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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, August 28, 1905

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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

Edited and Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland; Apiary, Willow Tree, N.S.W

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

VOL. 14. No 5.

AUGUST 28, 1905.

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Committee :

MESSRS. E. J. RIEN, J. PENNINGTON, F. BOLTON, J. R. W. GAGGIN, E. DOWLING, J. R. IRVINE, J. ANDERSON, W. GEE, P. RIDDELL, W. E. BAGOT, W. NIVEN, — BUSHELL, LATIMORE, HEWITT.

RULES & OBJECTS.

1. The careful watching of the interests of the industry.
2. To arrange for combined action in exporting honey to relieve local glut when necessary.

Proposed new rules published in this issue will be placed before members for alteration or approval, previous to next annual meeting.

3. To advise members as to suitable localities for establishing apiaries.

4. Any beekeeper can become a member on approval of committee, subscription 2/6 per annum.

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

6. No member be eligible for office who has less than 50 effective hives, or his subscription is in arrear.

7. The Association to consist of a central body and district branches affiliated with it.

8. The principal officers be such as will undertake to meet each other in committee at least once in twelve months.

9. The officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Executive Committee.

10. After the first election of officers, arrangements to be made by the Secretary to call for nominations for office-bearers, and issue ballot papers prior to the next annual meeting.

11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.

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

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"A. BEE BULLETIN."

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THE AUSTRALIAN
BEE BULLETIN

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
Devoted to Beekeeping —
Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of
Australia — New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope

MAITLAND, N S W.—AUGUST 28, 1905.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue, all of whom we would recommend our readers to patronise:—

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Climatic conditions and the color of the soil have much to do with the color of honey.

Mr. Dunstan, of Toowoomba, has been very successful with candied honey in blocks, selling 4lb. of such for 1/6.

To cut granulated honey, No. 20 annealed wire is the proper thing, and only well-ripened honey, when thoroughly granulated could be cut in this way.

The South Australian *Garden and Field* is now issued in a smaller size, but with double the number of pages. It is a most readable and instructive agricultural journal.

We acknowledge receipt of *Business*, a monthly newspaper for the busy man. It is published in Sydney, by John Andrews & Co., Phillip St., and contains a lot of valuable statistics and other information.

The Australian Bee Bulletin is an independent publication, and not connected with any bee-supply business whatsoever. It stands entirely upon its merits as an educative force in the field of beekeeping, and as a medium for legitimate advertisers in apicultural or other lines. It is the oldest journal of its kind in Australia. Its publisher believes that it deserves to be in the hands of every would-be progressive successful beekeeper in the land. Established in 1892.

SEASONABLE.

AS the weather warms, open hives carefully. If you have marked the poorest queen, or those that gave the poorest results last season, supersede them by getting queens from the queen breeder you have most confidence in. If breeding is well in, give room by frames of foundation or with worker comb inside the brood, so as not to chill the brood.

W. A. H., Magill, South Australia : — We have received the A.B.B. regularly and find it very interesting, especially the news of the Beekeepers' Associations.

QUEENSLAND.

ON Monday evening, the 7th August, we started for Queensland to the Brisbane Exhibition, to be held that week, a journey to us of 481 miles by rail. Railway travelling is not always pleasant. An amusing part of it is to watch the various attitudes assumed by our fellow-passengers in their desperate attempts to sleep in a sitting posture at night time. We had one interesting fellow-passenger, in a well-built individual, formerly a drover, now a land agent. He was full of anecdotes of squatters, dummies, etc. On one occasion a squatter blocked a prospective selector on crown land adjoining his own by carting a load of minerals on to it, and then got it converted into a mining lease. His narrating very narrow escapes from death at different times, drove sleep away for quite a time. We have spoken of the N.S.W. portion of this route, but we had not seen the Queensland line. Much of it goes through rough bush, in which settlers' houses and farms here and there show themselves, and at times an apiary. The towns of Warwick, Toowoomba, Stanthorpe, Ipswich, etc., are all good sized and apparently prosperous. The Gatton Agricultural College is also passed. But the most interesting are the Darling Downs, miles on miles of perfectly level country, at a high altitude, well cultivat-

ed, a few small hills at times furnishing capital sites for residences. Plenty of dairying is carried on all over them. The descent from these Downs is through grand scenery. The train goes on for a length along the tops of the mountains. Here a grand opening bursts on the view. A deep gorge, and beyond, miles and miles of fairly level country at a considerably lower level. The train rushes into a tunnel; emerges on to a swift descending grade, perhaps to a prettily situated station; high massive cliffs rising on one side, pretty little gullies on the other; a little level turning, in which the engine and guard's van are trying to meet each other; another culvert, with fresh views of the distant lower lands, and ugly rocks to right and left; another tunnel rush, and another rushing descent; and so on for miles, till lower and more level lands are reached. We arrived in Brisbane at 9.30 p.m. We had sent a telegram of our coming to friends, but owing to their being from home they had not received it. In consequence of the show being on, every hotel was full. We tried some seven or eight hotels before we got accommodation at a private boarding-house, and that on a parlour sofa. Next morning we were at the Exhibition. It was the crush day, some 40,000 persons being present. Found our way to the great Show Shed, which is very large and roomy, and adjoining which are the noisy dog and poultry sheds, which were both well filled with exhibits. There was a fine collection of exhibits of all kinds, not the least interesting of which were the district exhibits. In the Glen Innes (N.S.W.) Messrs. Penberthy, Arkinstall and Lamrock had a display of honey. We have since been informed that Mr. Penberthy had secured a gold medal at the late Sydney Show. In the honey display the principal attraction was that of Mr. H. L. Jones. It was neat and compact, and contained samples of every article needed in the production of the best of foods - hives, extractors, frames, foundation combs, observation hives of bees, &c., &c. One article that attracted

much attention was the exhibit by Mr. Jones of an automatic reversible extractor with a brake, an article only recently patented, and a very useful article in an apiary. Mr. Jones himself was in evidence nearly all the time. Beside this exhibit was that of Mr. Bell. Two long tables also contained other articles, not the least of which was the wax. We have seen many displays of wax at other shows, but never such a nice assortment of beautiful wax as was here. There were some twelve exhibits of honey vinegar, for which, if people only knew the superiority to any other kind, there would be a big market. The following was the prize list:—

Extracted honey (liquid): James Bell, (Kelvin Grove) 1; Joshua Bell (Kelvin Grove) 2. Granulated: G. W. C. Smith, (George-street.) Comb honey, in two frames: Joshua Bell.

Beeswax, natural yellow: Alexander Smith, 1; G. W. C. Smith, 2. Beeswax, natural white: Alexander Smith, 1; Alex Smith, 2; W. G. C. Smith, highly commended.

Foundation of brood combs: H. L. Jones, 1; G. W. C. Smith, 2. Foundation of sections: H. L. Jones, 1; H. L. Jones, 2.

Observatory hive of Italian bees, showing queen bee: Joshua Bell, 1; G. and H. Bell (Red Hill) 2.

Collection of hives, foundation, and implements for the apiary: H. L. Jones. Beeswax, for household purposes: G. W. C. Smith and Joshua Bell, equal for 2nd (2).

Bee hive, any pattern: H. L. Jones. Any useful novelty that may be considered valuable in apiary work: H. L. Jones, automatic reversible honey extractor, 1; George Butler, (Red Hill) atmospheric entrance feeder, 2; H. L. Jones, improved solar wax extractor, highly commended.

Collection and display of products of the apiary in trophy form: Joshua Bell, 1 and special (Reid's.) Best exhibit of honey vinegar: J. Gibson (Goodna) 1; G. and H. Butler, 2.

Special prize, presented by John Reid Esq. (Messrs. J. C. Hutton) for trophy of honey in comb: Joshua Bell.

In another part of the grounds was the demonstration tent, at which, during the several days, the following gentlemen gave demonstrations of the handling of bees, and matters connected with same, also the value of honey as a food: Dr. Hamlyn Harris, Messrs. A. H. W. Clarkson, J. Bell, E. Tipper, H. L. Jones, A. F. Spry, F. Chippendale, J. C. Rundle, and R. J. Cribb. The bees and hives for the demonstrations were kindly lent by Mr. M. Peake, of the Willow Apiary, Ashgrove. These were well attended throughout by persons who took great interest in same.

ANNUAL MEETING.

This took place at the Technical College on the Wednesday evening, about 40 persons being present. Mr. H. L. Jones was in the chair, and on the platform Mr. E. Tipper, of the "A. Bee Bulletin" and Mr. T. M. Hewitt, of Lismore, N.S.W., a gentleman who owns and works 700 hives.

