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THE AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

VOL. 6. No. 3.

JUNE 15, 1897.

PER COPY, 6d

Per Annum 5s, booked 6s 6d; in Australasia, outside N.S.W., add 6d. postage.

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As you have now cleaned up all your wax about apiary we can make it up into foundation (medium) for you at 6d a lb. This will give you a chance of having a stock of foundation on hand to start the season. Remember your wax will be thoroughly purified by being melted by our special process.

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Manufacturers of Beekeepers' Supplies,
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8-FRAME HIVES, white pine, rabbetted sides, same pattern and interchangeable with American Dove-tailed Hives in lots of 10.

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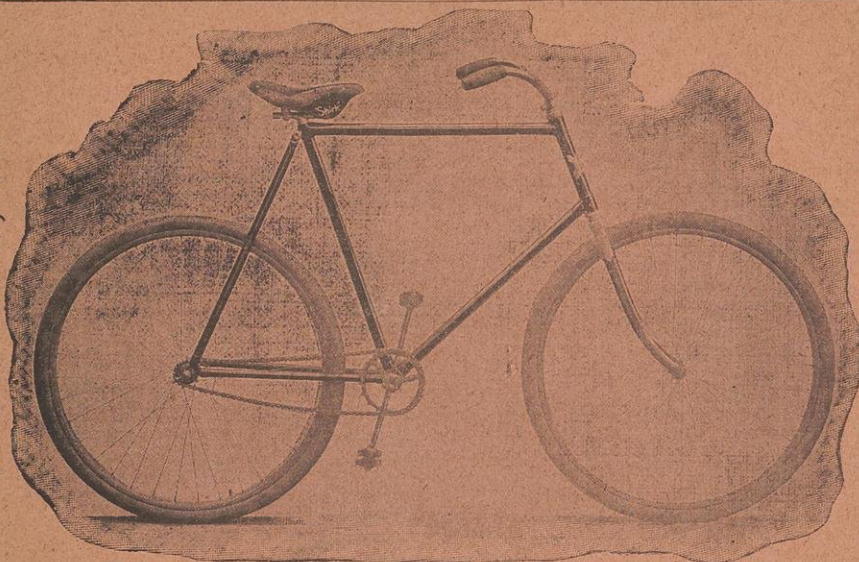
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THE REISCHE FOUNDATION PRESS.—This is without doubt one of the best recent additions to apiarian appliances. Foundation may be made at very slight cost of labour. Capacity 3 to 4lbs. per hour; No other appliance necessary. Foundation made by this process, while somewhat thicker than roller-made, is lighter in texture and more readily accepted by bees.

V-EDGE HOFFMANN FRAMES.—Having put in requisite machinery, we now supply these at slight advance upon ordinary 7/8 Frames.

THE "COLONIAL BEEKEEPER," a handy Primer for Beginners. Price, 1/2 Poste

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FRANKLIN-ST., MELBOUNE.**

A Big Honey Crop.

Is what all Beekeepers want, and to get it you must have good Queens. Upon no other one thing does the honey part of the apiary depend as it does upon the Queen. With a poor Queen, one that you must coax for eggs, your crop will be a failure. We all want good prolific Queens, whose bees are good workers and gentle to handle. After years of experience and constant importations I have succeeded in getting a strain of bees equal to any obtainable. The very best imported mothers only are used, and for industry, gentleness and beauty their bees are unsurpassed. I have a splendid lot of drones, and mismatched queens are rare. 95 per cent. of my Queens proved purely mated last season. You can have your choice, either Leather or Golden.

	1	3	5	10
Untested Queens ..	5/-	13/-	20/-	39/-
Tested Queens ..	8/-	22/-	35/-	65/-
Select Tested (Breeder) 1 for 15/-, 2 for 27/6				

Honey or Beeswax will be taken in payment (if preferred) for all orders of 10s. and upwards. Safe arrival guaranteed to any Post Office in the Australasian Colonies.

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It keeps abreast of every enterprising farmer's daily requirements, enabling him to utilise all modern advantages within his reach.

The subjects dealt with cover the whole field of Agricultural, Pastoral, and Horticultural pursuits, and the legislation affecting these several industries. Its columns contain thoroughly practical as well as scientific information upon all branches of Farm Practice, Tillage, and the Cultivation of Crops, Stock Breeding, and Management of Cattle, Horses, Sheep and Pigs, in health and disease; Dairy Methods upon improved modern lines; Fruit Growing, including the Suppression of Orchard Pests; Poultry Rearing, Special Industries, etc., etc., besides critical Reports of Shows and Market Quotations from every farming centre in the colony.

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Beekeepers may get their Foundation as above on sending their Wax to us direct carriage paid. We will make it up for them at the price stated, and take either Cash or Wax, at market price, in payment. We have never advertised this line of our business before, because we have previously supplied the leading distributing houses in the colony. We are the original Comb Foundation Makers in the colony, and our trade was learnt with leading makers in England. We manufactured over three tons of Foundation last season. Our system is the same as followed out in England, and our Foundation requires less wiring than others.

W. T. SEABROOK & CO.

Orange Blossom Bee Farm, St. Ives, Gordon, N.S.W

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF BEEKEEPERS

(Under the auspices of the New South Wales National
Beekeepers' Association) will be held at the

TEMPERANCE HALL

305 PITT-STREET, SYDNEY, (NEAR PARK-ST.)

— ON —

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

JUNE 23 & 24, 1897.

The following gentlemen have been requested to write or speak on the
subjects opposite their respective names:—

SUBJECT :	PAPERS TO BE READ BY
"Foul Brood" ..	Messrs. Abram (Beecroft), D. Grant (Muswellbrook)
"Adulteration"	Messrs. Tipper (Maitland), Ayerst (Minmi)
"Co-operation"	Messrs. Whittle (Sydney) J. D. Ward
"Bees and Plants"	Mr. Gale
"The necessity of taking steps to preserve our Native Honey-bearing Flora"	Messrs. H. Nancarrow (Wellington), J. E. Taylor (Cowra), C. U. F. Burke (Loyalstone)
"How to prepare Honey and Wax for Market"	Messrs. Seabrook, G. W. Packham (Molong)
"Queen Rearing"	Messrs. F. W. Penberthy (Inverell), Maxwell (Albury)

BEEKEEPERS are reminded that they can avail themselves of SPECIAL
REDUCED RAILWAY FARES issued in connection with JUBILEE
CELEBRATIONS.

All interested in the Industry are specially invited to attend.

H. RAWES WHITTLE, Secretary.

J. D. WARD, Assistant Secretary.



A. PRYAL, in April *Gleanings* gives some account of the Tasmanian blue-gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) now much planted for ornamental trees, also as an enemy of fevers, in America and Europe. He says:—

I do not know of any tree that is easier to raise from seed than is the gum-tree. Of course they will not stand a cold climate, and sometimes even in California a sharp frost is apt to nip the tips of the young plants. For this reason it is well to start the seed under glass in the fall, and in the spring transplant the little seedlings into shallow boxes, say 50 plants in a box 16x20 inches. When a foot high they may be set out where they are to remain. It is always best to set them out where they are to grow up into trees as soon as possible, that the tap-roots that the tree sends deep into the earth may give it that anchorage required to maintain aloft the large amount of trunk and branches that it may spread out.

From what we know of the tree we cannot altogether endorse all he says. Tasmania is the coldest part of the Australias.

Further on he says:—

Generally speaking, the chief aim of the bee-keeper is to sell his honey at highest price possible. To do this his honey must approach nearly a water "whiteness." Yet there are times when honey is of more value to the apiarist than when it is of the character mentioned. This is true in a great measure of eucalyptus honey. The honey is, so far as I have been able to learn from experience, dark, and, when well ripened, thick. Its taste is aromatic and slightly unpleasant, partaking of the tannic and resinous properties of the fluid secretions of the body of the tree. This honey is said to possess medicinal virtues.

The value of this honey to the apiarist lies in the fact that it is produced at a time when his bees are generally sorely in need of winter or early spring stores. One of the greatest causes of loss of bees in this State is the open winters, during which time bees consume much honey, and have little or no chance of gathering any, owing to the want of a supply of native or other flowers at that season of the year. The eucalyptus is the only tree that flowers in California during this period, except the bay, or laurel, which is more of a pollen-producer, as it is not known to yield honey. For this reason the family of eucalypti is a boon to the California apiarist.

