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## **The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. 13, no. 1 April 29, 1904**

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, April 29, 1904

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1904  
the General Post Office Sydney, for transmission by post as a Newspaper

# THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland; Apiary, Willow Tree, N.S.W.  
all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

V. 13  
No 1.

APRIL 29, 1904

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### RULES & OBJECTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.

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

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authorised to receive Subscriptions and Adver-  
tisements for same.

E. TIPPER,

"A. BEE BULLETIN."

## NOTICE.

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MAITLAND, N.S.W.—APRIL 29, 1904.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue:—

#### Supply Dealers.

- R. K. Allport, 4 O'Connell St., Sydney.  
 A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket, Sydney.  
 The W. T. Falconer Manufacturing Co.,  
 Jamestown, N.Y., U.S.A.  
 L. T. Chambers, Gladstone Buildings,  
 128 Franklin-street, Melbourne, Vic.

#### Queen Raisers.

- W. Abram, Beeroft.  
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 E. T. Penglase, Fernbank P.O., Gipps-  
 land, Victoria.

#### Honey Tins.

- Chown Bros. and Mullholland, Ltd.,  
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#### Miscellaneous.

- A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket only,  
 Sydney.  
 P. J. Moy & Co., 161 Sussex St, Sydney.

tisers for their continued support, and assure them we shall still endeavour our best to watch the interests of the honey industry, both as to the latest ideas for the working among the bees, and the marketing of the crops, the giving the latest prices of honey at the various centres, and the various items of bee news as they occur. The past year has not been a very prosperous one in most places, but we have every prospect of the coming season being a good one. Let us hope if such is the case the price of honey will not be reduced too much.

With this issue we publish the index for the past year. The many of our subscribers who take care of their numbers will find the successive volumes as they are found of great value not only as references but also interesting reading. We bind at our printing office, the charge per volume being 3s 6d.

Almost an entire failure of honey in Cuba and California.

Two bad seasons in succession in Scotland. Continuous rain.

An American beekeeper says nectar is not secreted nearly as fast in the hottest days as in more moderate weather.

In Canada and the United States bees are sometimes in winter cellars nearly six months.—See question last issue.

The Austrian beekeepers interviewed the Railway Commissioners to see if he

**T**HIS issue commences the thirteenth year of the existence of the "Australian Bee Bulletin." We again thank our many subscribers and adver-



would not have the railway beds of that kingdom planted with honey-bearing flowers. It was quite successful.

Beekeepers, it is to your interest that your neighbour should take the "A Bee Bulletin." Get him to do so.

We acknowledge receipt of Circular of John M. Davis, queen-breeder, Tennessee, U.S.A. We refer him to our advertising rates.

The death is announced of Captain Hetherington, said to be the prince of American beekeepers, who at one time owned 6000 colonies of bees.

A. E. S., Gundagai.—I have always subscribed to your paper from its inception, and have found it interesting and practical. Wishing you every success.

We acknowledge receipt of the "West Australian Fanciers' Journal and Practical Poultry Keeper." It is a well got up illustrated monthly journal, and we should imagine has a good future before it.

The "Beekeeper's Record" complains of the buying of prize exhibits to be shown elsewhere in another name, and recommends the committees buy the prize exhibits and have them consumed. New South Wales has not been innocent in this matter. We have had "eye-openers" on several occasions.

Mr. Fritz, of Woodstock, told us that in February, 1903, he had 117 hives. He went to Sydney to the R. A. Show in April, and perhaps did not give the attention he should have at that time. Want of pollen and want of water reduced the 117 to 7—110 being lost. He is now working up again.

A northern river beekeeper told us in Sydney he had sold his honey in Sydney at 2d per lb. He thought it would pay if he only get 1½d per lb! Did he ever count up the cost? Price of hives, &c., &c., his time in tending; cost of tins and cases to send to market in, shipping, commission, exchange on cheque, &c.?

We have been informed by persons who are in a position to know, that honey is being retailed in Sydney in glass vessels containing a chunk of comb honey

and filled up with adulterants. The health officers and the law ought to see to it. No wonder the price is so low in Sydney. If in Sydney shortly we will make enquiries.

We would much like to have seen a larger attendance at the B.F.A. meeting. Those who were not present, however, in person, were well represented by proxies, our own voting alone being represented by no less than 34 proxies. The number of paid up members on the roll represents 4600 hives. There were some 40 railway concession certificates issued by the Chamber to beekeepers. Not all, however, were availed of.

What a pleasure to feel you have done a neat thing unexpectedly. We were in a hurry to catch train, when a swarm came out. Rushed for hive and larvæ. Meanwhile the swarm had settled some thirty feet high on a thin hanging-out branch. Swarmer was no good. Ladder the same. Put empty hive with larvæ on ground immediately under swarm, cover off. Put charge of shot in gun, aimed at branch about two inches inside of cluster. Result—immediately breaking branch off, and the whole swarm dropping in a bunch on to the hive. Put cover on immediately. The swarm was captured.

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### WORK FOR THE MONTH.

See their plenty of honey in hives.

See if there is plenty of pollen stored, and in spring watch those that are short of it. Don't take any pollen away.

See you have good linoleums or rubberoid top of frames under cover.

See that all queens are clipped.

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### N.S.W. BEE FARMER'S ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above was held in the Royal Agricultural Rooms, Sydney, on Friday, April 8. There were present—Mr. H. Hall (in the chair), E. Tipper (sec. and treasurer), Ayers, Sawyer, J. W. Irvine, and Bushell.



