A.B.B." any more as he has lost his eyesight, not being able to see since last winter. We deeply sympathise with him in his sad affliction.

Mr. Helms of the Agricultural Department is about to conduct a series of scientific experiments on the diseases of bees. He purposes beginning with thoroughly healthy bees, so as to find comparisons with them and unhealthy.

In making nuclei, many bees go back to the old stands. Removing the old hives four feet back has been found an effective remedy. The bees that have no other home will enter the nearest hive, being their own, while those returning from the nuclei will make a few circles and return to their new home when they find the old one no longer in the old place.



## N. S. W. BEE-FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above Association was held at the Farmers' Co-operative Company's Rooms, Sussex-street, Sydney, on Tuesday, July 9.

Mr. W. Hassell Hall occupied the chair, and there were about a dozen members present.

The Secretary (Mr. E. Tipper), read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed, also the report.

GENTLEMEN,—

Immediately after our last meeting I sent a letter to the *Australian Star* in reply to and contradicting a statement therein made. "It is well-known that few industries offer such handsome profits as that of beekeeping. Also appealed to the beekeepers of the colony through the *A. Bee Bulletin*, if the statement put forth by Mr. Gale, that New South Wales was *recking with Foul Brood* and that "*there were not half the bees in the colony there were three years ago, and the cause of the loss had been Foul Brood.*"

Replies from all over the colony contradicted the statement flatly. Where foul brood was reported it had been several years ago. The cause of the decline in the number of bees had been *bad seasons and low prices*. In nearly every case the writers were of opinion a Foul Brood Bill was not wanted. One writer recommended we have the services of a government bacteriologist if required, but as we have such no need to trouble about it. Another said no one would object to two neighbouring beekeepers to get permission from the Department to act as inspectors, providing they had, say five years experience.

On June 24 I received a letter from a beekeeper of Koorawatha, complaining that his living from bees was very much interfered with by the destruction of timber, in the first place from a saw mill being established there, and in the next place from a race course being cleared, and asked if anything could be done to assist him in the matter. I immediately wrote to Mr. R. D. HAY, officer in charge Forestry Department, asking whether the timber for the saw mill was being legally obtained, also if the race course was being cleared contrary to law. I have received a reply a report had been called for in the matter and upon receipt of such I would be communicated with.

During the Conference of the Victorian Apiarists' Association I wrote giving the greetings of the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association, and wishing their deliberations success and good results.

The Secretary of that Association has sent his compliments to our Association, and asked that we think over the matter of Federation, the subscription to both Associations (2s 6d) being the same. I wrote and asked him if he would give some further ideas on the subject.

The following suggestions have been made as matters to be considered at this meeting:—For alterations and additions to rules, and business to be seen to. They have been submitted to the members, also to the body of N.S.W. beekeepers through the *A. Bee Bulletin*.

I have drawn out two papers showing the number of paid members, with number of votes each are entitled to, to assist us in voting on the various questions.

### PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO RULES:

(b) Supply dealers or commission agents may become members, but cannot hold office.

(c) Members unable to attend meetings or conventions can authorise or nominate any member they know will be present to vote for them on any subject brought forward. Such vote or votes to be in addition to the member's present own vote.

E. J. REIN.

(d) That the President shall only hold office for one year, nor again for three years, except by a unanimous vote of Association.

(e) Petitioning Government re granting, say, an acre of ground in timber reserve for apiaries, no such grants to be within three miles of any other apiaries.

(f) Union with Victorian Apiarists' Association.

MR. SHAW,

If it is determined that we must have this proposed F.B. legislation, whether we wish it or not, then for choice let us have the services of a bacteriologist when required we have any necessity short of that. If I mistake not there is such a one in the Agricultural Department, in which case a special Act of Parliament is unnecessary.

PRICES OF HONEY.—I think it would be well if a uniform price for honey, both wholesale and retail, could be arranged between beekeepers who sell their honey in the same town or district, and particularly between members of the N.S.W.B.F. Association. Of course the fixing of prices could be made subject to alteration, as such members might consider necessary, to meet varying seasons and other circumstances. Mutual agreement of the kind would do much good from a business point of view, and much more confidence and friendship would exist between.

It is no use being members of a Bee Farmers' Association, and at the same doing business in antagonism to each others' interests.

ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATE.—Members be supplied with something in the shape of a Certificate.



cate of Association, which might also certify as to purity of honey; or by which members were pledged to sell none but pure honey under penalty.

MR. PENBERTHY.

We must not object to a Foul Brood Act, but object to its present form. I don't think any one would object to two neighbouring beekeepers to get permission from the Department to act as inspectors, providing they had, say, five years' experience.

On 6th June I received a letter from Mr. McLachlan, Under-Secretary of Mines and Agriculture, stating that a collection of raw and manufactured material was being made by the department for exhibition at the Imperial Institute, London; he thought it was a good opportunity for bringing the products of the State under the notices of leading people interested in such matters in Great Britain and elsewhere, and asking co-operation. I immediately replied asking quantity of sample required, to whom they were to be sent, and whether they would be permitted to go free per rail to Sydney. The reply was a 7lb tin of honey would do, to be sent to F. B. Guthrie, Esq., Department of Agriculture, carriage should be paid to Sydney, and should arrive not later than July 1.

I immediately sent out a special extra of *the Australian Bee Bulletin* to the beekeepers of New South Wales giving said correspondence, and also advertising present meeting, and the questions respecting same, up to that date sent in. I also wrote to the Railway Commissioners asking for railway concessions to enable members coming to this meeting to do so at a cheaper rate. They kindly replied, giving those residing over twenty-five miles from Sydney the privilege of travelling the double journey for the single fare.

At the present time we have 40 paid members, representing 3,000 hives and 100 tons of honey raised last season—a poor one.

E. TIPPER.

Hon. Sec.

July 8, 1901.

Report received and adopted.

The Secretary then read a quantity of correspondence including such giving proxy votes to the number of 23. Also from Mr. McFadyen, manager of the Farmers' Co-operative Society, stating that his company had exported 600 tins of honey, and were making arrangements to send an agent to work the market both for butter and honey in England and on the Continent.

A motion was carried unanimously that "Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members."

Mr. Tipper proposed, and Mr. Stanton seconded, that "Members unable to attend meetings or conventions can authorise or nominate any member they know will be present to vote for them on any subject brought forward. Such vote or votes to be in addition to the member's present own vote."

Mr. Bradley strongly urged the formation of local associations, also stated that he disagreed with the method adopted in forming the association. He contended it was a mistake to organise one large body, because the membership would dwindle down, as in the case of the old association. As against that plan he urged the formation of local societies, whose influence would be further reaching, and those local societies could send a delegate to the centre body.

Mr. Tipper said that if the proposal were negatived the country people would regard the association as purely a Sydney one, and that would mean the ruin of the organization, and it did not by any means interfere with the formation of local associations.

Resolution carried unanimously.

Mr. Stanton proposed, and Mr. Miles seconded, "That the President shall only hold office for one year, nor again for three years, except by a unanimous vote of Association," but after discussion it was decided to let the matter stand as at present.

A letter from Mr. W. L. Davey, secretary of the Victorian Beekeepers' Association with regard to a union with that body was received, but it was decided to let the matter stand over till next meeting.

