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A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland

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

VOL. 19. No. 4.

JULY 30, 1910.

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"The Australian Bee Bulletin."

A Monthly Journal devoted to Beekeeping.

Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of Australia,—New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope.

Published by : E. TIPPER, West Maitland, N.S.W. Aus.

Editor: W. ABRAM, Beecroft

MAITLAND, N.S.W.—JULY 30, 1910.

EDITORIAL.

Whether it is regretable or not that the attendance at the Convention on the 29th ult. was small I am not going to judge. The fact is that both I and my son, waiting over an hour at the entrance or the hall for some more beekeepers to turn up, secured a lovely cold and are not over it yet. Our Mr. H. Lord was there, as usual, but where were the others? A photographer from "The Farmer and Settler" and several reporters from the daily papers were also there. We waited and waited; but in vain, and then decided to adjourn till 2 p.m. It would appear as if beekeepers are quite contented with present conditions of affairs. If they missed a chance and thought it best to leave all the work to the few local men, they place much faith in them, and they expect more than they get.

But in order to show the sceptic that the Union is not a tin-pot affair for the beginning, you will find a sound balance sheet in another part of this issue; and it may be added that new members are coming in. But we want all beekeepers to join, and then we can go ahead.

Dr. Ronald Hamlyn Harris, Toowoomba, Q., the well-known English beekeeper, paid me a visit the other day, but, owing to my cold, I was in bed. I herewith desire to proffer my regretful

apology to such an eminent authority of missing an interesting chat on bees.

Has it ever come into your mind as to whether the air bag in a bee may have an influence on the progress and yield of a hive? You all know that bees cannot fly any distance unless they have their air bag filled. Well, now, the air bag varies just as everything else varies. How, then, can a bee carry a heavy load, say two miles if the wind pipes are weak? Do you grasp my idea? It is of more importance than getting honey by moonlight—or whether the food is suitable for bees. I throw this point out for your consideration and would like your opinion thereon. It is a point that has, to my knowledge, never been raised. So here is something new at last.

Winter in most parts, and the bees at rest. But the weather varies so that one does not know in the morning what it will be in the evening. Still, it seems fairly suitable for the bees, and there is hope for an early spring.

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NEW SOUTH WALES & COMMONWEALTH BEEKEEPERS' UNION.

Executive Meeting.

Held July 4th, at 7.30 p.m. All present. Minutes were read and confirmed. Several accounts were passed for payment. Correspondence was presented.

Voting papers for the second year's Executive resulted in the unanimous votes for W. Abram as President. Mr. Lord congratulated him heartily on his second year's election as President, and the others all joined in with congratulations. Mr. Branch remarked that in his experience no man had worked harder for the benefit of the industry in four years and accomplished what the President had in one. He did not think, but he knows, because he has spent time with him to discuss various important matters repeatedly.

Mr. J. Rae, Eastwood was elected Hon. Sec. and Treas., and Messrs. Parry, Lord, Branch, and Parker to the Committee. Mr. Branch desired to sever his connection with the Executive, but was induced to remain.

NOTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A CONFERENCE OF BEEKEEPERS,

Convened by

**The New South Wales & Commonwealth
Beekeepers' Union,**

Wednesday, June 29th, 1910.

MORNING SITTING.

In consequence of the rain, this Sitting was adjourned till 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Held a little after 2 p.m.

Present: Mr. W. Abram, President of the N.S.W. & Commonwealth Beekeepers' Union; Mr. H. Lord, Technical Col-

lege; Mr. Parry, Erina and Parliament House; Mr. E. Abram, Beecroft; Mr. S. T. Main, Brambach; Representatives of the "S.M. Herald" and "Telegraph," and H. C. Fortey, Shorthand Writer.

Mr. Abram, by request, took the Chair. He regretted that the wet weather had interfered with the attendance, and announced that he had received a telegram from Mr. McIlveen, of Elsmore, apologising for his inability to be present, but wishing the Conference every success. The regular business was then commenced.

The Chairman.—We have met to confer on matters of importance to beekeepers, and, as there is a lot of necessary work to be done, it is to be hoped that we shall be able to pass some wise and beneficial resolutions to better the beekeeper's position; in the direction, for instance, of securing a more remunerative price for honey; afforestation for bees and timber; co-operation in buying and selling; the appointment of a practical beekeeper to assist beekeepers in their apiaries and in the marketing of honey; legislation and remedies in regard to bee diseases.

Mr. Lord.—Would you suggest that the Government get a young man from the Hawkesbury College to go round and instruct the beekeepers? It might be desirable to send three men out—north, south and west. Or one man at first to give the scheme a trial and then appoint more later.

The Chairman.—In regard to legislation. It appears to be absolutely necessary that some action should be taken by Government to prevent beekeepers with diseased bees from bringing them within the area of an established bee farm and thereby infecting those of the said farm. This matter has been thrashed out in Europe and America, also in New Zealand and other Colonies, with the result that such action has been held to be an absolute necessity. At the pres-

ent time a beekeeper with ten or twenty hives full of paralysis, foul brood or other diseases, might come along within a radius of say half a mile or less of an established bee farm, the proprietor of which had expended hundreds of pounds on it, and then in a very short time the bees of that established farm would be infected with disease. This can only be prevented by inspectors, appointed by government, going round the districts, the same as they are doing at the present time in the fruit growing industry. There are also dairy inspectors to inspect milking cows, but we beekeepers are left to ourselves.

Then again the appointment of a practical beekeeper to assist beekeepers at their apiaries seems to be one of the most important factors in bringing bee-culture to the fore. Most beekeepers live long distances from centres of population: they have no convenience to gain experience in the matter of marketing their wares. This can be ascertained at any time at the stores of the Sussex Street agents. If now the Government appointed a practical beekeeper to travel round the districts and interview the various beekeepers, instructing them in the methods of managing bees and marketing honey, the results would be quite different to what they are at present, both for the producer and the consumer.

Co-operation is at the present time one of the principal subjects that obtains attention. It has been applied to various trades and this may be the means of getting beekeepers to co-operate to hold their honey and other products for remunerative prices, and also to buy their requirements.

Forest Reservation for bees and timber is one of the principal questions that beekeepers are interested in. Nevertheless, they do not wish to retard agriculture. What beekeepers desire to point out is that land otherwise useless for agricultural purposes (except perhaps to

run one sheep to five acres) would be better reserved for the production of honey. In this connection I would like to say that under the present regulations the beekeeper cannot take up a lease without ringbarking it, such being considered an improvement. This is a very important matter for the beekeeper. He doesn't want to ringbark; he wants to keep as many trees alive as he possibly can, and yet the regulations compel him to ringbark! This should be altered. If the beekeeper takes up a lease and makes sufficient improvements, there is no reason why he should be compelled to ringbark.

Mr. Lord.—While you are on the subject of Forest Reservation. When the Forestry Department is fully established they will probably reserve larger areas for the native vegetation and plant out more timber; it might not be a bad idea to ask beekeepers to apply for positions as forest ranger. They would have the right of squatting down right in the centre of the forest, and, as the average beekeeper has a good knowledge of various kinds of timbers, it would be his duty to see that nobody came and poached. He would instinctively be a good forest ranger; it would be to his interest to see that the trees were not destroyed, whereas if a farmer had a lease of the land he would see that they were destroyed. The beekeeper could have a nominal annual sum, which would satisfy him; and so the Government would get a good forest ranger at a very low rate.

The Chairman.—I think that is quite right. The question is, how can we carry these measures into effect? With regard to Forest Reservation for Bees and Timber, we have had a deputation to the Minister for Agriculture, and he told us that there were over four millions of acres reserved for bees and timber, and that beekeepers were at liberty to establish their apiaries in these reserves.