Mr. Tipper read the minutes of previous meeting, also treasurer's statement, the latter showing a small deficiency. Both were adopted. Also report of proceedings of past year as follows :—

"The first matter that called for attention after last annual meeting was that of Baker & Co. An advertisement was received for insertion in the "A.B.B." offering to purchase honey at a price far above the ruling rates. Having some doubts on the matter, I communicated with the late secretary of the Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. J. J. Miller, who replied it was a new firm, and he would get further particulars. Receiving nothing further up to the time of publication the advertisement was inserted. Almost immediately afterwards, one of the firm of Hawken and Vance wrote me the address given was an empty house. I immediately communicated with the Sydney Detective Office, and sent post cards of warning to all members of this association. As Baker and Co. was accused of several breaches of the law, and others had been on his trail, he was speedily apprehended. I got a strong commendatory letter from the Detective Office.

"In June I attended a Conference of the Victorian beekeepers, and conveyed the greetings of this Association. Several matters of interest to the beekeeping body, were debated and referred to the Agricultural Department, but, up to the present, nothing beyond promises has resulted.

"In August, at the suggestion of a member, Mr. T. H. Bradley, I wrote to the Department of Agriculture, asking, would they be willing to investigate a new disinfectant, named formalyn, as a remedy for foul brood. The Department appointed Mr. R. Helms to do so, and that gentleman wrote me asking if I could promise samples of foul brood for him to experiment on. Although I gave publicity to the matter no samples came to hand.

"Lately, as we had paid our affiliation fees to the Chamber of Agriculture, I

applied to the Secretary, Mr. R. H. Lalor, for railway privileges in connection with this meeting. He replied, stating the affiliation fee was now due. I replied I did not think we had received any privileges for the last money paid. In fact, had paid cash for the room in which we held our last annual meeting.

"As a cheque for £1 3s from Mr. Pemberty, and other subscriptions had come in, stating wishes for the affiliation should continue, I took the liberty of forwarding to Mr. Lalor the subscription for this year. Certificates of railway concession have been forwarded to all of our members residing beyond twenty-five miles by rail from Sydney, and this room secured for our meeting to-day, after consultation with our President, Mr. Hessel Hall, M.A.

"As Mr. Donnelly contributed so liberally in order to affiliate with the Chamber of Agriculture last year, when subscriptions were coming in I offered to reimburse him for such, but he refused to take such, desiring any such should go to the funds of the Association. I would sincerely recommend he should be an additional vice-president.

"I estimate the number of hives held by paid-up members to be about 4600.

"The thanks of the Association are also due to Mr. Vice-president Pemberty for his handsome donation of £1 3s.

"During the year I have answered much correspondence and given advice on different matters when asked for.—I have the honor to be, yours truly,

E. TIPPER,  
Hon. Sec. & Treas."

It was resolved we continue the Affiliation with the Chamber of Agriculture, and a hearty vote of thanks was awarded Mr. Pemberty for his liberality in giving cheque towards expense of same.

The matter of beekeepers' licenses it was decided not to go on with the matter.

The matter of beekeepers being enabled to take up residential selections



on Forest Reserves. Mr. Hall said he had had much correspondence with Mr. Clara, M.L.A., on the subject, and the conclusion they had arrived at was that the law at present did not allow the matter to be carried out. It would require new legislation.

Mr. Tipper said he had gone to see Mr. McFarlane, the Under-Secretary for Lands, on the subject. That gentleman was from home, but the chief officers in the Department had informed him any deputation on the subject of occupying Crown Lands or Timber Reserves for the purposes of Bee farming, would have to approach the Minister for Lands, who has control over such lands, and any class of occupation authorized would have to be authorized under the Crown Lands. The Forestry administration cannot at present give any right to beekeepers to occupy forest lands.

It was ultimately resolved in view of early dissolution of the present Parliament it would be advisable to suspend action concerning forest licenses till after the coming election, and that the President and Secretary be authorised to take action if opportunity occurs.

The following were appointed the committee for the coming year:—President, Hassell Hall, M.A., Emu Plains. Vice-Presidents, F. W. Pemberthy, Elsmore; T. Bradley, Appin; J. F. Donnelly, Bellinger. Secretary and Treasurer, E. Tipper, J.P., Willow Tree. Committee, E. J. Rien, Wyee; J. Pennington, Inverell; F. Bolton, Richmond River; J. R. W. Gaggin, Lismore; E. Dowling, Drake; J. R. Irvine, Sofala; J. Anderson, Hexham; W. Gee, Campbelltown; P. Riddell, Macleay; W. E. Bagot, Richmond River; W. Niven, Eugowra; Bushell, Bellinger.

After the Conference we saw Mr. R. A. Price, M.L.A., who informed us the law *does* permit settlement by beekeepers on forest reservations, and promised to send us the particulars, but up to going to press had not received same.

## Echoes from Continental Journals.

(Specially translated for A.B.B. by J.R.G.)

### AN EXTRAORDINARY ARREST.

At Bainer, Asia Minor, relates "Le Stamboul," the local police force had surrounded a house situated at some distance from the centre of that locality, in which the famous brigand Nebbi had installed himself, having evidently resolved to there sell his life dearly. To one of the besieging gendarmes, Sergeant Hadji Keskin, a brilliant idea suddenly occurred, which, under like circumstances, De Wet himself could not have distained to employ. The sergeant, having armed himself with a hive crowded full with vicious Syrian bees, dexterously flung it through an open window into the very room where the redoubtable Nebbi stood at bay. While the latter was hotly engaged and entirely absorbed in trying to rid himself of the furious little insects which in perfect clouds were stinging his face and hands, our friends the gendarmes, headed by the resourceful sergeant, were enabled to break into the house and overpower the brigand, who vainly defended himself from the combined attacks of bees and men till at last having been severely wounded he had to yield.—"La Révue Eclectique d'Apiculture."