The Secretary was directed to forward the best wishes of this Association to them, and thank them for their courtesies and suggestions.

With regard to a Foul Brood Act which has been placed before Parliament, the Secretary read a lot of correspondence



from all parts of the colony, and which was decidedly adverse to such an act being passed, and after discussion Mr. Bradley moved, and Mr. W. Gee seconded, "That a deputation wait on the State Minister for Agriculture with a view of pointing out to him that the introduction of a diseases in bees bill is unnecessary, and of requesting him not to countenance the introduction of such a bill."—Carried by 29 to 9, Messrs. Bradley, Stanton, Anderson, Miles, and Tipper being appointed deputation to carry out same.

During the discussion Mr. Hall said he was in favour of a Foul Brood Bill, and Mr. J. Eather said that he was willing to pay a registration fee of £2 or £3 a year, in order to protect himself against the ignorant man, who was largely responsible for the spread of foul brood.

On the motion of Mr. G. H. Bradley, it was decided "That Mr. Price, M.L.A., and the hon. secretary, Mr. E. Tipper, should wait on the Government and ask that facilities be granted for taking up an acre of Crown land in timber reserves for the purpose of establishing apiaries, such apiaries not to be closer than four miles to each other."

A long discussion took place with regard to prices of honey, and the regulation of same, but at the present nothing could be done, and the matter was left over for a future time.

Mr. Tipper proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. McFadyen, manager Co-operative Society, for the use of room, and in replying Mr. McFadyen said he was pleased to do whatever he could for the Association, and wished to notify them on behalf of the Company that it was proposed to send an agent to England and the Continent for the purpose of placing Australian butter, etc., on the market, and he would receive instructions also to place Australian honey, while there.

It being now late in the afternoon, and most of those present having to get away, several minor matters were left over till next meeting, and after a vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting closed.

On the following day the deputation appointed waited on the Hon. Mr. Kidd, Minister for Mines and Agriculture, re the Foul Brood Act. After the matter had been fully laid before him, he said he was totally averse to any legislation against the will of the people interested. He had already acted up to that in other matters. The Cabinet had met the previous day, arranged their business, and the bill, if introduced, could not be so for several months.

The deputation appointed to wait on Mr. Crick re apiarists on Forest Reserves, were informed by Mr. R. A. Price, M.L.A., Mr. Crick was from home, but he would bring the matter before him, feeling certain of success, and he was quite in accord with the matter himself. Mr. Price while there also wrote a letter to Dr. Ashburton Thompson, Sydney Health Officer, asking him to look into the matter of honey adulteration, which is said to be carried on extensively in Sydney.

### ADULTERATION IN SYDNEY.

We have received from R. A. Price, Esq., M.L.A., a copy of letter forwarded by him to Dr. Ashburton Thompson, President of Board of Health, Sydney:—

1<sup>th</sup> July, 1901.

Dr. Ashburton Thompson,  
President Board of Health

Dear Dr. Thompson

I have the honor to direct your attention to a grievance under which those engaged in the beekeeping industry at present labour under

It appears that a very large proportion of the honey sold in the market is adulterated, and this has the effect of materially injuring the industry in this colony.

I may further point out that in connection with the sale of beeswax, it is contended that considerable adulteration takes place.

I shall be pleased if you will be good enough to have an inquiry made into the matters mentioned, and in the event of cases of adulteration being discovered, that your Department will have proceedings instituted with a view to prosecuting the parties of such adulteration, at once.

Yours truly,

R. A. PRICE,



## IN SYDNEY.

The matter of union with the Victorian Apiarists' Association was unavoidably put off for the present. But should any occasion arise under the Federal Government in which the interests of beekeepers are interested, the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association, we are fully assured, will back the Victorians up quite as much as the N.S.W. men will be only too happy to back the Victorians up.

Before and at the Conference we received twenty-three letters from country members of the Bee Farmers' Association giving us authority to use their voting power, and against the Foul Brood Act.

We were rather astonished any member should be against proxy voting. The Association as at present constituted, does not in any way, interfere with local associations. It should be the duty of every beekeeper to encourage such, if only to meet and arrange the prices for the selling of their honey, both wholesale and retail. Also to appoint and pay expenses of delegates to general meetings, instead of as now, people who are patriotic enough to attend such, having to pay their own expenses—a no small item when living a long distance from Sydney, and having no other business to see to.

We called on Mr. Guthrie, of the Agricultural Department, and was very pleased to see a number of samples of honey had been sent to him for exhibition at the Imperial Institute, London. This is the most practical step yet taken by the N.S.W. Agricultural Department, and will help to show what our honey is like more than any other step yet taken. He will still be pleased to receive more samples.

Honey Labels a specialty at "Bee Bulletin" office. Send for samples and price list.

## VISITING.

On our way back from Sydney we made a call at the residence and apiary of Mr. J. A. Rien, late of the Hawkesbury College. It is situated about a mile from the railway station. The place is thickly timbered with mahogany, stringy bark, bloodwood, ironbark, and other timbers, besides a great quantity of miscellaneous scrub. Here he has resided some three or four years. His first object, after locating his bees, was to make a comfortable home. In this his training at the College proved of great assistance, and his cottage, we felt assured, was the abode of happiness and comfort. Two little Riens helped much to this end. We spent a very pleasant time there. He has about 50 hives, and having a mechanical bent nearly everything that could possibly be made at home, including hives, extractor, and other necessary things has been made by himself. He has not been blessed by too good seasons, but he looks hopefully forward, and by the help of some poultry and cows, and strict frugality, to keep things straight. He is by persuasion a Baptist, but is doing his best, in connection with a few neighbours to get a union church erected, which may be used by any Christian denomination, also where public meetings may be held. Of course other beekeepers are springing up around him, that may, ere long, sadly interfere with his honey flows, more especially as clearing the forest for fresh settlers may greatly diminish the amount of his flows. Train time being close up we wished Mr. and Mrs. Rien good-bye, and all the prosperity their energy and perseverance deserved.

## NOTICE.

**M**R. R. BEUHNE, Tooborac, is appointed Agent for Victoria for the AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN, and is authorised to receive subscriptions and advertisements for same.

E. TIPPER.



## QUESTIONS.

6.—Will you suggest plan for house apiary?

W. REID

7.—Have you ever tried Pure Cyprian Bees, quite pure, and with what results, as honey gatherers, etc ?

QUIZ.

8.—I see a commission agent in Sussex Street wash off the labels and put a number on the honey tins. Is it lawful for him to do it without the consent of the owner? If so, what chance has the owner to test the honesty of the agent?

9.—Is it not so important to keep the temperature of our bees down to 45° in winter, as it is to keep the temperature up to 45° in North America to winter to best advantages?

J. EVALD.

6. I think is too big a contract for the Q. box.

8. I know nothing about the lawful part of it, but it is wrong (dishonest) all the same. Would it not be advisable for producers that do not know the agents, personally or by good references, to consign their honey only to firms advertising in the A.B.B. as I take it the editor is careful not to advertise any but reliable parties.

9. No doubt at times the bees would be better off if they did not fly in the winter, but then again I would not put them in a refrigerator even if I had one. I think the North Americans would not object to a few days of a higher temperature if they could get it.