Mr. H. W. Clarkson read the Annual Report as follows:—

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE QUEENSLAND B.K.A.

The present Association was inaugurated at a meeting held in the National Association Rooms on Saturday, 7th December, 1904, Mr. Frank Burt being in the chair. There was a large attendance of beekeepers, most of whom became members.

Since that date, 1 General. 6 Committee, and two Sub-Committee meetings have been held and a considerable amount of business has been done.

Rules have been drawn up and adopted.

The Association has been recognised by, and placed on the register of the Agricultural Department. This entitles the Association to send a delegate to the Agricultural Conferences. This year the Association nominated the Hon. Secretary as delegate and he accordingly attended the conference which was held at Cairns last May, where he read a paper on "Scientific Queen Rearing." The President, Mr. H. L. Jones, who was also present representing a Ipswich Society, submitted a subject for discussion, viz: "The export of honey."

The subject provoked a considerable amount of interest, and at the conclusion, the following resolution was unanimously carried by the Conference, viz: "That this conference is of opinion that assistance like that which has given such an impulse to the poultry industry should be given by the Agricultural Department to the honey industry (which is already engaging the attention of over a thousand persons in Queensland) by assisting in a trial shipment to England." The Minister for Agriculture, while thinking that the local market had not been sufficiently worked, kindly promised to give the above resolution his support. It is only right and proper that our industry should be represented at such conferences, and it was certainly a good advertisement for the Association, and resulted in a number of new members, besides bringing the honey business prominently before the public.

This year the association has had a good say in the management of the Apiculture section of the Exhibition. On the invitation of the National Association, the schedule was revised, and a number of new classes added. Your committee saw fit to donate £2 2s to the prize list of our particular section. At the suggestion of our association, a Bee Tent was used for the first time, and proved a great attraction. The arrangements in connection with it were well carried out. It must have proved both instructive and interesting to a large number of visitors to Bowen Park. The association was asked to nominate a judge, and chose Dr. Hamlyn Harris. During the year the subject of the exportation was carefully dealt with, a sub-committee was appointed, and they drew up a scheme for sending a trial shipment of 50 tons. The arrangements were almost completed, when Mr. Morton of London, a large purchaser of honey, arrived in Brisbane. He had a long interview with the committee. Acting on his advice, it was decided not to send home a trial shipment pending his report on 20 cases which had been shipped by Messrs. Burns, Phillip & Co., and also 20 cases that he had purchased in Queensland. His report arrived last week, and is not favourable. He describes the honey as being too dark, wanting in flavour and only equal to West Indian honey, worth the day he wrote, 18/- to 20/- per cwt., while the Californian honey was quoted at 28/- per cwt. He advised the association not to ship to London. Your committee are surprised at the tone of his letter, as he was shown several samples of our honey, which he said compared very favourably with the Californian, and was valued at from 28/- per cwt. upwards.

The Victorian Apiarists' Association have written suggesting that a meeting of delegates from the associations in the various States

should be held with a view to taking united action for the Export of Honey. Nothing has been done in the matter so far, but any instructions this meeting may give, will no doubt receive attention from the incoming committee. During the period under the review, two papers were read, one by the President, Mr. H. L. Jones, on "The Export of Honey," and one by Mr. Renke on "The Distribution of Honey."

The number of members now stands at 56.

The thanks of the association are due to Mr. Fyfe, for examining and reporting on a strange bee; to Dr. R. Hamlyn Harris for his kind support, and for acting as the consulting expert; to the National Association for the free use of their room, and last but not least, to the Press for the liberal and hearty support given to the association.

Over 1,500 letters, circulars and papers have been sent to beekeepers since the association was inaugurated last December.

The report was adopted.

The following office-bearers were then elected:—President, H. L. Jones; vice-president, J. C. Brunnich; hon. secretary, H. W. Clarkson; hon. treasurer, D. R. M'Connell; committee, Messrs. M. Peake, A. Gambling, J. C. Ruddle, R. J. Cribb, and J. M. Mitchell.

The balance sheet showed that the expenditure had amounted to £10 10s. 9d. leaving a credit balance of 13s.

The president then called for cheers for the visitors, Messrs. E. Tipper (*A. Bee Bulletin*) and Mr. H. M. Hewitt, of Lismore.

The President called on Mr. Tipper to make an address.

Mr. Tipper said he had no faith in the foreign markets, as the American supply dealers had so pushed the honey industry there was a glut there as in Australia. Russia produced 90,000 tons of honey, France produced 10,000 tons, Germany 20,000, and the other countries of Europe in proportion. Honey was produced in all parts of the world. Australia produced honey equal to any in the world, and her beekeepers were equal to any in the world, and knew how to turn their honey out properly strained. He had visited some of the largest and best apiaries, and could speak well in the matter. He thanked beekeepers for the

support they had given the "Australian Bee Bulletin," and would always endeavour to keep it up to its present standard. (Cheers).

Mr. Jones did not agree with Mr. Tipper. He believed there was a good market abroad for Australian honey.

Mr. T. M. Hewitt, of Lismore, who is the owner of some 700 hives, and has about £1000 invested in the industry, spoke of the northern beekeepers of N.S.W. joining the Queensland Association, and gave a number of experiences he had had in the disposal of his honey in England and the colonies, in some cases getting very good prices in the old country.

Dr. Hamlyn Harris was chosen honorary expert to the Association, and seven new members added to it.

VISITING.

AFTER the Exhibition we visited and spent a couple of pleasant days at Mr. A. Smith's farm at Goodna, some twelve miles from Brisbane. He has some fine farming land on the banks of the Brisbane River, a well looked after apiary, besides an out-apiary sixty miles away. Originally a blacksmith, then several years working in a saw-mill, he is a very practical mechanic. This is plainly to be seen by his fowl-yards, all erected by himself, in which he has about 200 birds, mostly silver Wyandottes and Plymouth Rocks. He has four very choice roosters, from which he breeds, several of which has cost him £4 each, and has others of the same quality bespoken. At the Exhibition he secured good prizes both for bees-wax and poultry. Mr. Smith drove us up to the residence of Mr. H. L. Jones, beautifully situated on an eminence overlooking a vast extent of forest country. Mr. Jones' office is on the top of the house, and in it is a splendid collection of bee literature from all parts of the world. He said it was the best bee-library in Australia. He lent us two old works, one of the date of 1691, the other 1712. It is our intention to favour our readers

with some of the quaint readings in same. We visited one of his apiaries containing about 300 hives. The forest is so dense here and yields so much honey he does not consider this over-stocked. There are all kinds of trees, iron bark (three kinds), stringy bark, spotted gum, blue gum, silky oak, etc., etc. In the early morning he drove us into the township, where we were shown his other apiary of some 200 hives, also his various queen-raising appliances, including the Swarthmore. Mr. Roberts also took us through the poultry yards, where about 15 different sorts of the best poultry are taken care of by him in as many yards. Poultry could not be in better hands, both for feeding and care. He has several incubators at work. Everything is up-to-date.

From there we went to Mr. Jones' other sheds and workshops. In the first yard were lying a number of huge logs ready to be cut into planks for further cutting into hives. It should be remembered this is the home of good timber for hive-making, being far superior to the American basswood both for endurance and the usage of nails. A large steam-engine was steaming away, and smart hands were handling the logs, and transforming them into planks and then into portions of hives, the latest kinds of machinery doing the dove-tailing and other work necessary to the proper making of up-to-date modern bee-hives, frames, etc.; large stacks of frames lying about. In an adjoining house, steam pipes were melting wax in large vats, from which busy workmen were making foundation by the help of three different sized foundation mills. From there we went to the tin-ware department, where another staff of workmen were busy in the manufacture of 60lb. and other honey tins, also honey extractors. Every department seemed to possess good practical workmen, and to be under the charge of good and experienced foremen. We noticed a number of cases of goods being prepared for consignment to Victoria, Tasmania, N. S. Wales and New Zealand. Evidently Mr. Jones is doing a good and healthy trade

with all parts of Australasia. While differing with Mr. Jones as to the large foreign honey market to be secured, we at same time sincerely hope Mr. Jones' opinion may be the right one. Not only is Mr. Jones a busy man in his own business, but he also holds several important local offices, and has done so for several years, having the good esteem of the local residents and securing the leading votes in all such. We are sorry to have to state he has had a sad domestic trouble of late. His little girl, two and a half years of age, was taken ill with dengue fever about three months since. It recovered, but the sight of both eyes were gone, it is said hopelessly. During the time of the Exhibition it was taken seriously ill again, and its life despaired of.