### A FORMIDABLE BEEKEEPER.

The Public Executioner (should one say rather "Electrocutioner") of New York, by name Edwin Francis Davis, is a beekeeper. At Springfield in Long Island, where he has bought a plot of ground, he busies himself, *in his leisure time*, with his hives, and is keenly, indeed affectionately, interested in the golden bees which yield him very fair crops of honey. It is not reported whether this yankee "Jack Ketch" practices the gentle art of electrocution upon his bees so as to take their honey without trouble, or proves himself as murderous towards them as those among us in France who stifle their colonies to death with the fumes of sulphur so as to



rob them clean of their treasured stores.  
—"Rèvue Eclectique."

RENEWING COMBS—(extracts from a lengthy article in 'La Revue')

I remember having often heard a distinguished apiculturist, my friend and teacher, repeat the following maxim, "Young queens and young combs bring prosperity to the apiary." It is of course easy to comprehend that new combs but slightly yellow are superior for brood rearing, for storing honey, and for wintering to those black old combs, choked up with pollen more or less well preserved, the debris of queen and drone cells and the many successive layers of cocoons belonging to many preceding generations of nymphs (otherwise developed larvæ) making the combs heavy, moist, dirty, and in great part, useless.

\* \* \* \*

When new combs are placed near the centre of a brood-nest the queen eagerly seeks them out to lay in, and if properly prolific, will therein produce the magnificent solid slabs of brood, that one rarely encounters except in combs of recent construction.

\* \* \* \*

Frame-hive beekeepers, it is sad to relate, do not sufficiently renew their combs, and it is to put them on their guard against this grave default, which very considerably hinders the development of the strength of their hives, that I write these few lines.

\* \* \* \*

A few words to finish upon the method of ridding the frames of old combs without cutting, breaking or stretching the wires. I employ a large copper boiler in which is placed a certain depth of water so as to allow of the frames being plunged beneath it. The water having been brought to boiling point, I successively plunge in the frames whose combs are to be demolished. In a very short time they are seen to be free from comb and I have the advantage not only of deteriorating either the frames or the wiring, but, if by chance, a larva of the wax-moth has hidden in the wood of the frame, that

larva is infallibly destroyed, which is a benefit by no means to be despised. A light scrape completes the cleansing of the frames. They are then remounted with sheets of comb foundation, and are ready for a new service. The wax of course is afterwards rendered from the cake which has solidified on the surface of the water in the boiler.

\* \* \* \*

The renewing of combs having invariably given me full satisfaction, I earnestly counsel it to my colleagues in apiculture, once more repeating to them. "Young queens and young combs bring prosperity to the apiary."—Charles Guillemin.

#### EXTENDING THE HONEY MARKET BY ILLUSTRATED POSTAL CARDS.

The Apicultural Society of the Aisne (France) has just issued a superb collection of post cards intended to be used as advertisements for the sale of honey. Here follows what one of our correspondents has written to us on the subject: "In my opinion apiculture cannot progress if there be no large outlets from the honey crop, and to command these we must create consumers. The wise articles in our Reviews do not affect the real eaters of honey. It is to children especially that we beekeepers should address ourselves. This is exactly what the publishers of these illustrated cards have tried to do, and all apiculturists ought to employ them for their correspondence."  
—"Le Progrès Apicole."

THE OLDEST BEE IN THE WORLD.—At the Museum at Cairo, in a sarcophagus, one can admire a bee with wings outspread, but whose legs are glued to the linen strips enveloping a mummy. The insect, doubtless, had been caught at the moment that the unknown embalmer was smearing the body of the dead personage with the customary gum-arabic and palm oil. It may have been 4000 years ago. Time has respected the delicate structure of the bee and she still remains quite ready to fly away.—"La Rèvue d'Apiculture."



EVERYONE FOR HIMSELF (AND HERSELF).

Lily is walking towards the apiary with her father.

"Oh! papa, I'm so afraid!"

"You little goosie! Hide behind me and the bees won't see you."

"Oh! that will be quite nice papa. While they're stinging you I'll have time to get clear away myself!"—"Petit Al-manace des Abeilles."

## LETTERS FROM BEEKEEPERS.

### POISONOUS HONEY.

To Apis:

Sir,—Some 18 months ago you published a communication of mine on this subject. It was then generally supposed that the only sources of poisonous honey in New Zealand were the two plants—Wharangi and Waeriki. Since then, however, circumstances have come under my notice which lead me to believe there may be another source from which bees gather deleterious matter that finds its way into the honey. I have no doubt about the two plants named yielding poisonous nectar, but with ordinary care I think fatal results can be prevented. The poison of these plants being so volatile, that, if honey is allowed to get properly matured in the cells before it is eaten, no evil effects will follow. The Maoris of old used to say it would cause giddiness and drowsiness, and they would sleep it off. However, they were not in the least afraid that they would die. Now, things have changed. Fatal effects are getting more common. Convulsions and vomiting have made me think that some other substance must have entered into the honey, to which these effects might be attributed. Hence I have gone into this question pretty thoroughly, and although I may be alone with regard to my view of the matter, I have nevertheless the strongest conviction that my conclusions are correct. And it is for two reasons that I wish you to publish this, viz.: First, to put people on their guard; secondly, to ask any person, who may come across these notes, to give me their experience on this

point. I believe that sheep dip must have something to do with the poisonous honey, for the following reason, that invariably honey poisoning with bad or fatal results takes place in localities near sheep dip, and very seldom fatal effects from honey raised or obtained at least five or six miles away from any sheep dip. A case came under my observation where three poisonings took place, all very bad indeed, but, happily, not fatal. Three different times, in the same family, in the same year. Now, six miles away from this place were two apiaries with at least 40 hives each. The locality was the same, bush and swamp, but no sheep dip. Again, a case of poisoning came under my notice in this latter locality, but with totally different effects. The native had eaten, indeed, plenty of honey, and found himself poisoned, but made nothing of it, as he told me this was like the poisoning of former days, and, indeed, he slept it off. Now, as to how bees get the sheep dip in their hives. When the bees are breeding they use a great quantity of water, and if any person goes to a little stream or lakelet near where bees are kept he will see on a warm day hundreds of bees drinking the water, which they bring to their hives. Now, if a sheep dip is left with the poisonous stuff still in it, the bees will go there, drink it, and bring it to their hives. I foresee the objections persons may bring to this, by saying: "Why does not the bee die?" But death might not take place before the bees have carried some poison to their hives. I have drawn attention to the matter in order to induce others to take notice, and so to get at the bottom of it if we can before taking any steps that may be necessary. In any case it would be well that those who use sheep dip should have their dips cleaned after use, and thus prevent the possibility of bees carrying poisonous matter to their hives. The law, too, I think, should not allow any person to use poison recklessly. Thanking you, Sir, for the space allotted.—I am, etc.,

REV. A. HOLIER JOEK.

