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# "THEBESTO" BEE

VOL. 1

DENVER, COLORADO, JULY- AUGUST, 1923

NO. 10

## JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

Have faith. \* \* \* Your faith may not move a mountain, but it may make you a honey crop. \* \* \* Many a beekeeper loses faith too soon, neglects his bees for the hills, or goes visiting, only to come back and find his supers crowded and the broodnest plugged with the honey-flow that he didn't expect. We may well heed the old saying, "You'll get some honey if you have your dish ready." \* \* \* This is an off season, but it's far too early to give up and go fishing. The good beekeeper is going to stay right on the job, visit his out-yards and tend his bees just as regularly as ever, and watch conditions even closer than usual, making sure that there is a good supply of supers handy. Honey flows come sometimes like the gully-washers that have been all too common this summer. \* \* \* Have faith. Have your dish handy when the Honey-Man comes.

## OMISSION

In the grading rules just printed, nothing was said about mixing cappings honey with the rest. Cappings must be kept separate if your extracted honey is to grade No. 1. They contain considerable water, will not weigh up to standard, and must be sold separately, for just what they are, a slightly inferior grade of honey. This is important. Don't mix them.

## FREIGHT VS. PARCELS POST

Members are urged to consider the possible advantage of parcels post shipments over freight for short distances. Usually for shipments up to 70 pounds anywhere within 125 miles from Denver, parcels post will be no higher or even lower than freight, and save two days or more in the matter of time. The minimum freight charge, regardless of weight or distance is 50 cents. A 40-pound parcel within the second zone can be mailed for 44 cents, with three or five cents extra for insurance, and will usually reach its destination the day following shipment. Customers are requested to specify parcels post if they wish goods shipped.

## NEW GRADING RULES

No, not new grading rules, either, for there have been no changes. But a new edition of the rules adopted by the C. H. P. A. years ago, upon which the reputation of your association was built, and upon which it stands today. However the new edition contains much explanatory matter not included in the former printing. Every member of this association and every customer of the C. H. P. A. will receive a copy of the new printing along with Thebesto Bee, and is urged to familiarize himself with the requirements of the various grades, and live up to them, both in the preparation of honey for sale thru the association, and in that offered thru regular channels of trade independently. The very best recommendation any lot of honey can have in any market is the fact that it has been graded strictly in accordance with C. H. P. A. grading rules.

Members are urged to pay special attention to the recommendations contained in the rules. It is no satisfaction to either the member or the association to have turned down at the car door any lot of honey not up to grade, but this has to be done sometimes.

Extra copies of the grading rules may be had at two cents apiece; less in quantity. Save your copy.

## HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

Get your comb honey ready for market early this year. It's going to be a case of the early bird getting the fattest worm. This has been the Association experience for several years, and the present is going to be no exception. Extracted honey can wait when necessary, but comb honey should be on the jobbing market early if you would realize the best results.

## ADVANCING PRICES

A number of items in bee supplies are advancing, especially those containing metal. Retail prices will soon have to step upward to keep pace with the manufacturers' quotations. Except on a very few items the Association has not yet advanced prices, but will have to soon. Better anticipate your need and order at once.



## THEBESTO BEE

Published when the spirit moves, for our members and for western beekeepers, by the Colorado Honey Producers Association, at 1224 Market St., Denver, Colo. Frank Rauchfuss, Manager.

## YOUR COUNTRY FAIR

You should have an exhibit this year, and now is the time to prepare for it instead of waiting until the last minute.

A creditable exhibit need not entail great cost or excessive labor. Start now by placing some new brood frames containing wired foundation in a strong colony above a queen excluder, where the bees are storing nice white honey. Place similar frames in some half-depth supers. When the bees have finished, you'll have fine, evenly-capped combs of beautiful honey. Your exhibit of section honey may be selected from the regular crop as you scrape and grade for market, being very careful in your matching and grading of the sections, which should also be well scraped and cleaned, free from all stain and propolis. A bit of sandpaper carefully used, will help here.

There should be a liberal display of extracted honey in glass containers. The association can supply tightly-closing flint glass jars of several sizes, also some standard exhibition jars at slight cost. An assortment of these nicely filled and labeled, will add materially to the attractiveness of your exhibit.

It is still early enough to gather an assortment of honey plants and flowers, which should be pressed and mounted, and neatly labeled.