There were several large buyers of honey from Melbourne and other places at Brisbane during the Exhibition.

N.S.W.

BEE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

THE following are replies received to a circular issued respecting the New and Old Rules.

ELLIOT J. RIEN.

The new by-laws as printed are simply unworkable as a whole. Rule 9 should read:—No person shall be eligible for office unless a bona-fide beekeeper. Rule 10 is valueless. It should be, I think, that ballot papers be sent out before annual meeting, and returned to scrutineers, to be opened at Annual Meeting. Rule 11 is a rotten thing, and makes proxy voting a farce. The other rules are right enough, but give us the old ones as a whole a long way before these. If we are to be run, as in the past, by a few city people or amateur beekeepers, we might as well shut up at once. The Bee-Farmers' Association is for the interest of bee-farmers. I am afraid Mr. Ager, if he consults his notes again, will find he has made a few mistakes. I think better rules can certainly be made, suitable to all parties. Rule 12 should state when new rules should take place of old.

A. J. PANKHURST.

I do not intend to give my vote on the grounds that we will be in the same position

as before. I believe in one man, one vote. As long as a man pays his 2/6, I think he has as much right and power as the man with 200 colonies. A man might have 100 colonies in mid-summer, and only 50 in spring. I was very much annoyed at the meeting, and also Mr. Jacobs, as we thought it was carried on in a different style, and not so selfish. This would be a strange way to vote, for to send you the papers against your arrangements—why not private.

W. HANDCOCK.

Clear Creek, 27/6/05.—I hope my vote will not be too late for your purpose, and I wish you success. I did not get the voting paper till the 24th, and after our mail had gone. Our mail is only bi-weekly, and three miles to our Post Office at that.

R. H. GORTON.

The Proposed New Rules are a mixed up affair from beginning to end. Rule 3 reads:—Persons interested in or connected with the industry, who are not beekeepers, may become members. Now, I would like to know why they should become members. It can't be a Bee-farmers' Association if such persons are allowed to join. Then again, Rule 11:—No member be allowed to exercise more than 5 votes by proxy. What's to become of the votes if a member gets more than 5 sent to him? Throw them away, I suppose, or give them to some other member, and possibly the other member has different views to the man that sent his votes. No; I say send the votes to the Secretary; we know his views, as we get them in the A.B.B. every month. This is all I have to say about the new rules at present. Throw them out by all means. I, for one, am finished with the B. F. A. if they become law. Let us have bee-farmers, not a mixed class that know nothing and cares less about bee-farming. They are no good to us.

JAS. W. SHAKESPEARE.

I was in Sydney last Easter for the show, and would have waited for the Conference but it costs too much to wait.

In my opinion, if the Conference was held, say a day after the country excursion trains run down to Sydney from the country before Easter, then you would get a good crush of all country members, as well as those from the city to attend. I live over 300 miles from Sydney, and by excursion tickets I can come down for 27/6, return, and by waiting to go down by the beekeeper's pass it would cost me something like £2 7s. 6d. This is what blocks most of us from attending. I am certain if the meeting was altered accordingly, your conference would be a success.

With reference to this vote slip, if you wish to use it you can do so, and nothing would

please me more than you would you would give the votes in favour of the old and tried rules of our Association. I am real sorry now that I did not stop and see it through. I called to see you at the Crescent several times before I left, but you had not arrived. With best wishes.

C. DOWLING.

Having entrusted you with my proxies, I thank you very much for the way you used them. I don't approve of the new rules, and will vote against them when the time comes.

SAML. BARBER.

I think you will lose some votes by giving so short a time to have them in.

WM. NIVEN, SEN.

Eugowra, June 22nd, 1905.—I beg to acknowledge having received copy of the old and new rules of the N.S.W.B.F.A. There can be nothing done till next Annual Meeting. I would refer you to Rule 12 of New Rules adopted at last Annual Meeting, held in Sydney, April 26th and 27th.

J. E. TAYLOR.

I am inclined to think that the better way would be to allow all members to vote by post, let them send in their ballot papers to the Secretary, marked "Ballot Papers," and to be opened at the meeting before all present.

J. PENNINGTON.

Beeville Apiary, Cope's Creek, Inverell.—I mislaid the ballot paper you sent me, and have just found it. I am sorry that I mislaid it, as I intended to send it in by the 24th of last month. However, I am posting it to-day, hoping that it may be of some help to our old Bee-Farmers' Association. I think we cannot do better than stick to our old rules. We want genuine beekeepers, not commission agents and supply dealers to be enrolled as members of our Association. I gave you my proxy, knowing that you would use my votes to the best interests of our industry, which I am sure you have done to the best of your ability.

EDWARD BROWN.

I don't quite understand this. I don't know whether I have a vote, only having 40 hives, but if I have I shall certainly vote for old rules. I am only a novice in the bee business, but I hope to improve. I don't think it fair that country members should be done out of their votes when they can't attend. I, for one, cannot very well attend the meeting: If the members had not confidence in their Secretary they would not send their proxies to him.

R. SHAW.

I favour combining old rules No. 2 and 3 with proposed rule No. 1. Re proposed rule

3, I have no objection to persons interested in or connected with the industry becoming members, provided they are beekeepers to the extent of 40 or 50 colonies. A beekeepers' association should consist of beekeepers. Proposed rule 10 would deprive members unable to attend annual meeting of an important right. A quorum of five, with only five proxy votes per member, would disenfranchise a number of members, making them members only in name. Prefer a quorum of about 12, but certainly should not be less than 9. Proposed rule 12.—Rules should not be altered in any way before proposed alterations are placed before all members, at least three months.

PAUL VOLZ.

I regard the alteration of rules only as a mischievous attempt to destroy the Bee-Farmers' Association, and to create another Sydney Association. The old system of voting by proxy is alright. Members only give their votes to somebody they have confidence in. Mr. Ager announced months before the meeting, in *Pender's Journal*, that he would make it his business to be present, yet apparently no body had sufficient confidence in him to trust him with their votes.

F. W. PENBERTHY

I have read the Proposed New Rules and think they are coming very close to the rules of all dead associations; and there is a great number of them.

There is one thing we must not lose sight of in altering the rules of the Association, that is the great distance the majority of the members are from Sydney or other centre. Victoria is not to be compared with N. S. W., on account of the great difference in their size as regards to the attendance to meetings.

New Rule 2.—The subscription is not high enough, nor is it under the old rules. An Association is practically dead without an income far above what we have been getting. The large beekeeper should subscribe in proportion to the number of hives, also votes of course in proportion. Members will not always subscribe to a thing if they don't get recognised or get anything for their money.

New Rule 10 reduces the say of the absent member in electing officers, whereas all members should have equal power in electing officers, after which proxies are of no use, because the officers are elected to carry out the business as they think fit.

New Rule 11 is a dead letter. It would disenfranchise nearly all absent members, and if all the members present at the annual meeting had their limit of proxies, the results would be the same if they had none. There should be a low limit to the number of non-beekeep-

ers as officers, or this association will suffer the same fate as the old Victorian and N.S.W. National Association.

The Proposed New Rules seem to be framed for a small local association, where most of the members could attend easily. They are not just under the circumstances. Let the majority rule by all means, and the minority should do their best to help them.

There are few that have worked as hard as you have for any Association. With kind regards.

J. S. CHAPMAN.

It is almost impossible for me to be in Sydney, unless on some other business. The old rules and proxies are all right for me.

P. MOREFIELD.

I was sorry I was unable to be present at the Meeting of the N.S.W.B.F.A. in Sydney. I thought I would be able to come but found I was unable to do so.

As a country beekeeper, I admire the stand you took at the Conference, and I think what you say is perfectly true. In regard to proxies, I sent mine to you, knowing I could trust you, and I have no doubt but what all the beekeepers did the same, because a man, if he was not trusted, would not have the confidence of country beekeepers, and they would not send him their votes. In regard to no one holding more than five proxies, how will it work for us that live hundreds of miles from Sydney. I think as you do in last issue of A.B.B., that it will get into the hands of a few city men, who, I think do not consider the poor beekeeper out in the bush, but what they can make out of him, and I think you are right in trying to keep the Association for beekeepers only.

