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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, September 28, 1906

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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. 15. No 5. SEPTEMBER 28, 1906.

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Good advice ! Know your locality.

Turpentine applied with a feather on seams or runaways is unhealthy for ants.

Squirting gasoline on moth worm is recommended as one way of getting rid of them.

When working among the bees keep a small box near you to receive every particle of wax.

The value of honey imported into the United Kingdom in the month of April, 1906, was £2965.

In the district of Chicago, U.S.A., there was such a mild winter just passed, that a very good crop of clover honey was anticipated.

Queens reared too early are not reckoned too good by many, the reason assigned being the scarcity of good drones early in the season.

A Mr. Davenport of Minnesota, U.S.A. having stated he had a very effectual method of controlling the swarming of bees, was asked by one of the American editors to describe, replied:—"I have decided not to give my method for the control of swarming free to all the bee-keeping world. For, as I have said, if it becomes known to all it will most surely greatly increase the amount of honey produced, and for this reason would prove a curse instead of a benefit."

In the American Bee Journal a Mr. Alexander recommends putting a weak colony on top of a strong one. The result is reported doubtful by some, a great success by others. Our regular plan of uniting is what we will stick to when necessary: Put a fresh hive between the two to be united, smoke and then take frames alternately from the two hives and put into the new one.

OUR APIARIES.

On Monday morning, Sept. 3, we started for another visit to our three apiaries. For ten miles of the road, through large cattle stations and a few settler's farms, we met only one person—a man in a buggy. There had been very heavy rain a few days previous, and in taking a short cut through a lane, over which a large mob of cattle had evidently travelled, the travelling must have been anything but pleasant for old "Neddy." At No. 1 apiary things were all right after what we did our last visit, but we must be there in a short time again to split up and increase. It was the same at No. 2, which we had time to visit that same evening.

The next morning we got away early to No. 3, which we had not visited for several months. It was crowded with bees and honey, but no queen-cells. In two cases we felt it was best to split up, making two more hives. But another surprise awaited us. Turning up a bottom board, a lively young snake made his appearance. We killed and cremated him. This induced us to turn up other bottom boards, when, lo, another and another came to light till we had five. They were not seen at once, but it was necessary to turn up the soil under each board before they would be discovered. That reminds us of a lady friend, who having an idea a snake was under her house, got her male friends to make a careful search, to find one very comfortably nested close to the fire-place, and the nest consisted of bits of rag and

material that she had herself worked at months before. It was after four o'clock before we could get away from No. 3. We knew the moon would not be up till several hours after dark, so to "Stop to tea" and "Better stay for the night, and go home in the morning" we paid a deaf ear and hurried on. We, however, got on in the darkness, made worse by heavy black clouds. It was a case of groping on, looking out for culverts, or pits, or quagmires on the sides of the road. At times the fences were invisible. By and bye the full moon gradually rose over the distant mountains, and was it not good when we could at last trace the roadway out. It was nine o'clock before we got home.

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE.

The seventh annual conference of the Victorian Apiarists' Association was held at the Federal Coffee Palace, Collins-street, Melbourne, on August 31st and September 1st. Members attended from various parts of the State; New South Wales and Tasmania were also represented. During the conference a number of questions of interest to beekeepers were dealt with, each subject being discussed in a very instructive manner. Mr. Beuhne, president of the association, occupied the chair throughout the proceedings.

The President's Address.

Mr. Beuhne opening the proceedings, expressed great pleasure in welcoming those present. The work done by the executive during the past year had been very heavy and of great importance. The working of the new Act had proved satisfactory; they had also prevented the destruction of a large quantity of valuable timber, and secured the interests of beekeepers. The Legislature was only in an experimental stage, and it would

be necessary to find out and remedy any defects which may exist. As a natural course of the new Act, there have been conflicting claims and disappointment. The president earnestly asked them that in case of dispute to be moderate and not to take hasty action, and above all not to be bad friends with neighbouring apiarists.

The association is now better established than ever, and their aims were acknowledged by the Government and Press. The Minister of Lands had thrown open reserves for the benefit of beekeepers; this was greatly due to the action taken by the association. Mr. Davey, the secretary, had been most energetic in the matter. Although he regretted the resignation of Mr. Murray as Minister of Lands, he felt sure that the new Minister, Mr. Mackay, would treat them well and do them justice. At the last annual meeting several members expressed a desire to see samples of honey that were placed on the London market and sold as Australian, and said to have a eucalyptus taint, which caused low prices. The matter had been brought under the notice of the Minister of Agriculture, who had obtained samples through Mr. Taverner, the Agent-General in London, and were open for the inspection of the members at the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Beuhne expressed his disappointment at the poor response made by the members for samples of pollen for the purpose of analysis. Those sent, however, were forwarded to Dr. Cherry, who in turn handed them to the Government Analyst, and the result of his investigation is as follows:—

Analysis of Pollen from Victorian Apiarists' Association:—

The first lot of figures refers to moisture, the second to protein on dry basis:—1. E. Garrett, Briagolong, January 1906—Stringy bark, 16.40; 22.81. 2. E. Garrett, Briagolong, February 1906—Stringy bark, 16.32; 20.69. 3. J.

McFarlane, Lyndhurst, November 1906—Cape Weed, 16.96; 19.56. 4. P. Moorefield, Howlong, September 1905—Wattle and Fruit, 15.76; 16.75. 5. J. Bennett, Longlea, September 1905—Acacia scrub, 16.24; 19.06. 6. J. Bennett, Longlea, November 1905—Cape weed, 14.96; 19.31. J. Bennett, Longlea, September 1905—Wattle, 14.96; 14.63. 8. J. Bennett, Longlea, October 1905—Sorrell, 11.40; 10.44. 9. J. Bennett, Longlea, September 1905—Thistle, 17.28; 19.88. 10. J. Bennett, Longlea, March 1906—Flatweed, 16.32; 18.00. 11. J. Bennett, Longlea, March 1906—Maize, 17.36; 16.13. 12. J. Bennett, Longlea, April 1906—Grey box, 15.72; 23.63. 13. J. Bennett, Longlea, April 1906—Autumn flower, 16.85; 24.38. 14. Nettleton Bros., Mildura, September 1905—Fruit blossom, 17.28; 30.81. 15. Nettleton Bros., Mildura, September 1905—Apple and Pear, 18.64; 27.69. 16. Nettleton Bros., Mildura, September 1905—Grape Vine, 17.04; 24.63. 17. Nettleton Bros., Mildura, December 1905—Sandalwood, 17.60; 17.44. POLLEN FROM DWINDLING HIVES.—18. R. D'Alton, Mildura—Yellow Star, flower, 17.04; 22.13. 19. Nettleton Bros., Mildura—Yellow Star flower, 16.64; 19.94. 20. R. Beuhne, Tooborac—Yellow Star, flower, 17.92; 18.13.

It will be seen that all the native plants appear to be low in protein as compared with Nos. 13, 14, 15, and 16, which come from cultivated and imported trees.

The President said that he had spent a lot of time, but without success, to obtain evidence on the quantity of glucose imported and used in manufacture instead of honey. Those interested, however, would not divulge anything, and hearsay was not evidence, at least not sufficient to go and swear before the Tariff Commission. Although he had not been able to give evidence, he had received a letter stating that the claims of the association had not been overlooked.

Secretary and Treasurer's Report.

