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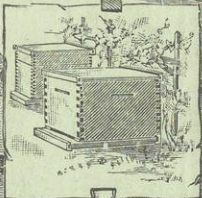
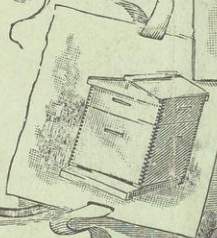
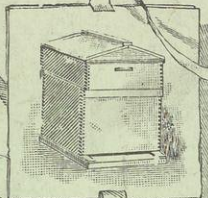
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PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND
KINDRED INDUSTRIES.



PUBLISHED BY
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APRIL 1906

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The Progressive Bee-Keeper

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Interests

VOL. XIV.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., APR. 1906.

NO. 4

SUNDRIES.

SOMNAMBULIST

"Hard times am knocking at the do" with bees as well as people. Cold rains, ice and snow held sway through the month of March. A warm February started brook in many colonies and with a late spring starvation may arrive.

As early as Feb. 19 the prophets foretold a shortage of fruit bloom, a shortage of less than half. But when we recall that we seldom get the benefit of what there is be that little or much, such assertions loose quite a little of their depressing influence.

S. D. Chapman in the Review says his only objection to Michigan is the deep snows. One might easily imagine they were in Michigan here in Missouri during March, or else the calendar had been reversed and we were traveling backward into winter.

The editor of The Review frequently asks that the shady, as well as the bright side of bee keeping be brought to the front.

And well he might request such a procedure, as the bright side, more especially the way he puts it, is as fascinating as to border on the magical.

One of the most discouraging things connected with bee keeping is a tardy approach of Spring. A period of sunshine and balmy air creates a bouy-

ancy of spirits, and the arrival of fruit bloom adds thereto, but just as our air castles are soaring skyward, along comes a cold rain, intermixed with snows and accompanied by high winds all of which hasten the departure of the blessed fruit bloom, and perhaps during all of its limited stay, the more than delighted honey bee has had but a few hours in which to make myriads of calls, and some bright morning she sallies forth to find all the glory departed and finds only farewell cards showered beneath each tree. Year after year have we had just such experience, yet there are those who claim to have secured a surplus of honey from fruit bloom

Bee keepers in this part of the country would be quite satisfied if it could be depended upon for feed for brood rearing. Orchard bloom came and gone; dandelions springing up by the way side, and dotting the pastures and blackberry bloom is due to arrive. Oh yes there are acres and acres of blackberries, but as the bloom whitens the landscape, another chilling spell of weather is almost sure to arrive so sure is it, that it has been aptly christened "blackberry winter. About this time fires are in demand and again the calling propensities of the bees are greatly curtailed. Fact is if stores have not been guarded, replenished where necessary many a colony goes out of business, and those that

are left make such a poor showing that the owner gives up in disgust and is ready to relinquish what little hold he has and embrace some other untried thing, which promises to be a "get rich quich scheme."

Mr. Chapman tells us that in the last 18 years he has sold bees to nine different men, throwing in good advice and today but one owns bees. Neglect of their bees and the winter problem has trimmed them up in good shape." In this section, I believe of the two, the spring problem is the least understood.

Not a season passes but that I am offered one or more lots of bees, and I presume this is uncommon experience.

This condition of affairs is largely due to a prevalence of adverse weather during springtime and a lack of care in regard to proper stores for the helpless bees.

What other stock on the farm is turned out to do for themselves regardless of conditions as are the bees? And what would the farmer expect of any other stock so treated? Yet not a few act as if the bees must care for themselves, regardless of climatic and other equally uncontrollable conditions. Following this line of thought one is led to contemplate what countless numbers of people who regard themselves as responsible for naught. And is not this growing feeling of or responsibility a detriment to the human race?

Irresponsibility is not a feature to be cultivated by the successful beekeeper, nor for that matter does it fit in well anywhere. I am sometimes inclined to regard the city employes as a mere cog of a great wheel which keeps an immense machine in operation. Bnt these irresponsible people are not fit to be even a cog. The ex-

pressions "dont care," "nothing to me" "what do I care," are so frequently heard as to lead one to draw the conclusion that it is the fashion to pretend to no responsibility whatever. What honor it is to be so situated I have yet to learn. Clearly such characters are fitted for no pursuit, more especially are they unfitted for bee keeping. Mr. Champman is not a believer in the four or five trips per season system to bee keeping. He claims putting on more than one super at time is just like "putting the father's trousers on the kid" In other words the colony is not prepared for as much of an extension. I hope some will be sufficiently interested in this question, to try the experiment of placing but one super at a time on one colony, and placing two, or more supers on some other colony of similar strength and report results.

It is not sufficient for one to try, but it reports from several should tally, then we might gain proof of what might be expected from such handling. And sooner or later, it will come to pass, that we must adopt every plan of promise, or find ourselves in the ranks of deserters. Bro. Miller keeps telling us that what will do for one, will not do for all, and that is a good reason we should seek to know what we may do with profit. In trying experiments a man must crawl before he tries to walk, or expect many falls. Mr. Chapman is somewhat of a Doolittle and says in the honey season a man must live with his bees. His argument is simply contraction versus expansion.