W. JOHNSTON.

8. I should certainly think a commission agent should not interfere with labels. Perhaps his motive may be not to let the customer know where the honey comes from, thinking his trade may be injured thereby. Should think it would be well for the producer to instruct him not to do so, and if he does so don't send him any more honey. If he does wrong in one matter he may not be honest in others.

9. Make them snug and warm in fall. It is too much to fuss with thermometers.

## QUESTIONS NEXT MONTH.

10. Give suggestions for next meeting of N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association.

## N. S. W. BEE-FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

### OFFICERS:—

President:

REV. HASSELL HALL, M. A.

Vice-Presidents:

MESSRS. F. W. PENBERTHY, T. BRADLEY.

— EATHER

Secretary & Treasurer.

E. TIPPER, J.P., WILLOW TREE.

Committee:

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HANDCOCK, F. DONNELLY, C. U. T. BURKE,

E. J. RIEN, J. ANDERSON, J. A. BRIEN,

W. SCOTT, W. GEE, F. BOLTON, C. H.

MILES.

### RULES & OBJECTS.

1. The careful watching of the interests of the industry.

2. To arrange for combined action in exporting honey to relieve local glut when necessary.

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.

5. That every member with more than 50 hives shall be allowed an extra vote for every additional 50 effective hives.

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.

12. Members unable to attend meetings or conventions can authorise or nominate any member they know will be present to vote for them on any subject brought forward. Such vote or votes to be in addition to the member's present own vote.





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## A Good Start . .

is half the battle in Honey production, therefore, give your bees a chance to excel by providing each colony with a Vigorous Young Queen early in the Spring. It's poor management to tolerate failing Queens when you can substitute prime Young Queens that will double your returns. Let me book your orders now and I will deliver the Queens the day you are ready for them. All Queens are sent post free, and safe arrival guaranteed to any part of Australia. Make P.O.O. payable at Goodna.

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**H. L. JONES, Goodna, Queensland.**



### A HOUSE APIARY.

A correspondent has asked us to give a plan of house apiary, say for 60 hives. We recommend as follows:—

**Width.**—The first requisite should be a central passage, 6 feet would perhaps be wide enough. Two feet on either side for hives. Width of building 6 feet x 2 feet x 2 feet—10 feet.

**Length.**—By having a row on floor on either side, another on either side on scantling, say four feet from floor—four rows of 15 each. Allow 2 feet for each hive, 15x2—30 feet for hives. (Respecting this closeness of hives, we have known old beekeepers who had them close together, yet maintained it made no difference, as the bees under these conditions yet knew their own hives, and there was no robbing or confusion. Others again say there should be something distinctive in the front outside, and so have painted the fronts of different colours, say one blue, the next green, the next red or yellow.)

Add to above 30 feet, room for working, extractor, uncapping tin, and shelves for storing; say another 15 feet. Total length of building 45 feet. Uncapping tin and extractor on one side, shelves the other side.

Now for comfort of working. Let every hive be close to wall with bee entrance by perhaps small tunnel through wall to outside. Perhaps the most convenient way of having the frames would be running parallel with the wall, so the operator could more conveniently work them, in which case with most hives a side entrance would have to be made in hive. The walls need be fairly bee-proof, with bee escapes in roof. If windows in gable ends of building, any bees that may escape indoors will make direct for their light. Have them on a swivel, so they can be reversed quickly and the bees inside liberated. Or else have wire cloth instead of glass window extended above the window space, a bee space between it and wall, and an opening at top. The bees that make for the light,

will run up and out at this space, and be confused in returning, so go to their own hive.

We have seen other methods of describing house apiaries, a favourite one being a circular building. If bricks or stone too dear, we would recommend the walls to be made of tongued and grooved boards.

We should very much like to hear opinions of same or a better plan.

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### BEE-VEIL.

Notwithstanding the almost invariable advice given to have the lower side of the veil open for slipping beneath the coat collar, we much prefer to have a long piece of elastic (a narrow tape will answer, but not quite so well) run in the lower edge of the veil, not tight enough of itself to draw the veil close round the throat, but loose, so as to require pulling out in front while the veil is pressed back close to the throat with the hand. Worn so the veil hangs loose and clear of the face, while it is held close round the neck. It is safer, cooler, and pleasanter to wear thus than when the lower side requires tucking in beneath the coat in the ordinary way.

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### CIRCULAR SAW.

To those who make their hives out of boards, a saw bench is a great need. There is a handy affair, complete, costing somewhere about £7. But handy beekeepers may at a small cost make their own. Get a table, fairly strong, cut a hole for the circular saw to work in. The treadle and other iron work necessary can, with a little ingenuity and a small amount of assistance from the local blacksmith, be very cheaply procured. One apiarist assured us his only cost him 15/-altogether.

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Honey Labels a specialty at "Bee Bulletin" office. Send for samples and price list.



## HONEY-BOTTLING.

G. A. DEADMAN IN *Gleanings*.

It is not so difficult as some may imagine, nor so slow as many might suppose. The first thing is to have your bottles all cleaned and ready, and the best time to do this is the day before filling. Not only are they less in the way, but in better condition for wiping before labeling.

Formerly we would wipe them after being filled, just before wrapping them, previous to packing them. We found, however, that they were then much harder to polish after the hot honey was in them, so we now do this before filling and when still moist from the washing. It is for this reason we do not let them dry in the sun, but as soon as washed place them inside or in a shady place.

In washing it is easier and better to use plenty of water, and three pails are preferable to two. It is for this reason we prefer doing this work near a well. It is an easy matter for two persons to examine and clean six gross or more in a day, which is as many as you will fill in the same time.

Next in order is the filling. We always warm the honey before doing this. To keep it from granulating is not the only reason. It would be too slow work otherwise. The temperature we prefer is 170° F., and we never want it more than 180°, believing that, if much hotter than this, the flavour is injured; and if allowed to come near the boiling point the honey is darkened as well. The round all-glass dairy thermometer is best for this purpose. We suspend it by a string from the top of the can so it is always ready for examination.

The question is now, when and how shall we heat the honey? The kitchen stove will do, but we do not recommend doing it there. As we bottle all our honey in the back shop of our drug store we prefer warming it outside, and as near the back door as we can get. The stove is the oven part of an old-fashioned

cook-stove. There are no legs and no bottom, so we set it on the ground and move it where we please. Two lots of honey are warmed at one time; and as the pipe is at the back, and not, as with box stoves, at the end, it warms with equal rapidity. This is an advantage in itself. With this readily movable stove we can warm the honey as fast as we can fill 1lb. bottles or smaller. As it takes about an hour to get the first lot ready, by starting at 7 o'clock, the honey will be ready by 8. We can then take off 40 lbs. every half-hour, which means one hour for this quantity when using two tins. This would be from 700 to 800 1lb. bottles in a day. If the honey is granulated it is absolutely necessary to stand it in water; and then two boilers on a cook stove would be better. You do not require to use water if the honey is sufficiently liquid to pour. Though honey is strained as it comes from the extractor, we do this again through thin cheese cloth on the can we fill from. Keep the honey on the stove covered also, if for no other reason than to preserve the aroma. When filling 1lb. bottles we take the tare of each, using a double-beam scale for this purpose. We can then guarantee each bottle to hold this quantity. The bottles to be filled are piled up behind the one who does the wiping and labeling. They are then handed to the one who does the filling, who, in turn, gives them to the person who cover and puts them away. If a child is to do the labeling it is best to have the bottles wiped beforehand. They will then be encouraged by easily keeping ahead. If short of help, label also beforehand, but it makes less handling when all is done at the same time.