We think it our duty to make a few remarks here. Australian honey got a bad name in England for several reasons. One was that some vile schemer put

some eucalyptus essence into some stuff—we cannot say what the stuff was—and called it "Eucalyptus Honey from Australia." Another was that persons who were looked on as representative bee-keepers of Australia, but who knew only possibly the honey in their own immediate locality—tried to open a market in England, to be told their honey was not acceptable. The paragraph above quoted may possibly give another blow to Australian honey.

Now what are the facts? The Tasmanian blue-gum, as its name implies, has its main home in Tasmania. It comes to perfection on the highest lands of Victoria, and Southern New South Wales. The honey from it may be all that the writer above quoted says, and therefore not suitable for exportation, but we wish emphatically to say it is not a typical Australian honey, or a main portion of our honey crop. In fact, we ourselves have never tasted it. Like every other country on the face of the globe, there are good and indifferent honeys in Australia. We have raised and bought and sold pure honeys that would suit and be liked on our own table, but the public taste would require to be educated to make a sale for them; in fact, some we ourselves personally extracted, say from the broad leaved ti-tree we were told was made-up honey! But there are good honeys produced in Australia, we fully believe equal to any in the world. Plenty of lucerne, and ironbark. But what must be the staple honey of Australia, that will hold its own in any market of the world, and can be produced in unlimited quantities, as they are found everywhere, where not ring-barked and cleared off for cultivation and grazing, inside of fifty miles from the coast, is the honey from the box trees. A light honey, dense, of good flavour, but mild. Evidence as to opinions of Englishmen and Americans able to give an opinion on such, have from time to time appeared in our pages. See samples sent from Mr. J. D. Ward to Dr. Miller, in America, in March num-

ber of 1896 ; from Mr. J. Smith, Mount Cotton, to Yorkshire, page 171, Vol. 4 ; and samples we have sent home ourselves. We happen to know one bee-keeper who regularly sends near half a ton home each year to a town in Scotland where it retails at 10d a lb. What is wanted to give a good name to Australian honey is for private individuals who have friends in the large centres of population in the old country to arrange with those friends and send only the very best, possibly only box honey. Should we ourselves be so fortunate as to have a few tons surplus at a future date, we would have no hesitation or anxiety what ever is taking it to the old country, renting a suitable place in the centre of some large town and well advertise Australian honey, to pay all our expenses for the trip and a good surplus. If a few others would do the same it would not be long before the wholesale buyers would find it their policy to puff Australian honey the same as they now possibly puff other honey, even Australian, but won't call it such. And the English honey raisers, so bitter against all foreign honey, while anxious that Australians should open their ports to English goods of all sorts, should remember that the cry now is for Imperial Federation. A federation in which colonial raised articles, including hundreds of tons of honey, of the best quality, now wasted annually in Australian forests, should give homes and happiness to many here who sadly want such, and be taken by Englishmen—our own flesh and blood—in preference to that from countries not under the British flag. These same remarks should apply not only to our honey but also to our wool, our wheat and our horses.

On our way and during our visit to Victoria, we made a few notes respecting the trees in the different parts of the colonies. The red gum round Newcastle is a dark, not well flavoured honey. In Victoria, what is called the red gum is a honey much liked. In Victoria we did

not see many white box, but plenty of grey box. In the north of N. S. Wales, the yellow box came in bloom last year in October, in Albury in November, and Toboorac, Victoria, in January. What is called the Victorian apple tree is a less masculine looking tree than the N. S. Wales one. The honey of the Victorian one is better than that of New South Wales, the buds are different too. In conversation respecting the many kinds of gum and box trees, it was stated some scientists maintain that cross fertilization had not caused such,—it was impossible. We do not profess to be scientists, but as the trees come into bloom at different times of the year to each other, is it not possible in the course of years, as the time of blossoming varies, there are times when some two or three may happen to bloom at one time, and thus be the cause of the different species we allude to ?

To be able to send a large quantity of our honey out of the colonies would be all the better for the sale of what is left. To do such it is advisable, in order to make a demand and a reputation in the countries we export to, to send only the very best. How are these objects to be secured ?

1. By ascertaining what kinds of honey are most likely to suit the markets we propose sending to.

2. That being ascertained, to have a competent person or persons appointed to whom samples of honey could be sent who would give a certificate to such suitable samples and no other.

3. Persons having honey other than such samples be strongly advised not to export.

4. By no means to oppose individual exportation, as there are many large centres of population, and different individuals are personally acquainted with persons in such centres, who could well dispose of their honey at a profit. We know of such being done now.

5. That our Agricultural Shows be utilised to forward same objects, viz :—

a Instead of as now only too often local judges, who know the qualities of their local honey only, judges be chosen who are known to have an acquaintance with the quality most likely to suit the said foreign markets.

b That every exhibitor of honey in entering same, leave a statement with secretary of show, giving the apiary where said honey is raised, and as near as possible the flowers from which it was procured.

Breach of this to exclude the exhibitor from again exhibiting honey.

We do produce a lot of honey that will do well for local consumption, but to send such away as samples of Australian honey injures every beekeeper in the colonies. Such has been done, by persons who evidently did not know the honey was not up to the standard required, and persons who have aspired to social position have done their best among the large English buyers, to find their efforts fruitless, their honey depreciated, and, although they might not have known it, have helped most materially—*perhaps* quite as much as the man who mixed Eucalyptus extract with Glucose—to have given a bad name to Australian honey.

Not only by this means would we be assisting our foreign markets but we would also be educating the general public as to the greater value of the best honey producing sources.

In conclusion, we have honey and plenty of it—equal to any in the world, and it is only through management such as alluded to, we have not a name and a demand for it elsewhere, commensurate with its qualities.

Several good articles unavoidably held over till our next.

"Crumbs," by Australian Yankee is unavoidably held over till our next.

Re work for the month in the apiary we can only call attention to what we said last month. Be sure you are getting ready for the spring, and have plenty of hives for the swarming.

We would call attention to Loyalstone's Suggestion elsewhere. It is a worthy one, and should be taken up well.

We are very sure the beekeepers of N. S. W. will be very glad to read that Mr. J. D. Ward has consented to act as Assistant Secretary to the N. B. K. A. All these who know him will agree with us that he is the very right man in the *very right place*.

We would most earnestly urge beekeepers to attend the Convention in Sydney during the Celebration week. Railway travelling will be cheap. Sydney will be in its best attire, so that there will be ample opportunity for enjoyment as well as doing something to help the bee industry along,—discuss the much vexed Foul Brood question; the matter of adulteration; and why honey is not more used, and a better price received for it. Do your duty to yourselves as well as your fellow beekeepers and be present.

N. B. K. A.

A meeting of committee of the above was held at the rooms of Messrs Hebblewhite and Co., George Street, Sydney, on Friday, the 28th March.

Present:—Messrs Dick, Trahair, Ward, Roberts, Bloxham, Seabrook and Whittell.

Mr. J. S. Dick was voted to the chair.

Proposed by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Bloxham, that a Beekeepers' Convention be arranged for, to be held on June 23 and 24 next. Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Whittell, seconded by Mr. Seabrook, that Mr. J. D. Ward be appointed assistant secretary. Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Trahair, that the committee suggest papers and allot same. Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Bloxham, seconded by Mr. Ward, that country associations be written to, inviting affiliation. Carried.

After careful consideration and discussion it was decided that the following subjects should be brought before the

Convention, and that the following gentlemen be invited to read papers on same :—

SUBJECT.—	PAPER TO BE READ BY—
Foul Brood	Mr. Abram, Beecroft Mr. D. Grant, M'brook
Acclimatisation	Mr. Tipper, A.B.B. Mr. Ayerest, Minmi
Co-operation	Mr. Whittell, Mr. J. D. Ward
Bees and Plants	Mr. Gale
The necessity of taking steps to preserve our native honey producing flora	Mr. H. Nancarrow Mr. J. E. Taylor, Cowra Mr. C. U. T. Burke, Lyndhurst
How to prepare honey & wax for market	Mr. Seabrook Mr G. Packham, Molong
Queen Rearing	Mr. F. W. Penberthy Mr. Maxwell, Albury

Resolved that the annual meeting of members be held during the Conference.

Mr. Trahair proposed and Mr. Roberts seconded—"That Messrs Dick, Whittell, Bloxham, Ward, and Seabrook be a sub-committee to make and carry out all arrangements necessary for the holding of the Convention.