The editor of the Review in his answer to Mr. Chapman's able article says "each man must carefully plan and work out a system that is fitted to himself and his environments." New York may have localities that will

support at a profit 700 colonies or upward, but here a territory that will profitably support 140 colonies is a good one, and such territories are not numerous. Thus one is compelled to unite bee keeping with something else or have a number of apiaries. It is quite fortunate that beekeeping ranks have such men as those now taking the lead in our apiaries and we chuckle to ourselves when we think of such as W. Z. Hutchinson getting right in amongst the big fish, he's determined that he shall not number with the small fry. Doubtless that which pleases us the most, is that the whole of beedom will be benefited by his experience.

We have men just as capable but they seem reticent about giving us their experience. Indeed there are those who want you to pay in dollars and cents for some little point they think they have made and that too sight unseen. That is, you have no idea whether that which they offer for sale is practicable with you or not. Because I've been cautious, and not permitted myself to think the moon is made of green cheese, does not prevent me from being cognizant of the fact that there has been a good deal of "gold brick" selling connected with beekeeping.

In some of the bee journals not long since it was stated that \$5.50 was about right for the rent of a yard, as situated that it was of little or no use to the owner.

What bee keeper succeeds in getting a yard that is of any other use. As to price that ranges with us all the way from \$10.00 to \$25.00, never had one so cheap as five dollars. Then too about the time you get well settled at a yard some member of your landlord's family concludes that the bees

are a nuisance, and are more than ready for you to take up your bed and walk. Again if you have an extra good location and are all the more anxious to retain the same, it frequently happens that some members of the owner's family has been stricken with the bee-fever, and then sure you must be gone, as they want to go in business and reserve all rights to territory.

A friend once remarked to me "we can no longer get hands because all that are of any force soon get them a farm and wade in for themselves. Just so in beekeeping.

Occasionally its the women folks that raise the discord and oftens this is from a mortal dread of the sting of a bee and again from imaginary devastation of the fruit.

Last year this country experienced a very dry June and all fruit was at a standstill as to growth and about ripening time copious rains set in which caused the grapes to burst and rot. The bees were not slow in finding the oozing juices and helping themselves and in consequence bear the blame of the whole loss. As a result of these conditions two of our apiaries must find other territory this spring. Not a very pleasant outlook especially when the roads have been in an almost impassable state for six or eight weeks. This necessitates the study of a new territory and the making of new friends. Just like moving into a new country, but I will try not to forget to take a good neighbor along with me. Dont imagine Sammy has a spell of the blues I am only showing you the shady side of beekeeping. All things are for the best it is said, and I shall be on the lookout for all the comfort that may come out of the change. I am not

forgetting a "make the best of it" spirit has helped more than once over the rough places perhaps there's greater need of bees in the new locality than in the old one; verily God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.

SPRING WORK IN THE APIARY.

E. G. GUTHREY

Spring work in the apiary should be thorough. For upon the thoroughness of your work is hinged the success of the ensuing year.

This winter has been so mild that the bees have remained active most all of the time. Therefore consuming more stores than usual. Many of the colonies that went into winter quarters with stores sufficient to tide them over an average winter will, upon examination, be found weak if not in a starving condition.

The first warm day. (and don't wait until it suits you, for the bees may starve while you wait) lift off the hive cover giving the bees just a little smoke so as to get a better view of the interior of the hive. If the combs along the top bars of the frames appear to be empty with a small amount of honey in the side combs that colony it is a bad condition. If strong in bees lift out two of the outside frames that are found empty and give two combs of sealed honey from your reserve, if no reserve let it be a lesson to you and have some next time. If no sealed honey is to be had feed sirup made of granulated sugar. A division board feeder is best for spring feeding as the feed can be placed right in the cluster, therefore prevents robbing. If they are very weak better take out half of the combs and shove the frames left together with the feeder to the south

or west side of the hive with a follower close up on the other side. Lay a piece of burlap over the combs and down the follower leaving the entrance open on the side next to the cluster about an inch. Give them all the sirup that they will take. It is surprising how quick they will build up.

Examine from time to time the colonies with the full numbers of frames, changing the center frames that are full of brood to the side returning the partially filled combs to the center thus coaxing the queen to greater activity. Get the hive full of bees now and then taking a frame of brood from a strong colony and give it to the weak one. Give the strong colony the empty comb taken from the weak one. Some of the weak colonies possibly would live through but they would be so weak that it would take them all season to build up thus losing a years surplus. It pays to feed. They will not eat more than is good for them. A little feed to a strong colony only stimulates it. Make it more vigorous. Gives them more energy and starts them out after the first sap from the maple and willows. Treat your weak colonies thus and they will thus prosper. The secret of the apiarist is to get the bees in the strongest possible conditions just before the honey flow. At least that is my experience so far.

BEE KEEPING FOR WOMEN.

ALICE MYRTLE M'GLADE.