But the difficulty is this: they are largely pine forests and no good for the beekeeper. The Trunkey district, as far as I have been informed, is absolutely useless for agriculture. The bush will only carry about one sheep to five acres, and yet there are some five or six thousand hives of bees in that district, and beekeepers make a living by them alone. Does not this show that under the circumstances bees are more beneficial than sheep? There are other districts equally as good. I have had numerous letters on the subject and have referred some of them to the Government. We want to settle the matter once and for all. What suggestions can you make towards a settlement?

Mr. Parry.—Make the beekeeper forest ranger. He would protect the timber for his own sake.

The Chairman.—There is land open for lease. The beekeeper says that land is admirably suited for his purpose. He applies for a lease and has to ringbark the land. He is compelled to do so.

Mr. Lord.—From an agricultural point of view that is quite logical.

Mr. Parry.—Yes, provided the land is suitable for agricultural purposes, but not where it is not.

Mr. Lord. The Government naturally wishes to follow the trend of public opinion, and they will do nothing until the beekeepers educate the public into the belief that it is best to leave the timber for the bees. It is really a sin to destroy the trees on the broken country; but of course you must call the attention of the public to that fact.

Mr. Parry.—Public opinion is like the fashions; it is not always correct.

The Chairman.—The surveyor is the man who has the chief say in the matter.

Mr. Lord.—And he often has very little knowledge of beekeeping.

The Chairman.—He says "This land is suitable for agriculture, that is not."

Directly he says land is suitable for agriculture it is afterwards regarded as such. But let us consider how we can remove the clause which says we must ringbark.

Mr. Lord.—We must get Government to make a provision that beekeepers be not compelled to ringbark. Point out that bee-farmers have their grazing up above, while that of sheep-farmers is down below, and that if you want the grass you must destroy the top, whereas if you want the flowering top you must do without the grass. Ask for a short Bill to be brought before the House to suspend the operations of the ringbarking clause. Suppose there are ten square miles of land open to lease. The Government says "Why don't you apply for it? You reply "but you want us to destroy the timber. Let us have a chance of occupying it without doing that." Many lands will pay the beekeeper which would not pay the sheep-farmer, and this argument should be used in getting the Minister to suspend the operation of the ringbarking clause during the occupancy of such a tenant.

The Chairman.—I suggest asking the members of our Union to request the Members for their districts to influence the Minister in this direction.

Mr. Lord.—I am afraid the Members would want lessons in beekeeping before they could handle the subject properly. If the position is logical, it does not need any influence. We don't want to steal a march on anyone.

The Chairman.—No, but we want influence.

Mr. Lord.—If our case is logical, a commonsense Minister should carry it into effect.

The Chairman.—Five or six months ago I wrote to Mr. Hunt, M.L.A., asking him to make arrangements with the Minister to receive a deputation. Mr. Hunt sent a reply that the communication had been forwarded to the Minister and that

further answer would be given; but none is yet to hand. Where are we? If they treat us that way we shall never get a deputation. For that reason I think that if we can influence Members of Parliament we shall have a better show.

Mr. Lord.—If you could only get one member who was interested and who was in earnest, he could bring in a short Bill.

The Chairman.—I don't know who would undertake it.

Mr. Lord.—How about R. Davis, a practical beekeeper? I think, if we had a good case, one member of Parliament could bring in a short Amending Act.

The Chairman.—It must be admitted that the case is absolutely in our favour.

Mr. Lord.—Yes, provided we are dealing with broken country. It is only in broken country that we can afford to outbid the squatter. Perhaps, however, that could hardly be regarded as Forest Reserve.

Mr. Parry.—It could be called Beekeepers' Leases.

The Chairman.—Trunkey is the place. The land there won't carry a sheep to five acres. We must, of course, try to do something to assist one another. If we assist up-country beekeepers by procuring leases for them they will assist us in other ways. We now come to the question of how to improve the market price of honey.

Mr. Parry.—Co-operation in marketing.

Mr. Lord.—Unsatisfactory in the past.

Mr. Parry.—You must have a good manager. In South Australia the Government engaged the President of the local Poultry Association to act in the interests of poultry men and devise shorter and better means of communication between supplier and consumer. That is what we want. We want to know, for instance, whether to pack in 2lb. or 4lb. tins and what market to send to.

The Chairman.—There are great difficulties in the way of carrying the matter

out thoroughly. Suppose we undertake to grade honey. Clarence River sends us a consignment and we say "that is worth 2d.; Bega honey, 2d.; Wattle Flat, 3d." The other two will say "you don't know the value of honey!" If we beekeepers combined straight away together and said "we will co-operate: we will appoint a committee to decide the value of honey, and whatever the decision may be we will abide by it," we should be able to do wonderfully well, because we could really fix the price. But now, supposing we had a hundred joining our Union and there were another hundred outside. The outside hundred come in and undersell us. What are we to do as a Union? I have had that experience. That is exactly what will happen here unless we get the whole lot to join. That can only be attained by a practical beekeeper being appointed by Government to show them the benefit. At the present time honey is being sent into Sydney in a faulty condition. Some beekeepers don't know how to treat it for market.

Mr. Lord.—Supposing the beekeepers had a store and sold direct to the public, doing away with the middleman. If you wanted a jar of honey you would pay sixpence—the producer has often to be content with 2d. now.

The Chairman.—The Australian public wants every convenience. You must bring everything to the house. It's no use having a shop in Sydney. Never mind how much honey you have in the window, the ladies don't say, "I'll go in and buy a bottle." They can't carry it! That shows you how great the difficulties are. So many different things have to be considered.

Mr. Parry.—It is not an article which is consumed regularly every day.

Mr. Lord.—No, but it ought to be.

The Chairman.—Perhaps people are afraid of it being adulterated. In America they feed bees on sugar.

Mr. Lord.—I have heard ladies describe candied honey as adulterated. They said you could see the sugar in it. But adulteration exists. Some one sold a tin of honey at 4d. per lb. the other day. It was resold at 3d. and the buyer made a profit.

Mr. Parry.—Adulterated with glucose!

Mr. Lord.—They actually put bees in adulterated honey to make it look natural.

The Chairman.—Well, will you suggest what is best to be done in these various matters? Remunerative prices; the appointment of Forest Rangers; legislation in regard to bee diseases; and marketing of honey; also the appointment of Bee-expert.

Mr. Lord.—The practical beekeeper would be an officer of the Department of Agriculture, if appointed. What class of man do you want, and at what salary?

The Chairman.—That would be left to the Department.

Mr. Lord.—The Fruit Expert gets £500 a year, and he's cheap; the Dairy Expert £600, and he's worth it. I believe the Poultry Expert only gets £120. If you go to the Department you must be prepared to say how much you want; the more information you give the Government the better it is. If you bring forward a digested and crystallized proposition it is more likely to be well received. The Minister might say, "well, gentlemen, you want me to send a bee-expert round? My messenger knows something about bees; how will he do? I will give him an extra £10 a year." Well, what do you recommend. The people in power don't want to make any false steps.

Mr. Parry.—You would have to go to them and say what you wanted, and say the expert was worth £250 or whatever it was.

Mr. Lord.—The amount would decide the classification. The more salary he got the more travelling expenses he would be entitled to.

The Chairman.—There is not only this matter, but also that of forest reservation. If we approach the Government, we might kill two birds with one stone.

Mr. Lord.—Mr. Davidson is a Member of Parliament. I think if we explained matters to him he would be able to fix up a short Bill. It is better to have it a Government Bill if possible, though it is not a party matter. I propose "That the Chairman communicate with Mr. Davidson and lay before him the wish of this Conference." (Seconded by Mr. Parry, and carried.)

The Chairman.—Now with regard to the beekeeper.

Mr. Lord.—I move "That in the opinion of this Conference it would be advisable that the Department of Agriculture appoint a Practical Bee Expert to go round and give expert advice to beekeepers at their apiaries on the management of bees and the marketing of their products." (Seconded by Mr. Parry, and carried.)