Mata, Bay of Plenty.



[It is quite a new theory to me, the probability of honey being poisoned by sheep dip. But, nevertheless, I am sure Father Holierhoek would not have written the above unless he had very good reasons for believing such to be the case. The matter is of so much importance that it should be closely investigated by those who have the opportunity, and anyone who can throw further light upon it should at once communicate with Father Holierhoek or through this journal. I may have something further to say next month.—Apis.]—*New Zealand Farmer.*

### SWISS HONEY.

The following is a translation for the "American Bee Journal of a Swiss firm's circular, who claim to send honey to the United States. It will no doubt be amusing to our readers:—

I beg to offer you Swiss Honey, neatest selection from flower harvest, yellow like gold, in cases of 50 glasses, 1 pound each, at 80 frs. a case, comprising packing, free Basle. payable at receipt with Cheque on Switzerland net.

Carriage Basle-New York frs. 8.20 per 100 Kilogr. (1 case—37 Kilogr. gross). Insurance by land and sea from here to New York against loss, average, breakage 6 per cent. which, on your demand, I shall effect here for your account.

This Honey is undoubtedly the finest article of Fancy Grocery; it is not only a highly exquisite delicacy, but also a remedy for many outward and inward infirmity, an antiseptic preservative remedy (cleaning wounds, blisters from burning); therefore it is warmly commended by physicians, especially for children. It is for the wealthy as well as for the poor, benefitting them all likewise.

Our quality is in no way to be put upon the same level with the common article of foreign countries; leaving even aside its being a produce of the Alpine flora, its strongly flavoured, incomparable nectar, it is not to be forgotten that with us teachers and parsons in the country are the chief apiarists, who do the business more from sheer pastime and *with the utmost cleanliness*. All our honey gets slung (worked out carefully), no such use as in foreign countries where often comb honey, together with maggots, may even rotten brood is pounded, boiled and expressed. Such an article is not only nauseous, disgusting, but at the same time hurtful to health.

In order to serve my customers to the utmost nicety, I have chosen glasses, the nicely printed zinc lids of which close hermetically, so there

will never be any leakage, however fluid the honey, in whatever position the glass may be; no clammy hands and—last but not least—Swiss Honey may be preserved for a whole generation without undergoing any change.

The patent cases to be shut and opened without any tool, contain compartments so that each glass stands separately. During ten years I have furnished honey to a house in New York, never a glass has been broken, and yet honey is by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  heavier than water or wine. Cases as well as glasses by themselves are of good use.

Incomparable quality, sure packing, and its lasting unchanged and palative for years and years, there are the titles to commend our article.

At first sight the price of the article may seem somewhat high, but he who has got acquainted with its superiority, does not mind that little more; Swiss Honey becomes indispensable for him. On the other hand, I could not possibly make any allowance, the produce of the article being limited and prices pretty high at home. Inviting you to have a fair trial, I remain, Sir,

Yours truly,

UL. TUCHSCHMID.

### A Swarm of Bees Worth Hiving.

B patient, B prayerful, B humble, B mild.  
B wise as a Solon, B meek as a child.

B studious, B thoughtful, B loving, B kind.

B sure you make matter subservient to mind.

B cautious, B prudent, B truthful, B true.  
B courteous to all men, B friendly with few.

B temperate in argument, pleasure, and wine.

B careful of conduct, of money, of time.

B cheerful, B grateful, B hopeful, B firm,

B peaceful, benevolent, willing to learn.

B courageous, B gentle, B liberal, B just.

B aspiring, B lowly, because thou art dust.

I must add a line of my own:—

B clean, B tidy, B quick, and B ware,  
For pests are besetting our pets in their lair;

A drop of prevention is better, B sure,  
Than Billions of Buckets or Baskets of cure.

Mary Spencer, St. Ives, England, in  
*Irish Bee Journal.*



## PRICES OF HONEY.

*Garden & Field, S. A.*—Prime, clear, in good demand from 3d to 3½d; off lots lower. Beeswax from 1/- to 1/0½.

*Tamworth News.*—Honey, 7lb tins, 2/3.

*Maitland Mercury.*—Honey, 2d to 2½d lb. small tins.

*Melbourne Leader.*—3d per lb.

*Melbourne Australasian.*—Honey and Beeswax.—Honey is in steady demand at 3½d. for choice clear, and 3d to 3¼d for good samples. Dark and inferior lots are slow of sale at lower rates. Beeswax continues in good request at 1s 2d.

*S. M. Herald.*—60lb. tins of prime extracted, 2¼d; medium quality, from 1½d to 2d per lb. Beeswax.—Prime clear 1s 1d; dark, to 1s per lb.

*Fremantle, W.A.*—From 5s 6d to 6s 6s per dozen 2lb. tins

## SCOTLAND.

We extract the following from a very interesting letter received from an old friend Mr. J. F. Meiklejohn:—

Dunblane, March 9.