There is no work about beekeeping that a woman cannot do as well as a man; returns from it in money are as great as she can get at any other occupation on the farm; it combines out of door liberty and the cultivation of a love of natural history in a way no other pursuit does. And so, presuming that some, at least, have a desire

to become beekeepers, who are unable to do so because of a lack of knowledge as to how to begin, I shall endeavor to give you a few simple instructions which will be short chapters from my own actual experience.

There are a few things necessary to begin with—a smoker, bee veil, gloves and A B C of Bee culture and a colony of bees. Any dealer in beekeepers' supplies can furnish these things; the highest priced are the best, but the cheaper do quite as well for a while. Buy a smoker the first thing; without it a beginner can do nothing with bees. The veil and gloves will help in preventing stings, and inspire confidence, but will be laid aside after a while because you can work so much better without them. I always go barehanded, most of the time bareheaded.

Buy five, eight frame dove tailed hives complete for comb honey, in the flat and put them together yourself. They will assemble like a watch.—Orange Judd Farmer.

FLAPJACKS AND HONEY.

BY EUGENE SECOR.

Eating is both a necessity and a luxury—the latter according as we gratify our tastes for the good things of life. Plain fare, with nothing to please the appetite, may be sufficient for our bodily needs; but the luxury of living is having things to eat that are both wholesome and enjoyable. Honey is not a necessity. Millions of people live to an old age without tasting any sweet as we understand the word. Sugar-eating is largely a habit, but such an established habit in this country that Americans regard it as a necessity. Eating honey is in some degree a habit. People who have it every day look for it with the same longing that others do for other things they like.

At our house, pancakes would not be quite the luxury they are without the ever present honey-dish. Nothing else so satisfies. The syrups now on the market are so largely glucose, and so insipid compared with honey, that we soon tire of them.

One can eat more honey without distress or future bad consequences than he can of commercial sugar. Another thing, we get our own honey from our own hives and know we are eating the distilled excellence of God's sweetest flowers put there for our use and enjoyment—a product obtainable in no other way, and a luxury excelling any thing that man can manufacture. If people like the insipid corn syrups on the market they are welcome to them so far as I am concerned; but give me the nectar of the gods distilled in the alembic of Nature and brought to my door by my servants, the bees. I know that is pure and healthful and nourishing.

Did you ever try honey and cream on your pancakes, instead of butter? If not, spread some honey on the cake and then pour cream over them—Jersey cream, if you have it, but I use short-horn. That's good enough for me.

Forest City, Iowa.

[Our older readers will remember Mr. Secor as one of the former managers of the National Bee-keepers' Association. During that time he attended many of the conventions.

He has also been called the poet laureate of beedom. His excellent verses have appeared in one or more of the bee periodicals. His most recent contribution in that line appeared in *Gleanings* for last year, page 601, entitled "The Bees are in the Clover."

It is a pleasure to note that Mr. Secor has not lost his interest in bees, nor his taste for good honey. What he says concerning the suitability of honey for flapjacks in lieu of some cheaper and less wholesome sweet, is entirely true. Those who do a business in retailing extracted honey would do well to emphasize the points brought out by Mr. Secor.—Ed.]—*Gleanings*.

The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

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S. E. MILLER - - Editorial Writer.
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R. B. LEAHY DEAD.

Mr. R. B. Leahy, founder of the Leahy Mfg. Co., died at his home in Higginsville, Saturday, April 14, aged 48 years. He had been in failing health for more than a year. The body was shipped to Bellville, Ill., for burial.

PROGRESSIVE SOLD.

Mr. H. C. Wright of Topeka, Kan., has purchased the Progressive Bee keeper and will combine it with the Helpful Hen, a bright, newsy journal devoted to poultry, bees and pigeons. The subscribers to the Progressive will receive The Helpful Hen after this issue until their time expires. We are sure they will find that journal both interesting, and profitable reading. Parties ordering goods from the Leahy Mfg. Co. can subscribe for the Helpful Hen by including the subscription

price, 50 cents per year, with their order.
E. B. GLADISH, Editor.

EDITORIALS.

S. E. MILLER.

Stimulative feeding will be almost a necessity this spring as brood rearing has been retarded at least a month as compared to the average year. Usually the bees gather the first natural pollen here between the 6th and 15th of March but this year from present indications it will be April 6th or later before they will get any pollen and the exceptional cold weather of March will certainly to a great extent retard brood rearing.

A STARY STRAW.

Page 343 March 15th Gleanings, Dr. Miller says: In these days it seems too common a thing for men high in the esteem of their fellowmen suddenly to betray their trust, and ignominiously fall from their high estate. G. M. Doolittle is a man whom thousands have followed as a trusted leader. Alas that at this late day he should be guilty of such false teachings as those on page 283. He there teaches that on Canólesmas day the bear comes out to look for his shadow. How could he corrupt the youth who read Gleanings by such utterly erroneous teachings?

A careful study of history shows that the ground hog and not the bear is the beast that on Feb. 2nd makes observations of the weather. O Gilbert! how could you? I too had read Mr. Doolittle's bear story but I merely attributed it to locality. Knowing that he lives in the Empire state and possibly in a mountainous county I surmised that probably they still have a few bear in that locality and concluded that the bear and not the ground hog is their weather prophet. I see

now that I was wrong in surmises as Dr. Miller cites the ground hog story as a matter of history. Well there is one thing sure, the ground hog had a good chance to see his shadow on Feb. 2nd last here at Bluffton and he has certainly gone back into his hole for more than six weeks. It is only too bad that we did not appoint a committee to guard all ground hog holes with spot guns and kill every varmint that showed up before he got a sight of his shadow.