Mr. Trahair proposed and Mr. Bloxham seconded, that the Secretary inform the *Australian Bee Bulletin* of the decision of this meeting and request the editor to give the matter full notice in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

The meeting then terminated.

The above appointed sub-committee met at the close of the meeting, and decided that the first meeting for the transaction of business, should be held at Hebblewhite's rooms, on Thursday, June 3, at 7.30 p.m. The secretary and assistant secretary to, in the meantime, carry out such work as required prompt attention.

A meeting of the sub-committee was held at Hebblewhite's Rooms, George Street, on Thursday, the 3rd instant, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Albert Gale occupied the chair, and there were also present :—Messrs J. S. Dick, G. Bloxham, and J. D. Ward, Assistant Secretary.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. W. T. Seabrook apologising for non-attendance.

The Assistant Secretary reported that full particulars of the proposed Convention had been supplied to the *Australian Bee Bulletin*, and an advertisement had been forwarded for insertion. A good room had been secured at the Temperance Hall, in which to hold the Convention, and various gentlemen had been asked to supply either papers or addresses as per the list drawn up by the committee.

The sub-committee approved of the action taken, and expressed satisfaction at the forward state of the Convention arrangements.

It was resolved that a full committee meeting be called for Thursday the 10th instant, to complete the arrangements.

A Committee Meeting was held at Hebblewhite's Rooms, George-street, on Thursday, 10th June at 7.30 p.m. Present—Mr A. Gale in the chair, and Messrs J. S. Dick, J. Trahair, H. R. Roberts, G. Bloxham and H. R. Whittell, secretary.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly confirmed.

An apology was read from Mr J. D. Ward, whom the secretary announced had given much time and attention to the affairs of the forthcoming Convention.

The report of the sub-committee was unanimously adopted. The report stated that the sub-committee had held two meetings. A room at the Temperance Hall had been engaged at small cost. An advertisement had been supplied to the BEE BULLETIN, which appeared in an extraordinary edition of that paper, together with a condensed report of the previous committee meeting.

All the gentlemen whom it was decided to ask to contribute papers or addresses had been written to, and the secretaries of all the country associations had been written to, directing special attention to the Convention, and inviting them to consider the advisableness of affiliating with the central Association.

Letters of thanks had been written to those gentlemen who had already responded to the request to furnish addresses or papers.

Sundry correspondence was read and received.

It was resolved that a letter of thanks be written to Dr Morris for his kindness in offering the Association every facility in his power, and expressing his willingness to be present at Convention.

Mr Trahair's offer to print programme was received with thanks.

It was resolved that the Honorable the Minister for Agriculture be requested to open the Conference.

Matters of detail connected with the proposed conference were discussed, and left with the secretaries to carry out.

QUESTION NEXT MONTH.

GIPPSLANDER.

112.—Have you experimented with the long idea hive through the past season, and how do you like it? Is it an advantage over the other system?

EVERTON.

113.—Which is best for bees; to contract entrances to hives during winter and other cold days, or leave the full entrance open? I see Roots A. B. C. speaks in favor of full size entrances.

114.—Give your ideas on Loyalstone's Suggestion, page 58

115.—While in Melbourne we were told that a great quantity of honey is adulterated there, and sent to Western Australia. Do you know anything of this, Western Australian beekeepers?

JOHN MOODIE.

116.—What number of hives is sufficient for an apiary in a district where there is no other bee forage except white clover?

AUSTRALIAN YANKEE.

112. In past years I used a number of them, but have now discarded them for two story hives. There are many good points about the long idea hive, but taken all through I prefer the two story hive. Each of my hive bodies measures 15½ x 12 and 12 in. inside.

113. I do not contract the entrances to my hives, unless the colony is very weak. American books are of very little service to us in Australia in regard to wintering, &c.; far better go by the A.B.B.

W. REID.

110. If it is warm enough for bees to work in winter it is warm enough to breed young bees to replace the old bees as they wear out, no instinct about it. Grass will grow if the ground is warm and moist. Abundance of food and warmth and the bees increase.

112. I am of opinion 9 L frames for lower story and 9 ½ depth L frames is the best for this district, extracting only from top story, queen rarely laying in top story.

113. For cold districts I prefer to contract entrances during winter months.

SPARROW.

112. Yes, and don't like them. Think they have only one good point, viz., you can get at the brood-nest just when you like; otherwise I think the two-story hive decidedly better.

113. If you leave the oilcloth quilt on top of the bees I think it better to leave entrance full width, but I think oilcloth quilts very injurious in winter time, if left next the bees in a cold climate like this. I always cover the bees with one or two pieces of blanket and quilt on top and then contract entrance. Have tried both plans but find the latter by far the best.

W. N. Eugowra, 24 May:—The bee industry has failed here for the last three seasons. I can only send a bad report which is better held over. I am keeping bees together as well as I can. Am looking forward for better results next season. Wishing yourself and the A. B. B. every success.

W. R. Jun., Boloko, 24th May:—Many thanks for your attention re lost honey sample, which I sent last month in a 4 oz. glass jar, which I suppose has been detained at G. P. O. Sydney. I propose sending a second sample, about end of this month, next time by rail. As so many of us inexperienced beekeepers are acquainted only with our own local samples. By sending samples on to you, making the *Bee Bulletin* office our centre we would gain knowledge. No doubt the better samples, will, as a rule come from the cold districts and the greater bulk of honey will be raised in the warmer. Two things I would like to see in your paper, (1) Samples of honey being sent from each beekeeper; (2) Largest quantity honey obtained from a single hive each season. My largest return from one hive last summer 237 lbs.

VICTORIAN CONVENTION.

Report of 4th Conference of the Beekeepers' Association of Victoria, held at the Town Hall, Melbourne, on May 25th, 1897

Committee meeting at 10.30 a.m.
Present:—The President in the chair, Messrs Beuhne, Bennet, Bolton, J. McFarlane, Fisher and Secretary.

The Secretary and Treasurer submitted his accounts for past year showing receipts from membership to be:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance from previous year	16	12	1
Petty cash expenditure	8	0	11
Balance	8	11	2

Account passed for payment, E. Tipper, 15s.

CONFERENCE.

Sittings began at 11 o'clock, the President in the chair. Present, about 50 members.

The Chairman stated that this year's Conference would deal with some pressing matters of importance, notably the proposed Foul Brood Act, and he trusted that some solution might be found to the difficulties in the way, and some practical measure result from the present Conference.

The Secretary moved that the minutes of the last Conference be taken as read, copies of which were distributed among the members. Carried.

The Secretary and Treasurer's report was then read:—

The minutes of the last Conference as now adopted show that we at that sitting affirmed the necessity of certain rules for guidance, which should give us a working basis.

After experience for the past two seasons, I am under the impression that this basis is not sufficiently well laid to insure stability for our Association. I think it is lacking in this respect—That the whole body of beekeepers need to be drawn together in a more representative way, and this may only be done by district Association, so that in place of each individual member simply representing himself, and his particular interest or opinions, different districts should be represented, and the requirements of such districts be voiced by a majority of local beekeepers. Seeing the desirability of uniting all interests which can only effectively be done locally this appears to me to be the only way of attainment.

Information regarding matters of general interest, may, by such means be gathered and sent forward to the Conference. Statistics gathered, and membership increased.

As we stand at present we do not truly represent the honey industry, seeing that those outside our ranks out-number those within our membership. In view of getting a workable Foul Brood Act passed it is highly desirable that our Association should more fully represent the whole interest.

At the last Conference a Committee of Advice was nominated. With one or two exceptions the members of this committee have not penned one single line to the secretary during the past two years, which simply shows the worth of such committee in its present form.

HONEY EXPORT. The total amount of honey exported by the members of association under the bonus regulations amounted to about 25 tons, while that shipped by those outside amounted to 40 tons.

The net returns were very various, and I feel constrained to think that the whole business was a mistake, and now acts prejudicially against us. Regarding complaints of leakage in handling, supposed to be caused through improper

packing, I can safely say that such was not the case. The whole trouble arose through methods of handling as testified by the fact that while many consignments arrived intact others in the same shipment suffered badly. It largely arose from rough handling in and out of the slings, the pressure of the ropes telling upon such cases as received the pressure. In this matter I lost more heavily than any other shipper.

ADULTERATION OF HONEY.—So far I have had no cause to think that there has been any adulteration produced in Melbourne till of late. This week I have purchased a sample which I now produce, which I think should be analysed.