The Chairman.—Legislation in regard to bee diseases comes next.

Mr. Lord.—That is a large order. I think if the Department appoint a Bee Expert, he would be able to devote a fair amount of his time to studying and checking bee diseases. He could collect specimens that could be put under observation by other specialists in the Department. He might not be a bacteriologist himself, but in the Department of Agriculture everyone assists the other, and it would be sufficient if he collected specimens of diseased bees. The fruit experts go round and when they come across a new disease they send it to Mr. Froggatt, who classifies it.

The Chairman.—There is another difficulty in the way. The fruit inspector at the present time is authorised by Act of Parliament to go to orchards and inspect fruit. Our bee expert would have no such right.

Mr. Lord.—If he is appointed by Act of Parliament he should have the right.

The Chairman.—If he is only bee expert, he would not. I think he should have the right to go to any place he likes and inspect, and if he finds anything wrong to make the beekeeper take remedial action.

Mr. Parry.—There could be a **Bee Disease Act**, and he could be made Inspector under that Act.

The Chairman.—That is just what I want to suggest. But it is not so easy to do it. That is our trouble.

This ended the formal business of the Conference as the evening Session was devoted for Annual Meeting of the Union, and an informal conversation followed. A representative of the Press asked the value of the total production of honey in N. S. W. and the Commonwealth, but the Chairman said he had no figures, Mr. Parry adding that though statistics were collected by the Police they were not reliable, as they often called in the absence of the apiarist and got their figures from some one who was not properly posted. Mr. Main asked and obtained from the Chairman information in regard to beekeepers settling on Crown Lands, and finally bee paralysis was discussed, for which the Chairman recommended quarantining the bees close together.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. W. Niven writes:—Congratulation on the Union's strong position. With regard to bees, it is hard time with them, and I do not think it possible for honey to be gathered in quantity in this district in the future as it has been in the past. Every day the trees are getting less.

Mr. R. Benson wishes the Union every success.

Mr. W. J. Benson regrets to be unable to attend Convention, but trusts to be

the only one absent, and that there will be a good meeting, and that matters of vital importance—such as indiscriminate ringbarking, bee diseases, and marketing of honey—will be discussed.

Mr. E. F. Hunter writes:—I would like if some of the Trunkey members could be with you, but I hardly think they could afford the trip. As other urgent business matters compel me to relinquish beekeeping, a new Secretary and Treasurer will shortly be appointed to our local Association, and trust he will have more time at his disposal to attend to bee matters than I had.

Mr. J. C. Hunt, M.L.A., was invited to attend at the opening of the Convention at 10 a.m. on the 29th, and replied that he would endeavour to attend. Unfortunately wet weather prevailed, and when Mr. Hunt came the meeting was already adjourned till 2 p.m.

Mr. Thos. Mow was in Sydney, and was at the Queen's Hall, but finding no one there, felt very much disappointed after a long wet journey, that the bee men are afraid of rain or very disinterested. He hopes there will be better success when the next meeting is called. Mr. W. Muir sent his sub to the Union and the "A.B.B."

Mr. J. McIlveen sent a telegram to Queen's Hall at day of meeting: Sorry cannot attend, but wishes for successful conference.

Condobolin,

June 20, 1910.

W. Abram, Esq.

Dear Sir,—I received the voting slip for the election of the Executive for the incoming year, and I enclose my 5/- for membership to the Union. There are several things required in my way of thinking that could be tried, and perhaps accomplished by them, viz., an addition in our Land Act, allowing any bee-farmer to procure a bee-farmer's license, entitling him to, say, one acre of land for an apiary site on any Crown lands.

The right of the said holder, if he chose to lease from the Crown all green timber within one mile from his apiary hite, at a yearly rental for the tree tops alone, leaving the grazing right for some one else to procure. This would give him control of the area he paid rent for, and would stop another bee-farmer dumping down his bees alongside of the other apiary, and in some places it would pay the apiarist to give more for the tree tops than the grazier would give for the grass.

Then, again, with a little agitation I consider the Government would take up our industry in a whole-hearted manner and help us along and save lots of us from entire destruction by appointing inspectors to advise and treat all bee diseases that seems to have a hold of some of our apiaries, and prevent others from being brought into the country. Advise as to good localities for starting new apiaries, and best crops, scrubs and trees to grow for honey and pollen production, etc.

I would like to see the Executive if they favour the idea, to draw up a scheme, by which we, as bee-farmers, could co-operate and procure for ourselves a commission agency business in, say, Sussex-street, Sydney, to which place we could send all our produce, and the apiarist in every district to act as agitator amongst his neighbours and friends in furthering our interest; for amongst us you will find men who will hold up against big odds, their honour, energy and ability, in procuring almost all classes of produce, &c., required for the upkeep of such a place in the front ranks.

Now, Mr. Abram, I must conclude by wishing you every success and a re-appointment to your position as President, and a record honey crop for the coming year, whilst I must honestly state mine are very poor; not because there is not a good season to look forward to, but amongst some of my apiaries I had a disease last spring that swept

away over two hundred colonies. This disease affected the brood. They died in the cells from all ages. The cells which were capped over used to sink, and in places a little hole used to be punctured in the centre of nearly all them; and those that were not capped used to dry up on one side of the cell, and they used to leave a stain in the cells even after the bees had cleaned them out. The only way I could do any good was by destroying all the brood comb I found this disease on; but it re-appeared again in each of the old affected apiaries in the autumn. I done as before and sulphured all the boxes affected, which left them all very weak, and I really don't know how they are going to winter it, and I dread the spring to come. If this disease re-appears it must wipe them out at a face, unless you can recommend a cure, for I think it is almost beyond hopes as I still have them in the old boxes. You could nearly always tell the affected colonies by the smell and the flies that used to poke about the entrance of the hives. So hoping to receive a favourable reply and a sure cure,

Yours Obediently,
JAS. W. SHAKESPEARE.

[The disease is foul brood. A reply is posted direct.—ED.]

Condobolin,
June 30, 1910.

Mr. Abram.

Dear Sir,—Your letter to hand, and I am not a bit surprised at what you say that the disease amongst my bees is foul brood. I wrote to a friend of mine and told him the symptoms, etc., and he told me it was a disease they call black brood. Others laugh at the idea of it being a disease at all; because they have not got it amongst their bees; but I am satisfied if ever they do get it they might be as big a chum as I am with it. If you will send me along the book on how to treat the malady, I will be obliged. Should I

destroy all the frames and boxes in which the disease re-appears this coming spring?

Yours Obediently,

JAS. W. SHAKESPEARE.

[It is safest.—ED.]

July 4, 1910.

Mr. W. Abram.

Dear Sir,—No doubt you think it very neglectful on my part not sending my subscription by return of post, but as I have been away from home I had no way whatever of sending it before now. However, I herewith enclose P.N. for 5/-, and trust all other beekeepers are earlier than I am, as I must say most beekeepers are too slow in this way for their own good. And as for voting, I wish Officers to stand as they are, for by reading different papers I can plainly see the good for beekeepers the Union has already done.

Wishing you every success,

I remain,

Yours truly,

A. McKELLAR, Jun.

[There are numerous others, but the foregoing shows the wide interest taken in the Union.—ED.]

N. S. W. & COMMONWEALTH BEE-KEEPERS' UNION.

First Annual Report.

Circumstances, which have been published in the "A.B.B." and which I need not now recall, suggested to me the formation of a Beekeepers' Union, and I sent out between fifty and sixty circulars to beekeepers I knew, asking them to join. Over forty agreed at once, paid their subscriptions, and voted for the Executive.

Being so generously supported, I called a meeting for the 19th July of the proposed Executive. All were present, and I was voted to the Chair.