How can one have the heart to write about bees when they should be busy bringing in pollen and the air should be filled with their contented hum. But instead the ground is covered with two to six inches of snow and the indications as well as the weather man points to more snow or rain?

Do not blame the writer if this batch of editorials is uninteresting. Lay it all to the weather or the ground hog.

The annual report of the National B. K. A. is before me. As usual it is an interesting book, but it would be more so if every member would give a complete report of his crop.

Should a bee hive be an intricate machine that requires an expert to understand and manipulate it? On pages 288-292 Gleanings March 1st Mr. R. F. Holterman gives a detailed and illustrated description of his hive, and on page 71 to 76 March Beekeepers Review Mr L. A. Aspinwall gives a minute description of his hive accompanied by illustration. I have no doubt that both of these gentlemen make a complete success with their particular hives, but with all due respect for them I would ask: How many of the great army of bee keepers could afford to use

such hives. Apparently either one of these hives will cost about double the price of an ordinary dovetailed hive. Likely both of these gentlemen will argue that if the hive will enable the bee keeper to control swarming and thereby double his crop of honey per colony the hive should be worth twice as much as an ordinary hive. This is sound logic but how about failures and short crops to which we are nearly all more or less subject? If one must at times meet with failure or secure only a partial crop the less money he has invested in his business the better it is for him, or in other words if he has a thousand dollars to invest and can equip himself very well with half that amount would it not be wise for him to lay aside five hundred dollars rather than invest it in machinery that may possibly increase his income. To use the word of Hutchinson I would keep more bees and have less invested in complicated hives.

We of riper years are too much like the boy who raises a colt, a calf, or a flock of chickens. In his estimation these things are more valuable than those equally as good reared by some one else. We mount some particular hobby and the longer we ride it the less we see of its faults and the more we see of its merits. We devise some particular hive or contrivance and because it is a child of our creation we work with it in spite of faults and defects until we finally become master of it. We are biased in its favor and expect others to see it as we do and here is where we make a mistake. We should not expect others to work as long and as faithfully with some creation of ours in order to overcome difficulties as we are willing to work ourselves.

From the present outlook bees will be high, scarce and in demand when the season opens up.

If you have any considerable amount of wax to render and have not some means of doing it properly and getting out nearly all of the wax you are losing money. Don't you forget it.

If we may rely on the Annual Report of the National B. K. A., some of the big guns with a large number of colonies didn't set the world on fire in the way of big crops last season. Here are a few samples: a) 800 colonies surplus 300 lbs comb, 500 pound extracted, Total 800 lbs; average 1 lb colony. (b) 1100 colonies, surplus 3000 comb 500 extracted; total 3600 less 500 lbs fed; net results, 3100 lbs; average per colony; net 2 9-11 pounds. (c) 150 colonies surplus comb 400; extracted 760; total 1100 lbs; average about 11 oz per colony. Now I wonder whether that's a joke or whether it is really a fact. If it is true I really must admire their grit for giving in such reports. Let others take courage and be as brave as those mentioned above. Let us know what you have done, whether it is much or little.

Don't use too much smoke in opening a hive. Use just a little more than enough.

The Betsinger wire cloth separator that was invented some eighteen or more years ago is soon to become quite popular from present indications. It is claimed that its use will result in more perfectly finished sections of honey than with any other separator. The cost of making them is the chief drawback. Who will get out a wire fence separator?

DO BEES HEAR?

Well I don't know, I think they do hear. This mooted question bobs up from time to time and is about as near decided now as it was twenty years ago. There is one thing certain, this is a free country and anyone has a right to believe that they do or they don't hear. For my part I am going to believe that they do hear. What would be the use of ringing bells, tooting horns and beating dish pans, if they do not enjoy the music?

If I may be allowed to make a forecast I will say the 4x5 plain section will be the most popular section in America in a few years.

Are you using the Langstroth frame? If not, why not? What I mean by the Langstroth frame is a frame that will fit the dovetailed hive as now made by all leading manufacturers. If you are not using this frame and intend to increase the number of your colonies the sooner you change the cheaper it will be for you. Then if you ever decide to sell your bees they will bring you a better price than they would on some odd or non-standard frame.

Do you use a section press? If you do throw it away for a while and use a mallet made of a piece of wood 12 inches by $\frac{1}{2}$ x2 $\frac{1}{2}$ with one end formed into suitable shape for a handle.

Take one piece of wood 4x3x $\frac{1}{2}$ and piece 12x3x $\frac{1}{2}$ and nail the long piece to the end of the short piece so as to form a sort of letter L only the short piece be back about 2 inches from one end so as to permit of a brace to hold it firm. Lay this on a table or bench with the L part up and away from you. Hold the section in the angle formed by the L while you drive the dovetails together. A section put together perfectly

square has a tendency to spring out of shape. For this season it is well to put them together slightly diamond shaped so that after springing they will be square and for this purpose I use a small piece of section in the angle where the two pieces meet so as to raise the farthest side of the section and thus throw it out of square while being driven together. The sections should be laid within easy reach all grooved sides up.