FOUL BROOD.—At the last Conference a motion carried to effect that "the utmost efforts of the Association be put forth towards the attainment of some simple law, having the purpose of checking the spread of Foul Brood." At that time no direction was given to me to move in this matter. This affirmation being now confirmed we shall be in position to go further in the matter at the present Conference.

Our membership roll nominally represents 110 members of whom 86 paid subscriptions in 1892; 42 in 1893; 6 in 1894; 106 in 1895; and 12 since who have paid up to date. Our funds have been sufficient for our past requirements but we should do well to provide a nest egg.

After discussion the report was adopted upon the motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Jas. McFarlane.

Balance sheet for past year was read and accepted. The President read a telegram from Mr. W. Abram of Parramatta, conveying best wishes for the success of the Conference.

Correspondence was read from the following members: Messrs Eastlake, Adams, Bomford, Wortley, H. Russell, Rev. J. Wilson and Mrs. Warren, containing expressions of regret in consequence of inability to attend the Conference and suggesting various matters for the consideration of the members assembled.

Notices of motion were given relating to the following subjects, by:—

T. Bolton.—*Adulteration of Honey.*

E. W. Wortley.—*Ringbarking of Timber.*

H. J. Wilson.—*Duty on Apiarian Goods.*

The Secretary read a letter from the Traffic Manager of Victorian Railways granting an extension of time to members attending Conference, return tickets to be presented for endorsement.

The first item for discussion was then introduced by the Secretary, viz.,

A WORKABLE BASIS FOR OUR ASSOCIATION

The following suggestions were submitted:—

NAME. The Beekeepers Association of Victoria.

COMPOSITION. All directly or indirectly engaged in apiarian pursuits, may become members by enrollment upon payment of 2/6 a year to the secretary, or any further sum as may be agreed upon by a majority vote given in Conference.

OBJECTS. (a) To increase the production of honey in Victoria. (b) To render assistance to all interested. (c) To disseminate information connected with the production of honey. (d) To seek such legislation as will be helpful to all beekeepers.

MEANS TO ATTAIN. (1) The colony to be divided into 27 districts as marked on map shown commencing at the North West corner and ending at the South East corner bounded by the degrees of latitude and longitude, and numbered 1 to 27. Within these boundaries any number of beekeepers not less than three may combine to form a District Association which shall possess representative power at the yearly Conference as shall hereafter be defined. All such associations to elect their own officers, and a corresponding Secretary who shall advise the general Secretary regarding all matters of mutual interests.

(2) A central committee shall be elected at the general Conference, comprising, President, 2 Vice Presidents, 3 ordinary members, and Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold office until the following Conference.

The duties of the Central Committee shall be to execute the decision of the Annual Conference, and generally to forward the interests of the Association.

The Central Committee shall hold their meetings as occasion requires, and at such places as they may decide. They shall also fix the date upon which the general Conference shall be called together.

They shall have the power to refuse admission to any applicant, who in the interests of the Association shall be deemed an undesirable member.

ADDITION, AMENDMENT, ALTERATION. Any addition, amendment, or alteration of by-laws shall be made at a general Conference, after notice of motion lodged with the secretary 14 days before the sitting of Conference.

After a lengthy discussion Clause A. was amended to read: "To promote the Beekeeping industry of Victoria."

Clause B. "To render assistance to all members of Association."

Clause C. was struck out.

Clause D was passed in its form.

The proposal to subdivide the colony into 27 districts, bounded by the degrees of latitude and longitude was not endorsed, but upon the motion of Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Wilson, further discussion of the matter was adjourned until the provisions of the Foul Brood Act had been discussed.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Ballanger that no evening sitting be held. Carried.

After lunch the sitting of Conference was resumed at 2 p.m.

Owing to the indisposition of the President, he asked to be relieved of the duty of chairman for the afternoon.

Upon the motion of the Secretary, Mr. E. Tipper was requested to act as chairman.

Mr. Tipper assenting, said he took the opportunity of conveying the well wishes of the beekeepers of New South Wales to those of this colony with fraternal congratulations and good wishes for present Conference.

The copies of the Draft Bill submitted by the Bacchus Marsh Association having been distributed and read aloud by the Secretary, its clauses were discussed at length. After many amendments were introduced, the matter was referred to a committee of the following members who were asked to consider the whole matter and bring forward a draft bill, viz, Messrs Bolton, Ballanger, W. L. Davey, Willyan, Hollis, Beuhne, and Sunderman, the committee to meet at nine o'clock the following morning.

Conference re-assembled at 11 o'clock a.m. on May 26th. The President in the chair.

The committee entrusted with the draft bill, submitted the result of their deliberations, the clauses of which were read by the secretary. After some amendments and alterations it was read and agreed to and Messrs Bolton and Beuhne were requested to bring forward a precise copy after lunch.

Sitting continued at 2.30 p.m. Mr E. Tipper in the chair.

The amended clauses of the proposed Foul Brood Bill were now read and

agreed to. In consequence of the clause relating to interference with hives Mr. Ellery pointed out that the title of the bill would need altering as that clause was outside of the question of Foul Brood. It was therefore agreed that the bill should be entitled "An Act to Prevent the spread of Contagious Diseases among Bees and for the protection of the Beekeeping Industry."

It was agreed that the honorary solicitors for the Association, Messrs Cole and Morris, be requested to put these resolutions into presentable form for presentation to the Government, the central committee being chargeable with the duty of presentation to the Minister of Agriculture, requesting that a short bill be introduced to carry out the provisions of the desired Act.

The subject of a workable basis for the Association was re-introduced, and on the motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Mackay, it was decided to reject the proposition of the secretary, regarding the sub-division of the colony into districts, bounded by the degrees of latitude and longitude, and substitute the electoral country divisions, the secretary to endeavour to secure the formation of district associations within these boundaries.

Ringbarking of timber was the next subject considered. Evidence having been given of the wanton destruction of timber upon Crown leases, the following gentlemen were charged with the duty of bringing the subject under the notice of the Minister of Lands: Messrs Bolton, McFarlane, and Wilson, together with the President and Secretary, who were directed to ask for the stringent enforcement of the provisions of the existing Forests Act, calling attention to the constant infringement of this Act by many lease-holders of Crown lands.

The secretary was also instructed to make arrangements whereby these gentlemen might be able to report to the recently appointed Government board who are to review the subject of timber destruction.

Adulteration of Honey.—A sample of honey recently purchased in Melbourne was exhibited, its price suggesting that it could not be pure. The secretary was instructed to obtain an analysis of it and report to the central committee for further action if necessary.

Import Duties upon Beekeepers' Supplies.—It was considered a hopeless case to attempt anything in this direction.

The following gentlemen were nominated and appointed to form the Central Committee and hold office for the coming year, viz., Mr. R. J. Ellery, as President on the motion of Mr. Sergeant, seconded by Mr. Ballanger; Messrs T. Bolton, and G. Hollis, Vice-Presidents; H. H. Davey, J. McFarlane, and W. Farquhar as members of committee.

Proposed by Mr. H. H. Davey, seconded by Mr. Willyan, that Mr. L. T. Chambers be appointed secretary and treasurer for the ensuing year. Carried.

Upon the motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Sergeant, the sum of two guineas was voted to the secretary as a slight token of their appreciation of his services in the past.

The secretary was directed to take steps towards registering the Association under the Registration Act, and if in the event of it being found necessary that the secretaryship should be a paid office, the nominal sum of one guinea per annum should be so applied.

The secretary asked for a vote of 10/6 for the hall keeper. Granted.

Votes of thanks were accorded as follows:—

To the Bacchus Marsh Association for their efforts in the direction of the introduction of a Foul Brood Bill.

To Mr. E. Tipper, editor of the *Australian Bee Bulletin*, for his able assistance to our Association, in all matters apianian. This was acknowledged by various members who warmly complimented Mr. Tipper upon the production of such a useful and creditable journal.

The meeting then adjourned *sine die*.

EXPORT OF VICTORIAN BEESWAX & HONEY FROM THE STATISTICS OF THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

BEESWAX.		HONEY.	
QUANTITY	VALUE.	QUANTITY	VALUE.
1893 321 cwt.	£1611	17426 lbs.	£337
1894 295 "	£1317	14571 "	£243
1895 869 "	£4372	204435 "	£2286
1896 207 "	£1116	34705 "	£673
1897 first qutr } 56 "	£320	2487 "	£37

PREVIOUS THREE YEARS.