The scrutiny of the voting papers resulted as follows:—President, W. Abram;

Secretary, H. Lord; Treasurer, J. J. Branch; and further D. W. Parker, J. J. Parry.

Mr. Lord felt greatly honoured, but said that his other duties did not allow him sufficient time to do full justice to the office, but he would do all in his power to aid and assist the Union. Mr. J. Richardson, Botany, was then appointed to the Secretaryship, and Mr. Lord to the Committee.

The regular business was then taken in hand, and Ringbarking and Forest Reservation first dealt with; also the establishment of office and store for the disposal of honey, co-operation and exportation of honey to over-sea continents, etc., such as the appointment of some practical beekeeper to give information at apiaries and on the treatment of honey for market, &c.

A deputation waited on the Minister for Agriculture at Parliament House on the 3rd of August, re Forest Reservation, and was introduced by Mr. Hunt, M.L.A. The Minister replied that over 4,000,000 acres are now being reserved for forests.

Two deputations waited on the Under-Secretary for Agriculture regarding the appointment of a practical beekeeper as instructor, and re lectures. The Under-Secretary sympathised with the deputation, but stated that there was no money available for the purpose then, but that he would place the requests made before the Minister.

At a meeting of the 30th August Mr. Richardson tendered his resignation as Hon. Sec., as he could not attend the meetings in the evenings, and Mr. Branch was elected to the dual position of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Another meeting was held on the 17th of September, and the President reported that he had had an interview with the Under-Secretary for Agriculture, re spraying fruit trees with arseniate of lead, a poisonous compound, and injurious to bees, but was informed that the

rules laid down must be carried out. It was arranged that a Lecture be given by me at the St. James' Hall on the 18th of October, Mr. Lord to take the Chair. The Lecture was given, but the attendance was small, and further lectures contemplated were not carried out. After the lecture, numerous persons were sorry they did not know of it until too late.

On the 11th of October the Executive decided that a **deputation wait** on Minister for Lands—the President to write to Mr. Hunt, M.L.A., to arrange for and introduce the deputation. Mr. Hunt interviewed the Minister, but failed to get an appointment made. At the same meeting it was agreed that a circular be sent to beekeepers asking them if they would exhibit at the next R.A. Show. The President, being also the Editor of the "Australian Bee Bulletin," issued the circular in that journal. Later on the Secretary of the R.A.S. wrote to the President objecting to his issuing such a circular, and, before there was time for a reply, he submitted the matter to his Council and it was published in the daily press. On this happening, the President did not reply direct to the Secretary of the R.A.S., but published the circular and his comments on the matter in the daily press also, and advised the Secretary of the R.A.S. of what he had done. To this a reply was received that such was considered sufficient amends.

Another meeting was held on the 8th of November, when Mr. Hunt's reply re deputation was dealt with—the Department requesting "that the requirements be stated in a definite form of request." A letter was written by the President to his effect and submitted to the meeting, and it was decided to send it on; but no more has been heard of it since.

Further meetings were held on the 13th of December, the 17th of January, the 21st of February, the 18th of April, and the 16th of May; but, as all the particulars are published in the "Australian Bee

Bulletin," there is really no occasion to detail more than to point out that your Executive has not been idle. If it failed to fully satisfy the desires of members, it has the satisfaction of knowing that it has done all that lay in its power.

In connection with this, I may mention that only a few members availed themselves of the assistance offered by the Union's Executive, and the latter pursued the matters submitted with vigour, of which some good resulted. It is regretted that other members did not assist in a similar way. The wisdom, energy and advice is required of every member to be made known to the Executive for the benefit of the industry.

It would also be desirable that every member subscribe to the "A.B.B." to obtain the process of progress, and that each member should write to the "A.B.B." on subjects nearest to his heart.

In conclusion, I may state that no tree is felled at one stroke, and, as ours is a new concern, there is every hope of making better strides in future, provided you all assist.

We may congratulate ourselves on the success attained for a beginning. The Treasurer will now show you the sound financial position.

W. ABRAM, President.

June 29th, 1910.

* * * *

Treasurer's Report.

Gentlemen,—I have the privilege, as your Honorary Treasurer, of reporting financial prosperity of this Union, and respectfully submit Balance Sheet herewith.

Wishing my successor in office and yourselves an increased membership and a more prosperous year,

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. J. BRANCH,

Hon. Treasurer.

Balance Sheet.

CR.	£	s.	d.
Members' Subscriptions ..	12	5	0
	£12	5	0
June 20th, 1910.			
DR.	£	s.	d.
Stationery	0	2	9
General Expenses of Union ..	1	10	9
Printing, &c. (Marchant & Co.)	0	18	6
Union Expenses	2	4	3
Postage, &c.	0	8	6
Convention (Hall Deposit) ..	0	2	6
Parker, D. W. (Gen. Expenses).	0	13	4
Branch, J. J. (Gen. Expenses) ..	1	2	0
Balance	5	2	5
	£12	5	0

J. J. BRANCH,
Hon. Treasurer.

CAPPING MELTERS.**How to Separate the Melted Wax and Honey Successfully.**

By H. H. ROOT.

The time has come when the extracting-rooms of a large number of the prominent beekeepers are equipped with capping-melters of some form or other. The Universal interest in this method of disposing of the cappings shows how valuable and how practical the plan is. There are many different shapes and constructions of capping-melters in use; but it is not the purpose of this article to discuss the construction of capping-melters, but to consider separating the honey and wax that run from them.

Some beekeepers make no attempt at separating the two liquids, but simply run both of them into a pail or can; and when this can is full they set it aside and put an empty one in its place. This process is kept up until the work is finished,

and by the next day the melted wax will have hardened so that it may be lifted from the honey in a solid cake, which cake needs only scraping on the bottom to be marketable. While this plan has its advantages, it requires quite a large number of cans, which, of course, take up considerable room, and necessitate much heavy lifting.

The Aikin honey and wax separator described in the Jan. 15th issue of "Gleanings" for 1902, was the first practical separator, we believe, to be shown; and the principle made use of in this separator is the one used by the majority of beekeepers to-day for separating honey and wax. The wax is lighter than the honey, and floats on the top of it. A gate, therefore, at the bottom of a can containing melted wax and honey will draw off the honey only, while a gate at the top, or near the top, will draw off the wax. Practically the only difficulty that we have encountered with the Aikin separator is that the wax tends to chill unless there is a very large amount of wax and honey running into the can constantly, or unless the room where the work is done is very hot. We have always been able to keep the contents of the separator from chilling, however, by wrapping old carpets or sacks around the whole can, with the exception of an opening near one corner to admit the stream of honey and wax from the melter.

In our experiments we have used, with a considerable degree of satisfaction, a separator made of a five-gallon square can with one side cut out, which open side then served as the top. Near the bottom of one end of the can a piece of pipe was soldered, which extended up four or five inches before turning down again. The principle involved here is the same as that used in the Aikin separator; that is, the honey, being heavier than the wax, settles to the bottom, so that honey only can pass out of the pipe.

The wax rises to the top, where it is allowed to accumulate until it reaches the level of a trough near the top of the can, through which it overflows into a separate vessel.

We soon found that this plan worked perfectly so far as separating the wax and honey was concerned; but the relatively large amount of exposed surface caused too much chilling, and we therefore had to wrap the can with old sacks or carpets, as mentioned before. The inconvenience of having the old sacks and caused around led us to inclose the separating-can in a wooden box made of half-inch stuff, and provided with a tight wooden cover of the same material, having an opening near one for a tunnel to catch the stream of honey and wax from the melter. Since we adopted this wooden jacket around the can we have had absolutely no trouble. The wax does not chill, but keeps in a liquid condition all day long. During the noon hour, or during any other time when the work may be temporarily stopped, a slight layer of hard wax may accumulate on the surface; but when the work is resumed the stream of wax and honey coming in on top of it soon melts this, so that, at the end of the day, the whole mass is entirely liquid again.