There is a certain way to pick up and fold a section whereby there is very little lost motion but I fear I could not describe this so as to be understood without illustrations. I could show you easier than I can tell you.

Enthusiasm is a great thing. Coupled with good judgment, industry and perseverance, it can accomplish wonders. It can't do everything, but it is the foundation and the keystone of nearly every success. If a man has no enthusiasm for his work, he better manufacture some at once, or else get into some business for which he can have some enthusiasm.—Editorial Bee Keepers Review.

It looks now as if the spring poet would not have much time to get in his work. The season will probably go from winter into summer.

Protection for supers is strongly advocated by many bee keepers and no doubt they are right so far as their own locality is concerned, but they should remember that they and their localities are not the whole shooting match. Here as a rule when the main honey flow is on the nights are so warm that many of the bees will hang out until quite late in the night. Cool nights in summer here generally means very lit

tle nectar to be gathered. If we used protection for supers here it would have to be on the principal that what keeps out cold will keep out heat and I do not believe in that theory.

Spring is not lingering in the lap of winter because winter has snow in his lap and it would be rather a cold seat for spring. She might catch cold.

Unless hives have an exceptionally good foundation under them, the heaving of the ground caused by freezing and thawing is apt to throw them out of the level. All such hives should be leveled up crosswise of the frames and the entrance end of the hive placed 1 inch lower than the other end. As soon as freezing weather is past and while the ground is still soft is a very good time to do this leveling.

Some things will bear repeating and the following is one of them: Do not let your bees get into the habit of robbing early in the season. A bee that has once acquired the habit of pilfering is quite loath to get down to honest toil again.

Bluffton, Mo., March 26, 1906.

BEE KEEPERS OF MISSOURI ATTENTION

We have quite a good number of the progressive beekeepers of our state that are new members of our Missouri State Beekeeper Association but there are yet a very great many beekeepers of our state that are not members of our Association that certainly should become members: Our very worthy secretary is quite enthusiastic and has succeeded in organizing quite a goodly number of the bee keepers of St. Louis and surrounding country into a bee keepers club and also to be

come members of our Association and clubs are forming in other parts of our state which is most gratifying but we are far from being satisfied with results on this line. We are very much in need of some legislation on several points such as a foul brood law. A law on bogus or adulterated honey. A law to prevent spraying fruit trees during blooming time and other questions that may appear. I am sure we will never have a more opportune time than now or can the work be done with any less work in the near future to get some needed legislation provided we can make a good showing in our association in membership, enthusiasm and interest taken by the beekeepers of our state to wait until something comes up might give us opposition and might also give trouble to accomplish what might be done with comparative ease at this time; our association is not trying for any thing on this line only what is just, and right and perfectly proper. In the official statement of Missouri in 1900 it was shown that Missouri ranks 30 as a honey producing state, there being over 41,000 beekeepers in the state having over 205,000 colonies of bees and at an estimate of only 30 pounds of honey per colony on an average gives over 6,015,000 pounds of honey worth over \$769,000 which added to the value of the bees \$391,000 makes a total valuation of \$1,160,000; no estimate given on the wax which would swell the figures considerably more; we have taken figures from estimates given and we believe the product in honey and wax represents the smallest part of the profit in keeping bees as in the aid of the pollination of fruit bloom this must certainly show that the keeping of bees is of no means importance and we are sure that if the bee-

keepers of the state will show the interest that they should, we can secure any reasonable help or law we may need for our mutual benefit and protection.

In the matter of not to spray during fruit bloom, we now have the unanimous agreement of the members of the state Horticultural society so far as the writer knows and it is only done so far as the writer knows by persons at this time that have not given the subject much thought but takes some one else's say that does not know any more about it as to time to do it than the ones so advised to show the kindly feeling and good will of the Horticultural Association to bee keepers the writer is invited to appear before the Horticultural society's meeting to be held at Moberly June 12, 13, 14 and present the subject "Bee keeping relation to Horticulture;" spraying is to be discussed also at that meeting.

In forming clubs in the different parts of the state there needs not be but little or no expense to do so, as the members can meet at one or the other of the homes of members and there discuss questions on bee keeping; but we would urge all such with all progressive bee keepers to become members of our state Bee keepers Association; it only costs \$1.00 to become a member which carries the membership for one year then the annual dues of \$1.00 per member carries membership yearly; one half of each \$1.00 received per member either to join our association or as yearly dues is paid to the secretary of the national Bee keepers Association which also makes each of the members of our association a member of the national which for an individual to join alone costs \$1.00. The national is an organization for the national protection of its members on certain

conditions; no bee keeper knows when one might not need help to defend ones self against unjust persecution in keeping bees, many of which have come up in the past; and even if one never expects to need help on this line as perhaps no one insures against loss by fire with the expectation of burning out, but in case of such a calamity of receiving the needed help in such a case. The national often prevents trouble going to law by the help and advise they are able to give and also have been in quite a few law suits and have come out victorious in every case so far as the writer knows as they refuse to try to defend a member if the case is properly stated and the member is found to be in the wrong; this is wholesome and right and makes the national a valuable Association to be a member of.