As we have had enough of the interference of those who have an axe to grind, what we want is men like yourself who will interest themselves in our business, and try and see if we cannot do something to get a price for our product, and not to see how many more beekeepers can be made, so as to make it cheaper, and I am sure that the stand you have taken will be upheld by the majority of beekeepers. I do not see, myself, why there should be any alteration of rules. The Association has been built up on the

old rules, and I do not see that the alteration will be of benefit to the Association, in fact I can see that it means the taking away of the power of the country beekeeper, and putting it into the hands of a few city men. My idea is that we have a good live Secretary, who looks after our interests, as the work he has done shows, and I do not think we want any more Government instructors or foul brood Inspectors, but what we want is combination amongst ourselves, and if we allow our Association to be interfered with, we stand a chance of it being broken up again. So I say again to all beekeepers, stand together and back our Secretary up in his efforts to benefit us, and give him your support by voting against the alteration of the Rules of our Association, and I think by so doing we will be conserving our own interests, and, from what I can see, if we do not look after them, we cannot expect others to do so.

Name.	Number of Hives.	Votes	For old Rules.	For Pro. Rules.
W. Handcock	50	1	1	0
R. H. Gorton	60	1	1	0
Jas. W. Shakespeare	500	10	10	0
C. Dowling	264	5	5	0
Samuel Barber	140	2	2	0
John Pennington	150	3	3	0
Edward Brown	40	1	1	0
R. Shaw				
			Rules 2 to 12	Rule 1, 2 and 9
Paul Volz	90	1	1	0
F. W. Penberthy	200	4	4	0
Elliot J. Rien	108	2	Rule 12	Rules 1 to 8
Hugh Allen	110	2	2	0
John P. Ward	30	1	1	0
J. S. Chapman	23	1	1	0
E. Tipper	200	4	4	0

Will others kindly forward.

The Beekeepers' Record (England), say: "Those who object to compulsory powers for inspection of apiaries are among the largest and most experienced bee-keepers in the kingdom—men presumably supposed to know something about the subject being dealt with."

A Trial Shipment of Honey.

THE LONDON MARKETS.

MESSRS. A. Moritzson and Co., of Dunedin, New Zealand forwarded to London some months ago a trial shipment of honey.

The sample was the very finest white clover honey from the Tapanui district. For years Messrs. Moritzson have received the same apiarist's consignments. He makes from 10 to 15 tons, and always topped the market in Dunedin. Last year, being a year of plenty, top value was 3½d. in the colony, and at that price part of the output was sold. The honey was packed in nice, clean, new, patent 56 lb. tins, and in new cases, two tins fitting into a case specially made. The owner wished to try the English market, otherwise 60 cases that were shipped could have been sold within the colony at 3½d. clear. The following report was received from the firm to whom the honey was consigned:—"We are without any of your favours to acknowledge, and this merely serves to hand you separate advice of sale of your shipment of honey ex Rangatira, and we trust the price realised of 30/- per cwt. will prove satisfactory to your good selves. There was a fair competition for the parcel at the auction, and as the honey was 'too white' in color we consider the price realised a very full one indeed. Some of the tins, we may add, showed slight signs of fermentation. The honey that is best liked on this market is a pale yellow color. Account sales of 60 cases honey, by the steamer Rangatira from New Zealand, sold in London by the undersigned by order on account of Messrs. A. Moritzson and Co.:—60 cases—weight 69 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb., draft (2 lb. each) 1cwt. 0qr. 8lb., tare (20lb. each) 10cwt. 2qr. 24lb.,—57cwt. 3qr. 15lb. net, at 30/- per cwt., £86 16/6; discount, 2½ per cent., £2 3/5. Total, £84 13/1. Freight, 150 feet at 35/- and 10 per cent., as per bill, £7 4/4; sale charges and petties, 12 lots at 2/- each £1 4/-; landing (9cwt. 3qr. 17lb., at 7½d. per cwt., £2 3/9; sampling and pots supplied, 13/-; open-

ing for customs inspection. 3 at 1/-, 3/-; coopering and materials 7/-; taring 3 at 1/- each, 3/-; re-weighing 69cwt. 2qr. 19 lb., at 2d. per cwt., 11/7; rent, 6 weeks at 7½d. per ton per week, 13/1. Total £4 13/11—less discount at 10 per cent. 9/4.—£4 4/7; warrant stamps, 12 at 3d. 3/- £4 7/7; insurance, 3 months at 3/-per cent., on £150, 4/6; commission and guarantee 3 per cent., £2 12/1; net proceeds due 22nd. December, 1904, £69 0/7.

Commenting on the above report, Messrs. Moritzson write:—"The price would leave our man 2½d. per lb. net, London account sales, and this is subject to a small commission and the charges to put it f.o.b. so we do not think he has got much over 2d. per lb. for his honey when railage, cartage, harbour dues and Dunedin commission are paid. We can only add again that the honey is the finest that is put on the market. Every year we are handling considerable quantities from various apiarists in the colony both in the North and South Islands, and we must say no finer honey is handled by us. This year this man has only a small crop owing to the cold and wet season. We learn from a reliable source that considerable quantities of honey are shipped regularly from California and India to London, and we also learn that this honey is mostly light amber coloured, and sells from 26/- to 30/-, and, in exceptional cases at 32/-, and the shippers seem satisfied with that price. This, of course, we understand, does not pay our New Zealand apiarists at the present time, nor is there much amber coloured honey produced in the South Island. We have had amber coloured honey from Auckland and the Barrier Islands, where the bees apparently feed on the pollen of the native flax flower which gives the honey, the amber colour. This honey is not required in the South Island at all, as the people prefer the white clover honey, neither do we think does the flavour compare favourably with that produced in the South Island."

The New Zealand Produce Commissioner in London reported as follows:—"The honey came to hand by the steamer

Rangatira, and I communicated with the firm as requested by you, and when the honey was landed they informed me of it. They placed the shipment for sale in the Mincing-lane brokers (name given). Samples were drawn by this firm, which were shown in their sale room, and to day the bulk was offered by public auction and sold. I do not know whether this was the method you intended to be adopted for the sale of your honey when you shipped it. Of course, it is a very easy way for agents to dispose of consignment, and no doubt there is a very considerable saving in expense by this method. Whether or not it is the best means of realising the highest returns for you, of course I am not here to decide. That is for your own consideration. Naturally, it is not for me, occupying my official position, to interfere with methods of business. Consequently I can only report as requested, upon what has occurred. There was good competition at the sale, and the whole parcel, which was divided into twelve lots of five cases each, was sold 'with all faults' at 30/- per cwt two buyers taking the whole of it. The honey is reported on by the brokers to be a good fair average sample of New Zealand honey. The colour is described as 'set white to pale yellowish,' and the flavour as 'ordinary to fair.' Several of the tins had become rusty, and others had been stained, and in some of these the honey was inclined to ferment. The market at present is a fair one for the sale of honey. Consequently as a test of what may be reckoned on as an average price to be obtained on the London market, the present sale ought to be a suitable test. The brokers informed me that whereas there is a good demand for honey similar to that sold on your account to-day, the special inquiry for New Zealand honey is for a finer flavoured, bright orange or yellow, quality. That the price realised must be considered satisfactory for the quality of the consignment at auction will be apparent when it is known that the brokers' valuation of it prior to the sale was 22/6 to 25/- per cwt.

If moderate and regular shipments of New Zealand honey were made there is no doubt that better prices than that realised to-day would be obtained. Naturally, occasional shipments do not meet with the same competition as parcels coming forward with regularity." - *Leader*.

THE EFFECT ON BEES OF COLD AND MOISTURE.

A SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION ABLY PRESENTED.

By Frank W. Proctor.

THE question was lately raised in the *American Bee-Keeper*: "Why is a freezing temperature so much more disastrous to bees confined in a cellar than it is to those wintering on a summer stand?"

Every bee is a little furnace within which honey is transformed into heat. The bee also gets heat by radiation from substances around it, and also by conduction if it touches any object warmer than itself. This heat is lost by radiation to the air and other things around it, and by conduction to any colder object with which it comes in contact. At any given movement the body temperature of a bee represents the balance between income and loss of heat in the manner desired. Bees can vary their rate of heat production by changing the amount of their food, but there is a limit to the rate at which they can make the transformation of honey into heat; and when it falls short of the rate of loss they must succumb.

The rate of radiation increases with the temperature of the radiating body, and is independent of the temperature of the environment. Accordingly bees do not lose heat in this manner any faster in cold weather than in warm. But the amount of heat they receive by radiation from surrounding matter depends upon its temperature, and the amount of heat received in this manner in winter is small. The net result, therefore, of loss and gain

through radiation is a larger loss in cold weather than in warm.