1890	21 cwt. beeswax	value £113
1891	157 cwt. "	" £564
1892	233 cwt. "	" £1163

These figures are interesting as they form a basis by which the production of honey may be gauged from year to year. The calculation being upon the basis of wax export. Making allowance for home consumption and waste, the probable production of wax is in the neighbourhood of 100 tons, in 5 years, equal to 20 tons per year. Honey in proportion, 20 to 1, 400 tons per year. The bulk of which goes into local consumption. A good season such as 1895 doubles the average. If you will also supply the Customs Statistics for the same years in N.S.W. and other colonies we shall obtain a pretty accurate view of the whole industry.

Yours, etc.,
T. L. CHAMBERS.

THE PROPOSED VICTORIAN FOUL BROOD ACT.

An Act to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among bees, and for the protection of the beekeeping industry, in Victoria.

Clause 1. That the Central Committee of the Beekeepers' Association of Victoria shall have full power to carry out the provisions of this Act, and to make the necessary regulations for so doing, and to nominate the necessary inspecting officers.

Clause 2. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act all persons having on their premises one or more hives of bees shall register the number of the same with the duly authorised person, and shall pay a registration

fee of sixpence and in addition one penny for each stock of bees. This amount shall be due on the 1st June in each year, and shall be paid on application of the person authorised to collect the same.

Clause 3. Any person having Foul Brood or any other contagious disease amongst his bees shall take such steps for the eradication of such disease, and within such specified time, as the properly authorised person may direct, and in default of his taking such steps, the properly authorised person may destroy or cause to be destroyed all such hives and bees, and no person shall knowingly and wilfully sell or give away or leave exposed to the access of bees any hives colonies of bees or appliances from any apiary infected with Foul Brood or other contagious disease, or after having received notice from the properly authorised person of the existence of such disease in such apiary.

Clause 4. No person whatsoever shall leave exposed to the access of bees any honey-comb or honey.

Clause 5. No person shall rob any nest of wild bees between the months of May and August inclusive and then only after giving three days notice to all beekeepers within a radius of three miles, or committing any other action calculated to spread Foul Brood or any other contagious disease.

Clause 6. Any person or persons overturning or interfering with any hive or hives of bees, the property of any beekeeper shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £5.

Clause 7. Providing for penalties to be provided by legal draughtsman

S. V., Prebbleton, N. Z., May 10th :
When putting honey up in small tins, is it usual to put it up gross or nett weight.

It is usual to fill the tins as supplied by the manufacturers. It would be as well to weigh them, however, occasionally, to see what they really do hold.

HONEY IMPORTS.

IMPORTED INTO N. S. WALES.

Country from	1894 lbs.	1894 £	1895 lbs.	1895 £	1896 lbs.	1896 £
Vic.	3383	82	4420	79	5781	112
Q'land.	350	7	294	5	14258	169
S. Aus.	41444	587	47798	542	47729	833
U. King.			56	3		
Tas.					60	1
N.Z.					192	2
Totals	45177	676	52568	629	68020	1117

EXPORTS.

To	1894	1895	1896
Victoria	327	66	2709
Q'land	1464	672	1031
W. Aus.	72	96	90
N. Z.	120	112	
U. Kingdom	10224	8437	2640
Canada	130	S. A. 208	312
Fiji	72	540	384
India	72	Gr'm'y 1120	N. Brit 368
Ceylon	216	420	B'gm 15792
France	72	80	N. G. 896
New Cal	216 & 72	144	112
M'sh'l Is	112	C. Col 420	112
S. Sea Is	72	189	
	13241 lbs	12504 lbs	24437 lbs
	£197	£157	£314

BEESWAX IMPORTS.

IMPORTED INTO N. S. WALES FROM

Country from	1894 Quan.	1894 Val.	1895 Quan.	1895 Val.	1896 Quan.	1896 Val.
Victoria	33lbs	£1	14	£1		
Q'land	319	12	1475	17		
S. Aus.	279	13	224	10		
Tasmania	184	7	138	6		
U. King.	448	11	150	2		
Germany	562	17				
U. States			455	8		
Totals	1825	61	2396	44	1148	31

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Year.	lbs.	Value
1894	1825	£61
1895	2396	44
1896	1148	31

EXPORTED FROM N. S. WALES.

Country to	1894 Quan.	1894 Val.	1895 Quan.	1895 Val.	1896 Quan.	1896 Val.
Victoria	12932		688			
U. King.	26783		39069			
HongKong	445		58			
New Cal.	45		Fiji 150			
Germany	56		6548			
New Brit.	25					
Italy	340		N.Z. 644			
U. S. A.	112					
Totals	40738	£1714	47157	£2222	42446	£2130

SUMMARY OF EXPORTS.

Year.	lbs.	Value.
1894	43078	£1714
1895	47157	£2222
1896	42446	£2130

GLUCOSE.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

	Liquid cwt.	Value. £	Solid cwt.	Value. £
1894	5986	2908	1454	851
1895	7101	3561	1543	919
1896	13342	6002	6262	3333

EXPORTS,

1894	1236	893	301	238
1895	519	359	265	198
1896	1707	1008	142	93

14/- per cwt. 20/- to 22/- per cwt
5 cwt. packages.

IMPORTS INTO N.S.W. 1896

GLUCOSE, LIQUID AND SYRUP.

From	Quantity cwt.	Value. £
Victoria	417	251
South Australia	24	23
United Kingdom	197	113
United States	12704	5615
Total	13342	6002

SOLID.

From	cwt.	£
Victoria	425	237
South Australia	2	2
United Kingdom	100	60
Ceylon	98	57
Belgium	39	20
Germany	3969	2172
United States	1629	785
Total	6262	3333

EXPORTS OF GLUCOSE
FROM N. S. W.

1896.

Liquid Syrup.	Quantity Other Pduce	Total	Value. Other Pduce	Total
To	cwt.		£	£
Vic.	167		96	
Q'land	371		225	
S. A.	6		4	
W. A.	181		103	
Tas.	209		123	
N. Z.	773		457	

1707 1707 1008 1008

SOLID.

To	cwt.	cwt.	£	£
Vic.	22		16	
Q'land	24		19	
N. Z.	10		8	
U. Kdm	86		50	

112 142 93 93

A FORTNIGHT FROM
HOME

By midday train on Wednesday, the 19th May, we left Willow Tree for the Muswellbrook Show. We have seen many honey displays before, but none so extensive and well got up as this. The Muswellbrook beekeepers deserve every credit for their get up, and we are pleased to hear it is determined to hold a Convention there next year. We wish it every success. As the train for South leaves at five o'clock every morning, we were up soon after four. Our mate in the train had ridden 25 miles to catch it for he had received news of the sudden death of his mother in Sydney. That evening we attended the celebration of the Golden Wedding of a worthy old couple in Greta, at which were present a goodly number of their children and grand children and most of the leading residents of the district. Next day a few hours were spent with the elder members of our family at our printing house in West Maitland, and then for Sydney, stopping on the way to dine at Beecroft with that veteran beekeeper, Mr. W. Abram. As we were going to the Melbourne Convention he gave us a sample of orange blossom honey of most delicious flavour to take with us. While in Sydney we paid a visit to Mr Seabrook's apiary at St. Ives. He told us he had been very successful at his apiary at Wattle Flat, also that he fully believed (what we had somewhat doubted) that 30 tons had been raised in one apiary near that same place during the past season. We left Sydney by night express train for Melbourne. The distance is 576 miles and is now accomplished by the express train in 17 hours. At Albury, the border town, is a very long platform. Leaving our carriage, and walking along same, we found a number of persons on their knees with their carpet bags or other luggage open, a wave of the hands from some officials at the same time warning us to assume same position. We had, however, nothing on which to pay duty, and passed on

to the Victorian Railway carriages close at hand. It was now daylight.

The Victorian railway carriages are scarcely so complete and comfortable as those of New South Wales, possibly because there are not the long distances to travel, and the gauge of rail is slightly larger. For some 30 or 40 miles from the border seemed to us to be very good bee country—plenty of box trees. Coming from the part of New South Wales we had, where we are accustomed to see train after train loaded with coal or sheep and cattle, and wool, it seemed strange to see a large proportion here loaded with billet wood, for city consumption, or rabbits on their way to the London markets. At one station we were told over 2000 rabbits had been put in train that morning.