If you exhibit live bees, which are always attractive exhibits, use a one-frame exhibition hive. Never take a full hive, for the danger of smothering is too great.

Beeswax lends itself readily to the display. Many articles of metal, wood or glass can be dipped into molten wax and carefully drained, giving fantastic results. A beeswax kewpie, for example.

Don't neglect a display of uses of honey in the home,—cooking, preserving, jams, etc. You can still find strawberries and raspberries, blackberries, peaches, any sour fruits, can be used in your exhibit, all sweetened with honey. In their preparation or

in any honey cookery for that matter, it is important that honey should be substituted for sugar, **pound for pound in weight, never in bulk.** Many fruits yield an excess of juice when canning or preserving. This excess juice may be drained off and canned in clear glass jars, sealed tightly and later will find many uses in the household economy. All jars used in canning for display should be of clear white glass, never the sickly green of the ordinary mason jar.

By "wising up" your fair directors now, it will be possible by a little work on the part of the beekeepers themselves and their local association, to have an attractive list of premiums in the apiaries department. Manufacturers and local merchants will frequently be glad to offer special prizes, and there may also be group exhibits by local associations. But make a display of some sort by all means.

## CROP CONDITIONS

Honey Crop prospects in C. H. P. A. territory are decidedly puzzling as yet. The season started late as a whole, and bees were not in good shape. Many localities experienced severe spring dwindling. Floods, hail, hoppers and shortage of pasture have played havoc in some places. At present, prospects have brightened materially most all over the state. The wet summer has put every honey-bearing plant on its mettle, and also insured a good growth of cleome for late flow. With settled weather and a reasonably late fall there may still be a fair crop.

Eastern Colorado seems to be hit the hardest to date, though the Sterling district is yielding heavily. The Western Slope has very fair prospects, as do parts of the Arkansas Valley. Wyoming and Montana are fair, but grasshoppers may cut the yield there. Comb honey will likely be a short crop, even should a fair yield of extracted be harvested.

## DECLINE IN BEESWAX

The second recent decline in the quotations on beeswax has been announced. The new quotations are two cents lower. The C. H. P. A. will pay 23 cents cash, or 25 cents in trade for good average beeswax.



**VALUABLE GRADING PAMPHLET**

A recent issue of the American Bee Journal contained an article on grading comb honey, written by Frank Rauchfuss, manager of the C. H. P. A., and profusely illustrated with photographs of sections of comb honey, indicating the grades that each will take according to C. H. P. A. grading rules. A careful reading of the article in question, with occasional reference to it afterward, will enable a beekeeper to grade his honey intelligently, without making serious mistakes.

In order that the article may be in convenient form for reference, it has been reprinted in pamphlet form with all the original cuts, and is now offered by the American Bee Journal at 10 cents a copy, with a reduction in quantity. Copies may also be had from the C. H. P. A. at publisher's price. A complimentary copy is being sent to each of our members with this issue of Thebesto Bee. Used in connection with the new printing of the Association grading rules, the grading of comb honey should be a comparatively easy matter, even for those with slight experience.

**MINIMUM HONEY PRICES**

Members are asking what they should charge for honey in their local markets this year in order to be in line with other localities and market quotations generally. These are the Association recommendations:

Comb honey of a good, fair grade should not be sold to stores for less than \$5 a case. Present prospects are that there will be a small crop of comb honey in Colorado this year, and in some places not enough to supply your local market. Don't give it away, if you're fortunate enough to have some.

Your merchant should pay you not less than \$7 for single cans, sixties, of nice white extracted honey.

In a retail way good white or high-grade light amber honey in pails should retail at not less than \$1.75 for tens, and \$1 for fives, with 15 per cent off to dealers. The beekeeper who starts in this year selling at less is going to be kicking himself before honey comes again.

Fresh berries served with honey instead of sugar are delicious. Try some and tell your neighbors.

**SEND REPORT**

Honey report blanks for all association members are out in the past few days. Be sure to return these promptly, whether you have or will have honey ready or not. It is as important for your manager to know that you will not have honey to sell thru the association as to know that you will. If prospects are poor, say so. Your association is here to serve you. The best service cannot be given if you do not supply all information asked for.

**ONTARIO IN LINE**

The Ontario Honey Producers' Cooperative, Ltd., which was organized in Canada last year too late for active service, is now commencing business. Mr. Eric Millen, prominent in the organization, and temporary secretary, has now given way to Wm. A. Wels, who will be secretary-treasurer of the organization. They already have nearly 750,000 pounds of honey pledged. Thebesto Bee extends congratulations and best wishes.