We have had an uncomfortable winter, little frost and snow, but plenty of wet weather, and of course it is raw and cold. We are having two or three fine days at present, and we quite enjoy them. The buds are making their appearance, and the singing of the birds is heard in the land, so we hope to have pleasant weather soon. Well, another old gent and I have got a bee hive and so have commenced a *bee farm*. How it will pan out I don't know; my partner would run if he saw a bee coming in his direction, so I will get the job of handling them. I will let you know how they get on after a while. We are between 2 and 3 miles from the heather, or Sherriemuir, so I think they will go by themselves that length when it is in bloom. Things are quiet here at present, but the Queen Victoria Schools, for the sons of Scottish soldiers and sailors (orphans), is about to be erected here, and this should cause some stir. The buildings are to cost at least £50,000 and the Government keeps it going after erection.

## FOR SALE.

**A**BOUT 125 FULL COLONIES, in Langstroth Frames, together with 6-roomed Brick Cottage and 12 acres of Freehold Land, or Bees separately if desired. I have been keeping bees for the last 14 years, and have had no trouble to dispose of my honey crop. Satisfactory reasons given for selling.

A. E. SHEATHER,  
Flower Hill, Gundagai.

## Beekeepers of Australasia.

**G**ENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you for your liberal support during the past season. Owing to climatic conditions being unfavourable during the winter months, I shall not be able to post queens from here, but will book your orders for early delivery next season.

Book early and address to

E. T. PENGLASE,  
Narrang Apiary,  
Fernbank, Victoria.

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## THE MAKING OF THE QUEEN-BEE.

[F. GREINER IN "A. Bee Journal."

In regard to the physiology of the worker and the queen-bee I have concluded, after a close observation, that the female bee-larva, when but little developed, embraces within her little body two distinct possibilities or tendencies, viz: 1st, to develop either into a mother-bee, or, 2nd, into a nurse or worker bee. One is irresistibly forced to the conviction of its being an error, that the worker-bee is a dwarfed or undeveloped female bee, for in the worker as well as in the queen do we find different organs in the highest state of perfection. The worker is endowed with that wonderful system of glands, the pollen-basket, the stronger tongue and jaws; the queen with those perfect organs of reproduction.

One and the same egg may produce a worker or it may produce a queen, according to the treatment it receives. When the reproductory organs begin to develop in the larva, the faculties and organs peculiar to the worker remain dormant, and vice versa. There is no possible way to produce a queen-bee with the strong worker-tongue, and the fully developed pollen-baskets. When a five-day worker-larva is transferred to a royal cell, from which a royal larva has just been removed, the faculties peculiar to the worker are already in the beginning of their development, and this process is then stayed as quickly as possible, and the resulting insect has the appearance of a queen, but small, and with very small pollen-baskets and a short tongue.

In reality we have *not* an animal which combines the qualities of worker and queen as we find it the case with other related insects, as wasps, etc. One would naturally think there would be a distinctly defined line between the two. But we find it not so. The manner in which the embryo larva is fed decides the direction in which the insect is to develop, and, when persistently continued, begins, conducts and completes the development.

When a three-day worker-larva is selected for a queen by the bees, the larva, has not yet been fed undigested pollen, and one might expect that at this stage the worker faculties have not yet made a start even in their rudimentary beginnings, but it must be taken in consideration, that on the third day the worker-larva is not as lavishly fed as a queen larva at this age; also, that before the cell in which the selected worker-larvae lies can be changed over and built out into a queen-cell, the fourth day will probably have come. A miserable little queen will be the result. We occasionally come across queens which have characteristic marks of the worker plainly visible. In practice, we better steer clear of the idea that a three-day worker-larva is good enough for a queen.

What do we know about a larva developing into a worker in one case, into a queen in the other? It is believed that we must look for a certain admixture in the larval food, or that the latter is more plentifully administered, and thus produces the queen-bee. It appears that as soon as the larval food is changed the development changes with it, but it comes very gradually. I have taken five-day worker-larvae and transferred them to queen-cells. They should have been sealed after one-half day, but it was accomplished only in a full day, and yet the resulting queen could hardly be distinguished from a worker.

The older the larva selected for a queen at the time the change is made, the nearer the resulting queen will be like a worker.

Worker-larvae, when from 1 to 1½ days old, have hardly received other treatment than queen-larvae. Not till the end of the second day can we notice that the larval food is more scantily supplied to worker than to queen larvae. Even when a three-day worker-larva is placed into a queen-cell full of royal food, its growth is slower than that of one that has been in a queen-cell from the beginning, and we can notice some distinguishing marks in the natural insects



between those that were reared from one or two day larvæ.

Merely to prove the theory, it might be of interest to know what a queen-larva would do if placed back into a worker-cell, but the latter is not roomy enough for it. From young larvæ taken out of queen-cells I have reared five workers, none of which showed characteristic marks of the queen. The past season I made another experiment in the same line. I transferred thirty  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 day old worker-larvæ to queen-cells, let them remain therein for two days, and finally returned them to worker-cells. I succeeded only with two. One of the larvæ was immediately sealed after the second transfer and produced a perfect worker-bee; the other one was not sealed quite as quickly, and produced a queen, small and weak, showing a round head and curved hairs on the hind legs, and possessing a short tongue. This experiment shows that the queen-larva can be changed over into a worker.

This may have no practical value except to show by the results obtained, that whatever has been neglected in the earlier stage of bee-life cannot be made good later on by the very best treatment. The moral of the whole is this: "*The earlier a larva receives royal treatment, and therefore the more lavishly she is fed, the better and more perfect will be the resulting queen.*"

#### COMMENTS BY THE TRANSLATOR.

While I fully endorse the moral, I wish to say this: Our positive knowledge in this mysterious matter is restricted to the fact that the queen-larva is fed more lavishly, and slightly differently during the later period of her life. We do not know that this difference in the food and food-supply produces the results we see. I believe the real cause is not understood, and what we see are only the *accompanying circumstances*.—Ontario Co., N. Y.