We broke our journey at Seymour, 61 miles from Melbourne, where we waited for an hour, then took the suburban on to Melbourne, and at Wollan, 29 miles from Melbourne, were joined by Messrs Beuhne, Willyan, and Bennet, well-known Victorian Beekeepers. It was some 37 years previously that we had been in Melbourne for three years, and so were bound to notice some of the changes that had taken place. The substitution of the elegant cable trams for the old back to back cars, with the constant nasal cry of "Pran, Pran," or "Skilda, Skilda," &c., &c., as they ranged in long rows alongside the footpath in Bourke or other streets, with their numerous lamps making things look lively indeed. The much wanted rain was now pouring in torrents, but no open drain, with curved iron bridges over now carried the waters down the sides of the footpaths, at times quite flooding Elizabeth and Swanston Streets, making crossing at times impossible. Those drains are now covered. Then Princes Bridge was a narrow structure, on which as we went home from our work, at a daily paper, at two or three o'clock in the morning, we would often be met by a mob of cattle, and have to seek for refuge. Government house was at Toorak

and the site of the present palace was a waste piece of ground. South Melbourne was like an island in the middle of a big waste. Carlton Gardens was then also a barren waste piece of ground.

Well, next day at ten o'clock we were at the trysting place, the Town Hall. Mr Ellery, late Government Astronomer, President of the Victorian B. K. A. was present, and we had the inexpressible pleasure of looking in the faces and shaking hands with friends whom we have known well by correspondence, but not personally. On a table at the side were a number of odds and ends brought by various beekeepers. Mr. Beuhne brought a sample of Foul Brood; Mr. McFarlane, sample yellow box and other honies, also his extracting case, some six feet long, with wire screen at bottom; Mr. Fisher a drone trap of his own making; ourselves, sample of yellow box honey, also orange blossom honey from Mr. Abram, and a book of photographs of apiaries, and specimens of bee fodder bloom; Mr. Chambers a wax press of Mr. Beuhne's design, which we will describe later on. Some other samples of honey were also exhibited, but we were not able to get the names of the exhibitors. The business commenced by the reading of the report of the energetic secretary and treasurer, Mr. Chambers. The financial statement was satisfactory, showing a balance of £8 9s 2d. Mr. Chambers also explained the reason why a convention was not called last year. The new constitution was discussed and agreed on. A Foul Brood Bill, submitted by the Bacchus Marsh B. K. A. was also discussed and got ready to hand to legal gentlemen to fit it for presentation to the legislature; and officers elected for the ensuing year. Mr. Ellery is an invalid and was unable to sit as chairman in the afternoons of the two days, and a very high compliment was passed not only to New South Wales but to this journal by appointing its representative chairman during that time, and at the close passing a very warm vote of thanks (several

most eulogistic speeches being delivered) to him.

We received several very kind invitations to visit apiaries, some of which we will keep warm till next time we visit Victoria. We, however, became the guest, for two days, of Mr. Beuhne, of Tooborac, some 60 odd miles from Melbourne. Mr. Beuhne is a native of Germany, where as a youth he had considerable experience in a wholesale chemistry. He escaped the conscription on account of an accident in which he had a foot injured. Came to Australia, and, 12 years ago, seeing some articles on beekeeping, and becoming acquainted with an extensive beekeeper named Garrett, he got the bee fever. He has now some 150 hives on an allotment adjoining a Government Forest Reserve, two miles from the railway station. There is plenty of bee forage, yellow box, stringy bark, red gum, appletree and heath, and wattle shrubs. The red gum is a different tree to what we know as such in the coastal districts of New South Wales. The apple tree also has a less masculine look and the honey is of a better quality than in the northern parts of New South Wales. His hives are arranged in sets of three, each facing a different direction. He is a good mechanic, and nearly everything connected with the place is made by him, including the house, his hives and frames. He is an expert with the soldering iron, verified by a small steam engine he uses to make steam to reduce candied honey. In his honey house everything was nicely arranged, shelves, &c., being well provided to heap spare hives, and honey tins in good order. We were very interested in his wax press of which he gave us a specimen of how he worked it. It consists of a strong box inside of which is a tin with tube at bottom, out of which the wax and water are pressed. Inside the tin are placed sides and bottom of wood, corrugated with slats of wood. A canvas bag inside again, into which he pours, say cappings—the bag being folded down on top. A screw some two feet long is

now brought to bear on a stout board placed top of the bag, and all the honey is pressed out clean, leaving a solid cake of wax, which can be remelted if necessary. He took 18 old combs, and, by boiling with water, well melted them. Then poured all into the aforesaid bag, the screw applied, and the wax thoroughly well squeezed out goes into a trough in front. In the latter is a tube from the bottom to an exit near the top, so that if more runs in the trough than it would hold, it is not the wax that runs over but the water at the bottom. Next morning a cake of yellow wax, 4½ lbs weight, was the result of the 18 combs $\frac{3}{4}$ Langstroth size. He considers no wax whatever goes to waste this way. He told us Mr. Chambers is getting a number of them made. We feel assured they will add much to the produce of many an apiary. He is a thorough believer in queen excluding zinc and queen clipping. He hives his swarms in half supers, with starters, as bees secrete wax for several days after swarming more than any other time. He places full supers with full foundation on; after a time putting the latter below and the half hive above. He told us he had experimented with some new American foundation, but would not think of getting any more. Too much pressure had been used in its manufacture, so it was too compressed, and the bees would not work in it as they would in the roller foundation. Mrs. Beuhne is a native of Melbourne, and they are blessed with two sweet children, a little boy of ten, and a little girl of five. The former has to go two miles to school. It is too far for the little girl yet. This is one of the disadvantages a beekeeper has to put up with. Mr. Beuhne studies labour saving appliances. He uses a Bingham knife with a blade one foot long, so that it goes right across the comb, and while he is uncapping he is working his extractor with his foot—by means of a treadle. He numbers his hives by means of square numbered tablets hung on the hives, and which can be shifted from hive to hive if necessary.

We came by train to Albury, the train arriving at 9.15 p.m., where we were met by Mr. F. A. Maxwell and two of his sons, and driven to his comfortable residence, some mile and a quarter from the town. A welcome supper and a sound night's rest, a stroll round the hives after breakfast. He has altogether 280 swarms of bees. He uses eight frame hives and is going to try the long idea. They are well arranged on the side of a hill, interspersed with fruit trees; are on brick stands, and every hive has a sheet of iron on top, weighted with bricks. His honey house is very complete. On one side of the uncapping tin is an iron trough some six feet long, to place the full combs as they are brought from the hives; on the other side another one to receive the combs that have been capped. He has a four frame Stanley extractor, and adjoining it two tanks, each capable of holding 30 cwt of honey. He uses a solar extractor of his own design. The place is very complete with shelves and racks for spare combs and hives. Of the latter he has an immense quantity. In the morning we strolled to the local water works and its engine house. We had a good look at the town, in which Mr. Maxwell has resided many years. Described the many changes that has taken place during that time, and amongst other things showed us the monument of the explorer, Hume, who first crossed the Murray River in 1820. We paid a visit to the apiary of Mr. Frankenfelder, also that of Mr. Charles Maxwell, at Black Ranges. Next day we crossed the Murray to Wodonga, to the apiary of Mr. Bassett. Mr. Bassett is Chairman of the Shire Council, quite a "daddy" at beekeeping, having some 50 hives, which give him at times knotty problems to solve, and thinks it very ridiculous to keep bees without using queen excluding zinc.

Two days pleasantly and instructively spent, and we leave by 11.15 p.m. train for Sydney, arriving there in 12 hours time, to be more than pleased with the news that the committee of the N.B.

K. A. had met and decided on holding a Convention, particulars of which we give elsewhere. In 24 hours more we are at home.

A SUGGESTION.

BY LOYALSTONE.

There is a lot of controversy in the *Bulletin* about different diseases etc, among the bees. And I think the best way to bring such matters to a head would be as follows: (that is if those interested would assist). Give a prize of 10s 6d or £1/1/- for the best essay on different matters connected with bees. Such essay which takes the prize, to be published in the A. B. B. together with the next two best. To start the ball rolling, Mr. Editor, if you are agreeable I will give a prize of 10s 6d (I would like to see some other beekeeper add another 10s 6d), for the best essay on Foul Brood to be written under the following conditions: (1) All essays to give cause and cure of Foul Brood, and scientific terms only to be used where absolutely necessary. (2) All essays to contain no more words than will go into 2½ columns of small print in the A. B. B. (3) Unsuccessful competitors may have their MSS returned on sending stamped addressed envelope to the Editor A. B. B. (4) The Editor of A. B. B. to select the judges from among beekeepers of experience whose decision will be final. And lastly, the three best essays to be published in the A. B. B.