The rate of loss of heat by conduction depends upon the nature of the conducting body and upon its temperature. The lower its temperature the faster any conductor will carry away the heat of a warmer body with which it is in contact. There are large differences in conductivity of substances. In winter bees are generally different in contact only with the combs on which they cluster and the air which surrounds them. Beeswax is a poor conductor of heat, and for that reason makes an excellent resting place for bees in cold weather. If the combs were made of metal it would draw off the body heat of the bees so rapidly that they probably could not withstand low temperature, though well sheltered. Dry air is a relatively poor conductor of heat and as long as the air in the hive is dry and somewhat stagnant, large clusters of bees with plenty of food can withstand very cold weather. The conductivity of dry air, water, and silver are to each other respectively, as 1 : 25 :: 19571. The conductivity of moist air seems not to have been accurately determined. The only statement the writer can find concerning its value is, that one investigator found that of steam to be higher than that of dry air. It is however, a matter of common experience that in damp, foggy or rainy winter weather one is colder than on dry days, with the same temperature. This has been explained by excellent scientists, as being due to the superior conducting power of water vapour in the air and in one's clothing. This seems reasonable though it is not a matter of course. Moist air is not necessarily dry air and water. It may be, and more often than otherwise is, dry air and vapor.

Water vapor is one of the several invisible gases of which the atmosphere is composed, and it is always present in the driest weather and in the most arid regions. Its chief difference of behaviour from the other gases is that it becomes liquid at a considerably higher tempera-

ture than they do. It is produced by evaporation from water and ice at all temperatures, slowly at low temperatures, faster at high temperatures.

There is a definite amount of water vapor which can exist in the air at any moment, and this amount depends mainly upon the temperature. The higher the temperature the larger the quantity of vapor possible. For example, the maximum amount at 32 degrees Fahr. is 2.113 grains per cubic foot, at 110 degrees is 26.112 grains. When this limit is reached the vapor is said to be saturated, and any further addition of vapor results in changing some of it by condensation into water. If there is less than the maximum amount of vapor that can exist in the air at any moment, the degree of saturation is expressed in percentage, and this is called the relative humidity. For example, a relative humidity of per cent signifies that there is in the air 3-4 of the total amount that can exist at that temperature. Since the possible amount of vapour decreases with the temperature, any sudden cooling of the air increases its relative humidity. If, for example, the air at 45 degrees with a relative humidity of 75 per cent were cooled to 37 degrees, the vapour would be more than saturated and some of it turned to water.

If water vapor is a better conductor of heat than dry air, its conductivity must increase with the relative humidity, i.e., the nearer it approaches saturation. When condensed into water it is twenty-five fold a better conductor of heat than dry air, as we have seen.—*American Bee-keeper.*

CLEANING KEROSENE CANS.

THE method we have found the most satisfactory in rapidity and thoroughness is to make a solution of strong soapsuds by slicing up not less than two bars of some good laundry soap (without resin in it is preferred) to a barrel of water. Add to this not over half a can or about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb

of concentrated lye. We then throw a steam-hose into the barrel, and boil until the soap is dissolved. We use a funnel made with the small end a little smaller than the size of the opening in the cans, to allow for expansion of the cool air in the can, and to prevent the hot suds from being blown back into your face while pouring into the cans.

We have a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pipe running from the steam-dome of our boiler so we can get dry steam. This pipe has a perpendicular length sufficient to reach the bottom of a can, with a valve within convenient reach of your hands. Insert this pipe in a can containing the hot suds, until the lower end of it reaches within about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the bottom. Suspend the can in this position by a hook fastened into the ring on the can. Open your valve and let in steam enough to boil the suds, and throw it all over the inside of the can. We boil one can and fill another ready to boil, and rinse out the boiled can. We always rinse with two waters—the first time with clean hot water; the last, clean cold water. With this system one active person can clean 100 or more per day.

After draining these cans they are laid in a hot sunny place on their sides, with the opening nearest the top, to allow the remaining moisture and any odours to escape freely. We clean cans in hot sunny weather, as the sun is the most effective and convenient form of heat we have found for the volatilizing of the oil odours. We have found the use of concentrated lye in too strong a solution to be unwise. Try a strong solution of it on bright tin, and you will observe that it has a very corrosive effect. Cans thus treated are at once attacked by the acid in honey, discolouring and injuring the flavour of the honey. We leave our cans in the sun about a week, if we are not needing them, then go over them in the heat of the day, when they are hot, and we can easily pick out any doubtful ones by the odour, and leave them for a few days longer. When sunning does not remove the odour, another suds treat-

ment may hasten the cleaning.

Where access to a steam-plant is not possible, the same results can be obtained by the thorough shaking of the hot suds and a longer sunning.—*Gleanings*.

THE HONEY INDUSTRY.

ACTION IN QUEENSLAND.

A MEETING of the sub-committee appointed by the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, to discuss the subject of honey export (arising out of a paper recently read to the Association by the President, Mr. H. L. Jones), was held in the rooms of the Queensland National Agricultural and Industrial Association last week. Dr. Hamlyn Harris was voted to the chair. The correspondence read included several letters from beekeepers offering to assist with consignments of honey should a trial shipment be made on what would appear, to them, to be practical lines.

The Chairman said that before they formulated any scheme they ought to make up their minds that certain conditions must be complied with. A great responsibility attached to a shipment of honey home—it must be a success or the market might be ruined for ever. He did not think Mr. Jones, whose absence he regretted, was quite correct when he said that "in England a most unreasonable prejudice existed against Australian honey. That prejudice he (the speaker) did not think was unreasonable, and he pointed to several samples of honey on the table as of indifferent quality. One of them he characterised as of a kind that if it were representative of Queensland honey, would make it wise not to attempt to build up an export trade. The samples that were most sought for in England were of a golden color, though lighter sorts were saleable to a smaller extent. He felt keenly the responsibility that fell on his shoulders as their expert, because if the consignment were a failure, a great deal of the blame would fall on him. If they in this colony could only realise what

beautiful honey came from the Downs at home they would be astonished. It has a splendid flavour, but the honey out here was terribly mixed. It is not a bit of use sending home honey of mixed flavours if they expected to get a price for it. Distinct samples should be kept separate, and given distinct names. They should be honeys from one flower, or, at most two flowers. If a sample of clover honey was mixed with wild flower honey it would be entirely spoiled for their purpose. Honey was one of those things that carried taste in a very marked way, and if they mixed over so small a quantity of one with 1 cwt. of another honey it would give a taste to the whole. Therefore different honeys from different beekeepers should be kept apart, and sent to England apart. The honey should be the very finest they could lay their hands on. Much of the honey he saw was not properly strained. He did not wish it to be thought he was "running down" their local honey, but they would understand that he wished to speak plainly. An ordinary piece of muslin was not sufficient to strain honey properly. They did not want to send home cloudy honey. Flannel used for straining honey should not be entirely new. If they sent home different kinds of honey, and kept them separate, the man who went in charge—and he saw no way but to send a man in charge—might ascertain which of the Australian honeys met the English taste better than others. It was absolutely essential that they should maintain a high standard of excellence. The honey should be thoroughly well ripened. He had judged honey at the royal shows at home and had had a good deal of experience with English honey. Unripe honey when opened up after being corked up, had a distinctly unpleasant smell. English honeys had not that smell, and he thought this fact was due to the beekeepers there having been educated up to a better efficiency in preparing the commodity. Without wishing to say anything against the Queensland beekeepers, he saw much in their methods that was suggestive of dirt. He thought that country

beekeepers might be kept in touch with the central association through a system of local honorary secretaries appointed for that purpose. Honey exported to England must be sent for table use—it was no good sending home any other quality of honey. Any man who went to England should make a special point of working the chemists there, because the British chemists handled an enormous quantity of that product. But ought they not to especially consider one particular point when discussing the export of honey—whether they were doing their duty towards the industry as regarded their own local market. To him it looked like a man setting out to put somebody else's house in order before he had put his own right. There were dozens and dozens of honey products to consider, and the people of Queensland wanted to be educated up to their use. They would then very readily adopt honey and honey products. When people realised that cake made with honey would keep for months they would use honey in their cakes. It gave the cakes an especial flavor. He asked them to seriously consider whether they could not do far more than was being done to create a better local market. They could do it if they only took the trouble. He could remember the time—and he was not very old—when there was a very small market for honey in England; but the market had been properly pushed and handled. If people at home could use honey at 9d. lb., surely the local people could use it at the much cheaper price they could get it for. And why did not the beekeepers make honey vinegar? It need not be attempted on a large scale, but they could experiment in a small way. It would, of course, have to be done with a full attention to local climatic conditions. It would be little use working strictly to an English recipe. A great deal has been done at home in the education of the public by exhibitions of bees being manipulated at shows. Certainly a great amount of ignorance existed here about bees and the industry. He hoped that hives being manipulated

would be on view at all the shows locally. The man sent home with their honey would, he trusted, go under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. That was very essential, as it was also essential that they should send home the very best man they could get. He (the chairman) had a full appreciation of the many difficulties that man would meet, of the opposition that he would encounter. But there was no reason why Australia should not compete against America for the English trade.