The secretary, in presenting his report and balance-sheet, stated that the year just closed had been of the greatest importance to Victorian beekeepers. Great success had attended the efforts of the association in respect to the Blue Block country, and the Bowworrung Forest. After years of fighting, they had reached, if not the summit of "Mount Ambition," at least one of its highest points. The day when Mr. Murray said, "the beekeepers have proved that their industry is a valuable one, and I intend to see that they get fair play, therefore I cannot entertain your request," was the greatest victory ever gained by beekeepers in any part of the world, and Victorian beekeepers have to thank Mr. Murray for being one of the first legislators to seriously entertain the possibility of placing the honey industry on a legal and sound basis. I regret to report that Mr. Murray had resigned office and as the association had received an assurance that several localities would shortly be proclaimed a bee ranges area, I trust that this conference will press upon the new Minister, Mr. Mackay, the importance of these matters. In securing success, however, we have lost the sympathy of a few members who are also interested in other industries, and raise a false cry of "thinning out useless timber," and at the same time pose as beekeepers. Their withdrawal is a matter for gratification than otherwise. In consequence of their secession, the membership roll has not increased, but stands at 160, a large number of which are branch members, and in arrears of payment. Apart from this, the position is a bright one. Members are now in full legal possession of their bee-ranches (as they are termed in America), and the destroyers of our native timber have received a decided check in the work of destruction. Members, however, must not think that all is accomplished, and there is now no need for an association. Far from it, our work has only just started, and it is ab-

solutely necessary for us to present a solid and well organised front. The secretary stated that he had been able to get a concession in the rates of moving bees by rail. He had also interviewed the Government Statist with the object of keeping a separate record of apiarists and beekeepers. The latter to consist only of those who kept a few hives for pleasure, etc. Feeling reference was made to three members who had passed away since the last annual meeting, and those present rose in silence to their memory.

Mr. Garratt, Briagolong, moved, and Mr. D. M. Morgan seconded, that the secretary's report be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Davey then presented the balance-sheet.

BALANCE SHEET, 1906

To Subscriptions	£32	15	4
„ Balance	1	7	9
	£34	3	1
By Balance 1905	£3	7	10
„ Printing and Stationery	2	1	6
„ Affiliation Fee, Chamber of Commerce	2	0	0
„ Travelling Expenses	3	2	0
„ Reporting 1905 Conference	1	6	0
„ Secretary's Allowance	15	0	0
„ Rent of Room, 1905 Conference	1	5	0
„ Postages	4	13	11
„ Advertising	1	6	10
	£34	3	1

Mr. Morgan said that he sympathised with Mr. Davey in his efforts to get in subscriptions. Beekeepers did not seem to see that it was to their advantage to pay up promptly.

Mr. Beuhne said it was very discouraging to the executive to find subscriptions coming in so tardily. Members should make a special effort to pay up and be less apathetic. He himself often attended meetings at great inconvenience, and the quarterly meetings meant his being in town for two or three days. This he had to make up on his return home by working overtime. He considered that the

association had cost him over £50 for the past six years in addition to time spent in writing in the interest of the Society. A number of beekeepers were very apathetic until the timber in their locality was threatened, when they became very lively. It must be born in mind that the executive had a lot of work to do that did not appear on the surface, and it was the duty of every member to help the secretary in every way. He certainly should not have had so much trouble in getting in the subscriptions.

Mr. Anderson moved the adoption of the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Mr. Morgan, and carried unanimously.

Correspondent's Report.

Mr. Beuhne, in reading his report, said that he had attended as a delegate, the meetings of the Chamber of Agriculture, held at Horsham and Sale. The Chamber had accorded their association its support, and as a subsequent meeting the Chamber asked the Government to appoint an expert. Mr. Beuhne said that he was not at the meeting, otherwise the resolution would not have been carried. He did not think the association wanted the appointment of experts, but rather a monetary grant to carry out such experiments that could not be undertaken in a private way. There had been a difference of opinion as to continuing the affiliation with the Chambers of Agriculture. He himself thought it would be a great mistake not to remain affiliated. They required all the support the Chamber could afford. The correspondence had become very heavy, and he found it very hard to define his duties as president and a private individual. He also spent considerable time in correcting erroneous statements which appeared in the daily papers. He had also been in communication with the Chambers of Mines in connection with the allocation of large areas of land in Gippsland, and had received a reply that the Chamber according the association their hearty support. He also said that the beekeepers and

the Chamber of Mines must help each other, as they had mutual interests in the preservation of forest areas. The Chamber wrote suggesting that a deputation from the association meet the Chamber and talk matters over.

Mr. W. L. Davey moved, and Mr. McFarlane seconded, that the suggestion from the Chamber of Mines be acted on. Carried.

Mr. Davey read a paper kindly sent by Mr. W. Ager, Grafton, New South Wales, on "Co-operation."

Mr. Morgan moved and Mr. Garrett seconded, that a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Ager for his paper. Carried.

Mr. Davey brought under notice a case of a queen laying unfertile eggs, and although an interesting discussion ensued, the cause could not be definitely determined.

Dr. Cherry, Director of Agriculture, addressed the conference on Lucerne Cultivation. He said lucerne was one of the best food for bees. Every bee farmer should grow an acre or two. In the sunny districts, among the western ranges of America were found the ideal homes of the bee farmers, closer together than in any other part of the world. If small plots of lucerne were cultivated in Victoria the honey industry would be enormously benefited. Analysis made by the department showed that cultivated plants had 27 percent. of protein substances, whereas the eucalypti trees, on which beekeepers at present depended for their supply, had only 20 per cent, and seeds, such as sorrel, reached only 10 per cent. He therefore strongly advised the cultivation of lucerne. (Applause.)

Mr. Davey in introducing Mr. Gore, a member of the Council of the Chamber of Mines, gave figures on timber reservation and stated that the native forest protection league was moribund, and he and Mr. Beuhne thought that the work might be carried out by their Association in conjunction with the Chamber of Mines.

Mr. Gore said that his chamber was fully in sympathy with their aims. He

viewed with dismay the denudation of the forest areas. The Chamber of Mines proposed to get such gentlemen as Messrs Knox and Henty to use their influence to prevent the destruction of timber, and his association would do all in their power.

Mr. Merriman, president of the Chamber of Mines, said timber was getting scarce, and the cutting of saplings, and ringbarking by so-called agriculturists must be prevented, and his chamber would act in unison with the V.A.A.

Mr Morgan moved, and Mr Colson seconded, a resolution as follows: "That the attention of the Forestry Department be called to the frequency of bush fires on land held under annual license." Carried.

A discussion then ensued on the variable interpretation of the regulations respecting the granting of bee sites and bee range areas. Mr. Beuhne moved that the Minister of Lands be asked for information respecting the regulations which governs the bee range areas and bee sites. Mr. Anderson seconded. Carried.

HONEY EXPORT.

Mr. H. H. Davey gave a brief address on export. He stated that unless export was provided, it was useless to expect much progress. It was most vital to obtain oversea markets. There could not be an overproduction if there was a suitable outlet, as instanced by the butter and fruit industries. Honey is rather different, as it can be held over until the market becomes depleted. Many centres could be opened up and vast opportunities existed, but they must be prepared to take wholesale prices. To obtain markets, agents must be paid, freight, &c. Several classes of honey are useless for export purposes, but many of them will blend, and this must be studied.

Mr. Morgan said that in regard to exporting honey, two tons had been sent home from Stawell, and sold at 15s. per cwt. This low price was accounted for by the eucalyptus taint. At the same time, New Zealand honey brought from £30 to £40 per ton.

Mr. H. H. Davey said the eucalyptus oil did not taint the honey, but a small amount of acid would permeate it.

Mr. Beuhne considered that the eucalyptus taint did exist in the honey, and gave several instances of its existence. While it is there the only way would be to get the consumers to acquire a taste for it. To do this it might be expedient to place it in the market at a cheaper rate. To regulate the market would mean capital, and how is it to be provided?

A vote of thanks to Mr. Davey was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. Anderson, Pomona, read a paper on the "Prevention of Honey Gluts."

Mr. W. L. Davey referred to previous co-operative experiments. To run the business on co-operative lines it would be necessary to have centres in every city. This would make it prohibitive. He contended that they could not do without the middleman, and did not think co-operation would be a success.

Mr. Morgan thought there was not much hope of getting a bonus from the Federal Government. He thought the glut might be prevented by means of a proper system.

Mr. F. Barnes asked Mr. Anderson what steps he would take to prevent honey coming in from other States. Mr. Anderson replied that he thought it may be arranged by amalgamation.

Mr. Beuhne thought that there was a great deal in Mr. Barnes' remarks. He did not think it possible to arrange prices. We could not even agree among ourselves. He thought any scheme as proposed would fail. The more retail sellers there were the better it would be for the industry. Even if they could control the whole of the honey, it would not pay expenses on 5 per cent. basis.

Mr. Barnes did not think honey could be classed the same as in the case with butter. Beekeepers should improve their honey. He did not believe in blending as there was a large quantity of

honey not suitable for the purpose, and prices would suffer if the practice was followed up.