#### SYDNEY.

On Easter Monday we took train for Sydney.

Years ago, on great holidays, when railway carriages have been short, we have seen open trucks fitted up with planks for seats. They were not nice, and perhaps were used only on short journeys. On this occasion the railway people do not seem to have troubled themselves much how passengers got on. For the greater part of the journey the carriages were crowded to excess—for some parts of it as many as fifteen persons would be crowded into one compartment. And it was very interesting to watch the efforts of the crowds of passengers rushing up and down the platforms looking in vain for vacant places.

On Tuesday we visited the Royal Agricultural Show. On the previous day there had been an attendance of some 75,000 people. It was not pleasant. People could scarcely move, and it was with difficulty anything could be seen. The day we attended not a quarter of that number were present, and we were enabled to see and enjoy ourselves at leisure. The various district competitions were a great attraction to us. We learnt a few things while loitering among them. They are very educational. Honey was included. One gentleman in charge of a honey exhibit told us he had bought some sections, which he had been selling at 6d each. They went off very quickly. He ultimately found out they had been purchased for the honey pavilion, where they had been re-sold for 9d each. At the honey pavilion there were the four honey displays of Messrs. Abram, Trahair, Roberts, and Seabrook. They had been doing good business. Messrs. A. Hordern & Son had a fine display of bee goods. There was a great show of machinery: Cream separators of different makes were there by the hundreds. In the dairy produce shed there was a sample of butter that had been rejected in the English market. Considering it had voyaged to England and back we concluded they

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See that your neighbouring beekeeper takes the "A.B.A."



must be "mighty particular" there. There did not seem to us to be so many Ayshire and Jersey cattle as on previous occasions, but it was made up by the more numerous shorthorns. We spent a pleasant half-hour in Messrs. Rich's Ruberoid Kiosks, and learnt a little. We had been under the impression ruberoid must be laid on prepared boarding; we learnt that wire netting will answer quite as well, besides being much cheaper. We invested 16s 6d in a roll of 14 inch wide, 72 feet long, 2-ply, to cut up in suitable lengths for such of our hives as are deficient. We put it on top of frames under cover instead of linoleums, which we formerly used. The bees eat linoleum away. They do not do so with the ruberoid, it lasts for years. See Messrs. Richs. advt. elsewhere.

On Thursday evening we attended the annual meeting of the Pastoral and Agricultural Society's Union. There were delegates from a number of agricultural centres. The report was satisfactory, and the treasurer had a fair balance in hand. Mr. W. S. Campbell, F.L.S. of the Department of Agriculture, was present, and gave a very interesting address, stating among other things the department was going to alter the style of Public School exhibitions at shows. Instead of so much copy book work the children would be instructed in cultivation of vegetables etc., and prizes would be given for samples of wheat, potatoes, etc., grown by pupils.

On Friday morning we attended the annual meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture. As of the Pastoral and Agricultural Societies' Union, C. H. Dight, Esq., M.L.A., is the Chairman, and Mr. H. L. Lalor, the Secretary of the Chamber.

The Chamber was formed in April last year with a pretentious programme. The objects of the founders were set out in a prospectus which stated, among other things - "The Council of the Union whilst providing for the interests of Societies, had in view the building up of an enduring edifice, broad in character and wide in

its scope, where individual producers could become members, and by good, earnest, and active committees, drawn from the various industries, investigate and discuss grievances and disabilities formulate and suggest means of improvement and advancement. and generally by their expert knowledge and experience assist in moulding necessary legislation and reforms.

The following particular industries are specially provided for, each with a committee of seven members: - Cereal, which embraces grain-growing of all kinds, Pastoral, Dairy, Poultry, Apiarist, and Fruit. Then there was a Legislation Committee, whose duty it will be to take up matters requiring legislation, and by determination and zeal secure enactments recommended by the expert sectional committee. It will be seen, therefore, that the machinery of the constitution, though simple was fairly complete."

The annual report stated that the chamber was inaugurated on April 16th last year. Pending the decision of the Pastoral and Agricultural Societies' Union on the question of affiliation with the chamber, several vacancies on the committee had not been filled. The Town Council had held six meetings, and several sectional meetings were also held at which recommendations were made to the council. Considerable trouble had been experienced by the sectional committees in obtaining quorums at their meetings. The roll of membership numbered 92 including the Bee-Farmers' Association. The treasurers statement showed that the amount to the credit of the chamber was very small. Regret was expressed that so little interest had been shown by the public in the operations of the chamber during the year.

In moving the adoption of the report the president expressed his great disappointment at the first meeting of the chamber to find only 93 members on the roll, especially considering that the subscription was only 10s per year. The position might have been very different had an organising secretary been ap-



pointed to travel round the country. It had been proposed that the Government should give a free railway pass to the organising secretary, and the only member of the Government present at the meeting promised that this should be done. But the Railway Commissioners raised the objection that such a concession could not be made under the act. He thought that the two bodies—the Chamber of Agriculture and the Pastoral and Agricultural Societies' Union—could not both be carried on successfully. One must necessarily absorb the other.

Mr. H. J. Rumsey (Dundas) seconded the adoption of the report, which was agreed to.

After considerable discussion, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Davidson M.L.A., seconded by Mr. Wilshire, "That this meeting refers the question of the dissolution of the Chamber of Agriculture to the council, with a view to taking a referendum of the members."

The office-bearers were continued in their offices until they could report the result to a subsequent meeting.

In conversation afterwards the members still spoke hopefully of the continuance of the Chamber. The unexpected departure of the late secretary had been the main cause of the trouble, Mr. Lalor having taken the duties as a matter of emergency.