We always use gummed labels, and we moisten the gum by placing them in a folded cloth kept wet. This is better than doing it with the tongue. We think the label looks better when placed about half way between the centre and top. Never put it across the centre of a bottle. We prefer a label going across rather



than one up and down, believing the former shows the honey off better. Have "Pure Honey" in clear bold type; next the directions small, and then the name and address below.

As a customer will invariably prefer a bottle with a cover rather than one with a cork, and as they can be bought so cheaply, we see no reason for using the latter. Should you wish to do so I would soak the corks for a few hours before using unless you wish to seal while hot. Soaking them not only gathers up any cork dust found in the crevices of large corks, but makes them fit much better. They must be allowed to dry before sealing, should you wish to do this. We prefer pure beeswax for this purpose. Have it kept hot, and invert the bottle, holding it perpendicularly when placing in the wax. You may require to dip the second time. Before sealing, cut off any projecting cork with a sharp thin-bladed knife. If you wet the corks first they easily pound in level, using a wooden mallet. If you wish something cheaper than beeswax, then combine equal parts resin with about one-fifth tallow. A little vermilion will improve the colour.

We use only warm water for washing the bottles when it is too cold to be comfortable without. On a hot day the cold water is preferred, but on a cold day the warm is better. Never wash them in the house unless you are obliged to. Only the water that is used for the first rinsing is changed, as it, of course, needs changing most. The one that was used for the second rinsing now takes first place, and the one for the final rinsing the second place, so that we always have the clean water for the last rinsing. With the "readily movable" stove it will warm as fast as required.

As to wiping the bottles, this is done only on the outside. After standing for an hour or so to drain over night the hot honey will attend to the inside. In wiping, all that is necessary is to hold the bottle in one hand, then with the

other hand and a soft towel encircle as much of the bottle as as you can, and go from top to bottom, then turn the bottle around and do the other side the same way. This is all that is required. When filling, have a towel and water handy so that only clean hands touch the bottles. They will then not require any more wiping. The papers we use for wrapping are old newspapers. A thin-bladed honey-knife is the best for cutting to desired size. Wrap as soon as cold, and before any dust can gather on them. There are two ways of doing this. One is by folding as you would a parcel, and the other by rolling the bottle in the paper, the latter is preferable. When folding in the ends, always begin where the paper ends.

They are now not only ready for delivery or shipment, but if there is any leakage the paper will show it. Before doing this we go over the covers and see that all are reasonably tight. If those with cardboard covers have been properly put on they will not require tightening—not so, however, with the fruit-jars. I think having all this done at one time is better than having to give them a "bath" before being able to fill an order, and they will look just as "fresh and clean" after three months as they do the day they are wrapped. I have had occasion to liquefy some that had granulated in the bottle, but I never do it from choice. Unless one had extensive appliances for heating, it would be altogether too slow. Then one can only guess at the temperature; and the filling is not only slower, but it is impossible to be as accurate.

I decidedly object to handling hot bottles, whether for cleaning or labeling. They get warm, it is true, when bottling the honey hot; but it is not until they are placed away after covering.

We prefer, when warming the honey, to have one more tin than the number on the stove, so as to have one ready to put on immediately when one is taken off. We prefer to have about 40 lbs. in each, except when beginning, when we have



about half as much in one, till we get a start. Any tins will do for this purpose. Ours are round, holding fully 50 lbs.; have handles to lift off with, and are made of heavy tin. The 60. lbs, same as you store honey in, will do, but I prefer the top all open.

When filling without weighing, you should have your bottles a little fuller than you wish them when cold, as the honey occupies more space when hot.

### ADULTERATED HONEY.

It has long been an open secret that the honey served at the hotels in Switzerland is an adulterated mixture, or, rather, an imitation that has never seen any honey. Mr. Dadant, on his visit in Switzerland has had occasion to eat this mixture. He found it not alone pleasant to the taste but he came to the conclusion that it must have been the genuine article, honey. German writers think it rather a joke on Dadant that he could allow himself to be thus taken in. It must be, they say, that in America the adulterators of honey have not made rapid strides to bring their art to perfection; and they assert that in Europe honey is so perfectly imitated that the adulterated article can many times not be distinguished from the real article. Further, they say, such methods as given by Mr. Cowan in Chicago to detect adulteration, fail to give any result with such adulterated honey as is found on the European Continent. It seems to me that the American mixers are bunglers and have no eye for business. At the New York State Beekeepers' Convention it was stated that bogus honey found in the stores of the City of Geneva was of such a vile nature

that it was thought one little bottle of it would be sufficient to last a family a month. How stupid it is for any one to offer such vile stuff for sale at all! It would seem that in the first place it should be made pleasant to the taste. They do seem to understand that part of it in Switzerland. It is said that their honey is made from corn syrup flavoured with extracts distilled from flowers, and that chemistry fails to reveal any difference between hive honey and the adulterated article.—F. Greiner in *American Beekeeper*.

### THREE ESSENTIAL POINTS IN QUEEN-REARING.

To rear good queens, equal to those reared under the swarming impulse: three essential points must be observed,

They must be reared from small larvæ. Those twelve to twenty-four hours old are just right for the purpose. If bees are given larvæ of all ages from which to rear queens, some of the queens will be almost worthless. Doolittle puts the limit at thirty six hours; but to be on the safe side I would advise the use of larvæ not more than twenty-four hours old; for no queen breeder will say that the former are better than the latter.

The queen-cells must be built in full colonies well supplied with young bees. The young bees do the nursing; therefore it is necessary to have plenty of young bees to feed the embryo queens a large quantity of the royal food, that strong, well developed queens may be produced.

They must be either reared during a good honey flow or, in the absence of this, liberal feeding must be practiced. This is highly important and is the only way in which we can rear good queens after the honey season is over.

During my twenty years' experience in queen rearing I have tried every method which has been brought to public notice and I consider Doolittle's method far superior to all others. This method combines the essential points

### NOTICE.

**M**R. R. BEUHNE, Tooborac, is appointed Agent for Victoria for the AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN, and is authorised to receive subscriptions and advertisements for same.

E. TIPPER.



mentioned above in the highest degree. By it we are enabled to have queen-cells built in the upper story of any colony devoted to the production of extracted honey having a queen excluding honey-board between the upper story and brood chamber. Remove two frames from the upper story of such a colony, and in their place put two frames of unsealed brood. The object in doing this is to draw a large force of nurse-bees above to attend to the open-cells. Two days later remove another frame from the upper story, spread the two frames of brood apart and place a prepared frame between them. By "prepared frame" is meant a frame containing a number of queen cell-cups, each supplied with a little royal jelly and a larva about a day old. About fifteen cells are as many as a colony should be allowed to build at one time.—*Ohio Farmer*.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The Journal of the Department of Agriculture gives the following amounts of honey imported and produced in that colony:—

Year.	IMPORTED.		Value £.
	Lbs.		
1896 ..	163,135	..	2,831
1897 ..	135,912	..	2,230
1898 ..	173,230	..	2,952
1899 ..	142,278	..	2,145
1900 ..	130,038	..	2,071
Year.	PRODUCED.		Lbs.
1896 ..	82,225.		
1897 ..	93,948.		
1898 ..	47,487.		
1899 ..	72,547.		