It can be seen that this wooden jacket is on the principle of the "fireless cooker," that is, the heat of the liquid is confined so that the wax can not chill. This plan, moreover, is much more convenient than the carpets and sacks, and the heat is also better confined.

It will be seen that a Pettit honey-strainer is supported directly under the pipe leading from the separator. By this plan the honey strains as soon as it runs from the separator, so that it can be allowed to pass directly into a five-gallon can. Ordinarily, of course, a strainer would not be necessary under the separator, as the honey could be run into a large pail or can, and emptied

directly into the regular strainer over the main honey-tank. We were rendering a large quantity of candied comb honey, and we arranged the strainer, etc., as shown, so that the whole process would be complete. The Pettit strainer is the best one for honey we ever tried. There is a very large amount of vertical straining surface, and, as mentioned by Mr. Pettit on p. 143, March 1, it is not necessary to stop the work when one cloth is clogged: it may simply be drawn to one side and another cloth put over it. In a short time the first cloth may be lifted out, comparatively free from honey, and washed, so that it may be used again. The cheese-cloth is held away from the side of the can by coarse-mesh wire screen, so that there is a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space between the cheese-cloth and the can all around, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch space between the cloth and the bottom of the can.—
"Gleanings."

FOUL BROOD INSPECTION WORK IN CANADA.

BY R. F. HOLTERMANN.

The foul brood situation in Ontario is a burning subject. It appears that, for the sake of economy, the Ontario government has practically decided that, except in aggravated cases, the inspectors are not to go out until May 15, and then for only a limited number of days. The idea was that foul brood in its early stages can not readily be detected until brooding is carried on rather extensively. This is quite true; but in the meantime the disease may be spread very much by neglected colonies that have dwindled or died, and that have diseased honey which may be robbed out. If one or the other plan had to be followed it is just a question as to whether the early inspection would not do more good than the later one. At first thought the former would appear to me to be preferable, because

foul brood would likely be discovered in the hives already mentioned, and robbing prevented. Again, the careless beekeeper without inspection uses for swarms the combs upon which the bees have perished, and this would be prevented. Even when there is but little brood in the hive, badly diseased colonies could be detected. It would be only the slightly affected colonies that might pass muster.

I quite agree with the "Canadian Bee Journal" and many of its writers in upholding early inspection; and with a Provincial apiarist now appointed, whose duty it should be to advise upon such matters, we may see a good apicultural policy develop. The present stand taken by the Provincial government, that only \$2500 be spent this summer for foul-brood inspection, is also a mistake. A wealthy province like Ontario can well afford to spend \$10,000 in a season if, by that expenditure, foul brood can be brought under control more quickly. There are portions of this province which there is every likelihood that foul brood exists, but which have not been inspected, owing to lack of men and means. This should not be. We are, of course, quite ready to give the Minister of Agriculture and the Department credit for the increase within three years of the grant for this work from \$600 to \$2500 per annum, but it is not yet enough.

Jacob Alpaugh, one of the inspectors, said recently that we needed a thousand inspectors. When I demurred he said, "Years ago you and a lot of others opposed my views given in convention, but you had to come to it." I admit that; but I did not expect to change my views in this: I would appoint no man who is not competent, and I feel sure that at present one thousand good men could not be found. The Ontario Beekeepers' Association could well devote some time at its next meeting in Toronto, in Ne-

vember, to a discussion as to the most efficient manner in which a foul-brood inspector should carry out his duties, and by all means let laymen take part. Any thing that will not stand the light of cool deliberate debate and reasoning should be eliminated. No one need be ashamed to learn in this matter. The best of us make mistakes, and all should be open to advice given in a proper way. A wise man will follow advice given in even an improper spirit if such advice is sound.—"Gleanings."

Why Queens are often Balled soon after they emerge from the Cages.

BY. B. F. DOBBS.

When the new queen arrives, go to the hive to which you wish to introduce her and take out two combs of sealed or hatching brood, being sure not to get the old queen. In their places put full sheets of foundation, then over the brood-chamber put a sheet of wire cloth, and set an empty hive-body on top. In this empty hive-body over the brood-chamber put the two combs of sealed brood with the live bees on them, and between the two combs put caged queen. Make the entrance of the upper body just large enough so that one bee can come out at a time, and be sure that it faces the opposite direction from the entrance of the lower body.

Under the conditions named above, all the old and flying bees will come out and go back to the lower hive, leaving only young bees on the two frames with the queen above. As a rule, these young bees will accept any thing in four or five days, and in this time the queen will have been released. She should be left in the upper hive until she is laying, which will probably be by the end of the four or five days.

When the queen is laying in the upper body, set this hive aside temporarily, removing the old queen from the lower hive; then, without putting the wire cloth back, set the upper hive on the lower one again. In 24 hours the queen will be found laying in the lower hive, or at least the two frames in the upper one will be covered with bees, so that the two frames of foundation can be removed from the lower hive and these two upper frames put back. If the queen is found in this upper hive on the two frames, do not touch her, but slip the two combs out and put in the lower hive as quietly as possible, and leave the colony alone for a few days.

The reason that so many queens are killed is that there are so many old bees in the hive at the time; and the queen, when she comes out from the cage, needs exercise, and goes over the combs so fast that these old bees catch her and ball her until they smother her to death. By the plan above outlined, the queen has a chance to get her exercise on the upper combs where there are but few bees; and when the bees of the hive below find the queen in the upper hive laying they never ball her, for she is heavy with eggs, and is conducting herself as a queen should. By this plan, moreover, the new queen is introduced before the old one is removed.—“Gleanings.”

BEEKEEPING IN OKLAHOMA.

The Conditions in the Central Portion Ideal for Outdoor Wintering in Single-walled Hives.

BY W. F. ROLLER.

Mr. G. E. Lemon's statement that bees do not winter well in Oklahoma, p. 39, Jan. 1, is not in accord with my ex-

perience, nor with that of beekeepers generally, I believe, in this portion of the State, which is just south of the centre. The difficulty here is not in wintering, but in carrying the colonies safely through the cool spring months. Conditions here are ideal for outdoor wintering. The hives are seldom moved from their summer stands, and double-walled hives and packing are not necessary. The severe cold spells of weather seldom last longer than two or three days. In nearly every week there are one or more days warm enough for the bees to take a good flight. These frequent flights enable them to stay contentedly in the hives, flying out only on days warm enough for them to get back without danger of getting chilled and lost.

In Cleveland County there are a num-

The critical period with us is the spring season, from early in March to about the middle of May. During the larger portion of this time the weather is cool, the winds are high, and though the flowers furnish only a small amount of nectar, the bees seem unable to get what there little is. Brood-rearing continues throughout this period, and unless there is an abundance of winter stores left over or ample feeding resorted to, many colonies dwindle down to a mere nucleus or die from actual starvation.

The summers are long and usually favourable for the gathering of nectar, with three or four successive crops of alfalfa and many other nectar-bearing flowers, there is more or less of a light continuous honey-flow from May to October. Foul brood and other bee diseases are almost unknown here. A number of beekeepers who have apiaries numbering from five to one hundred colonies each, and they all regard the business as profitable, yielding an ample return for the time, labour, and money expended. At the Oklahoma State fair, held in Oklahoma City last October, were

exhibits of bees and honey well worth the efforts of some of the older States.—“Gleavings.”

Is Specialty in Beekeeping More Risky than in Other Lines of Business?

By W. S. Pangburn.