## PREVENTION OF SWARMING IN OUT APIARY.

If I wish a small increase I proceed as follows: Placing a hive all rigged with frames filled with foundation or empty combs (or with only starters in them if it is preferred) on the stand of one of the populous colonies which I think may be preparing to swarm, I next set the sections from the old hive on the new, when I proceed to shake all the bees off their combs and out of the hive, letting them run into the new hive I have set on their former stand. I now place the combs of brood back in the hive again, and carry the whole to the stand of another populous colony, setting this last colony on a

new stand from 20 to 100 feet away, or distant from where it stood when I came to it. The sections are now taken from the moved colony and put on the hive of brood, into which the bees returning from the field are now pouring. When they find that this is not their old home they are somewhat homesick; and if their old home is nearer than 15 or 20 feet, many of the bees will find it, and setting up the joyous hum of 'home is found!' will call the most of the bees away from the brood, which is not a desirable thing; hence I place the removed hive from 20 to 25 feet or more away if it is possible to do so.

I generally carry along with me some nearly mature queens-cells, and give this made colony one of these in a queen-cell protector. This protector keeps the bees from destroying the cell till they realise their queenlessness, which happens a little before the queen emerges, so that, when the queen comes out, she is kindly received, and in due time becomes the head of the colony. In this way one new colony is made from two old ones, all desire for swarming is broken up, unless the season of surplus honey is long drawn out, while all three are in the best possible condition to store surplus honey after a week or so has elapsed.

Yes, I calculate to do this from five to ten days before white clover is yielding honey bountifully, with all good strong colonies, leaving the weaker ones till about that much before the basswood opens.

If I wish no increase I have a little different way of working, which is to proceed as with the first colony till all the bees are off their combs and in the new hive, with the sections they were occupying on the new hive, as before stated. Then the hive of beeless combs of brood are set top of another colony (with a queen-excluder between the hives), not quite so strong as was the one just shaken from their combs. This gives this colony so much extra room that they will not think of swarming for about a week or ten days, notwithstanding the



vast numbers of young bees emerging from both hives of brood.

"At the end of a week or ten days, as most convenient for me, I go again to the apiary and make these two-storey hives swarm, or shake them as I did the one-story hive at first. This gives rousing "shook" colonies; and as this shake comes just at the commencement of the honey harvest, great results are often accomplished."

"As the weather has now become generally warm, fewer bees are required to take care of double the amount of brood than was the case at the first shake, so these two hives of brood are placed on a still weaker colony, and a queen-excluder is placed top of the weak colony so that the queen will not have access to these combs, and thus the brood is fast emerging from them. In about two weeks these three-story colonies are shaken; and as this comes right in the very height of the honey-flow, and each three-story colony gives a great host of bees, they will do a work that will surprise any one not acquainted with what bees will do under such circumstances."

"But what about the three hives of brood?"

"These are placed over one of the very weakest colonies I had in the spring, or, if none such are left, then a nucleus or two have been formed a week or more previous to take care of such combs of brood. And I often put the hives which come from two shakes on one of these weak colonies, putting the two hives the queen had access to on top first (using a queen-excluder on top of the weak colony so the queen has access to none of the combs put on), while the four hives having only advanced brood are put on last. In this way this weak colony can care for the whole seven stories.—G. M. Doolittle in *Gleanings*.

## IMPROVED QUEEN-REARING.

[BY ARTHUR C. MILLER.]

A CONCISE STATEMENT OF MR. ALLEY'S SYSTEM.

1. Selection of exceptionally strong colonies.

2. Deprived of brood, queen, and combs, and kept confined for six hours. The deprivation is so made that the bees fill their sacs to the limit of their capacity; termed, for convenience, "cell-starting colonies."

3. Strips of comb containing an egg in each alternate cell are stuck to sticks in a frame or frames. These in turn are alternated in a hive with combs of pollen and honey, and the confined bees released on them.

4. Twenty-four hours after the "starting" colony began work on the cells the frames bearing the cells are taken away and given to colonies dequeened twelve hours previously, but not deprived of their brood.

5. Five days later the now completed cells are taken from these colonies, and gathered in one strong queenless colony.

6. Two days before queens are due to emerge, the cells are put into the cages and returned to the same queenless colony.

He uses large numbers of colonies of black and hybrid bees for cell-building. These colonies are protected with drone-traps (as are all but those flying his selected drones). That none of the objectionable drones may escape, all handling of the colonies is done indoors. To handle them comfortably there, it is necessary to subdue them pretty thoroughly by thumping and with smoke. Incidentally this causes the bees to gorge with food so that, when they get to the larvae, they have a superabundance of pap.

Those of us who can do such work out of doors can save much of his labour; but we must take equal pains to secure the requisite gorging with food.

He keeps his breeding queen in a hive with frames 5 x 5 inches. He keeps this colony well populated with young bees by frequent additions of combs of emerging brood, and also by constant feeding. He does these things because he can always get eggs just when he wants them; know their age almost to an hour; do it with little danger to his queen; do it rapidly and with little physical effort,



and without the loss incident to disturbing a full colony. In a large colony or in a nucleus with full-sized frames, eggs laid to order are not regularly possible.

One of the little combs supplies eggs for 50 or 60 queens, and these eggs hatch within an hour after they are given to the queenless bees, so nicely does he time his work. From this it will be seen that the to be queens receive a surfeit of food from the instant of their birth.

I timed Mr. Alley one day (unbeknown to him), and from the time he went to the hive for the eggs, cut the comb in strips, stuck them to the bars, destroyed the alternate eggs, placed the frames in the food-stocked hive, and admitted the bees to them, was just two minutes. This is a speed which I venture to say is not habitual with any user of the "transferring-larvae plan."