### A Typical Australian Beekeeper.

CONTRIBUTOR.

Your two circulars and post card to hand; the latter has been lying at the Post Office some time for me. As we live three miles from the Post Office we do not get our mail regularly and as I am working away from home with the horse it makes it the more so, and when

I get home at night, which is late, I am too tired to write, which I am a very slow hand at. However, I will try and write you a few lines again by our next mail day. I am an amateur and a struggling one at that. My bees gave me but very little help for several years, and I have to go out shearing or anything to keep going. I have 34 hives of bees and only got a quarter of a ton last season. I think Mr. Bradley's suggestion a good one; I could not suggest anything better. I could not attend a meeting in Sydney. I am sorry to say, it is out of my reach at present.

### Rendering Wax from Old Combs.

In rendering wax out of old combs I use the following method:—Take a bail off of a-gallon tin pail with flaring sides, nail a stick 3 feet along to the pail, so that it will project upward, then with a hammer and a 4-inch spike begin within two inches of the top to perforate the pail all the way round, and to within 3 inches of the bottom. Fill a big iron kettle about two-thirds full of combs and water (better soak them some, also break or chop them up). Hang the kettle in the yard, and start a good fire under it about sundown, if the bees are flying. After the mixture has boiled a little while take the perforated pail and begin pushing it down into the melted mass with a circular motion (it will take some time to get hang of it), and as the wax flows through the perforations I use a tin cup, something similar, to dip out the wax and pour it into a tub half full of cold water, to be caked up in the usual way later. The beauty of this method lies in the fact that we can keep a good fire going and keep putting in combs and taking out wax, and to facilitate matters have a wash-boiler of hot water on the cook-stove, from which we can get warm water when needed, instead of using cold water. After too much refuse accumulates in the kettle, throw out the mass and begin with a new batch.—C. A. BUNCH, in *American Bee Journal*.



## ✻ CORRESPONDENCE. ✻

T. R. O'G., Grafton, May 17th:—I have practically given up beekeeping on a large scale owing to the difficulty in disposing of honey

R. A. I., Nowra:—A very fair honey flow down here from "bloodwood" and iron-bark," during autumn and now "spotted gum is in flower.

J. J. H., Brogo, writes:—The past season has been a bad one with me for honey, but are looking forward hopefully to next, as the Black box and Stringybark are covered with buds.

P. C., Leyburn Apiary, June 3rd:—Not much news since I last wrote. Honey crops a failure last season, loss of 50 per cent last winter. Fair crop this season. Honey nearly all sold at 3d.

F. S., Echuca, Victoria:—Very poor honey season here, none since last February. Weather very dry and cold frosts at night. The last three years have been very poor for honey, owing I think to getting no rain during the spring and summer.

P.C., Mildura, Vic., June 5:—No good sale of honey here; too many beekeepers sell to the storekeeper. We want a railway badly here. River is too low now, want rain badly since last October. My bees are all right, seem to have plenty food for winter.

R. J G., Coolac, May 27th:—We are having very heavy frost lately, with nice sunny days. The bees are very busy in the middle of the day working on yellow box, as there are a great many in full bloom in this district, which will make it very bad for next spring, as the yellow box is the only tree we can rely on for a little honey. Rain is badly wanted here at present. I have sown about ten acres of turnips which will be a great boon for the bees in the spring. I am also sowing pretty largely broad beans.

A. M., Sydenham, Vic., June 10th.—I am a believer in natural swarming, that is the prime swarm. Can you tell me through the columns of the A. B. B. a simple and effectual way to secure the same. I am well pleased with the A. B. B. and always look forward to it coming every month.

Have your queen's wings clipped. Then when a swarm issues she cannot fly, and you will find her on the ground near the hive, perhaps surrounded by a group of bees. Remove the hive and place a fresh hive in its place with a frame containing some unsealed brood and starters, placing the queen on the frame with the brood.

H. B., Pambula, May 21st:—There is a very good honey flow now on and has been for weeks past, the bloodwood being out in bloom. There has not been such an abundance of forest bloom for many years; have been extracting during last week, and if all our swarms were Italians there would be a far better yield from the hives. We have just taken 65 lbs. from one hive of pure Italians during the last 16 days, and there is now in the supers 10lbs. There is no doubt about the Italians being the best honey producers.

J. C., Bulli:—The past season has been a very fair one down this way. I have taken about two tons from sixty colonies. It has been a very late season, no honey coming in until late in January and finishing up with a good flow in April and May from bloodwood and ironbark, which is still in bloom although it is getting rather cold for the bees to work, excepting a few hours in the middle of the day. I expect a good season next summer. The Black butt and Woody butt is out in bud which should give us a good flow early in the summer. My bees are very strong for June months. Thanks to the late flow most of the queens has kept up a good supply of brood.

S.H., Telangatuk East, Vic., June 4:—Just a few lines to let you know that we have had a fairly good season for honey in this part; it might have been better but for the dry weather in March. The grey box had a very poor flow this season



but the honey was of fine quality. I have just been reading report of the Apiarist's Association, and see there was a discussion re grey box honey. My opinion is that it is only in a wet autumn that it is detrimental to the bees on account of too much water in the secretion, and wintry cold weather coming on it don't ripen properly. I am with Ligurian about the English market, but the question is can we cut the price low enough to start if we have so much handling to pay for. Some one else better have a say in this matter.

W.P., Marrar:—The past season has been a bad one, no honey of any account. Ringbarking and bad seasons are making many beekeepers give up beekeeping. There's a lot of professional beekeepers who are very much afraid that the State will be over-run with the "amateur"; don't be afraid of that, as it is only an enthusiast that will stick to bees. The bee is rather too pointed for a lot of people. There are many professional beekeepers to day that are selling their honey as cheap as any amateur. No honey sold here under 17/6 for 60lb tin. Of course I am not a professional but an amateur. This last season I have noticed that the bee-moth has not given any trouble to empty combs.

C. Y., Keiraville, May 16th:—I thought of paying my subscription to N. S. W. Bee Farmers' Association, but after seeing some of the leading N. S. W. bee farmers advertising their honey for 2d per lb, I can't see what advantage I can gain by joining the Association as I cannot accept any price like that, and my idea is to keep up prices to a fair thing, and not to try and get trade by cutting the prices down. It is far harder to get an advance in prices than to lower them. In seeking orders last week, May 2nd, I had to refuse an order for a 60 lb. tin at 2½d per lb. because they had bought at that rate and would not pay any more, and I had to refuse the order because it was not my retail price. I don't believe there is a beekeeper in N. S. W.

that keeps bees just for the love of keeping them, but likes to make something out of them either for himself or family. A man that joins the Bee Farmers' Association and conscientiously sticks at the prices fixed by it can be run off his own market by a man that is not over scrupulous. My bees seem very strong this part of the year. There must be a lot of brood rearing as there is a lot of pollen going in, although I have not looked at them for a good while.

[The Bee Farmers' Association has not touched as yet the matter of prices of honey.]