Having read the “Review” for some time, and knowing that its editor and others who favour specialty, have, from time to time expressed themselves more or less emphatically in favour of the same, I wish to say a few words on the subject. I will add that I, too, am in favour of specialty. Like Edwin Brooks, I think “It is better to know much of a few things than little of many things.” However, I am not sure that it is good policy to advocate it too strongly without putting up the red flag occasionally to warn the younger and less experienced beekeeper that there is danger ahead. That the young beekeeper is likely, quite likely, to become very enthusiastic, we will all agree. Don’t you remember when the fever seized you? How high your temperature run, almost to the boiling point? Mine did. And to tell the truth, it hasn’t subsided yet; and I don’t think it ever will. Hope not. For an enthusiast, with temperature running high, to read some of your specialist’s articles might mean disaster, as you don’t put up a single danger signal.

In the first place, perhaps your reader doesn’t, as yet, know enough about bees to give up everything and “keep more bees.” He might overlook this fact, and wake up some fine morning to find his bubble bursted. Then, again, your reader may not be well “fixed,” financially; and should a bad year drop down upon him, could he carry through and support his family, until another harvest?

Suppose the farmer who, as the editor says, has 80 acres of land, and

wishes to add to his income cannot buy more land, either from lack of means or of opportunity—no uncommon occurrence in these parts. I am on an 80-acre farm, and have a system that I have been working on for the past 10 years. I milk about all the cows the place will keep, raise all the hogs I can feed without buying corn; and raise all of the corn I can, and maintain the fertility of the land. This is the plan followed by nearly all of the farmers in these parts. How are we to do more of these things we are already doing, when we have already reached the limit? It is true, some of us might do some of these things better, but every good farmer is producing all he can with these high prices. On the other hand, I can manage an apiary by hiring a little help until after harvest, or for about three months; and, by following my plan, or rather, Dr. Miller’s, it isn’t such an awful joke to handle a good sized apiary and an 80-acre farm; in fact, they make an ideal combination for a man who isn’t afraid of work.

Get your “superbundance” of supers filled and ready, and hives in readiness, in the winter when business on the farm, isn’t so rushing, and you have solved a goodly lot of the labor question; at least, until your busy time is over on the farm.

I will admit that an apiary run in connection with a farm isn’t always run as it should be; but, on the other hand, I don’t know of anything in proportion to the money invested that would bring in any more clear money than an apiary, even if it isn’t run exactly on orthodox principles. While I intend, some day, if everything works out as I have it now planned, to make bees my specialty, yet I don’t see my way clear just now to abandon everything else. There are some things about the extracting and swarming business that I have yet to learn. I think any one making a specialty

of bees should understand pretty much all sides of the business.

Now, friend Beaupre, don't you put it a little strong when you go on record as saying "a man who tries to farm and keep bees don't know much about bees, and probably never will?" While this is quite true in many instances, yet I know of but very few men in these parts making bees a specialty, who are not only running 80-acre farms, but 160, and some 500 acres; and they clean up from \$500 to \$1,000 per year; and one man even more. If you get into conversation with them, you will probably find that they knew a good deal about bees. I remember several of them putting out the danger signal to me when I was just starting. They showed me the dark, as well as the bright, side of beekeeping. "Don't go in too deep till you can handle them. Be sure you like the business, and be sure, very sure, you like bees; if you don't, you better not go in too deep." "Don't go in too much for looks," one man said, "all the fancy articles are all very nice but not always essential. It's the honey you want." I know of one fellow who got the fever so bad that he borrowed money, purchased "more bees," quit his job (R. R. operator,) hit a poor year, and his bubble busted, and so did he. He got all the specialty he wanted, and never kept bees since.

Now, methinks, I hear some one say: "He didn't know his business as he should. He was inexperienced. One shouldn't make a specialty of bees till one is competent." Well, put up your red flag then. How does one always know one is competent to specialize on bees? It is somewhat of a lottery at best. Some men who can handle a retail business successfully, would be swamped with a wholesale business. While most of the writers for bee journals could, no doubt, make a specialty of bees and succeed,

yet they are few in numbers compared to the vast number who read the journals, and of whose ability you know nothing. Go on brothers with your specialty, but put in a few ifs. Some of us might think we were competent when we were not.—"Beekeepers' Review."

On p. 778 Mr. Byer gives interesting facts about the law in Canada in regard to spraying fruit-trees. A kind of spraying other than for fruit-trees came to my attention by some of the Massachusetts beekeepers, where poisonous mixtures were used to destroy the gipsy and brown-tailed moths. They told me the bees in the vicinity of such spraying were very soon destroyed. Could not a law be enacted that would compel such persons to use carbolic acid or something that would be distasteful to the bees so they would go elsewhere for their water?—"Gleanings."

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PREPARING BEES FOR WINTER.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A correspondent wishes me to tell him how to prepare his 27 colonies in single-walled hives so that they will be liable to go through the winter in good shape.

The first requisite is to know that all are well supplied with bees, stores, and a good queen. The last is not entirely essential, for he can see that the queens are good ones in the spring. However, my experience says that colonies having good queens winter better, on an average, than those with poor queens, or none at all. Then he does not tell where he wishes to winter his bees, whether on the summer stands or in the cellar, and in order to be sure to cover the case in either event, I will say a few words regarding each way of wintering, and the preparation for the same.

Now, for outdoor wintering there is nothing better than chaff hives, but as our correspondent tells us that his bees are in single-walled hives, we must plan for fixing them the best we can for wintering with the hives they are in, which is to go to the store and procure some dry goods boxes or others, or make such boxes of suitable size in which the hive can be put and leave room all round it for the packing. The packing may be of chaff, dry sawdust, fine hay or straw, or dry leaves. A space of about three inches is the right amount to leave, for experience has proven that this is better than a larger or smaller amount. Then the bottom-board should be raised that distance above the bottom of the box, and after having packed under it, it should be secured there and so as to touch the front side of the box also, as the bees must pass over this to get outside of the hive and box whenever days occur in which they can fly. One-half inch above the bottom-board a thinner board of the right width should be secured

by resting on cleats or otherwise to both the hive and the box, immediately above the entrance to the hive, so as to keep the packing material from obstructing the passage of the bees, for this is now to become the entrance to the hive from the outside of the box.

Having this fixed and the hive thoroughly secured to its place, we now put in the packing, pressing it in lightly so that as even a temperature as possible can be maintained inside of the hive, packing the material in as nearly alike on all sides as possible. When the top of the hive has been reached all round the passage ways which led to the sections should be opened, and two or three thicknesses of cotton cloth spread over these so as to keep the packing from rattling down into the hive, and also so that in thus providing for ventilation a direct draft shall not be allowed through the hive. If no honey-board is used, so that the tops of the frames are exposed, then spread the cotton cloth over the whole top of the hive, after laying three or four $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch square sticks across the frames so that the bees can pass over the tops of the frames to get honey at the sides of the hive, if need be, by going along the sides of these sticks under the cloth.

Having the top fixed and the cloth on, fill in the packing to a depth of 3 inches all over the top of the other packing as well as over the hive, keeping it as evenly distributed as possible, leaving this loose and open without pressing down at all. The box should be tall enough so as to come an inch above the packing, so that the cover, which is now to be put on, shall not touch it. This is important, for where the packing touches the cover of the box it will absorb the moisture which condenses on the cover to such an extent that all will become wet and mouldy, much to the detriment of the colony,

and often to the entire loss of the same.

But if our correspondent can put his bees in a suitable cellar during the winter, I should advise him to do this rather than using the above, for with a good cellar there will be a great saving in honey, as well as better chances for successful wintering. A cellar with a variable temperature will not be as good for the bees as would one in which the temperature could be kept as nearly at 45 degrees as possible, yet if the temperature does not go above 52, nor go lower than 35, it will winter bees much better than to leave them on the summer stands, especially if the hives are left unprotected, and the place is not farther south than 40 degrees north latitude.

If the cellar is more variable as to temperature than above, and we are south of latitude 40, then the bees would doubtless be better off outdoors packed as given for outdoor wintering.