Mr. J. C. Cribb thought the time was not ripe to send honey home. The block was in Queensland, because (as their chairman had pointed out) the beekeepers would not classify the honey. He had been preaching that for years. The honey market here was not in a good condition, and the fault lay with the beekeepers. It was disappointing to find such a meagre response in the way of offers of honey from the beekeepers. The chairman said he thought the association in Queensland had done excellent work in its three months of existence. They could not accomplish everything at once. The secretary believed that when the scheme had been put into concrete form there would be a generous response. A formal motion that a scheme for the export of honey should be drawn up was carried.

SPRING BREEDING.

THE queen is likely to begin laying in August—sometimes even in July. She begins with a very few eggs daily, a compact cluster being in the centre, or warmest part of the hive. By and by eggs and brood will be found in two or three frames, the whole being no more than would easily go in one frame, which means that the queen may be laying at the rate of about 300 eggs a day. When she gets to laying 1000 a day, she will have four frames fairly well filled with brood—at least they would be called well filled, although little more than three-fourths of their

actual capacity. With 1500 a day—many queens will not go beyond this, while some will more than double it—she will have six Langstroth frames well occupied, and this a fairly good queen will reach by the last of May in the North.

Looking into the hive at this time, there will be found a broodnest of a somewhat globular form, the central frames being a little fuller than the others, a band of honey being at the top and at the two ends, although a good queen may have brood clear to the top-bar. There may and there may not be some pollen in the upper part of these frames, but the frame next them at each side will have a good supply of pollen as well as honey. In a 10-frame hive it is not a very common thing to find brood in the outside frame at each side, but in an 8-frame hive the queen will often insist upon occupying a good part of the two outside frames.

This amount of brood will be found kept up pretty well throughout the season, but toward the close the sphere of brood will gradually become less and less the space left vacant by the brood being filled with honey and pollen, and somewhere in September or October all brood rearing ceases, and all the combs should be found filled with honey and pollen, except the lower portions of the central combs.

Thus a rough sketch is given as to what may be found in the hive at different times, subject to innumerable variations, and no one must understand that any attempt at exactness has been attempted. Neither must any beginner understand that 8 or even 10 frames does not necessarily make the limit for every queen. If given the opportunity, there are queens which will occupy 12, 14, or more frames.—*Exchange.*

A grand honey-crop anticipated in California this year on account of the plentiful rains. There has been a failure for three years.

EVAPORATION OF HONEY.

IF most of the evaporation is done during the very day the nectar is gathered, why do the bees work so much during the following night?

Quoting what Doolittle says on the subject:

"When bees are gathering nectar from the field, they give the same, on entering the hive, to the young or nurse bees, as I have said before. If no more is gathered than these young bees can hold in their sacs, none is put in the cells. If more is gathered than their sacs will hold, the surplus nectar is put into the cells by these nurse bees until evening, and then evaporated down, although this evaporation is going on to some extent during the day. At night, all hands join; from the outside laborer with well worn-out wings, down to bees but a day or two old, when the nectar is taken into the honey sacs, thrown out on the partly doubled tongue, drawn back in again, thrown out and drawn in again and so on, until by this stirring up process and the heat of the hive, these small particles of honey are brought to the right consistency, when it is deposited in the cells to be sealed in due time."

Now, why all that, if only a small per cent of water remains to be evaporated?

To this it may be replied that this work is not altogether a question of evaporation. The bees also add to the reduced nectar, secretions from different glands and mix them thoroughly together during the process above described. Some chemical changes undoubtedly take place or at least begin during that time.

FINAL RIPENING.

If all the above is true, the evaporation of the surplus water and the mixing of the different elements should be complete in less than two days (unless it be in very heavy yields). But we know that the honey is not ripe yet. Some chemical reactions have yet to take place slowly before the honey is really ripe or fully ripe. The most important one is the full transformation of the cane sugar in dex-

trose and levulose. Others effect the taste of the honey. Many kinds of honey have at first some disagreeable taste that gradually disappears through the ripening process.

ARTIFICIAL RIPENING.

If two or three days is all that is needed to put the honey in such shape that the remainder of the ripening process can go on, so to speak, of itself, why not extract it then and let the ripening go on outside of the hive?

Well, I don't know. There may be some other conditions to fulfill beside those mentioned above, some perhaps entirely unknown.

Artificial ripening has been attempted already with more or less success, rather less than more, as far as I know. I presume that to be entirely successful it would be necessary to keep the honey at a uniform temperature the same as exists in the hive. A higher temperature would destroy the essential oils which give the honey its good taste and peculiar flavour. And it would take but a few degrees for that.—*American Beekeeper.*

THE HONEY MARKET.

THE following is from the "Progressive Beekeeper," (U.S.A.):—

A large share of last year's honey crop is still unsold, while the market is practically dead, as is easily shown by reference to the market reports. The crop of the coming season will soon be here, and should it prove a bountiful one, with last year's crop still unsold, where will prices go then? We may as well face the situation squarely. Then comes the all important question: What shall we do about it?

The proposition is to advertise the uses of honey in the newspapers to a large extent. Will this have a beneficial effect in inducing more people to consume honey, or will it induce more to become beekeepers? Thirteen years ago we heard over and over again there was only so much per head of honey consumed. Has that percentage increased to an appreciable extent? The home market for honey was going to beat the butter market. Has it done so? We now

know the whole world over produces honey; supply dealers are in all parts of the world pushing their wares; innocent beginners are everywhere blowing what a great industry beekeeping is *going to be*. Few comparatively take a journal that shows the real state of things; and prices are going down all over the world. Is there any hope? Yes; the unfortunates that have spent most money in it will gradually go out of it; along with those in places where inferior honey only is produced; then, perhaps, prices may rise, and those who endure to the end may be saved to enjoy the benefit of a fair price. May they do so!

Ancient Feeding and Feeders.

FEEDING bees is a practice of great antiquity. The "sweetened water" of Virgil shows that it was known and practised before the dawn of the Christian era. Osier or other twigs cut in two and the liquid sweet poured in the hollow was one way in which food was given. At times it was sprinkled on wool, and sucked dry by the bees. The later plan of using a larger platter covered with cut straw or rushes was also known and carried out. Many simply lifted the stool and threw the liquid in amongst the combs, leaving the bees to clean it up. Turn up your hives and sprinkle them with a little warm sugar and sweet wort. Do it dexterously!

Feeding was done in public and in private, which means in the open air and in the hives, though generally the latter was done by turning up the hive and sprinkling the combs. Several ingenious feeders were used, and one case we have the rudimentary beginning of transposing combs, for Remnant recommends cutting out an empty comb and pinning in a full one in its place.

Here are two comparatively modern recipes for bee-food:—Take 6lb. water, 8lb. honey, one bottle old wine, 1 lb. sugar. Boil the compound for a quarter of an hour, skimming any froth that may arise. Place on stool in plate with straw

above for bee-rests, and use an eke to supply room. For cottagers not able to obtain the bottle of good wine a cheaper recipe is give:—2 qts. good old ale, 1 lb. moist sugar. Boil for some time and skim. Salt is conducive to the health of bees. These are just one hundred years old. Dzierzon, in his '82 edition, wrote:—"We have ascertained that sugared milk and eggs form a harmless substitute for the natural food of bees, and are a powerful means of promoting breeding." It would be interesting to know if any now living ever tried this as a food for bees, and, if so, what is their estimate of its success as a brood-getter. This desirable end in the time of Cromwell was said to be secured by the following mixture:—"Take an handful of balm, 1 drachm camphor, $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm musk dissolved in rose-water, sufficient beeswax, oil of roses as required. Insert a lump of the size of a hazel nut. It will much increase the number of your bees and entice other bees to come *and stay*. The profit will be three times the expenditure."