Mr. Beuhne thought Mr. Barnes looked upon blending as a crime, but Mr. Beuhne admitted he blended. It was in his opinion necessary to blend yellow and grey box and red gum honey. He has made a standard and maintains it.

Mr. Davey thought that they had struck the nail on the head. There had been a run on yellow box honey to the detriment of all the other varieties. He, personally, liked the flavour of red gum honey, and the two should be blended.

Mr. Morgan said that he had never blended, and thought it was a mistake to do so. Each kind of his honey brought equally good prices.

Mr. Davey moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Anderson, which was carried with acclamation.

QUEEN REARING.

Mr. Beuhne gave a very interesting discourse on what he termed "Queen Rearing on a new aspect." He was always most careful in keeping a record of all his work in connection with queen rearing. In going over his books he found that some queens turned out comparative failures from the same mothers which had produced good queens. This occurred at certain periods. Looking for a reason, he thought at first the season had a great deal to do with it. The failures in question were raised in the summer, but in turning over his records he found queens raised at the same period the following year were normal. He found that in rearing queens when the atmosphere was very dry, the queens were found to be inferior. It may therefore be due to the extreme dryness of the atmosphere. Mr. Beuhne thought that the condition of the pollen may be a cause. Pollen examined under a microscope, when dry, presented a very different appearance than when wet.

Mr. Morgan said that it was his practice to raise his queens in the autumn, as he found that the colonies came out

stronger in the spring. He found it almost useless to raise queens in hot, dry weather.

Mr. Jakal, in endorsing Mr. Beuhne's remarks, said that he had found difference in various hives, in producing queens.

Mr. Pender, New South Wales, had not found the season make much difference in raising queens. He always performed the work in a close room in the early morning, and he found it very successful.

Officers were elected as follow:—President, Mr. R. Beuhne (Tooborac); vice-presidents, Messrs. E. Cox (Northwood), and Jackall (Taradale); executive council, Messrs. F. Barnes (Avoca), R. Miller (South Melbourne), J. M'Farlane (Lyndhurst), V. R. Davey (Blackburn), and C. B. Sumson (Eversley); secretary, Mr. W. L. Davey.

Mr. Beuhne moved that a committee be formed consisting of the executive of this council, with the addition of two representatives of the Chamber of Mines, to deal with all matters pertaining to forest protection. Five to form a quorum. Seconded by Mr. Bingham. Carried.

DEPUTATIONS.

A deputation from the Victorian Apiarists' Association waited on the Minister for Agriculture on the 3rd inst., and presented the resolutions agreed at the recent conference of apiarists.

Mr. Beuhne, president, in presenting the resolution, said that the deputation wished to be informed on behalf of apiarists, whether the Government would assist them in establishing an experimental bee farm in some isolated place.

The Minister in reply said he would not entertain the proposal for a subsidy, but would give consideration to the suggestion of a pro rata subsidy conditionally on the Government having control of the expenditure.

The deputation also interviewed the Minister for Lands (Mr. Mackay) in regard to several matters arising out of the

recent conference.

The Minister in reply explained that having recently been appointed Minister for Lands, his department was in a state of transition. It seemed a very difficult matter to determine the position where a bee range area included private property, and excise that portion which the bee-keeper had been charged for. The Stawell question had been dealt with by his predecessor, and he felt disinclined to reopen it unless some new phase presented itself. The matter of overlapping, however, would not be permitted. Bee range areas would be proclaimed in the usual formal way. It had been decided that the Briagolong State forest would not be available for selection

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EXPORT OF HONEY.

A SCHEME SUGGESTED.

DEPUTATION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Extracted from the West Australian Journal of Agriculture.

A conference of beekeepers was opened in the lecture hall of the Department of Agriculture on the 12th inst. Mr. J. N. Shipton presided, among others present were the Hon. the Premier (Mr. Moore) and the Hon. member of the Government administering the Department of Agriculture (Mr. J. Mitchell). The report of the proceedings is taken from the daily Press.

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER.

The Premier said he understood that the industry had reached that stage when the production of honey exceeded the local demand, and that the conference intended to make certain proposals to the Government regarding the exportation of the product. He assured them that the proposals which they placed before the Government would receive every consideration. From information which had been placed in his hands, he noticed that, in 1904, honey of a total weight of 212, 841 lbs., and valued at £3, 138, was imported into the State, and that for the first four months of 1905 the honey brought into Western Australia amounted to 248,640 lbs., valued at £3,460. It was very apparent, therefore, that something must be done to assist the local industry. His colleague (Mr. Mitchell) would be present at the conference for some time and he felt sure that that gentleman would give every consideration to any representations made to him.

PREMIER CONGRATULATED.

Mr. M. Jacoby, in moving a vote of thanks to the Premier, congratulated him upon the position which he had attained. He wished to assure him that the producers in the State were looking forward with great confidence to good work being performed by the present Ministry, not only for the producers, but for every other section of the community. Mr.

Moore commanded one of the strongest Ministries in Australia at the present time. A definite policy with regard to agricultural development was badly needed, as in the past few years those in charge had had rather obscure ideas as to what was the best method of developing the various industries. He was pleased to find that attention was being given to beekeeping, poultry-raising, etc., as these industries were profitable if carried out properly. He hoped that Mr. Mitchell would be able to make arrangements whereby a few tons of local honey could be placed on the London market. If that were done, however beekeepers would owe a duty not only to themselves, but also to the State, and that was to see that honey only of the very best quality was sent away. He understood that some of the difficulties which had been experienced in the industry were due to beekeepers trying, in cases, to put on the market honey of a poor quality.

The motion was carried unanimously.

MR. MOORE'S REPLY.

In reply, the Premier said he hoped that the people of Western Australia would have no occasion to regret that the present Government held the reins of office. All their interests were centered in the State, and if it went ahead they would also progress. If the country fell back, they too would fail. It was to their own interests of the State, that they should do all they could to make the State go forward. He recognised the necessity there was for farmers throughout the State devoting what attention they could to pig and poultry raising, etc., which matters Mr. Jacoby had referred to. He was pleased to know that the inclusion of Mr. Mitchell in the Ministry had met with their approval. (Applause.) Mr. Mitchell had had a wide experience in connection with farming, and he felt sure that his advice would always be of the greatest possible value. (Applause.)

The Premier and Mr. Mitchell then left the Conference.

AN EXPORT MARKET.

Mr. F. H. Layton stated that in the course of a communication submitted to the Director of Agriculture he had pointed out that the beekeeping industry had arrived at the stage of its existence when more honey was produced than the State could consume. On the top of that there was the importation of cheap grades of honey, and it was very questionable whether other articles, such as glucose, etc., were not brought in under the guise of honey. This importation of honey had caused the market to become glutted. In fact, the whole industry was in danger of being practically extinguished. Many beekeepers were talking of giving up, as there was no sale for the honey they had on hand, and they were losing money. The only hope of saving the industry was by finding a suitable export market. This could only be brought about by organisation and the expenditure of capital, as when consignments were sent to London in the ordinary course the merchants there, knowing that the honey came from Australia, described it as "eucalyptus honey" and said it had a "strong eucalyptus flavour, which the people did not like." They condemned it in order to obtain it at a very low price, not offering more than £18 per ton, at which price it would be impossible for the producers in the State to sell the honey and obtain a living. That very same honey, however, was sold to the consumers in glass bottles with English labels at from 8d. to 1s. per pound, and the consumer did not know the difference. Producers should market the honey themselves until such time as it had the name which it deserved, and it would then be placed in the front rank. After consultation with a number of beekeepers, he had been asked to present a scheme whereby they could market their honey in England, and probably elsewhere, at a price which would save the industry from extinction, and, further-

more, place it in such a state that thousands of pounds would, as a result, be brought into the State annually. The accompanying scheme was, of course, open to alteration by the Conference.

The beekeepers should form themselves into a co-operative association, and should establish a main depot in Perth, through which all honey should have to pass for grading, etc. A good, practical beekeeper, with business ability, should be sent to London to work up the trade, and the West Australian Government brand should be placed on each tin sold there, as a guarantee of its purity. As the scheme developed, other possibilities and details would present themselves. For instance, orders in bulk or otherwise could be placed on the Continent through our agent in London. The main obstacles in the way were organisation and finances, and it was only by the help of the Government that a start could be made with the scheme.