I would leave it to you, Mr. Editor, to make any alterations you may think fit, also to the time allowed to send in essays. If you think it likely to be a success, and you are willing to take it up, I will forward you the half-guinea on receipt of your reply to this. By getting beekeepers to subscribe so much you might be able to have an essay on every important subject connected with bees, such as Paralysis, Spring-dwindling, Dysentery, Queen-rearing, raising the price of honey, etc. You might open up a list through the medium of the A. B. B.

and see if beekeepers will subscribe to it, and offer as the funds will allow so much for each essay, but I don't think any thing less than 10s 6d would pay, and £1/1/- would be so much better. By-the-bye I find no beekeepers replied to my article on Foul Brood in the last September number of the A. B. B. I suppose they found the nuts too hard to crack. And in the December number of A. B. B., Mr. McEvoy is of my opinion that Foul Brood is caused by dead brood and dead bees.

GRANULATED HONEY.

BY RICHARD HELMS.

A considerable amount of discussion on the subject of granulation has been going on in nearly every bee paper, and occasionally the matter has been treated as a great trouble. Probably the consumers being ignorant of a good quality is the cause of the objection to a granulated honey. Many, no doubt, imagine that granulated honey is adulterated, whilst, to the contrary, it is the reverse and almost an infallible test of its purity. For my own part, I prefer granulated honey, and so do many others for the same reason, simply on account of the confidence this state conveys of eating a pure article.

All pure honey will granulate sooner or later; it entirely depends upon the quantity of moisture contained in it. Crystallization (and granulation is the crystallization peculiar to honey) depends upon an exact amount of water combining with the minute particles a substance is composed of. A small quantity plus or minus prevents or destroys crystallization. All sugars, besides, are hygroscopic, which means that they have power to absorb water from the air. Therefore any honey exposed to the atmosphere, which need not be direct, will granulate in time; for, according to circumstances it will either yield to the air its surplus of water, or it will absorb from it as much as will combine according to natural laws.

Now to destroy crystallization. All that is necessary is to abstract or add a small quantity of water. In the case of honey this can be easily accomplished. As however, the addition of water is far more troublesome, the abstraction is the recommended. By very gently heating honey to no more than 100 F. neither its colour nor its flavour will be impaired and the object successfully accomplished. Such gradual heating, it must however be borne in mind, is impossible to accomplish by direct heat, and can only be done in a hot water bath of the given temperature. When once the the granulation is checked or destroyed in this manner it does not readily form again, particularly if the honey is kept in airtight vessels.

THE NAMING OF BEE DISEASES.

BY RICHARD HELMS.

Every now and again someone comes forward and discusses bee-diseases; more particularly "Bee Paralysis" during late years. This seems to be natural enough as it is the latest trouble of consequence of the kind, but, although a few have recommended cures, even infallible ones, the fact remains, that the disease is doing considerable damage still. Not only is this the case in Australia but in America as well. By far the greater number who have written about it, it is remarkable to notice, have found fault with the name but have helped in no way to throw light upon the subject, or how to suppress this disease. Some make it appear as if the wrong terminology prevented all further progress, whilst in reality this faultfinding merely serves to cover the utter neglect of investigating the trouble, which some are prone to profess of having done. One however, merely imitates the other; as the proverb has it, "one makes many." Now the meaning of paralysis is "loss of power of motion." This loss may be sudden or gradual, general or partial, acute or mild; it may be caused by a

rupture of a blood vessel in the brain, emanate from the spinal cord, or through a complexity of diseases of the vital organs; but paralysis it is all the same. The particular cause does not deserve consideration as far as the correctness of the name is concerned; only when the character of the disease for pathological reasons requires to be determined special value is attached to it.

Anyone who has a knowledge of the features of the disease will, I feel sure, agree to the applicability of the name. I feel no hesitation in adopting it as I found it, which besides had already become popular when first I made myself acquainted with the disease. Not only would no advantage be gained by a change, but it would actually suppress an extremely appropriate term. As regards the name of another disease, I undertook to change it on account of its absurdity. Still I should not have done so had the term been widely adopted. I am alluding to the term "hairless" disease, which was applied to a common enough disease in Australia and which by many is confounded with paralysis, although quite distinct from it. How can a "disease" be hairless? The disease is the cause of bees becoming hairless and therefore is "dehairing" the bees. "Depilating" means the same as dehairing but it sounds better. Moreover Cheshire who discovered the cause of the disease named the microbe *Bacillus depilus* before he changed it—in my opinion unwarrantably—to *Bacillus Gaitone*. in order to perpetuate the name of Miss Gaiton who was the first to send him bees suffering from the disease.

Perhaps the most absurd idea, as far as bee diseases are concerned, is the application of "Foul Brood" as it is generally adopted. How can we justify the saying "bees suffer from Foul Brood," or a "worker drone" or "queen" has Foul Brood. The fact is that all the inmates of the hive are subject to certain disease, which is preponderantly fatal to the more tender brood,

and which rarely can resist it but generally succumbs, and later becomes rotten, and produces a foul pestilential odour. "Foul Brood" as commonly understood is, strictly speaking, a logical absurdity. Nevertheless it would be pedantic, to say the least of it, were we to attempt changing a name which is so universally adopted and known, merely for the sake of being exact. Would it help us in the least to get rid of this serious trouble? I vow, not!

Pointing out this I merely mean to show that there is room for improvement in other names besides "paralysis" and I would remind those who are so ready to cavil over the correctness of the term, and very wrongly as I have pointed out, that it would serve apistic knowledge far more were they to devote their time and intellect to some practical investigation in order to discover a rational treatment of this disease.

J. H., Eglinton, Bathurst, 8th May.—I received your valuable paper and was pleased to note its improvement in matter theoretical and useful. I presume the object of your sending our old friend the *Bee Bulletin*, is that you would like a line on our pets from this cold and arid district. I have resided here nine years and I have not seen everything look so miserable, nor the district so desolate as at present. We have had no rain for nine months, and in quantity and regularity for three years. I live entirely among the cultivation area, consequently am dependent for honey supply from corn, wheat, orchards, lucerne, and the carduns family, and these have been a failure for three years, for when the crops flowered there was no rain or dew to fill the nectary, consequently honey has been a failure. I am of opinion that dew is an abject essential ingredient for a honey flow. Heavy rain only washes the nectar out. Three years ago during flowering season there was heavy rain and the flow of honey was nil; the two next years there was no dew, consequently no

honey. Bees have been only able to live. If you robbed the honey it meant loss of bees. I have not taken five tins of honey for three years, and have reduced my stock to nil (five colonies). Around the town of Bathurst friends have been a little more successful, but the supply has not been even an average one. If there were a regular rain fall I am not egotistical when I say that the honey from this district would top the market here, and I am sure in England, for I have proved it. I am two miles from the nearest bush, and as clearing is the order of the day, have no eucalyptus order to fall back on, failure in crops means failure all round. There are apiaries more favoured, which get their supplies from both crop and bush, and others from bush only. Wattle Flat is only twenty miles distant, and here as I see you are already informed, the supply is abundant. The country is white box, and the supply though late, constant; and any person desiring to start an apiary around Bathurst should go about twenty or thirty miles distant. I did all I could to further the industry here, but all the friends who have invested money, and given time within a radius of two or three miles of Bathurst, have nothing to record but failure. So the prospects of the industry being remunerative may be said to be nil. A friend has just returned from Dubbo, and he states that the returns are nil from that locality this year. My best wishes to all energetic apiarists. If you live in a favoured locality go in and make it a lucrative business. I am glad beyond measure to notice the success of friend Seabrook. May he further succeed.