Toasts of bread, steeped in strong ale and put in a bee-hive, are very good and cheap food. Bees are not teetotalers, for beer and sugar are their best winter food. Now we moderns, after having tried all these varied methods and materials, have gone back to the simple "sweetened water" of classic times!—D. M. M., Banff in *Beekeepers Record*.

WAX ADULTERATION.

We are pleased to be able to report that the two men charged with adulteration of beeswax at Ballarat, in June, Walter Miller and Alfred Head, Head was found not guilty, but Miller was found guilty on the last two charges, and sentenced to two years imprisonment.

An enquiry—how to make honey granulate quickly. Reply—Put into a barrel, cover tightly, and every second or third day give the honey a good stirring.

Use rain water when rendering wax.

PRICES OF HONEY.

Maitland Mercury.—Honey, 2d. per lb. Small tins 2s.

Melbourne Australasian.—Honey—Prime clear garden in demand at from 2½d to 2¾d. Inferior samples difficult to quit. Beeswax from 1/- to 1/1½d, according to quality.

Melbourne Leader.—Honey. — Prime 2¾d to 3d per lb.; good, 2½d. Inferior qualities unsaleable.

S. M. Herald.—60lb tins prime extracted 1¾d to 2d, choice tin lots, 2½d per lb.; candied 1½d. Beeswax, dark 1/1½d, prime clear 1/2 per lb.

Brisbane Paper.—Honey, 1½d to 1¾d.

SYDNEY MARKET

The following letter was received on August 2nd, respecting a consignment of honey sent on May 20:—

Mr. E. Tipper, Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of your favor of the 26th ult., asking about sales, and immediately on receipt of same we communicated with our agents who have the disposal of honey in hand for us. They have now informed us that the market has been glutted for some time. There is, however, a better enquiry for butter just now, and in consequence they look forward to honey moving off freer than has been the case for some time past.

Regretting the delay, but hoping to advise you shortly of a satisfactory clearance.

HONEY.—

Supplies of choicest quality have been coming forward very freely, and the market is easier, 2½d being the ruling rate for quantities and 2½d for odd lots. Dark and strong flavoured lots are extremely dull of sale from 1½d.

BEESWAX.—

In good supply Light 1/1. Dark 1/-

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REPLY TO MR. BEUHNE'S PAPER,

BY W. ABRAM, BEECROFT.

IN the December issue, page 195 and 196, on Dwindling, etc., Mr. Beuhne stated that the influence of food, etc., will be known before long in the case of bees. Having seen the report of research, therefore, I deemed it needless to reply to some unfounded and misleading remarks, believing that full light would shine on the subject at last, and since I do not wish to carry on a controversy for the sake of argument, but for the benefit of the industry. This report, I take it, has now been given. But I look in vain for the expert evidence. Are you satisfied you know now how to prevent such losses as prevailed for the last ten years or so? I am not. Therefore I deem it my duty to re-open the controversy, unpleasant as it is to me in more ways than one. And as I have not replied to the December matter, I propose to take the two conjointly now.

Page 195.—Mr. Beuhne re-asserts that I have no personal knowledge of the disappearing trouble,—that he referred to me with his clairvoyant remarks, etc. He has still to prove whether he had justification to hurl these and other insinuations at me. I gave my experience and reasons for believing that the trouble can be obviated, and how; and I give the indications how to observe the trouble. The close observer can notice a few more dead bees than usual in front of the hive, others further away strewn around the ground, on fences, trees, etc., on flowers where they intended to work, some having pollen on their legs, some more than a mile from their home. Towards evening on a day when they are flying to some extent, bees can be found as described, and still alive, but unable to return home. Now, to notice anything quickly, I keep the ground around the hives clear of weeds; where grass grows anything unusual is not so easily to be noticed. This dwindling occasions the disappearing trick, and, having spared

nothing in order to study it wherever found, I am more convinced than ever that the difference between this and paralysis is more a matter of varied degrees than anything else. If it can be proven that I am in error, I stand correction and be glad of it.

Mr. Beuhne cites as well-known the influence of food on the vitality in the cases of infants, animals, poultry and silkworms, and the same will be known before long in the case of bees. Be that as it may, as regards infants, etc.,—our subject concerns bees and their mortality. He now assumes that, because some pollen is said to contain 27 per cent., others only 17 per cent of protein, the low percentage of protein consumed by the larvæ results in feeble resistance to disease germs and in weakness, predisposition to disease, susceptible to cold and premature wearing out of the perfect insect. In other words, he attributes to deficient protein the disappearing trick. Now, I contend that stronger proofs are required to show that 17 per cent. protein containing pollen is insufficient—with other food and conditions good—for the well-being and prosperity of larva and bee-life. How was it ascertained that such is the case as regards the enormous loss of bees? Where is the remedy?

As to distance I can instance less than six miles, as only last winter and spring several beekeepers lost most all bees, and not more than a mile in a straight line from my place, whereas I lost none. Now did their bees gather all the 17 per cent., and mine the 27 per cent. protein, containing pollen? And how is it that in the same place, some suffer more, some less, some not at all? Why do not some bees suffer soon after the food is gathered? However, Mr. Beuhne is undecided. Now he suspects pollen, then honey, then sugar-feeding, but in no case does he give tangible proof in support. Further he says: "Pollen of flowers which have suddenly sprung up after rain in January, February, March and April cannot elaborate the right percentage of protein." Why not? Is flesh-forming nutriment

the most potent factor in bee-life? Can he gauge their life by the amount of protein the larvæ consume? And if not sufficient protein be present what would he recommend? As a fact, cannot bees live for some time, rear brood even for a short period, without a particle of pollen within their reach? A chemist may advise something that an analyst would pronounce better than pollen; so with honey; but would it be advisable to use it? Some years ago I saw and tested some stuff a chemist said to contain all the ingredients of honey;—but I want none of it for my bees.

If beekeepers follow Mr. Beuhne's advice they will have some shifting before them, unless the government can be got to pass a law that dandelion, etc., are noxious weeds, and must be destroyed ere they bloom! Under all these circumstances I still hold the other factors than food or the low percentage of protein influence the development and sustenance of life and constitution, and since the gathering and preparing of the food, good or bad, is largely beyond the beekeeper's control, there is still a lot to learn. Natural conditions vary, and thus influence other factors, either for prosperity or otherwise. Again, is it natural that impure or injurious food should have been gathered year after year, and be the sole cause of the complaints. Nature does not intend continuous loss and destruction, though occasionally, and then for reasons and in ways we hardly understand, and which go against our coveted inclinations. Further, it is well to bear in mind that warmth is life, cold is death. Without pollen bees live for some time, without honey they perish in about 24 hours. In honey they have the means to resist cold, in pollen they have not. If constitutional weakness is an inheritance, or if disease strikes them down, then the best of food won't cure. Every keen observer knows that there is variation in everything, then why not in pollen and honey? And is it not more than likely that such variation is not only natural,

but beneficial. Who will assert that bees prepare the food always alike, assuming the material to be of the best, and though other conditions vary? And why does the trouble occur long after the food was gathered, and not immediately, as surely some is used at once. Here is a case in point. It happened in Germany about 1876. About the middle of October the weather became suddenly warm and sultry; the bees begun to work again, and build combs even. I followed their direction one day, and found them busy on the young shoots of the pines in the forest. This lasted for about ten days, then it became at once cold, and some snow fell, and when it got warmer again I found heaps of dead bees in the hives; the same happened in the whole district. Afterwards they wintered fairly well, nevertheless. The pine honey was very dense, and tasted slightly after resin. Some less serious cases occurred in my experience, but the injury always happened soon after the gathering.

That in a sunny country like Australia, bees should be short of pollen is even more unlikely than that some pollen should contain deficient protein. I have tried many remedies, and done my best for a remedy, and when I thought I had found something in that direction, in my own apiary at last, as not altogether unfounded, I published the facts, no matter whether Mr. Beuhne or anyone else differed, but differing and not proving why seems unreasonable, if not contentious. Had I known that Mr. Beuhne's report would be so barren of beneficial information, I would have written long before now a little more on the matter. As it is, my spare time is now soon at an end, and I will have to pay my attention to my bees.

I hope, however, that Mr. Beuhne, with others, will continue in research, as, whoever can find out the exact ingredients, etc., required for the proper development and sustenance of bee-life, what variations under ordinary circumstances take place, and what causes the loss complained

of,—will do an immense service to bee culture. Australia has lost heavily by the beekeepers' losses, therefore it behoves everyone to do their best to prevent it in future, and I hope such can and will be accomplished without departure from the ordinary routine of respect, and in justice to others.

PARK APICULTURE.