We certainly think that the bee-keepers of our state owe it themselves as well as to the other bee keepers to become members of our state Association and when possible to attend its annual meetings and thus exchange ideas and enjoy each others acquaintance and association.

We have never attended a bee keepers meeting but what we felt well repaid for any expense we were at to do so; the mere matter of dollars should not interfere if possible to bear it, as no one lives to him or herself in this life but all should be of mutal benefit to each other so far as possible. Many went to Klondike some years ago in search of gold; we consider that the priviledge of being with our family and friends worth more to our happiness than much gold, the mere securing of money does not bring happiness. So to the bee keepers of the state, ladies and men let us urge you to join our state association and help us to secure needed legislation enjoy the

fellowship and association of each other and thus help to make life more pleasant and profitable.

To any desiring to become member of our association, remit membership fee to our secretary R. A. Holekamp, 426J Virginia ave. St. Louis or to the writereither of which will make the proper acknowledgement and forward one half the fee to the secretary of the National so as to secure membership in that a'so.

J. W. ROUSE.

President of Missouri State Bee keeper Association.

DIPPING MELTING AND SELLING HONEY.

All perons cannot realize that they will think and that if they think long and deeply that something will be accomplished or discovered. Common things may be thought out that way but uncommon things are brought out by uncommon thinking. To be able to think comes through practice like expert handling of bees. Present power of thought is inherited from past thinking. We must keep in memory all previous experience as well as present, what has been observed in the operations of others and what we have read upon the particular subject, casting all else aside as valueless. Yet much which is cast aside may be of the highest value in another line of thought and should not be cast so far out of mind that it may not be again brought into requisition and use.

All this and more have I devoted to the honey spoon or spade brought up by Mr. Miller on page 15 of the Progressive. After spading the honey out of my tanks for fifteen or twenty years I came to think that honey gates were the proper thing. Now since using gates for five or six years I am going

to the dipper and shovel or spoon. I presume that I have dipped out a hundred tons or more. To put honey into 5 gallon cans soon after extracting gates are all right but when honey gets very thick then the dipper or shovel is best. My tanks are 30 inches high and 24 inches in diameter and holds 700 pounds. I have 42 of these tanks full now. It looks as though we were going to have a year of scarcity during 1906 which may bring an opportunity to get a price for honey. Possibly 10 cents a pounds.

An empty honey case for 5 gal cans is 15 inches deep. Turn a case upside down beside a tank and set a 5-gallon can on it and the top edge of the can will come up even with the top of the tank which is 30 inches high. The top of the 5 gallon can should have all of the top cut out. Then take a piece of galvanized iron or tin eight inches square and bend it in the shape of an inverted Γ and drop it over the edges of the receptacles so that one side projects, into the tanks and the other in the can. Then liquid honey can be dipped from the tanks into the can without danger of any getting outside the receptacles. This may be called a drip catcher. When the 5 gallon can is about two thirds full use one corner like the spout of a pitcher to pour into the other 5 gallon cans. Put a lath across the top of the far side of the tank and while pouring put the drip catcher on the lath so that what honey drops off from it may fall into the tank. On my 5 gallon cans I use two inch caps which cost only 50 cents per gross more than the regular one and one half inch size. But for pouring thick honey are quite preferable.

This is liquid honey. For semi liquid honey a spoon is preferable. When the honey is hard I use a small

spade. Begin at one side of the tank. After one or two spade fulls have been removed the rest will slice off easily. I learn the wishes of my customers and furnish honey in exactly the way they want it which is the very natural way. If they prefer liquid then I melt it. They cannot be trusted to do it for themselves as they would be quite sure to heat it too much or make a mussy job or put off the job of melting it until I come around again and then tell me the last is not used up, I would rather melt it always than to miss once. Then I sell it by the quart so that it will be used up before granulating again.

I seldom heat honey higher than 100 degrees, in melting a considerable amount I use halves of 5 gallons cans—5 gallon cans cut in two crosswise. Holding about 25 pounds each. Eight of these will set close together on a six hole range. Under the cans are place coils of hoop iron so as to hold the cans about an inch from direct contact with the stove. Over all is placed a hood of galvanized iron that comes down to the stove all around to confine the heat about the honey. A very moderate fire should be kept, then the the honey should be stirred about every ten minutes to mix the melted with the unmelted. When it has returned to clear sparkling liquid the temperature may not be above 90 to 100 degrees, I get a batch of about 200 pounds off about every three hours.