R. W., Inglewood, Vic., May 27th:—In bee matters in this locality I find that the bees have not paid expenses owing to the dearth of blossoms and the drought, and to make matters worse I have foul brood in every colony. I had 27 colonies at last swarming which was very moderate, and have lost 17 colonies since then. I had to feed back most of the honey that I extracted to keep them from starving. The feeding back commenced about 1st February, 1901, and had to be continued till late in autumn, so that the surviving ten colonies could go through the winter with enough stores to last till they commence breeding, when I will try the starving plan of curing foul brood. For all this I am not disheartened, but have too much love for the bees to give up for a trouble like foul brood. I do not know how I got it, as I keep everything clean and the hives dry and warm. The disease made its appearance at the time when brood rearing was at its lowest, so I could not do anything to cure it before winter. I have heard of many cures but I will try the starvation plan as it seems the most common-sense way. I am cutting out and scraping the spare frames containing the empty combs and melting down the old combs for wax, as it is too cold for the bees to be about, and the work is done in the extracting room, so they don't meddle. The cakes of wax will all be purified of germs by being kept at a liquid heat for three or four hours in a special steam melter



that I will make. Every scrap of wax will be treated, so as I won't take any chances. The hive parts, frames extractor, and solar wax melter will get the boiling water treatment. I have a suspicion that my bees got the disease from a box hive beekeeper who lives a mile away, as I know that some of his hives had a peculiar smell. I will send later a description of the extracting room and its appliances, and some little inventions that I find very useful in my work.

J. K., Mt. Cole, Vic., June 11th:— Let me tell you my past nine months experience about bees. Last November they nearly all died, out of 45 was left with 10 colonies very weak. When seeing all my bees were going I bought the first lot of 20 three-frame nuclei hives, Italians, from a firm in Melbourne, two tested queens and 18 untested queens. From the 18 untested I got 17 pure queens, and the others were equal in gathering honey. From these we got 200 lbs. of honey this season each colony. The second lot I bought was from R. H. Jervis, Moss Vale, N. S. W. These were what he advertised in the A. B. B., two queens and two frames for 15/- in one nuclei box. These had to travel a long distance. First I got six of these, they arrived in fair condition, being five days on their journey, the other 18, being very hot weather, arrived about half of them dead. I think Mr. Jervis did his best for me, but they were six and a half days on their journey, and I think they did well. On the two lots I had to pay 7/6 duty, but they have built up well, and we have had 10 sixty lb. tins of honey from the lot. We had to double some of them through loss, and made 20 out of 24 and they are going to winter with plenty of honey. Now my apiary is nearly all Italians, and good ones, in the two-story standard hives of seven-eighth wood and well painted. I do not understand Clause 5 of the Victorian Apiarist's Association. How is a beekeeper to be recommended to the Committee unless he or she goes to

Melbourne; they know no one. I do not know one of the committee, so I must pay 2/6 and look pleasant. I am very thankful to inform you your paper comes very regular and it is nice and pleasant reading. I think every beekeeper should have some papers to read and know how other beekeepers are getting on.

## UNITING.

### DIFFERENT WAYS.

1. Dust all the bees to be united with flour.
2. Alternate frames from both hives in the one selected for the united lot.
3. Place an established swarm over another with a thick sheet of brown paper between, making in the paper a hole just large enough to admit a bee. In twenty-four hours the union is said to be complete without fighting or any killed.
4. Sprey both swarms to be united with some strong scent.
5. In the case of two established colonies place the new hive midway between the two stocks, and, after enlarging the flight-board by a temporary platform, shake the bees from both hives down, allowing them to run in together. Shake a frame alternately on the platform, so that they may be thoroughly mixed as they run in, and there will be no fighting.

[This is the plan we have adopted. One main part of the plan, the hive in which they are put being strange to both and having a different scent.]

6. Swarms amalgamate generally of their own accord if they join when on the wing or soon after settling, though I have heard of fierce fights taking place at such a time. If anything of the kind is observed give them a good shake or two in the hiving skep, and every feeling of enmity or strife vanishes.

One way of controlling robbing.— Place a sheet of glass against the entrance, and contract entrance to a single bee-way.



# PROCLAMATION.

## Notice to Crown Lands, Bailiffs, and Lessees.

Lessees under Section 29 of the Land Act, 1898, are hereby reminded that their leases do not confer any rights as regards the timber upon their holdings, except such as may be required for the purpose of "*fencing, or building, or domestic use on the land demised,*" and they are warned that the ringing, or the cutting, or felling of any timber for the purposes of sale, or for removal from the land is a *distinct violation* of the conditions of their leases, rendering such liable to instant forfeiture.

Crown Land Bailiffs are instructed to take immediate steps to prevent any interference with the timber on 29th Section leaseholds, except for the purposes mentioned above, and should insist on the production of the timber license and special permit by any person, whether the lessee or not, whom they may find in any way interfering with such timber.

THOS. F. MARKHAM,  
Secretary for Lands.

Lands Department,  
Melbourne.

## VICTORIA.

### VICTORIAN NOTES.

R. BEUHNE

**HONEY CANDYING.**—Most of us have heard candied honey spoken of as honey mixed with sugar. but I have not heard it said before, by a bee-keeper, that honey which never candies has either been doctored or is not honey at all. This rather reckless statement is made in an article in the last issue of this paper and should not go unchallenged, as it is likely to cause injury to beekeepers, and confusion to consumers and dealers.

Candying is no test of purity, some honeys will candy with 40 per cent added glucose, and some absolutely pure honeys of high density will remain perfectly clear at any material temperature. The article further states "when acid is added it stops crystallisation" etc., but near the end appears a direct contradiction. "No doubt acetic acid is formed which I think is one of the reasons for the honey candying so soon."

As to honey gathered during a heavy flow in hot weather granulating much sooner than that

gathered in a cooler and scarcer time. I think the experience of most beekeepers is exactly the opposite way. and as a general rule honey from a dry warm climate remains liquid longer than honey from moist and cool localities.

The liability of honey to granulate depends upon a variety of conditions, principally the relative proportions of the different sugars, percentage of water and amount of air incorporated in process of extracting or straining.

**INTRODUCING QUEENS.**—This subject is just now somewhat out of season, but having received several inquiries as to the method I practise, and having been unable to answer, owing to severe indisposition, I will now give my opinion on the subject of introducing queens in general, and deal with special methods on a future occasion.

I am now thoroughly convinced that like in many other things a very great deal depends upon the person managing an apiary as to whether they are successful in introducing queens or not, as also to the amount of stinging that takes place all through the season. There are a great many small points that even some old established beekeepers are not aware of. Of course every beekeeper knows that honeycomb waste water sweetened with honey through washing tools etc. in it should not be thrown out so that bees can have access to it. The same



must be said of water with which wax has been boiled up. The practise of throwing things out not only teaches bees to look for sweets where they should not, but it also brings ants about and encourages them to establish themselves in the neighbourhood to the annoyance of your bees and your own.