AROMATIC HONEY

Mr. W. C. Grasby said that Australian honey was a real aromatic honey and should be sold in London as such. He had heard of people in England who had expressed themselves as being delighted with the honey because of its aromatic flavour. He did not wish to be unkind but it was a fact that the people in the Eastern States, who were accustomed to the redgum and peppermint flavour in honey, disliked the flavour of the locally-produced honey. Local producers, however, must put forth the flavour of their product as its virtue. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. A. Ayres then moved—"That the time has arrived when we should export our honey."

Mr. Layton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A sub-committee was then appointed to discuss the proposal submitted by Mr. Layton.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee, having gone into the matter, submitted certain questions for consideration, and the conference dec-

ided to make the following recommendations:—

1 It was resolved that the Government be asked to purchase, as a trial shipment for London, 20 tons of honey at 3d. per lb., to take delivery in Perth.

2 It was recommended that the honey be accepted in either the clear or candied form, to be delivered at the Perth railway station in 60lb. tins. Beekeepers to use honey or kerosene tins at their own discretion, and to take all risks as to the condition of the honey upon arrival in Perth.

3. On the question of the preparation of the honey for export, it was decided to suggest that 2lb. tins should be used, the Government expert to exercise his discretion as to whether or not limited quantities should be in glass jars.

4. It was resolved to recommend that the honey be classified by the Government expert, and labelled according to the trees from which the honey was obtained, and that all beekeepers, except those who strained honey, should have an opportunity to dispose of honey to the Government for export, according to the number of their hives.

5. It was decided to recommend that a person accompany the shipment from Perth to London, and market the honey upon arrival.

A DEPUTATION.

It was then decided to wait upon the Government at 10.30 a.m. the following morning, with the request that the recommendations as formulated by the Conference should be followed out as closely as possible.

COST OF SHIPMENT.

It was stated that the cost of the trial shipment of honey would be £1,020 13s. 4d., made up as follows:—Cost of 20 tons at 3d. per lb. £560; probable cost to cover all expences, £460 13s. 4d. Against this was the sale of honey at an estimate of 6d. per lb., or a total of £1,120.

THE DEPUTATION TO THE MINISTER.

The deputation to the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture was introduced by Mr. Ewing, M. L. A.

Mr. J. Sutton (Hamel) pointed out that, if anything was done, it should be carried out from start to finish by themselves. They should have nothing to do with the English honey market. He had no doubt that the honey that could be sent from this State would compare favourably with any sent to England to-day. Since the conference was held he heard that Canada was sending more honey to England now than ever before, and better prices were being obtained. He had also been told that there was a large market open in India, with a guarantee, so his informant said, of 6d. per lb.

Mr. Mitchell: How is it that honey can be brought to Fremantle from other States at 2½d. per lb.

Mr. J. N. Shipton (Subiaco): It is third or fourth grade honey, which would be used, if produced locally, in tobacco factories.

Mr. Mitchell: Our total production is 200 tons per annum, I understand.

Mr. Sutton: In a good season it is 240 tons.

Mr. Mitchell: In this proposal it is suggested that the Government should pay you for the honey at the rate of 3d. per lb. Can't you get that on the local market.

Mr. Sutton: No; because the market is simply glutted.

Mr. Mitchell: It is necessary, in furthering this scheme, for the Government to buy this honey? If you have wool or sandalwood for shipment, you simply get the bank to advance against it.

Mr. Sutton: That is when dealing with men in a position to wait for the balance. We, as bee-keepers are struggling.

Mr. Mitchell: That is what I want cleared up. It is necessary for you to have what you consider a fair value straight away?

Mr F. H. Layton (Donnybrook): A lot of us have got three years stock in hand now.

Mr. Mitchell: You suggest that a special agent should be sent from here to place the honey on the market, and your Association wants to nominate the man to go home with the shipment?

Mr. Layton: If it had to take care of itself it would simply go the way of other shipments.

Mr. Mitchell then congratulated the conference upon the fact that there was some sort of co-operation amongst bee-keepers. If there was the same co-operation in other industries they would get some development work done. He was entirely sympathetic. He wanted to see production encouraged in every direction, and there was nothing too small that could be done to bring this about. They had already assured him of the purity of the honey, and of the fact that they could increase the production to meet any expanding demand. They were important facts. To a business man it did seem strange that the public should be willing to take inferior honey from other States at 2½d. per lb., rather than theirs at 3d. per lb., because the public were, as a rule, fair judges of quality; but it appeared that even if they did take the whole of their honey they would still have to find a market elsewhere. Of course, that was the great argument in favour of it, although he might have something to say about the price they wanted the Government to pay for their honey. He had no money at present, but he would give the matter every consideration, and he had no doubt that they would find means to get their 20 tons to London, especially as it was in hand now. It struck him that if they could make a house-to-house canvass in London, surely they could do it in Western Australia. However, he would go into the question and he hoped to be able to assist them. (Hear, hear.) He was seriously in earnest when he said that he had every de-

sire to help every producer in the State. They could not give them a bonus, but they could do something else (Hear, hear.)

At the conclusion of the deputation proceedings, Mr. J. N. Shipton (President of the Bee-keepers' Association) asked the Minister if he would renew the grant of £10 which they had enjoyed up to three years ago, but which was overlooked during a change of Governments. The money kept alive the Association, which did good work for the industry.

Mr. Mitchell: I can promise you that. (Hear, hear.)

CONTROLLING INCREASE.

Swarming appears to be a strong natural instinct that manifests itself under certain favourable conditions. There are three principal conditions usually present in natural swarming, viz.:

1. An abundance of honey in the hives and nectar in the fields.
2. A populous colony with a queen.
3. An abundance of brood.

There are also minor conditions that tend to promote swarming, such as superseding a queen, small brood chamber, lack of ventilation, etc. There are also minor conditions that tend to check swarming such as a large brood chamber, shade, etc. These minor conditions cannot of themselves be depended upon, either to produce swarming or prevent it.

CONTROLLING CONDITIONS.

But if we can control one or more of the principal conditions, we have the matter largely in our own hands. Thus, if we could remove all honey from the hive, and check the flow of nectar in the flowers, all swarming would cease. But, of course, we can not do all this; but we can remove most of the honey from the hive with an extractor, and return the empty combs, and this alone will often check, and sometimes wholly prevent swarming. However, for securing section honey this method is quite impractical.

Of the second principal condition, it may be said that we can remove a large part of the mature bees by moving the hive to a new location, the old bees returning to the old place, and this will check, or wholly prevent swarming for a time, or until the hive is again populous and honey comes in freely. But this checks the storing of honey, both in supers and the brood chamber.

Again, we may remove the queen alone from the colony preparing to swarm, and all swarming will cease as soon as she is missed, until a young queen has hatched, and is strong enough to fly. This way necessitates looking up the old queen and removing all sealed queen cells when the old queen is removed, and, again, eight days later, as well as the introduction of a queen still later, or the colony will be ruined. If we fail to remove every queen cell when the old queen is removed, and, again, eight days later, our plans will be very liable to be upset.

This looking up of a queen, and the cutting out of queen-cells, often consumes a good deal of time when we can ill afford to spare it. But this way is of value in removing old and worthless queens, or for using the queen for starting nuclei early in the season. Early in the season the removal of one or two combs of brood from strong colonies, every few days will, for a time, keep the swarming instinct under control, while the colony will remain strong and able to do good work.

The removal of the queen is another way for removing or reducing the amount of brood in a hive. As, after her removal, no more eggs are laid, and in two weeks two-thirds or more of all brood in the hive will have hatched. There being now only a small amount of sealed brood with no eggs or larvæ, we find the swarming instinct becomes very feeble; a queen may be given them with little or no danger of swarming. I have found it easier to introduce young virgin queens, at this time, than is the case with old laying queens, and on some accounts much

to be preferred. Colonies so treated will not, as a rule, while queenless, work as well as new swarms.