Of course if it was wanted to be placed upon the groceryman's shelves to remain several months and be subjected to changes of temperature through cold nights of winter it might require more heat in liquifying. But we sell to those who use it daily. If our customers has a shelf near the

stove or other arrangement which will accommodate a jar of honey we notice that and give directions for the jar to be so arranged. Some large families will use two jars in ten days and will purchase two jars at a time. Many times have I been in grocery stores in early morning and noticed moisture condensing on the outside of glass jars of honey and even cases of comb honey as soon as there was a fire built and warm air began to circulate about the store. If the honey was far away from the stove it would deteriorate because it would retain more moisture than was evaporated from it and get worse and worse. But even a position near the stove would not suffice as flies would congregate upon it and its moisture would catch dust which in a few days would become very observable and the honey packages be divested of their necessary bright, fresh and inviting appearance. And the resultant slow sale would enhance their liability to become granulated again. It requires almost as much care and tidiness to handle honey as it does to handle plums. Every touch brushes away more or less of the bloom on the plums, and every touch of a jar of honey is pretty sure to leave some stickiness or clouds on it. The best and only way is to deliver the goods in their brightest, cleanest state right to the door of the consumer.

I have been in the honey market here in Los Angeles for twelve years. For ten of these years there has been disposed of an average of six tons per year. In 1898 we sold between eight and nine tons and in 1900 about three tons. This was the third year of a string of three poor years for honey. Our supply was about run out. At first we would drive out several miles from home and back home again, getting

a consumer here and there along the route. After awhile we began to dread so much travel and began to see that more customers could be licked up nearer home and so we began to drop out these far away. It is not always that we get the most satisfaction from mere money but sometimes it may come by experimenting to see what can be done. So we made the attempt to sell our six tons per year as few customers as possible. In four years we were selling to every house within two miles and to 125 to 140 customers. To several of these we delivered a jar of honey every week for six or seven years without a single miss unless it rained or some one was sick and then they nearly always took two jars the next trip around. We delivered the honey in such a shape that there was nothing left for the consumer to do but to unscrew the cap and dip his spoon in. There were three grades and three prices but two thirds was of the highest grade, or water white all extracted.

Counting five to the family, we supplied about 750 persons. If the whole city of Los Angeles had used honey to a corresponding amount it would have averaged 1800 tons or 90 carloads and returned an income of \$800 per year to 300 bee keepers and occupied less than one half their working hours. Four cities within the state would consume one half the state could produce in the best year California ever saw. And the whole United States would consume the product of over 90 such states in the best honey year that ever came. What we have done any one else can do.

C. W. DAYTON Chatsworth Calif.

APIARY NOTES.

A pound of comb is said to cost the

bees 10 pounds of honey. This is the reason for always supplying comb foundation. It brings the owners of the bees double its costs of honey besides securing straight combs and doing away with an over production of drone comb.

Bees work on peppermint from morn till night and if the condition of the weather permits, or with very heavy dews, a heratiful flow of nectar is secured. On mornings after a heavy dew, the hum of rejoicing of the industrious bees is plainly heard returning to the hives heavily laden. Their appearance when working on peppermint, is much like that on bass wood. You will find them scattered round the hive in all condition of fatigue. The honey has a consistency a little thicker than water, being light in color.

Bees never attack when their stomachs are filled with honey or other liquid sweets. This is their normal condition when swarming and therefore they are then harmless and also when returning laden to their hives. Neither do they attack when thoroughly frightened. We frighten bees by blowing smoke among them or by rapping rather violently on their hives; when bees are alarmed in their hives by smoke or concussion, their first impulse is to fill their honey bags from their comb. Bees in a hive that is constantly being rapped against will in a few ninutes rush out boldly from their combs into an empty skip or box set over their plans of exit from the hive.

HOW TO DETECT SWARMING

The first indication of swarming is the laying of eggs in the drone comb. While the presence of eggs in the drone-cells is not a sure sign that a

swarm will issue, yet as far as I have observed swarms never do issue without eggs being laid therein. If the weather is propitious the next step is the building of quenn cells, soon after which the queen deposits eggs in them. In three days these eggs hatch into larvae and these larvae are fed an abundance of food by the nurse bees for six days, when the cells containing the embryo queen are sealed over.

If no bad weather intervenes the swarm issues the next day, the old queen going with the swarm. Bear in mind that this is the rule with the black or German bees and generally with all other races; still the Italians often swarm when the eggs are first laid in the queen cells and some without the least preparation except drones in a time when swarming runs high in an apiary. I find, as a rule, that the first queen emerges from her cell from six to seven days after the swarm issues. If more swarms are allowed, they come forth two days after, or the eight to ninth day after the first and never later than the sixteenth day.

As soon as it is decided that no more swarms shall issue, all queens in the cells are destroyed, when in from five to nine days the young queens go out to be fertilized, two days after which she commences to lay. If the apiarists stops all after swarming by the cutting of the queen-cells, or by other means that keeps all of the bees in the old hive together after the first issue, I find that the young queen is much slower going out on her wedding trip and often does not commence to lay from the twelfth to the sixteenth day.

Taking one season with another the bulk of surplus honey is gathered by the first or prim-swarm. This being true it is best to allow only one swarm to issue from each hive. To prevent

after swarms, place the newly hived swarm on its original stand and move the hive from which the swarm has issued to a new location. It is from this old hive of course that after-swarm may be expected to issue.