Next comes the matter of your clothes. If they were kept in a wardrobe, chest or box, smelling of camphor, naphtha, or scent before you put them on the bees will resent it. If you have handled kerosene, turpentine, eucalyptus oil, touched ants, a dog, pig, horse, rabbit or other game, skins, hides, meat, etc., your bees will punish you for hours afterwards, sometimes no matter how well you have cleaned yourself. If you use quilts on your hives your bees will be many per cent better tempered and you are more likely to be successful in introducing queens than when the cover comes off with a jerk every time you open a hive, and put every bee on the warpath. Don't clank your smoker down on top of a hive, or knock the toe of your boots against the stand. When you are extracting, put no wet combs back till after dusk, if the conditions are such that wet combs will cause a commotion, or what I call a jubilee. Under the same conditions do not shake bees (and honey) down in front of hive. Don't burn rags, cowdung, or other evil smelling stuff in your smoker, it gives you a headache, irritates the bees, and taints the honey.

I have no doubt that some, who run their bees on the "slap dash method" will laugh at this, if so they are welcome, the fact remains that I can work bees as rapidly and profitably in this way as any one else in their way, and I have the satisfaction of always working without a veil, never losing queens in introducing, or bees in uniting, and myself and everybody and everything around enjoys almost complete immunity from stings.

In the next issue I will deal with different methods of introducing queens and the combination cage shown at the recent conference.

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## VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A deputation waited upon the Minister of Lands to lay before him several matters of importance, as decided by the Annual Conference. The deputation were in possession of a letter from the Association embodying the requirements of the Conference. After the deputation had orally laid the matter before the Minister, the Secretary handed him a document which read as follows:—

We, as representing the Victorian Apiarists, wish most respectfully to bring under the notice of the Lands Department the following information:—

1. That at our Annual Conference held on 9th May, a resolution was passed that the timbers known as yellow box, red gum, and gray box, are the most valuable to the beekeepers, and therefore is opposed specially to the wilful destruction of these timbers.

2. That we are of the opinion that the time has arrived, when it is necessary to have the land suitable for bee-farming classified as such.

3. The members of this Association are in honour bound, limited to a distance of three miles from any other member's apiary when establishing a new apiary or bee farm. We therefore desire that the Lands Department will recognise the same limit, with regard to each license issued to Beekeepers.

4. Many beekeepers refrain from reporting illegal ringbarking for fear of a personal revenge being taken upon them by the persons interested, would it not be possible to so guard their names, that it should not be known, who were the informers. Illegal ringbarking having reached such a stage that some drastic measures should be enforced to prevent the wholesale destruction of our valuable nature timbers.

(Signed) THOMAS BOLTON,

President,

W. L. DAVEY, Secretary.

The Minister in replying said that he knew something about beekeeping as he was personally interested in a large apiary up country. He did not see how the Department could very well make a distance limit in the new regulations, as bees would fly where they willed, and with regard to the yellow box, red gum, and gray box timbers, and the proclamation of the beekeepers areas, he thought there was ample country available for beekeepers, without the need of such measures as the deputation proposed, and



he very much doubted that beekeepers could make as much out of their hives in the timbered localities, as could be taken off the land in wool production.

The deputation then waited upon Mr. Morrissey, the Minister of Agriculture, and placed their requests in writing before him amongst the most important subjects asked for were the following:—

That the Agricultural Department appoint a skilled bacteriologist to scientifically discover the cause, if possible, and cure for certain bee diseases. The deputation pointed out that there seemed to be evidence that certain bee diseases were peculiar to Australia, if so, they ought to know it and the cure as well, and they thought that this Department should endeavour to devise some means by which this trouble could be coped with. The disease, which occasioned great mortality amongst the bees, had not been known in the State before. Mr. Morrissey promised to have inquiries made on the subject, in order to put the beekeepers in possession of information which would enable them to protect their industry. The deputation also asked that the Government should introduce legislation to prevent the adulteration of honey. Pure honey, it was represented, had to compete in the market with honey adulterated with cheaper substances. This was unfair both to the beekeeper and the general public, who had a right to know whether they got the article they asked for. Mr. Morrissey replied that this was a matter which should be dealt with in a measure relating to the adulteration evil generally. In his opinion legislation of this character was much needed.

The deputation then thanked the Minister for his sympathy and withdrew.

I may state that I have since drawn the Minister of Agriculture's attention to the fact that two tons at least of spurious beeswax is being offered for sale in Melbourne, but have not received a reply as

yet. The Government Analyst reports that the material is a base imitation of genuine beeswax, and is composed of paraffin wax, with a little beeswax to colour it.

W. L. DAVEY,  
Secretary.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

Spring dwindling is what we have now to look out for. The bees that have lived through the winter begin to die off from old age before brood-rearing has commenced. This will be especially the case if there is a scarcity of pollen from young spring blooms. Be sure there is food enough in the hives to last them till the flow commences. You need not open them always to tell this. Raise them slightly off the ground or bottom boards. The weight will give you an idea. Honey is the best to feed with. Our experience tells against sugar syrup, though better give that than nothing. Artificial pollen may be supplied with flour or peas meal. Get things in readiness for spring work. Now is a good time to shift bees.

## CANDIED HONEY.

F. EVALD.

On page 50 in the June "A.B.B." is an article headed Gosford, re causes of honey candying. Not being a scientist I will pass over the atoms and molecules as I would have passed over the whole if it was not for the bold statement "Honey that is sold that never becomes opaque in very cold frosty weather *has been doctored or it is not honey at all.*" If the writer means by very cold frosty weather, the average winter temperature of this State, I wish to inform him that I have kept two 60lb. tins of honey from yellow box for three years and it did not candy. How much longer it would have kept liquid I don't know, but I think that for ordinary practical purposes, I can say to a customer that such honey does not candy. The abovenamed honey was



gathered in hot weather in a heavy flow and extracted, and according to the article in question such would be the most favourable conditions for honey candying.

Previous talk about lots and lots of adulterated honey on the market, have done a deal of damage to the industry by frightening the public from buying honey. How is it if the Sydney shops are full of adulterated honey that we never hear of any dealer being prosecuted.

Or are there none now? Well, at present prices, maybe the honey is cheaper than the adulterant.

I have sold white box honey in its liquid state, and before the consumer gets through his tin he finds it is granulating in a coarse grain, and in spite of labels telling him that the honey may be candy and instructions how to liquify same, I have several times been accused—mostly behind my back—that I mixed sugar in the honey.

Now, if people believe that the honey that granulates is adulterated, and so are to be told that any honey that does not candy is "doctored," well, will that improve the confidence of the public and increase the consumption of honey.

Another matter that surely is unwise in our industry is to boom a colour in honey that is often hard to obtain. To be first-class it must be water-white, or as nearly that as possible. I once at a place offered very light honey, by sample, when a lady brought in some honey she had before for comparison. She said, "your honey is very nice but mine has a better colour." Hers was amber, and I might have told her that at any show mine would have taken the best points for colour, but I didn't.