Another way of manipulating brood so as to control this provoking instinct is to remove all brood from a hive as soon as any sure indication of swarming appears, or even before, replacing all combs of brood with broodless combs with or without honey as most convenient; or, if no such combs are at hand, with foundation.

This way has the advantage that colonies so manipulated quickly get over the swarming fever, and work on with renewed energy; and, if the brood chamber is not too large, continue work in supers almost as though nothing had happened. This method has the disadvantage, however, that unless honey is abundant in the fields the population soon dwindles or is worn out, and it becomes too weak to do the best work. This can be remedied by giving them young bees, or, better, by giving them combs of maturing brood a little later.

STORIES OF COLONIAL LIFE.

A NEW ZEALAND EXHIBITION CONTEST.

The various committees of the forthcoming New Zealand International Exhibition are covering the ground with admirable thoroughness. The schedule for the Home Industries Department, which should be seen by all Australians, is a small volume in itself, and covers a wide range of prize competitions, from the writing of an invoice to the cooking of a pie. And though entry for many of the contests is only possible to New Zealanders, there are others which are open to the world. The section that will perhaps interest most readers is that covering the writing of short stories. In this department eight prizes (gold, silver, bronze medals and a certificate) will be awarded for the best original stories (3000 words) based on colonial life.

This department is sub-divided into—(a) For competitors under twenty-five; (b) For competitors of any age, and is open to the world. Four prizes will be awarded to the winners of each section. A registration or entrance fee of 1s. is charged.

To enter for this contest is a simple matter—provided the competitor can first write the story. A 1s. postal note must be sent at once to the Secretary, New Zealand Exhibition, Christchurch, or to any one of the following commissioners: A. B. Robinson, "Age" Office, Melbourne; W. H. Croker, 84 William St., Melbourne; F. W. Jackson, Union Steamship Co., Sydney; E. Owen Cox, care Messrs. Birt & Co., Sydney. The intending competitor will at once receive a receipt and an official number in the form of a label. The label must be attached to the story, when completed, and posted to one of the addresses given above by October 24, 1906. When sending the shilling, the competitor must write, saying, "I wish to enter for Section 11, Home Industries Section, Class 1, (under twenty-five); Class 2 (over twenty five)" as the case may be.

On no account must competitor's name appear on MS. The name and address may be enclosed in a separate envelope, and sent with the entry, endorsed only with official number supplied.

An Australian—Mr. T. Shaw Fitchett, editor of the well-known home journal, "The New Idea"—has been appointed judge of this section, and we understand that the prize-winning stories will be published in that journal, for which the competitor will be paid by "The New Idea," in addition to receiving the prize awards from the Exhibition. We advise those of our readers with literary aspirations to enter for this section. All details of other Home Industries contests can, of course, be obtained from the local Commissioners in the various States, who will forward schedules on application.

THE APIARY.

API CULTURE AT THE BRISBANE EXHIBITION.

By "The Drone."

Nothing daunted by the bad season they have just experienced, the beekeepers have made a brave show at the Exhibition, the exhibits being the best for some years, both as regards number and quality. Two new exhibitors appeared on the scene this year, viz., Mr. Fletcher, of Warwick, and Mr. F. Spurrier, Mitchell River, Mount Molloy, North Queensland. Mr. Fletcher was very successful indeed, and deservedly so. His 1-lb. section boxes were a sight worth looking at; it is seldom one sees an exhibit of honey in comb so well got up. In passing, I may mention that the Civil Service Store purchased the whole exhibit of section boxes as they stood.

Mr. Spurrier was not fortunate enough to secure a prize, for which I was sorry after the trouble and expense he had gone to. And, besides, it would have been a good thing for our northern beekeepers to have secured one of the prizes. Still the judge could not have decided differently, for although the honey was good, that obtaining the prize was better. Mr. Spurrier's honey was in a semi-candied condition, too.

Mr. H. L. Jones was the judge, and gave general satisfaction. In some classes he had no easy task, and it was often a toss up as to which the prize went to. This was particularly the case with extracted light honey, Mr. Gambling, of Booval, being successful.

In the extracted granulated honey, Mr. Fletcher secured the blue with an exhibit which the judge described in his notes as exceptionally fine. The other exhibits in this were not really granulated, owing, possibly, to the mild winter we have experienced.

Only two entries were received for comb honey in frames. Both were nice exhibits, but Mr. Joshua Bell secured the chief card.

A new feature in the show was the provision for dark honey. It was a wise move to provide for this class of honey, as the entries proved. The exhibits in this class were of very fine flavour for dark honey, and gave the judge some trouble, as they were a very even lot.

In beeswax — natural yellow — Mr. Gambling came first with a very nice exhibit. The white wax, to my mind, was not so good as the yellow, allowing for the difference of course between yellow and white. Beeswax in tabloid form suitable for household purposes brought out a number of competitors, but it would be hard to imagine more useful pieces of wax for the housewife to use for her irons or thread than those exhibited by Mr. Fletcher. Mr. Gambling made a larger display, but it was more an exhibition of the artistic forms that wax may be turned to. Many of them, while very pretty, were not suitable in the form shown for household purposes. In the class provided for "observatory hive of Italian bees" some beautiful bees and queens were shown, but it is hard to understand why year after year we see observatory hives shown with an old black comb. They should contain a newly drawn-out comb as white as possible. Of course, we all know that that is not too easy to manage at this time of the year, still it can be done, and it should be done. An old black comb is a bad advertisement for an apiary.

The class for products of the apiary in trophy form produced one entry, and it only secured a second prize. It was a poor exhibit to go under such a heading, and gave the public a very imperfect idea as to what can be produced on a bee farm. It should contain extracted and comb honey, wax vinegar, etc., and be about six times the size of the exhibit under review.

The honey vinegar adds to the attractiveness of the section. Mr. Fletcher obtained first prize. Whilst his vinegar was not so well got up as that of the second prize winner, it was the only vine-

gar with a distinctly honey flavour. If Mr. Fletcher would clarify it it would be very hard to beat. For table purposes malt vinegar is lost beside honey vinegar.

A DOOLITTLE TRICK.

I find honey is better ripened, if the first story put on is allowed to become sealed a little before another is added, and for this reason it is better to allow such sealing even if we do have to do a little work to prevent swarming, especially as such work saves a lot of useless consumers just after the harvest of white honey has passed. In view of all this I cage the queens at the time there is a desire to swarm on the part of many colonies, leaving them caged for 10 days, at the end of which time all queen-cells are taken from the brood-chamber and the queen released.

This course does not have the same effect when working for extracted honey that it does when working for comb honey, especially where the bees must build a part or all of the comb in the sections, for with the caging of the queen a tendency comes to cease the building of comb as freely as is done when the queen is at liberty in the hive; while with combs already built, so that the bees have plenty of storing room, there seems to come no slack in nectar gathering, as long as the bees have a queen, no matter whether she is a liberty or not. And if we clip the wings of all of our queens, if a few colonies begin to swarm before we think it time to make the general caging, the bees will not go away, and this swarming on the part of the few will be detected at the general caging before any young queens will have time to emerge from their cells. So I leave this stopping of swarming part till I think it wise, according to the season, to cage all of the queens, when the work is done and all over with at one visit to the out apiary, and the queens all let out at one visit 10 days later.

Of course, where any colony has swarmed, the queen-cells used for this purpose must be taken off at the time of caging the queen, and then again at the expiration of 10 days, else we shall have swarming while the queens are caged, through these cells hatching, and a young queen leading off the swarm.

All who are familiar with the inside workings of the colony will see that the eggs which the queen would have laid during the time she is in the cage would give emerging bees just about the time the harvest would close, hence they would become consumers instead of producers, and for this reason we save more than enough from the consumption of honey to pay us for our trouble of caging the queens, cutting of cells, etc.—*American Bee Journal*.

How to Make English Canary.

In no way inferior to the best of Spanish wines.