To fix the hives properly for wintering in the cellar, they should be carefully carried in some morning when it is a little cooler outside than the temperature which is required for the bees to fly, and never when the hives are frozen down to the bottom-boards or the ground. If this can possibly be avoided. When the hives are thus frozen down, the jar and confusion which comes from prying them loose results in great irritation to the bees, and causes them to consume so much honey that it often leads to unsuccessful wintering afterwards.

Upon taking them to the cellar the hives should be set on some kind of a platform a foot or more off the cellar bottom, and the hives raised by some means at least 2 inches off the bottom board or bench. Failing to do this the hives will not be properly ventilated, and the result will be that the bees may become uneasy from lack of ventilation, which will cause them to con-

sume more stores than is necessary to their existence, thereby needlessly using up the honey and often leading to disease and death. It is not convenient thus to place them, the hive entrances should be thrown open to their fullest capacity, and the bees looked after at least once a month to see that none become clogged. Still, the first is much to be preferred, inasmuch as in this case all the dead bees, uncappings to the combs and dirt of all kinds, fall entirely below and away from the combs, and thus all are clean and dry in the spring when put out.

I also believe that the cellar should be dark for the average person who winters bees in the cellar, or at least that part in which the bees are wintered. Some claim that bees will winter just as well in a light cellar as a dark one, which may possibly be so, if all the conditions for successful wintering are present, but as such conditions are usually not all of them present in many if any cellars, it is always best to be on the safe side, hence the advice to have the cellar dark. If it is very inconvenient to darken the cellar, or the part where the bees are, then matters can be materially helped by turning the entrances of the hives toward the wall, and within an inch or two of it, putting them in the darkest part of the cellar. At the out apiary that is the way I have wintered my bees in the farmer's cellar for years, as he allowed them in there on the condition that he was to use his cellar the same as he had always done; or I could leave the bees out. With the entrances thus turned, I have fairly good success. —"American Bee Journal."

THE HIVE OR THE MAN.

"I have decided to go into the bee business. Will you tell me which is the best hive to use, Mr. Doolittle? An old

man who has kept bees, but has none now, tells me if I start with a good hive my bees will do well, as the hive used has much to do with any beekeeper's success."

"Which would mean that, if you started with the Danzenbaker, Gallup, Dadant, Heddon, Langstroth, or some other good hive, you would be likely to meet with success, no matter how poorly you attended to the bees, nor how ignorant of the first principles of beekeeping you were. While a good hive may have much to do with the success or failure. Look at the man with his choice stock. If he has only a good modern barn to house them in, does he let them care for themselves otherwise expecting a profit from them?"

"I do not think so."

"No; he spares no pains to have them properly cared for, and gives them every chance in his power that tends toward success. Yet three out of four such men will expect a good income from bees, should they get a 'bee in their bonnet,' if they only have them in good hives, even if they do not do more than to hive the swarms, if any issue, and put on and take off the supers."

"But this old man told me if I had my bees in good hives they would largely take care of themselves."

"Which but shows that he is living in the past. That old idea that 'bees work for nothing and board themselves' still clings to many of the past generation, but it must be banished from the thoughts of the one who would meet with success in the twentieth century. Successful beekeeping means work on the part of a man who has brains enough to know that he must leave no stone unturned that tends toward success. A good hive in the hands of such a man is a power which rolls up tons of honey, and shows to the masses that there is something in the bee business. Such a man will

have his bees in readiness for the honey harvest when it comes, and do things in just the right time to secure the best results."

"I suppose that those hives which you named have frames in them which are movable, do they not?"

"Certainly. All good hives have movable frames."

"What advantage has a movable-frame hive over box hives? or over hives like the Miner patent, which have guides so the bees build their combs straight with the rows of holes in the top leading to the supers?"

"Much, every way, in the hands of a skilled apiarist; but none at all with the man like the one who has been advising you to get the best hive, for he would never handle the frames to take advantage of the benefits derived from being able to keep good queens in all his colonies at all times by making the strong colonies help the weak, by equalizing the stores where a part of the colonies were lacking, by being able to make his increase as he desired or preventing swarming entirely, by shaking the bees from their combs of brood on combs without brood, etc."

"Do beekeepers generally practice all these things which you have enumerated?"

"The successful ones do. What are movable frames good for if not for the above purposes? Still I must admit to you that we have many all over the country who style themselves beekeepers who know little or nothing of what is going on inside of the hives during the whole season. If you are to pattern after these, instead of after the successful ones, then the old Miner hive is as good for you as anything you can have. Yes, better; for you will not have to regret so great a loss of cash when you write failure as your record, after your bees are all dead and gone. Following such a plan brings plenty of candidates for 'blasted hopes.' "

"But I did not suppose there was so much in the bee business to make it a success."

"Now look here. You are a dairyman, I believe."

"Yes. That is, I keep cows for a living now, and I wished to add bees as I supposed there would be but little more work."

"Ah! I see. You thought that, by entering the ranks of apiculture, you could save the fuss of milking the cows twice a day, carefully straining this milk, and hauling it to the creamery or the cars, feeding and watering those cows during the winter months, and driving them to and from the lot at each milking-time during the summer. The average successful beekeeper does not spend the time on ten colonies during the year that you spend on one cow; and when the profit from ten colonies is compared with that from one cow the chances lie with the bees, taking a term of years together."

"But you don't intend to say that colonies need overhauling every day, do you?"

"No, not that. What I mean is that, when there is need of looking inside of the hive, do it, and just at the right time. In early spring see that all colonies have plenty of honey; and when pollen becomes plentiful see that all have good queens. Later on, see that there is plenty of room in each hive, so that the swarming fever will not be contracted. Put on supers at the beginning of the first bloom that gives a surplus of nectar. Remove the sections when completed, and be sure that the bees have plenty of stores for winter, and that they are properly prepared for their long winter's nap as early as the first of October. What I wish to impress on your mind is this: A thorough practical apiarist will succeed with almost any of the hives in use by the up-to-date

beekeepers, while a careless slipshod man will not pay his way with the best hive ever invented."—"Gleanings."

WILD BEES AND SUGAR BAGS.

BY E. S. SORRENSON.

New South Wales is rich in wild honey. Perhaps it is not so plentiful now as in former years; still there are tons of honey in trees in the scarcely-settled parts of the bush. Where selections and farms are thick, with the consequent denudation of forests. It is a long hunt to find a bee's nest. One is taken as soon as it is found, the finder being satisfied to get the bees if there is no honey; whereas the same man a few years earlier would not touch a new nest, and when he felled a tree he took the honey and left the bees to find a new home for themselves. They never go straight away. When the nest is robbed they swarm and bunch close by, where, if it is afternoon, they will remain till next morning, starting on house-hunting about 8 or 9 o'clock. There are plenty of hollow trunks and limbs about, but the bee is particular in choosing her residence. Height is no object. Some nests are found near the top of the high-trees; others almost at the root. Neither is there much partially shown in the kind of trees, though ironbarks and red and grey gums are the most frequently inhabited. The hollow must be fairly clean, not too extensive nor too limited, and have only one small outlet. A little knotty hole is a favourite door. If there should be other small holes or cracks about it they are carefully closed up with wax. It is the queen who picks the home. When she has found a hollow that suits her she comes out and enters a second time; then the swarm that has been waiting for the result outside crowd in after her, and the duties of the new

home begin almost immediately. Unlike hived bees, which are provided with sustenance to start with, if it is only sugar and water or diluted syrup, these have to start with an empty cupboard, and have a busy time before them.