To illustrate the colour fad, or fashion if you like, let us compare eggs and poultry in England and America. In the first-named country eggs must be more or less brown to be the best, in the latter, one or two cents per doz. more are paid for white eggs. In England a tablefowl must have white legs, but in U.S. yellow every time.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

J. W. I., Sofala, July 14.—I must protest against such an undesirable measure as a Foul Brood Bill becoming law; I hope you will leave no stone unturned in crying down a bill which a very large majority of practical beekeepers are against. Who are the men who want a Foul Brood Act except Mr. Gale and a very few others. Surely men with hundreds of colonies, practical men, who are solely depending on their bees for a living, are better able to judge whether a Foul Brood Act is needed than men with a few colonies and a salary, Government or otherwise, at their back. The industry can't afford to keep foul brood inspectors in rosy billets, and if beekeepers will make it a point to see their legislators or even write to them, we shall have no Foul Brood Act, and if Mr. Gale, instead of advocating a measure which the beekeepers do not want, will devote his time and energy in trying to protect our forests which are being destroyed on all sides, he will earn for himself the good wishes of every beekeeper in N.S.W. The Government spent some money in trying to persuade the people into beekeeping, but how much have they spent in trying to find a market for our surplus honey, or what have they done to preserve our honey producing trees. If something in this direction is not done soon, we will have little brood to foul. Within a couple of hundred yards of my home they are hewing down the beautiful white and yellow box trees for firewood for the dredges, and soon, if steps are not taken to prevent the wholesale destruction of our best honey-producing timber, the much prized box honey from the Turon river will be a thing of the past. We have experienced another rather poor season in this, the Bathurst district. The honey flow only lasted about four weeks, there was certainly a little honey coming



in right into April, but nothing to extract, in fact, I had to feed back a good bit at two of my apiaries. A lot of bees died out last spring for want of natural pollen, not from foul brood, as our friend Mr. Gale might think when he hears of people losing bees. If Mr. Gale is so very interested in the well-being of beekeepers, why don't he try to find out a cure for paralysis, also find out if possible a substitute for natural pollen. The want of natural pollen in the early spring and paralysis, are in my opinion responsible for nine-tenths of the mortality amongst bees every year. I have fed wheaten flour, rice flour, pea flour, and even corn flour, and pollard, as a substitute for natural pollen, but my experience is if your bees do not get natural pollen in the early spring, they will either die out or become so weak before natural pollen comes that it will take them to the end of December or January to breed up to normal strength, and by that time generally, best part of the honey flow is over. We can cure foul brood very easy, and surely every beekeeper who discovers foul brood in his apiary, will not let it remain there longer than the time necessary to effect a cure.

F. B., Chatsworth Island, June 18:—Bees have been doing well last season, especially the late honey flow.

A. C. F., Rose Valley, Inverell, July 1:—I am having a very good winter for the bees, white box in bloom on all the hill tops around here.

W. S., Windsor, July 5 says:—Federation is the only logical result of the Association, by all means the sooner the better.

J. H. D., Bowenfels, July 4:—I haven't got much bee news this time. My bees are decreasing instead of increasing. I have no one to look after them. My trouble is to get honey, not the market.

J. A. B., Dilga, July 12.—I went through my hives last week and found them all right, with more honey than they will use between this and spring. No more at present.

W. J. P., Glenorchy, Vic., June 21:—I am well pleased with the "Bee Bulletin," it gives me a lot of information and I wish you every success. The bees this year stopped gathering honey the end of February, two months earlier than other years. I think it was the drought.

W. S. M., Axedale, Vic., June 12:—Am always pleased to receive A.B.B. and to read useful information which it contains. The past season was a fairly good one, the cold snaps which we had just at the height of the January flow helped to spoil it. Bees wintered down strong and with plenty of honey to winter on.

F. W., Gleurie, June 17:—The past season has been a very bad one, but taking the last four seasons all through I have done fairly well. The coming season promises to be very good, as the trees are loaded with buds, that is the white and yellow box. It is not usual for yellow box to bloom until about October or November, but it will be much earlier this year.

J. T., Mary Vale, June 21:—I am very sorry I can't take part in the honey export or yet send a sample, as I have not taken 1lb. of honey from my bees for over 12 months, and all other people in district have fared the same, but the coming season has the appearance of a good one, but very few people have any bees about here now, they have lost nearly all during the bad season and scarcity of timber.

R. L., Taree, Manning River, June 17:—The past has not been a prolific season with any of the bee farmers in this district. So far as I have been able to ascertain, in any sense of the word, the falling off in numbers is principally from dwindling. The contributions by Brother Beuhne (Vic.), I have read with great interest, and as near as I can judge from his writings on the subject, the cause is identically the same there as here, twin sisters of the same percentage, viz, improper food.



**THE LONDON MARKET.**

Mr. Allan, of Allan & Co., Sussex Street, Sydney, kindly furnished us with the following extract from a letter he had received from his London Agent:—

"We do not know in future whether we shall be able to handle honey to advantage from your port; until we really are satisfied that it is pure natural honey, without any added sugar whatever. You will doubtless have learned that in the passing of our late budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has imposed a duty on sugar, and only honey which is naturally pure will be admitted free of sugar duty. We shall be glad to hear from you later, but we feel that in view of the low prices in California, we shall not be able to encourage anything like heavy shipment from Sydney."

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—:o(:—

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HAVING Honey to sell, communicate with E. Tipper, Willow Tree, who will do his best to find market. Only fee, postage stamps for replies.

**MY NOTE BOOK.**

Gippsland, Victoria.

The Editor *Australian Bee Bulletin*,

N. S. Wales.

DEAR SIR,—I read with disgust the few remarks in reference to the Rural Industries Exhibition, by W. L. Davey, under the column "My Note Book." It is a pity that the Secretary of the Victorian Apiarists' Association, who congratulate themselves on being a thoroughly representative body, and whose aims and objects are distinctly and solely to aid beekeepers, can find time to give expression to such sarcasm, on the "Silk Show of our industry;" as he calls it. He either reckons that the majority of the general public are woodenheads, blockheads, etc., or else he has not learnt the first rudiments of reckoning, when he states "that after deducting the above mentioned characters, the attendance of the general public could just about be counted on the fingers of each hand;" and to give extent to his arithmetic, or to be generous as he calls it he "gave the thumbs in." Such generosity is as good as the exaggeration, and in the face of truth, he need not have exhibited his two thumb generosity.

As for luring into the bosom of silkdom, such a course is not required, its aim and objects and its past achievements is sufficient recommendation to any reasonable person. Silkdom has better sense, higher principles, and no time to dis-parage a rival association. Its actions bears out its principles; and it would be better for the Victorian Apiarists' Association if its secretary would devote his energy for the good of the Association to which he belongs, for while such a spirit is evinced towards a rival body, it will debar many beekeepers from joining its ranks.

Silkdom has given no provocation for such remarks, and if it is as feeble as he would have people think, he would show a more noble principle to leave the poor weakling alone, but it looks like a spirit of jealousy and may be taken as a good criterion that the disparaged association is still thriving.

I have no party policy, all I wish to see is the beekeepers of both States united in one strong body for the mutual benefit of all. (From what association it may start it matters not to me.) But while a division exists let each stand or fall by its merits, let the fittest survive, and don't come down to the beggarly meanness of disparaging one another. Hoping you will pardon me for trespassing on your valuable space, I am

Yours sincerely,

B. DAVIS, JUN.

See that your neighbouring beekeeper takes the "A. Bee Bulletin."



JULY 27, 1901

*The Australian Bee Bulletin.*

## VICTORIA.

TO THE BEEKEEPING FRATERNITY,—Friends,  
I am still breeding and selling choice Italian queens. In fact I am devoting most of my time to this branch now. Having sold my dairy herd I intend making queen breeding a specialty. I import fresh breeding queens every season and from different places, so as not to inbreed (a great factor, I think, in preventing foul brood.) My bees have averaged me over a cwt. surplus honey each colony past 12 seasons (summer count.)

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