We take the following interesting matter from a book published about the year 1691 :—

One Hundred and Twenty Pound will make a Barrel of very good Mead, but if you make it of clear Honey, then your best way is to allow Four Pound to every Gallon of water, Let your Quantity be much or little, which you ought to govern your self by, either considering the bigness of your Cask, or the quantity of Honey you have to make up into Mead, mix it in your Copper, and then boil it an Hour and Scum it well, which Scum you may strain through Hippocrate-Sleeve, or a paper Bag, made of Swans Skin, with a Hoop at the broad end, letting the narrow end come to a point. This Bag will make it as fine as the other, through which you may put it. When, your Mead is almost cold, Turn it up, Clay it down, and let it stand till it is Fine, and old enough to Drink, which sometimes will be sooner than other, according to the time of the Year, and Weather that comes upon it after making. This Liquor is one of the choicest of Wines,

as well as the most wholesome of all the Vinous Liquors in the World, and ought to be Drank and made use of in Poffets, &c. as Canary; and thus used, it is impossible to know whether the Poffet was made of your own Mead, or Canary.

Thus for making of Mead with clear Honey, but if you do it with the Washing of Combs, or dissolve all your Honey from the combs, then you must dissolve it in warm Water, till an Egg will Swim in the Mead the bredth of a Shilling. But here you must be very careful, that before you break your Combs into the Seive, or Strainer, you separate all the young Bees, which you may easily know from the Honey, and also the Sandrach or Bee-Bread, which is a yellow Substance, with which some of the Cells are filled, which otherwise will give your Mead an Ill taste, and then proceed to Boil, Scum and Turn as before. It is best if it be kept till it is a Year Old, and if you make it well, as before, it will keep as long as you please. I have some now by of almost Nine Years Old.

FOUL BROOD.

W. REID, SENR.

Very much has been written about this terrible disease, and many cures attempted, ending in failure. Well, Mr. Editor, if we cannot cure are we to look on and see our living rot before our eyes? No. We can clear foul brood out. Many times has this disease been described in the A.B.B. Besides, too many of our beemen can locate foul brood at a glance. Well, to remove the trouble: First, make sure the bees are diseased. This done, we will suppose the weather is fine and warm, and a good honey-flow on. We have one hundred hives, more or less; we commence at number one, open the hives in turn until we reach number one hundred, if we have that many. It is only a matter of two minutes to find out the condition of a hive in any way diseased. If bad, write "F., 1/10/06," (if that date); go on to next. This may be apparently clean, mark "O.K., 1/10/06"

and next, this may be run down, only a handful of bees. Make a note, "Very Weak, 1/10/06," etc.

State on the wall of each hive its condition. Caution—do not allow robber bees to gain a footing in the diseased hives, or even one spec of honey to fall to the ground. If we find a hive where all the bees are dead from foul brood remove that hive out of reach of the bees. We suppose every hive has been carefully inspected, and a note made of condition of hives. Say we have only twenty hives: we will stop all the entrances of the hives over night. Commencing early next morning with No. 1, take a small box or piece of bark, board will do, and place this near entrance to hive in a leaning position, so that a swarm of bees can lodge on the under side of this board or inside of the box; this will shelter from rain or sun. Now, take frames out one by one, jar bees off on to an old bag placed near the board or empty box. Watch for the queen, and as soon as found place her on the underside of the board or wall of box. The bees will soon collect with their queen. Each and every frame has been cleared of bees, as well as the hive. Replace the frames in the hive, and put them out of reach of any bees, not only the hive but the hive stand and every piece of timber near the old stand, and, if the stand is not movable, thoroughly scald, but move it if it can be done, and dig the ground several feet around it, so as to turn the top of the ground down. The old bees on which the bees were jarred must be removed after the bees have left it and gone up with their queen, taking care not to allow any pieces of comb to fall from it. The bag, when taken to a safe place, can be shaken into the diseased hive.

The next hive to be treated should be as far away as possible from the first to prevent mixing of bees. We will suppose all the diseased hives have been treated; the bees are collected under some shelter, each queen's wings have been shortened, one side so as to prevent

her from clearing out. The next thing we have to do depends a lot on circumstances. After each of these colonies have camped out two days and a night it is quite safe to place each one in a clean hive with starters, just the same as a new hive, for such they really are.

If those bees can be taken half a mile or more from the old stand so much the better, as some of the hives may not have shown any signs of foul brood at the time of inspection. May each one in their turn prove diseased, until the whole apiary has been treated, in nine cases out of ten it is best and cheapest to treat the lot.

Success depends a lot on the neatness and cleanliness of the operator. If the diseased bees are taken away from the old site for three or four weeks, and the old apiary thoroughly cleaned up by means of fire or boiling the old stands and ploughing or digging the ground where the old stands stood, they are quite safe. Time and exposure is not likely to clean the old hive stands, and a mere wash is time wasted. If we wish to clear foul brood we must thoroughly clean drone traps, queen excluders, in fact, all tools.

What about the hives and diseased combs? This depends on circumstances. If a new apiary at a distance is to be formed, then pick out the best of the combs containing brood, place them in a hive with sufficient bees to nurse them, but no queen, allow them to hatch and use them later on. Burn or melt down all the other combs. I prefer to burn all the wax and honey, after being cut out of the frames. The cleanest combs are good for wax, and if the honey is boiled for an hour or two it is free from foul brood. The frames and hives require to be boiled. Scalding them is not good enough. The hives require to be boiled at least an hour. Where the hives are of cheap construction and bees plentiful, I am not quite sure that it would not only be cheaper, but wiser, to make up a pile of brisk wood and boughs, place the

bees, stands, and hives thereon, and set fire to them, especially where apiaries are badly affected with foul brood.

We have read in the "American Bee Journal" and "Beekeepers' Review" where a Mr. R. L. Taylor says: "I have not found it necessary to disinfect the hives." Again there is the Baldrige plan. He simply allows the bees to pass from the diseased hive to the clean hive by means of a Porter bee-escape on the old stand. Shall we say that those two men are misleading. Yes, but not willfully. That plan may work to perfection in their localities, but not in a cold district. In my experience Taylor's plan would have shown an improvement for six or eight weeks, but the disease would then re-appear. Baldrige's plan would not have worked quite so long. The cheapest and best way I know is to do away with the disease in one act. I am of the opinion that foul brood is a disease much more fatal in one locality than in another. In a cold district it is a lot worse than in a hot or warm one.

My experiences would, no doubt, be of interest to my fellow beekeepers. I will try and relate them. In 1897 my apiary was situated in a cold district, about 3000 feet above sea level, or perhaps a little higher. In April of that year I discovered foul brood, the first I ever saw, as I have kept a record of my bees dating back to April, 1862. I copy my notes on frul brood.

April, 1897—This hive showed foul brood, but cells not sunken. Remedy used: Cut out all dead and foul brood, and placed a piece of camphor in hive.

Sept. 8th — Inspected hive; brood apparently O.K. Inspected all my hives and found no trace of foul brood.

Oct. 19 — Another inspection; found more foul brood. Cut all bad combs out. This ended in failure as before. I then inspected my hives every few weeks in warm weather. I tried a new plan:—I cut out all combs from the frames, good and bad, and found if only a small piece of comb were left, or even a frame with

a starter, or if I did not thoroughly clean the hive, the disease soon returned. I boiled the frames from the diseased hives, scalded the hives thoroughly, and yet in some instances the trouble re-appeared. So, in addition to the scalding of the hives, I turned them over burning sulphur. This appeared to clean out the trouble. After camping the bees out for a day and a night I gave them a healthy frame or two of brood and started them afresh. Sometimes I concluded my bees were free from the disease, only to re-appear again. In spring, 1899 I removed my bees to a distance of 20 miles. I only had 19 hives left, and they were apparently clean, but the disease soon re-appeared. By careful watching, and cutting out and treating as before, they increased to 50 in 1903, and saw no signs of the disease for several weeks. I now selected some 900 acres of land, 20 miles distant, in a suitable locality for bee-keeping, and intended to clear out foul brood at any cost. I also provided a 36 gallon tank; but foul brood soon re-appeared. I did not build stands as formerly, but placed my hives on pieces of wood on land intended to be ploughed. As soon as I found foul brood I just took and cut the honey and brood out of the frames of the diseased hives, burning them. The bees were placed in new hives and carried to a new locality. I also boiled the diseased hives and frames thoroughly. As soon as I had finished the diseased bees I commenced the healthy ones, and so cleared the disease out. That is three years ago, and I have not seen disease of any kind in my apiary. I have been summoned to other apiaries and been equally successful. I always boil the healthy and diseased hives and frames, and make a fresh start at a time when honey is coming in freely. I would not think my article complete without giving my opinion as to how foul brood is carried into hives. No doubt mainly by robber bees, also by persons leaving honey bottles and tins about in reach of bees. Say a bee-farm is located near a

camping reserve. Some one comes along and stays for dinner, which consists partly of honey, and leaves the tin which contained the honey from a foul brood hive lying about. Say this was in March. The bees find a particle of the honey and convey it to their hive. If it is taken direct to the brood the disease will start straight away; if to the outer comb or to top story, in the spring this will be used and the fatal seed is sown. I am of opinion that ten years will not clear a hive of foul brood. I believe that foul brood is much easier got rid of in warm climates than in cold. To cure it is out of the question. I may add that where I successfully cleared foul brood in my own apiary is about 1500 feet above sea level, but the other apiaries between 3000 and 4000 feet above sea level.