Nearly everybody in the bush keeps an eye about for nests when travelling through timber. When the gums, acacias, and wild apple trees are in flower you hear a continual hum of bees every where, and when the forests are wide you know that the nests are not far away. Watching upwards for the tiny black dots that you hope to see darting in and out is a neck-aching business. When you have discovered the dots, you have yet to distinguish between bees and flies and wasps. It is not a pleasant experience, after chopping down a hard tree, to find that your nest is simply a dead animal with an assortment of flies in attendance, or to be accosted by a hostile army of French bees (honey-making wasps), demanding "whaffor." A pair of binocular glasses is a good thing for such a purpose. One method of locating nests is to catch a bee drinking water at a water-hole, stick a piece of thistle down to its body just under the fiery lance, regulating the weight so that it can fly but slowly with it, then follow it. When it reaches its home it will rise straight up. The only drawback is that you are apt to find a log unexpectedly with your feet, and hit the ground on the other side with unnecessary violence. When the blackfellow adopts this plan his gin runs behind him, and tells him when to jump. As a rule, he "mooches" slowly along with ever-roving and keenly observant eyes.

Blacks are experts at taking sugar-bags. They do not mind stings; in fact, they seldom get stung. Yet they never cut a tree down or use smoke, and nine times out of ten have not an article of clothing on them. When a blackfellow

climbs a tree, unless there are whites about, he leaves his clothes on the ground.. One day, while out shooting, I came across an old gin standing at the butt of a gum tree, holding a piece of bark about a foot square in her hands, while several dogs sat on their haunches star-gazing at her. Her other half was a hundred feet up the tree, extracting honey from a hole he had cut in the side of a limb. As he dropped the comb, piece by piece, the gin (when not interfered with) caught it dexterously on the sheet of bark, and thence passed it to the billycans. The dogs, however, gave her a lot of trouble. One or two would yelp and spring at the descending comb, sometimes catching it (sometimes smashing it), but mostly sending it and the bark and the gin spinning in three different directions. Then would follow a whirlwind of sticks, bedraggled shirts, unkempt hair, and vituperation, mingled with a deepbaritone snort of disgust from aloft. The storm moderating, her long thin fingers and the billy-lid went to the rescue of the depreciated segments of sugar-bag.

The apiarist has a big pull over the sugar-bbagger, in that he knows what his hive contains before he begins to rob it. You can get no indication of what is in a tree. I have over 2cwt. of honey taken out of a single nest. In the same vicinity two of us worked half a day cutting down a red gum, which was 6ft. in diameter, and gnarled and knotted at that; and when we cut it open there wasn't as much honey in it as would fill a pickle bottle. It was a new nest. Another time we cut down a big tree on the river bank, which we knew had been inhabited for three months past. It caught in another tree and hung. We left it there for two months; then one morning we went out and chopped down the other. It fell into the river, and the nest was buried two fathoms under water. The worst of it was, the two trees formed an obstruction

preventing the steamers from plying up and down the river. There was a £50 fine attached to this, so we could not conveniently say who was responsible. There was no sense in being George Washingtons when the reputation would cost £50 in one lump. Under the circumstances we did the best we could. The steamer passed down stream late at night. In no little trepidation we stopped her at the next bend, and informed the captain of the place where two trees had been felled by somebody after honey. We knew they were after honey, because we had often seen the nest. She hove to till morning, when we went down and assisted to cut a passage through. It was hard work, there are no two ways about that; but it was not worth more than 50s. The captain advised us to bill the Navigation Department for our services, but we never troubled.

In the Richmond and Clarence River districts one frequently comes upon bees' nests accidentally; and a few years ago a nest might remain untouched for months, though known to dozens of people. Anybody who desired honey in that neighbourhood only wanted an axe and a bucket to get it. Riding along a bridle track at Myrtle Creek, I have seen eight sugarbags in about a mile, which will give some idea of the wealth of honey in a locality comprising hundreds of square miles of dense forest. Returning once to the Richmond after delivering cattle on the Lower Clarence, we camped a night at Gibberagee, the site of an old-time sheep station. While gathering wood I noticed traces of honeycomb in the half of a hollow limb lying on the ground, and looking up, saw great flakes of comb hanging under the other half of the limb on the tree. It had been split down to within a few feet of the trunk in a storm that had passed probably months before. The bees had continued to work there, and now the comb hung about a foot below the wood. The

tree was too high and straight to climb, and the only thing in the shape of an implement we possessed was a rifle. The sugarbag was too tempting to leave, so we tried shooting it. The first bullet through the comb brought down nearly a pint of honey, which we caught in a billy. Then I loaded with pebbles, and took a side shot at the top of the nest. Small pieces of comb were dislodged, and several tiny streams began to trickle down. At the second shot a whole side and a half of splendid comb honey crashed on to the bark we had spread. With that we left the tree. I happened to pass this strange sugarbag again several months afterwards. The bees were till working as before, and a great white comb filled the breach we had made with the rifle shots.

An edifying spectacle often witnessed in the bush is the catching of swarms of wild bees. The hum of a travelling swarm can be heard at a great height, even when the bees cannot be seen. There is no mistaking the sound. As soon as the alarm is given there is an excited rush for tin-kettling instruments, and the whole family sallies forth, running to keep under the swarm, beating a tattoo on tin-dishes, cans, kerosene tins, and such like melodious instruments. When the bees get low enough water is thrown among them, and the flight is over. They quickly bunch on a bush or low limb. Boxing them is simple. One holds the box under the mass, another hits the limb a sharp blow with an axe, and a third, standing ready with a sheet, throws it over the box immediately the cluster drops into it.

Native bees are also plentiful in this part. They are smaller than the house fly, and are stingless. They are nevertheless irritating little insects, swarming upon and crawling over one when their nest is being robbed. The nests are usually in small dead trees, and on an average fairly low down. When high

they are hard to distinguish from flying ants. The bee-hunter gets them between himself and the sun. There is not a great quantity of honey in a nest, but it is a sweet, delicious honey. The comb is in globular lumps, divided into numerous large cells, very different from the ordinary bees. I have taken it from trees in winter in a candied state. There are two kinds of native bee. The Richmond River blacks call them cobbi and booyan. They are about equal in size, but quite different in appearance. The honey too, is different in appearance and flavour. So far as I know, there has never been any attempt to domesticate these little workers. I don't think it would be an easy task to keep them in hives, and they don't comport themselves in a manner, like the other kind, that would assist in boxing them; but if the difficulties in the way could be overcome their honey would command fancy prices.—“S. M. Herald.”

THE GROCER'S PROFIT ON HONEY.

BY WESLEY FOSTER, Boulder, Col.

Grocers tell me that they can not do business on less than 20 per cent. margin. Some figure this on the selling price and some on the cost; 20 per cent. on the selling price is 25 per cent. on cost. If a grocer pays \$2.75 for a 24-lb. case of comb honey he can sell it at 15 cts. straight, and make 85 cts. on it, barring all loss by breakage or candying. This is 31 per cent. profit to the grocer on cost price, which is a liberal profit, and is a much larger profit than grocers make on most things. Very few grocers, I find, are willing to handle comb honey if it costs \$3.00 per case, or 12½ cts., and sells at 15 cts., which gives them a 20 per cent. profit on cost price. They say the loss from candying and breakage is too great, and unless a larger profit is made it does not pay to handle it at

all. The grocer will handle honey on a 20-per-cent. margin if he has calls for it; but I find that not over ten per cent. of the people ever eat honey. There are usually one or two families who take most of any one grocer's honey. If more called for honey the grocers would buy more liberally, and would be content with a smaller margin. The way to get every one to eating honey is to canvass from house to house, giving away samples. Another plan is to demonstrate in grocery stores, giving every one a taste who comes in, and selling the honey for the store in which you demonstrate. I am confident the plan would win in the end. I have seen the increased sale by keeping stores supplied the year round with honey displayed in a prominent place. Let us give every one a taste the way the first bees returning laden do according to E. L. Pratt.—“Gleanings.”

HONEY.—

Supplies are fairly good, but there is not much demand for any other than choice quality, which is selling at 3½d. per lb. Good quality is worth 3d. to 3¼d., while good candied at 2½d. to 2¾d., and prime quality at 3d. is slow of sale.

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