**WESTERN SLOPE ORGANIZES**

Western Slope Beekeepers of Colorado have their organization well under way under the name of the Western Colorado Honey Exchange. R. O. Green has been elected secretary, and James Watson, Jr., is manager. They wisely adopted the C. H. P. A. grading rules, thus insuring uniformity of product. Grading stations are talked of. A good step in the right direction.

How do our members like the narrow bottom-bars in Hoffman frames, such as went out last season? If they are any improvement over the regular bottom-bar, your association manager wants to know it. If they have disadvantages, that is equally important. Many items of supplies carried by the C. H. P. A. are made "special" for us, and differ from the regular equipment listed in the catalogues of the manufacturers. Your association is here to serve. Your co-operation is necessary. Please report.

Plain and decorated comb honey cartons in stock. Try offering some of your best comb honey in cartons. Extra expense is slight.



### STUNT

The original was recently in the way of a Sale, put on by a travel-demonstrator in an uptown department store window. The demonstrator had an observation hive of bees in the window, a big display of honey piled alongside, while he himself occupied the center stage, dipping squares of comb honey into melted chocolate, and selling trial packages containing five honey chocolates for 25 cents. The chocolate squares were large, however, almost too large. Half the size and twice as many in a box would have been better. There were many purchasers, however, and his confections were delicious.

### MAKE ORDERS DEFINITE

Occasionally a honey report comes in from members with a notation something like this: "Will need 200 cans." This is sometimes confusing. Should the manager consider this as a definite order, and save that many cans for the reporting member, or should he ignore it and wait for receipt of a regular order? He doesn't know. If you want supplies reserved for you for later shipment, please make the fact very plain, and save disappointment and confusion.

Another C. H. P. A. member has passed on. C. H. Alger, formerly of Fruitland, N. M., has answered the final call since our last. Mr. Alger was a dealer in Indian curios and for a number of years was prominent and successful in his chosen line, and a successful sideline beekeeper as well. His health finally breaking, he sold out and moved to LaJolla, Calif., where he resided until his death.

The Dadants have placed on the market an attractive honey pail, lithographed and lacquered inside and out. Beekeepers interested in a high-grade container of the sort should investigate. The price is right and the goods may be obtained on order thru your association at no advance in price.

Extra copies of the new edition of C. H. P. A. grading rules may be had at 2 cents apiece. Quantity prices lower. Every member gets one copy free, sent with this issue of Thebesto Bee. Save your copy.

### BOUQUETS FOR US

The July 15 number of Western Farm Life contains a flattering write-up of the Colorado Honey Producers' Association, by D. W. Working, formerly of Colorado Agricultural college, now in government employ. Mr. Working has been an interested observer of the progress of the C. H. P. A. ever since its inception, and his story occupies almost a page. While the writer is liberal with his bouquets in this instance, certainly any cooperative organization that has weathered the storms of 24 winters successfully, may be the recipient of a few posies occasionally without losing its modesty.

### OUR BARGAIN LIST

With this issue of Thebesto Bee is being included a bargain list of seasonable goods, priced as real bargains. These goods are all right, just as good as represented. Every merchandising house finds it necessary to go over stock and clear out odd lots, goods not regularly carried any longer, etc., and make a price that will move them quickly. This is what the C. H. P. A. is doing by means of its bargain list. Look it over and mail your orders promptly for anything you can use.

### CASES AND CANS

Order your shipping cases, cans and can cases now, and save money. Your association has a fair supply on hand, and when these are gone we will have to advance the price, as stock cannot be replaced at the old quotation. You're winner if you order now.

### TRY IT

"B.-H.", the new disinfectant for foul brood, should be tried out by every beekeeper. If it is "good stuff", the fraternity should know it, and use it. If it isn't, it is equally vital that we discover the fact and discard it. The association will carry it in stock until it is given a fair try-out. It may be had f. o. b. Denver at \$3 for single gallons, five gallons for \$12.50.

### FOR SALE

One and one-fifth shares of C. H. P. A. stock, to close an estate. Mrs. C. H. Alger, LaJolla, Calif.

One share C. H. P. A. stock, price \$45. A. M. Shaffer, Lafayette, Colo.