HORSE KILLED BY BEES.

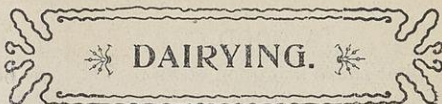
Last week Mr. S. A. Cheney the representative of Messrs, Duncan and Fraser, was driving to Victor Harbour with two ladies, and when near Bull's Creek, a swarm of bees attacked the horse, which suffered greatly. Mr. Cheney himself was badly stung, but got the horse out of its harness. The animal, driven frantic, ran into the adjacent scrub, and rolled over and expired.

At the Albury Show held recently there was a good display of honey and beeswax. The following is the prizes: Clear honey, E. Moorfield 1, P. S. Buchanan 2; Honey in the comb, F. S. Maxwell 1, Paul Moorfield 2; White Beeswax, P. Moorfield 1, M. Frauenfelder 2; Yellow Beeswax, P. Moorfield 1, A. Buchanan 2.

WANTED.

AN ASSISTANT to help in Out-Apiary. State particulars, and Wages required to

PAUL MOORFIELD,
Gargar Apiary, Howlong.



Our dairy spec has not been a success. At first we struck a drought. Going on the ground in November we did not have a crop of fodder for autumn or winter feed. As the winter approached the yield of cream from our cows gradually decreased. We now look forward to provide for the same seasons coming. The ground is not suitable for lucerne, or only a very small portion. A coastal dairy farmer recommended us to sow oats for winter. A farmer of our own neighbourhood says wheat is better and sweeter, and reminded us that oats was preferable on the coast, as wheat would not do there. At present we have a piece of land prepared for Hungarian millet for summer feed, and in March will sow oats for winter feed. Have ordered a couple of packets of Penicillaria, which is said to be a wonderful fodder producer.

The presence in the herd of an aborting cow is such a menace to the remainder that it is unwise to give the chance to acquire immunity. She should be fattened for the butchery, and cleared off the place.

The contagious form of abortion in cows is costing the New Zealand Government from £200,000 to £300,000 a year. In Victoria it is estimated to be a quarter of a million per annum.

The following are remedies:—All discharges or litter should be burned. The womb and geintel passages of the aborted cow should be irrigated with one of the antiseptic solutions:—

1. Carbolic acid, 1 part; sodium carbonate, 1 part; water, 100 parts.
 2. Creolin or lysol, 1 part; water, 100 parts.
 3. Conosive sublimate, 1 part; common salt, 10 parts; water, 2000 parts.
 4. Bimodide of mercury, 1 oz.; iodide of potassium, 4 oz.; water, 20 pints.
- No. 4 solution to be diluted 1 part to 20 of warm water, when required for use.

A GOOD COW.

That there are good cows in Victoria is evidenced from time to time, and occasionally very high returns are secured. A few days ago it was reported that Mr. Hall, manager of Mr. Cummings property at Yarragon, had a particularly good cow. Mr. Herkes, of the Agricultural Department, was instructed to officially check her record, and he reports that she is a three-quarter Jersey breed, nine years old, named "Doris." She is by a Jersey bull, and her dam was from an Ayrshire cow by a Jersey bull.

This cow has had seven calves, and has been milking continuously for the last four years, milking each season on to the point of calving. It may be mentioned that after her first calf she milked for fourteen months, and was not a great producer till the fourth calving. She calved on the 15th March last, and was reported as capable of making 28 pounds of butter per week. Mr. Herkes found her yield to weigh 29 lbs. and 28 lbs. for evening and morning respectively, with the same test of 4.5 for each, making the butter return for the day come up to 2.77 lbs. of butter, or at the rate of nearly 19½ lbs. for the week. When it is considered that the cow, when tested, had calved 3½ months previously, and that the test was made at the worst time of the year—in the depth of winter—the result must be regarded as highly creditable.—*Victorian Journal of Agriculture.*

CHOOSING A DAIRY BULL.

The question of choosing a dairy sire is frequently discussed. The old saying that the bull is half the herd is mostly agreed to by dairymen. There are many who make this statement who do not profit by the knowledge they appear to possess in this respect. They seem to think it sufficient to buy an animal simply because he has been successful in winning a prize at a show. I do not wish to belittle the advantage of perfect conformation and type in a sire. Individuality

is certainly a strong point, and a bull found wanting in this respect can rarely be relied on to improve the herd.

Breeding is most essential, and a sire that is truly bred and perfect in type should reproduce his own good qualities on his offspring. Perfection in type in a pure-bred sire is most important, as it shows that there has been no deterioration, and when individual excellence and good breeding go together, satisfactory results are almost assured.

I have sometimes seen sires that were not successful in the show-ring prove valuable in the herd. These bulls, however, when closely examined, were not deficient in qualities which should weigh heavier with judges than is usually the case. Points that favour utility have been present, a lack of style or a slight departure from the fashionable colour turning the scale against them.

The importance of a dairy bull having a long line of deep milkers on his dam's side has been frequently pointed out. It is also essential that his sire, grandsire, etc., should have proved their capacity to beget profitable cows. The time is near when the sire that has proved his own value as a stock-getter will be in greater demand. In the past the run has been on young, untried bulls, which have been sold on pedigree and appearance, but the middle-aged successful sire's time is coming, and high prices will await animals of this class.—*Garden and Field.*

CAUSE OF TAINTED MILK.

The Swiss scientist, Dr. Gerber, gives the following causes for bad or tainted milk:—

1. Poor, decayed fodder, or irrational methods of seeding.
2. Poor, dirty water used for drinking water or for washing of utensils.
3. Foul air in cow stable, or the cows lying in manure.
4. Lack of cleanliness in milking; manure particles on udder.

5. Keeping the milk long in warm, poorly ventilated, and dirty places.
6. Neglecting to cool the milk rapidly directly after milking.
7. Lack of cleanliness in the care of the milk, from which cause the greater number of milk taints arise.
8. Poor transportation facilities.
9. Sick cows, udder diseases, etc.
10. Cows being in heat.
11. Milking fresh and old milk in the same can.
12. Rusty tin pails and tin cans.

AYRSHIRE'S AND JERSEYS.

We take the following from the "Australian," relative to the late Royal Victorian shows:—

Averaging the milking strains of the show they are a magnificent lot, in which, if anything, serviceable qualities and dairy points, are more a consideration than was the case a few years ago, when breeders were working towards a show type of the definiteness of which they were never quite assured. Coming to detail, and comparing the two famous breeds which have established their fame as milking cattle all over the world, one finds the Ayrshires quite holding their own, and in some classes still improving, but amongst the Jerseys there was an absence of previous prominence, which may be the first sign of declining popularity. It is, at any rate, sufficiently marked to justify the question whether the Jerseys are standing the wear-and-tear conditions of Australian dairying. Those shown yesterday lacked, perhaps, as a group, the high polish of a few years ago, when they often gave a ringside onlooker the impression that they had been packed away in cotton wool with a camphor ball to keep the moths out. In this ring they looked more like cattle which had done their share in the milking-yard.

About the popularity of the Ayrshire there could be no mistake, and their one defect—the difficulty of hand-milking—may be minimised with the increasing perfection of milking-machines. There

were some very fine rings of bulls especially, and amongst the aged bulls was the proof that a winning strain does not die out in a generation.