According to the New York papers it is intended to appoint an apiarist for the bees in the city parks of New York. It appears that a civil service examination was held for the position, and a lady candidate stood highest on the list. The park commissioners, however, vetoed the appointment, maintaining that the work could be done better by a man. In any case the people of New York and vicinity are afforded an opportunity to see the workings of the honey bee in three of the most important parks of New York, and already the bees have been found one of the most interesting features therein. At first sight this seems to be somewhat of an innovation in park equipment, and if it proves a success in New York, as it doubtless will, it is likely to be followed in other large cities.—*Exchange.*

HOW CANS OF GRANULATED HONEY,

JUST AS THEY COME FROM THE SQUARE CANS, ARE CUT UP INTO BRICKS.

MANY of our subscribers have asked just how we cut up the honey into rectangular blocks.

I have already explained that we use an ordinary butter-cutter, such as the Dairy trade uses. A pair of tinner's snips cuts the tin off from the square can of honey. The sides are peeled off, and the cake is inverted on a large circular porcelain disk, placed on an iron base having four upright standards, one at each corner. An iron frame, swinging on one of the upright shafts as an axis, door fashion, has two or more wires stretched across it at equal distances.

This frame is swung with its horizontal wires around the cake of honey just as it comes from the can, the wires, of course, passing horizontally through the honey. The buck-saw frame is then removed, and the horizontal frame, with taut wires on it at equal distances, is then slipped over the four standards, then two 75-pound weights are put on each side. The machine is then left. The combined 150 pound weight gradually pushes the frame with its wires downward, the wires crossing on a perpendicular plane the track already made by the horizontal wires. In the course of two or three minutes the frame, on account of the weight, will have settled clear to the bottom. A thin bladed knife slabs off the bricks thus cut, when they are wrapped as before explained.

These butter-cutters have been on the market for a number of years. They are nicely made, and do beautiful, perfect work. The horizontal frame with its taut wires has holes of just the right size at its four corners to slip over the four upright shafts so that the wires must make an absolutely perpendicular line of progress downward, without swerving to the right or left. Thumbnuts are provided by which the wires may be adjusted to different sizes of bricks, although we prefer to use the one size, which is just right to take up the entire contents of a can of honey, or 48 bricks in all, without waste.

Some lots of honey are so solid that it requires half-an-hour for the frame with its weight to settle through the block. As a general rule, two or three minutes will suffice. While the machine is doing its work of cutting automatically, the operators are busily employed in wrapping up the cake of honey previously cut into bricks, so that no time is lost. As soon as one cake is cut another one is put on, and so on the work proceeds—*Gleanings.*

If you know of any beekeepers who do not take the "A. Bee Bulletin," kindly send their names along.

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

ANALYSIS OF HONEY.

CORRECTION OF REPORT.

THE report of Analysis as it appears in both Bee Journals, may, when read in connection with the Chemist's notes following it, cause some misunderstanding. By some mistake, apparently the reporter's, the last four samples analysed appear at the head of the column (Nos. 14,422, 14,428, 14,429, 14,430) instead at the end, following after No. 14,421.

There were also in the original report running numbers, beginning with No. 1 at 13,124, and finishing with No. 20 at 14,430. These running numbers have by some mistake (in copying from the original) been omitted, and it is these running numbers that the analyst's notes refer to.

The order in the original is:—

13124, No. 1	14131, No. 11
13125, 2	14278, 12
13237, 3	14279, 13
13787, 4	14280, 14
13977, 5	14420, 15
13978, 6	14421, 16
13979, 7	14422, 17
13980, 8	14428, 18
14127, 9	14429, 19
14128, 10	14430, 20

Honey at 2d. per lb. in New South Wales.

WE have come across two cases where such has been done. In a local town there are two men who don't live by their bees; or take the A. Bee Bulletin: One was retailing his honey from house to house at 3d. per lb., the other, a mean fellow, thinking his rival was doing too much trade, started selling his at 2d. In another case, the criminal (we can call him nothing else), was retailing his at 2d. per lb. In either case there was nothing to prevent the honey being retailed at 3d. or over.



W. B., Stroud.—No bee news this time. It is very dry and cold up here at present.

W. F., Bungowannah.—The past season was not a good one for honey. I only extracted about 30 tins from 60 hives.

Mr. H. Edwards, of Kemp's Creek, writes:—I am satisfied with the result of advertising in the "A. B. Bulletin," and was surprised at the distance it reached, and the orders I received from other colonies. I expect to continue advertising again next season.

D. M. M., Deep Lead, Victoria, July 19th.—Its terrible wet and cold here. The bud you sent is the same as what we call white iron bark. I will send some later to you.

(We sent a few buds of what we call White Box here).

A. L., North Rockhampton Q. August 14th. 1905.—Bees commence to move now but still weak, we had an unusual cold winter and no rain since April and not likely to get some. My bees were much taken by paralysis. It appears to me this is no disease, but a poisoning by a certain flower on which the bees work and which is not known to me yet. I have watched my bees very close and found that the bees from some hives, which went to work in a different direction to the others, did not suffer any loss. This paralysis or poisoning is taking place always in the beginning of June and last from 10 to 14 days and is sometimes very severe. The coming honey season, by all appearance, will not be very good.

[You are not far out. In early spring, do not cattle die of scours and get blown with fresh grass.

CAPPINGS.

A German, Professor Leubret, professes to have found that both drones from virgin queens and from fertile workers, were equally as virile as those from fertilised queens.

The western states of United States and Texas have still much unoccupied territory which, in the near future, will contain thousands of colonies of bees. The bee-keepers in those parts are largely specialists who are increasing their stock, and there is no gainsaying the fact that the output of honey is gaining more rapidly than is the consumption.—*Exchange*

In New York state recently some bees stolen were in a box hive. The owner discovered his loss early the next morning and visited an apiary on a mountain a mile or more distant, which was owned by a person having a shaky reputation. The bees were not found, but he discovered a mammoth box hive, and greatly wondered why a person should make so large a hive. Several years after a relative of the man owning the large hive became angered at him and told the man who lost the hive that the large hive covered the hive he had stolen at the time he saw it. Several years after, a yoke of oxen were stolen and driven to a distant butcher and sold. The bee thief was strongly suspicioned and fled the country, leaving a good farm partly paid for. A few years after he was detected with another skip in the night, and failing to halt when ordered, was given a shot that proved fatal.

An Austrian beekeeper who died recently said that he exported inside of seventeen years about 34,000 swarms of bees. He dealt wholly in Carniolan stock.

So-called Switzer honey has often been found a purely artificial product. This has, of course, caused Switzer honey to be regarded with suspicion. The Switzer Bienen Zeitung is now publishing a list of hotels and resorts where pure Alpine honey is served.—*Exchange*.

Mr. E. A. Morgan writes to the American Bee Journal complaining of the increased price of bee supplies owing to these being a common line among supply dealers. He says he has a list of 51 beekeepers that have quitted the business on that account.

TREATMENT OF CHILLED BEES.

Whether you believe that a colony of bees freezes to death or starves to death makes little practical difference, but it is of much practical importance for every beginner to know that a colony with stores exhausted and apparently dead is not always beyond recovery; indeed never, if taken in time. If you find a colony apparently dead, without knowing how long it has remained in that condition, don't give it up for lost, but at least give it a chance. If it has only recently succumbed, and if the day be warm, it may be necessary only to sprinkle on the cluster a little diluted honey or syrup to bring it back to life. If the day be cold, take the colony into a warm room, and warm it up. In any case it will be better to take the bees into a warm room. Watch for signs of life before giving any food. Don't be in a hurry; it may sometimes be an hour before you see the bees begin to move, but if they haven't been too long motionless you may be sure that after a little you will see a leg begin to move here and there, and as soon as they move they are ready for a lunch. Many a good colony may thus be saved.—*American Bee Journal*.

Wurth recommends the following method to test the purity of wax:—A small piece of wax is covered in a glass with benzine, and left standing for two hours. If pure, the wax will be dissolved into fine scales. Parafin and other wax of vegetable origin retain their shape. A mixture of beeswax and other wax dissolves partly.—*Die Biene*.

Top entrances are said in *Apiculteur*, to increase the yield of honey 20 per cent. I can imagine that there might be some increase over hives with the entrance at bottom, and that are too small for hot weather. For years I've had piles four or five stories high, an entrance to each story, and an entrance at back of cover. I can't say whether they stored more honey, but I can say that none of them ever swarmed. But it doesn't work for comb honey.—*Dr. Miller*.

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