About the time the queen cells are to hatch affix an entrance guard of perforated zinc to the hive. After a few days several dead queens will be found at the hive entrance. Now remove the entrance guard and you have remaining undoubtedly the best queen of the lot, after the plan of the survival of the fittest. Putting on sections is an important part of apiary work. If the first lot of sections is not placed on the hives at the proper time the amount of honey secured from any given colony will be greatly reduced. If put on too late bees will have begun making preparations to swarm. It is better on the whole to put them on a little too early than too late. A colony with abundant entrance for air is less inclined to than it otherwise would be. Raising the hive by putting an inch block under each corner, leaving the hive open all around, can hardly be beaten for giving plenty of air. But do not hope that the plan of giving plenty of air will suffice to keep bees from swarming entirely. F. G. HERMAN.—Agricultural Epitomist

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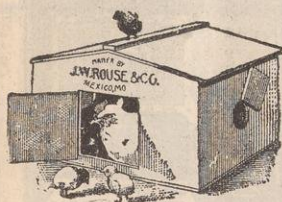
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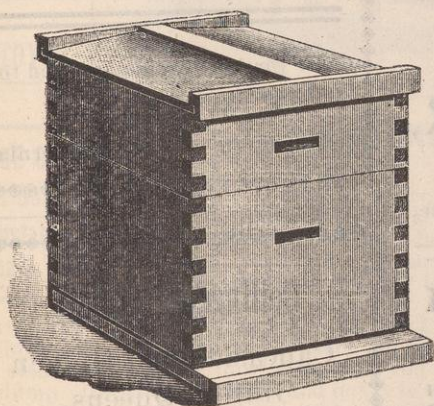
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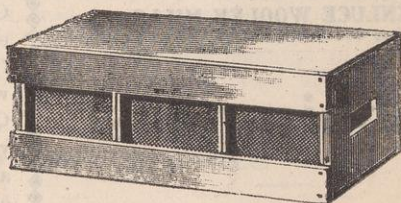
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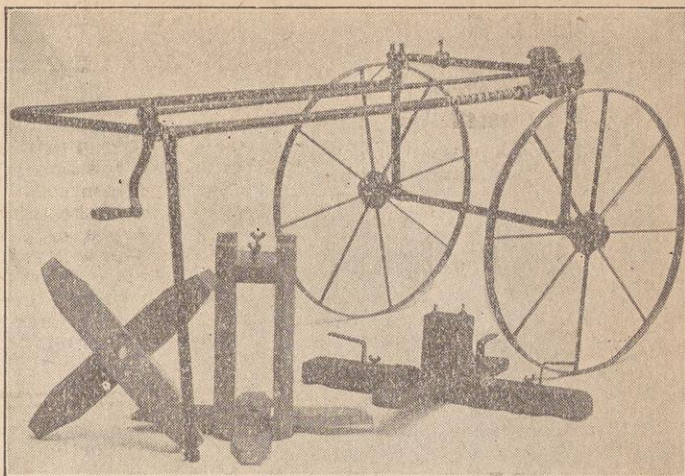
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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS

To whom it may concern:

I can cheerfully recommend the "Boss Wire Reel," manufactured by Mr. Chas. Ernst, Higginsville, Mo. The machine is first-class in handling wire, as one man can do more with it, in that line of work, than three men could without it. It is a labor-saving machine and also saves your hands and clothes from being scratched and torn. It is made durable enough to last the purchaser a lifetime. In short the machine is all O. K. and the farmers of the whole world are greatly indebted to Mr. Ernst for inventing such a very useful article in the time of history when needed, therefore wherever the "Boss Wire Reel" goes, my recommendation most cheerfully goes with it. Sincerely,

EDWARD FREEZE.

New Haven, Mo., R. F. D. No. 1.

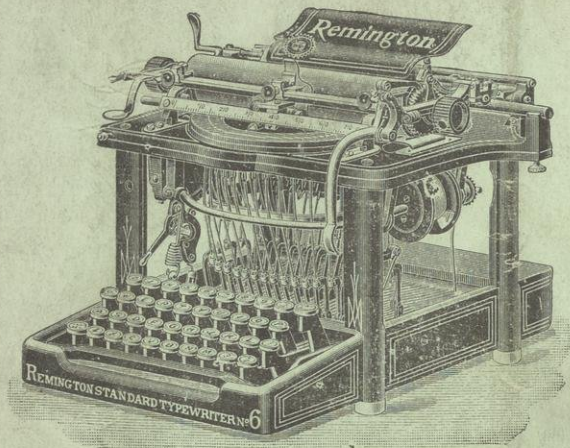
January 25, 1905.

To whom it may concern:

That Mr. Chas. Ernst's Wire reeling apparatus is one of the most convenient contrivances for building wire fences, to unroll the wire as you can place a spool of wire in them almost as quick as you can pick it up. Or for the taking of old wire fences down, by placing an empty spool in the reeling machine and by turning the crank it propels itself. I have observed its utility for the past three years and find that one man can do the work easier than two the old way of carrying the spool on a stick, or rolling the old wire upon a barrel. This wire reeling machine is a time saver, which is in our days a greater object than a money saver. But it saves both time and money also, let the good work go on. Yours respectfully,

Higginsville, Mo.

G. A. RAASCH.



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