Since our last issue there have been some splendid falls of rain. The face of the country is quite changed, and we now look forward hopefully to get some of our dry cattle into "fats" for market, also a gradual increase in the milk returns. By the way, we see in a West Australian paper an extract from a Sydney daily, that a man at Shoalhaven, with 151 acres and 65 Shorthorn cows, had made £801 in nine months. We do not believe it, and why such statements should be made we can only put down to some unprincipled, selfish motives similar to the abnormal values of lands stated by some land agents.

Since our advent into dairying we have noted the great discussion carried on as to the merits of the different breeds of dairy cattle. Of course, the different statements we hear are qualified by the pecuniary interests of the parties giving their opinions. The most reliable opinion we remember is that of a gentleman in government charge of a herd of Jerseys, as well as one of Ayrshires. He says that in 100 Jersey cows there would be far more sickness and weak ones than in the same number of Ayrshires.

PASPALUM.

A writer from Lismore, in the *Maitland Mercury*, thus speaks of Paspalum:—"I would just like to say here that while the Richmond is the home of the paspalum, I think it is quite possible to have too much of it, as it smothers all other grasses, and there are about four months in winter in which it does not grow, and it does not start to grow till late in the spring. From my observations I could see that farmers who had only part of their farm under paspalum were the best off for spring feed, as they had clover and prairie grass well grown, while the paspalum had not started, in fact, some farmers were burning the old paspalum."

It will not be out of place to give a little of our dairying experiences. In January there seemed plenty of natural grass for cattle. Being busy in many ways we did not think there would be a necessity for a winter crop to be planted. We now find out by experience, dairying cannot be carried on without cultivation. There are a few experienced farmers in our neighbourhood. We sought their advice. One man, recently from a coastal district, said he always planted oats for the winter, and let his cows feed on it an hour after milking every morning, and the same in the evening. If left only the hour the crop would not be much hurt. Another said in this district oats would not be so good as wheat, as the latter was sweeter eating. The coastal people could not grow wheat, that was why they grew oats. Another said barley was really better, but it did not last the winter out. Another man had grown Stein-wedel wheat, which is not a great grain yielder, but a quick grower, and had a good straw. Another had planted wheat for winter, and fed his cattle well on it, and then reaped a good crop of wheat. But now for a summer crop. We have a paddock of about six acres, which has not been cultivated for several years. I am getting it ploughed and harrowed twice, then putting in millet. Our neighbours have grown that for several years with good results, so need have no anxiety about that. Have also procured a couple of packets of a new fodder seed called *Penicillaria*, originally from Africa, through an American-Melbourne agency. The advertisement says it produces 90 tons of green fodder, or 16 tons of the very best hay per acre. We hope it will be equal to these promises. We have had some lovely rains lately, and the grass is coming up plentifully, giving an increased yield of cream.

Dr. Cherry says that beekeeping was an industry that might be taken up by men who were not robust enough to take up the usual modes of agriculture.

BREEDING.

By W. Abram, Beecroft, near Sydney.

Numerous writers, here and abroad, have expressed the opinion that if a hive of bees shows any special excellent quality, such as honey-gathering, etc., that to breed queens from such is the best and surest means of propagating that excellency. To some extent that is right, but by no means absolutely. With everything, whether plants, insects, or animals, its superb quality or qualities, mostly brought about by human skill, will, without the aid of such skill, in most cases retract again to a lower level, generation after generation, until its equilibrium is reached. Thus the attainment of any special excellency is forced and obtained by special means of procedure. Nature in its splendour allows and assists in the production of great variations, but only to a certain limit, and when that is reached there is a turn to either better or worse, as the case may be. It will thus be seen that there is much more to be considered than the breeding of queens from any superior stocks to attain best results. It must be borne in mind that what suits best in one season may be quite unsuitable another season, as the seasons vary like everything else, and therefore the steps taken result quite contrary to expectations. The young queens may get fertilised by drones of very inferior quality, and their influence predominate in the progeny, and thus be far below the standard; and the young queens do not all inherit equal efficiency of their mother, some more, some less, just to produce a variation.

For the purpose of some special object in-breeding is resorted to, which, however, generally results in degeneration in some other respects. I have made various experiments, and found that with the seventh generation failure is inevitable. Such queens will lay about an equal number of drone eggs intermingled with worker eggs in worker cells, and not infrequently eggs will prove absolutely

sterile. In-breeding is, therefore, detrimental to success. An object may be attained, but its duration is not lasting, and at its best is only beneficial in the hands of an expert.

Of later years close breeding has come more into prominence. This also carries a certain amount of risk, especially in the hands of the uninitiated. It requires close study of the subject and the objects aimed at, and careful observation to every detail, and even then results are not sure. The yearly repeated egg-laying competitions are points in fact. One would think that the first winner ought to so breed his stocks as to be always to the front, but it is not so. It is more difficult with bees, as we cannot control the mating of a queen with a drone, but even if we could we would be very little better off than we are now.

Therefore there must be some other means by which to attain good results is possible. This is best done by studying bees' nature and habits, and the conditions that influence bee culture, when it will be much easier to adjust matters so as to suit the prevailing varying conditions, over which we have no control, and which we cannot alter. It is a tedious study, but one that is interesting and fascinating.

When the bees of any apiary prosper so as to be rather above the average under the prevailing conditions, then, no matter what kind of bees they are, black or Italian, there is no urgency to interfere. But when most of them begin to fall short of normal, then it is high time to take steps to alter the affair. This can best be done by the introduction of fresh blood; but the new blood must be of superior excellency to the blood at hand, or the results will not be satisfactory. If the new blood has plenty of stamina and a good constitution, and possesses good qualities as an inheritance from their parents, then by crossing them with the other there will be an improvement noticeable, though at first the inferior blood

will show more than the next cross, which will give more normal results. Then, to keep up the progress of advancement, fresh blood should again be introduced. That this is the best procedure to success there is no doubt.

Bees in their natural state, unaided by mankind, regulate matters very nicely. The fittest survive, the others succumb. This reduces the number of stocks at unfavourable times, but the survivors multiply again, and thus a fair average is kept going. Not so where the breeding of queens is taken in hand by the bee-keeper. Here, if he neglects the law of nature, he may just breed from stocks which will be unsuited for next season or two to come, and thus occasion considerable loss.

Queen-breeding, therefore, is not such an easy matter as is generally supposed, and the sooner that fact is recognised the better it will be for the industry.

No bee-farm can exist for any length of time without the introduction of fresh blood occasionally. I do the same to keep up the highest standard of proficiency. Facts are facts, and speak for themselves. The consistent beekeeper will study the future rather than the immediate present, with beneficial results. Last season, from the end of October till the beginning of December, there was absolutely no honey to be gathered here, just at the time when the bees were breeding very fast, and to keep them supplied I had to feed them over a ton of honey (which, by the way, I had ready for market). The result was that when the conditions changed and honey came in plentifully they were prepared to store it, and did. Therefore, consideration of the future is wise, be that regards honey harvest or anything else, and as queens live for at least two years, this season's action will reflect next season and longer.

In removing hives, from one apiary to another, see they are nailed fast, and the bees have plenty of ventilation.

PRICES OF HONEY.

Melbourne Australasian. — Honey — Prime honey is in moderate demand at 3d., choice extracted fetching 3½d. Cloudy, dark, and inferior is dull at down to 2d. Beeswax is quoted at 1/2 to 1/3.

Melbourne Leader. — HONEY. — Prime clear honey is selling at 3d., a fraction more being wanted for extra prime. Medium to good grade is on offer at from 2½d upwards. Beeswax — Prime clear wax is inquired for at 1/3; medium lots, more or less discoloured, selling at from 1/- upwards.

S. M. Herald. — Honey, 60lb tins, choice extracted 3d to 3½d, good 2½d, inferior 2d per lb. Beeswax — Dark 1/1½, prime 1/2.

Maitland Mercury. — Honey, 2d to 2½d. per lb. Small tins 2/3 to 2/6.

HONEY.—

Supplies are more than sufficient for requirements and the market is dull sales being difficult to make. Choice quality 3d. to 3½d. Medium lines from 2½d. Dark and strong flavored lots from 2d.

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