"Sparrow," Braidwood:—I just want to enter my protest against so much rubbish being published every month in the A. B. B. I like to read my *Bulletin* from cover to cover when I get it for fear I might miss something worth a whole years subscription if I did not. But to do this I am compelled to read a lot of trash that should go to the W.P.B. For instance in a recent issue a correspondent takes up a whole page to explain

how he started the season with two hives of bees, and now he has increased to eight, just fancy a whole page for that. Then look at the last issue and you will find a column and a half, and when you read it what do you find? why you make the great discovery that the correspondent has two pickle bottles of honey, one is half candied and the other is quite clear. Then the man with five hives, two are pure Italions and other three hybrids, is constantly cropping up and telling what they did do and what they didn't do. Look here Mr. Editor what with Foul Brood, drought, etc., beekeepers are punished quite severely enough without you giving correspondents permission to add any more to their lot. I know some will say "don't read it then," but if one skips a whole page he never knows what he might have lost, for the latest beginner might discover something worth knowing. Just tell him to get a good standard work on beekeeping, read their *Bulletin* carefully and keep both eyes wide open, and let the pen be idle for awhile and they will learn just as quickly. In place of this give us more cappings, and stir the Rambler up again. I see that our friends in Victoria are working hard to get a Foul Brood Act. I hope they may succeed. Just a line to let you know how Foul Brood is slowly but surely going along its path of destruction in this part of the country. One woman awhile ago had about 30 hives (boxes), the last time I spoke to her she said they were all dead; another had 14, all gone now, another 12 or 14 and all gone, another about 12, I think he has 5 now, and in a few months he will be lucky if he has any left. Several others who had one or two, and now all gone for ever. Needless to say that I don't think any of these people take the *Bulletin*, and I suppose some of them think they know it all.

Dear "Sparrow," there are many readers and contributors who do not see as you do. Perhaps what may be uninteresting to you might not be so to them. We will however bear your protest in mind.

R. H. Homebush: I must tell you that I have now got six strong hives with plenty of stores and have taken out of three hives one cwt since December; not bad considering that I have to depend on flower gardens around. I should like to be able to visit some of those large apiaries where honey is taken by the ton. I have started a friend of mine with a swarm and is taking great interest in them so I will give you his address that you may try him with the B. B.

J. M., Duneedin, N. Z.:—Bee matters are not looking very bright here as Foul Brood is in every apiary. It is useless to try and get rid of it absolutely owing to wild colonies dying out and the carelessness of box hive men. We had a late cold spring here and unexceptionally dry summer but owing to being in the vicinity of low lying pasturage. I managed to secure a little over two tons of fine honey from about 90 colonies. Hope to do better next season. Wishing your journal a successful career.

A. W. Dubbo, N. S. W. Yours received. [I have not the time to send you long notes about beekeeping in these parts or I should certainly do so. Your valuable little paper has given me many good hints, being only a beginner. The season has been a terrible one here owing to the drought now happily broken. My bees did however fairly well. I had three hives at the beginning of the season and increased to ten by dividing as I am all day away from home, also took a fair quantity of honey and have plenty in the hives for the winter months. I keep my bees on the ground on brick stands, 10 on the flat laid in good mortar are just enough for a ten frame hive and a layer of mortar about two feet out from this, keeps the grass from growing and the ants from building to close to or under the hive. Ants in fact do not trouble any bees all Italians and hybrids. This brickstand is among others which I got from your valuable little paper.

Mr. A. F. Hoshal, says, in the *Canadian Bee Journal*:—When putting a new swarm into a hive, if I wish comb honey I make it a rule to put supers on at once and put in a queen excluder, to keep the queen down a few days; but I feel that a queen excluder more or less annoys the bees and hinders the work. After the queen gets nicely to work I slip the queen excluder out. Mr Davidson says I never use a honey-board or queen excluder when wanting section honey, but if extracting from the top I do use one.

There is an interesting tale being published in *Gleanings*. "The mystery of the Crystal Mountain" One of the heroes of the tale in a conversation, says:—I have talked with you enough to know that you are a practical bee man, and it is your duty now to make the practical match the theoretical. There are ten colonies of bees before us. Now, not only theory but practise tells us that, in a good honey-flow, a colony of bees having a prolific queen can be safely divided every two months, or even oftener. These colonies have ten frames, eight of them filled with brood. When the colony is in condition to divide I insert a tin division in the centre of the hive, equalize the hatching brood, secure the queen in one compartment, and introduce a queen to the queenless part. When the new queen is accepted, and the bees get equalized, I take out half the frames and bees and place them in a new hive beside the old one. If this operation is performed carefully, there will be no massing of bees into one hive to the depletion of the other for both have queens. I use division boards in the new colonies, and insert frames of foundation as fast as they are drawn out. The result is, that on an average the division can be performed every two months, the year round in this valley. You can readily figure what this will amount to. Doubling these ten colonies every two months results in 640 colonies at the close of the year, or 40, 960 at the end of the second year. There may be a few failures in queens, and we will call it even at 40,000".

J. F., Chatsworth Island, Clarence River.—The bees here are doing well since January off the blood wood and tit-tree, which is in bloom now, and the hives are full of honey. This year I started to Italianize my apiary, and I see it is an improvement, as the blacks have not done well of late years. I got on very well with the queens till last month, and then the few I had to queen would not take them, they would kill them or drag them out; they had been queenless for some days. Can you tell me the cause of it in your next issue of A. B. B.

[Had they young queens? What way did you introduce them?

H.D., Callan Park, 12th May—Bees do no good here; barely get enough honey to keep themselves.

R. S., Short St., Parkes, asks:—(1) The frames in the brood story are about half filled with capped honey, remaining part with brood, should that amount of honey be sufficient to carry bees through winter? (2) The frames in surplus boxes are partly filled with honey uncapped;

will it do to leave them in surplus box for bees, or give them a frame or two through winter as their stores become exhausted? (3) Three strongest colonies are still bringing in surplus honey; is it advisable to extract this honey, or is it too late in the season?

1. Yes. 20 or 25 lbs is generally reckoned the quantity required. 2. Yes, leave in. If the bees require it they will bring it down. 3. Too late to extract now.

W. J., Gresford, writes:—I have 12 boxes of bees in a common sort of box. One of the hives was very strong in the spring time, but after awhile they began to get very dull. I turned the box over to ascertain the cause, and pulled out a piece of brood comb. The brood was capped over alright, but when I broke the comb I found about 90 per cent of the young bees' heads turned the wrong way. Some were black and decaying, and some very healthy. I have been amongst bees the last 20 years and never saw the like before.

N.S.W. National Beekeeping Association.

70, Hunter-street,

Sydney, 3rd June, 1897,

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS
OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Committee of the New South Wales National Beekeepers' Association to invite your attention to the forthcoming Convention which will be held at the Temperance Hall, 305 Pitt-street, Sydney, on Wednesday and Thursday, 23rd and 24th Inst.

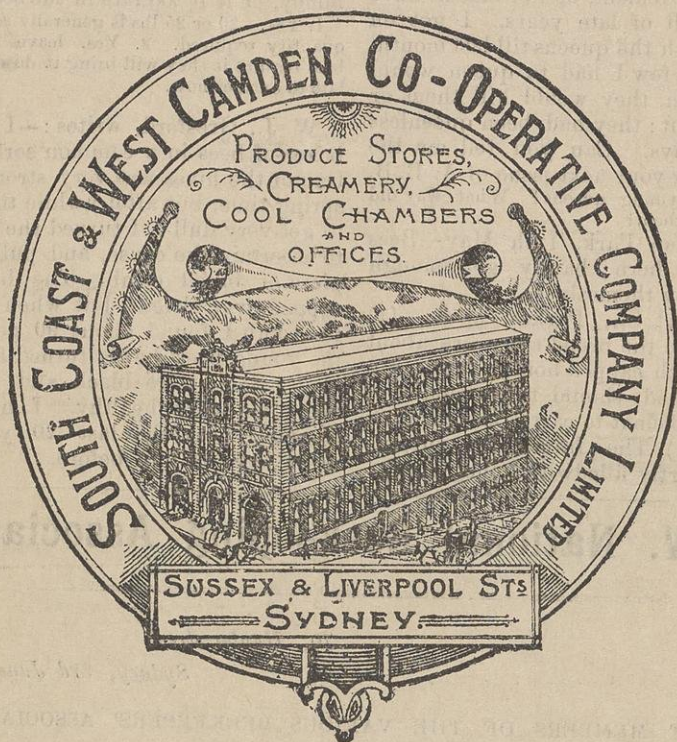
The Committee hope that they will have the pleasure of seeing a good muster of the members of local Associations.

The Committee also invite you to consider the advisableness of affiliating with the N. S. W. National Beekeepers' Association in order that we may have a strong and united body to safeguard the interests of the honey industry.

Yours faithfully,

H. R. WHITTLE,
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