Mr. Alley takes particular pains to have food always present in all cell-building colonies, and he keeps filled feeders constantly on all such. He takes no chances with intermittent honey-flows. He takes the cells from the starting colonies, and places them in the middle of dequeened but not broodless colonies that the queen larvae may have the benefit of young nurses all through their growing period—in other words, be in the most favourable condition possible.

As soon as the cells are capped he takes them away from these colonies merely as a matter of economy, such colonies having their queen returned, and at once resuming their normal condition. He has certainly reduced the economical use of colonies to a fine art.

Now comes the only fault with the Alley plan. It is the caging of the cells. In his hands it is a quick and simple though sticky and dauby job. Cell cups built on wood bases are certainly much more readily and neatly caged; but beyond this I have yet to hear of any *valid* claim to their superiority; and at what a cost this little advantage is secured!

Mr. Alley enables the bees to feed the larva from the first moment of its life, as

their instinct directs. By the transferring plan, larva, whose ages vary from a few to many hours are used, and many things happen to them thereafter if we may believe the writers.

By his system Mr. A. produces the most superb queens I ever saw—virgins looking larger and stronger than many fertile queens I have seen; and the worker bees of his strain are of but normal size.—A. C. Miller, in *Gleanings*.

### An Experience With a Bear in an Apiary.

How would you like to go out to the apiary some peaceful evening, to look at the skunk-traps, and have your vision confronted by overturned hives, and have the conviction assail you that the expected had happened just when you didn't expect it, and at last a bear had visited your bees? That was what happened to me last autumn.

I retreated in good order, returning with reinforcements, and my father and I spent a strenuous time righting the wreckage and killing bees on each other.

The next day we sent word to the third selectman to come to our aid with his bear-trap. The bear wouldn't notice that trap, but one of the cats did—he escaped by a miracle, with a flesh-wound from one of the teeth, which disabled a fore-leg for some time. That night we had the worst thunder-storm of the season. Quite late my sister and I went to see if the bear was in the trap—he wasn't. But he had had more honey, and had left another hive lying on its side, and papa and I once more righted things as well as we could. Before morning the bear upset that hive again, and got some more honey.

About that time the postmaster offered his assistance, and it was arranged that he and the third selectman, and a young man that had been withdrawn from the hayfield on the doctor's orders (because an able-bodied young heifer had knocked him down and run over him), were to come the third night and shoot the bear.



Well, he anticipated them and returned to the same hive for the third time; that was "three times and out" for the queen. Papa heard the fence break, and hurried to the apiary in time to see a big bear retreating in the late twilight across the narrow field in front of the hives. He seemed reluctant to leave his feast, looking back as he went.

The moon was young yet, and set early that night, and although the bear returned, he would not venture out from the thin growth of trees across the field until it was pitch dark. At last the three men waiting in the bushes determined to fire, and the three shots really "rang out as one." He was hit, and must have been wounded seriously, for he ran away with no care as to making a noise, leaving a trail of blood. They tracked him next day until the trail disappeared, and as he has not been back since, I hope the poor thief is dead.

When I regretted the inconclusive result, the third selectman said mournfully, "Nobody feels as badly as I do."  
—Writer in *American Bee Journal*.

## CAPPINGS.

*From American and other Bee Journals.*

**WORKER COMB FROM FOUNDATION.**—Mr. Gill—Eastern editors claim nice combs are impossible without foundation. But with starters I get more perfect combs. The rows of cells near the top-bar are not elongated as with foundation. I never had any trouble when the conditions were normal, and don't see why it can't be done. Many people have a little incomplete swarm, and, of course, they fill out the hive with drone-comb. The combs should be built while the incentive for comb building is to get workers only. If there is storage-room in the super, 95 per cent of the honey will be stored there. If the swarms are not large enough, put several together. Mr. Aikin—Mr. Doolittle has often explained in the bee-papers how it is simply a matter of conditions. It depends upon the age of the

queen and the condition of the colony. Mr. Gill is correct. You can hive a swarm on starters and have nice worker-comb. If you remove a comb from a colony in the spring the bees will build drone-comb in its place; but those same bees, if they are made to start entirely anew, and build all their combs, will build nearly every bit worker-comb. It is simply a matter of the right conditions. For every comb built from foundation I have had 100 built from starters. I have never succeeded in getting full, nice combs from foundation in hot weather. But if you follow Doolittle's directions you will get nice worker-comb. If the queen is old, perhaps after five worker-combs are built, the sixth will be drone comb; but if the queen is young, it will probably be worker.—*American Bee Journal*.

**PICKLE BROOD.**—I found that I could not safely use infected combs over again, even if they were free from pollen and dead brood, unless they were nearly new. I tried fumigating with formaldehyde gas, in a box as nearly air-tight as I could make it; but the results were not satisfactory. I am sure that, for pickled brood at least, formalin is nearly useless. It succeeds sometimes, but too often fails. I had much better success by fumigating with burning sulphur. And let me say right here that you had better not trust to formalin in any disease where the combs contain either dead brood, pollen, or honey. Even the manufacturers of the drug do not claim for it much penetrating power. The only safe rule is to destroy all old combs, and give the bees empty frames or foundation. Even if you have never had any bee-disease, it will be safer to fumigate all old combs with sulphur before returning them to the bees. There is one thing that I rather hesitate about mentioning, because I am not quite sure of it yet; and even if it is true, I can see no reason for it. That is, if these bad cases of pickled brood are left entirely alone they seem to reach a climax and get well of themselves. Two or three cases, after they had lost all their brood



and half the mature bees, got well of themselves without treatment; while many of those that were repeatedly shaken on fresh combs kept the disease all summer. I did not notice this until late in the season, and had not time to verify it more fully.—“Gleanings.”

Note the careful manner in which a bee marks its location when it takes its first flight, as also when it voluntarily changes location at swarming, or when changed a considerable distance to a new location. At first thought it might appear that it is merely noting the appearance of its hive, but its constantly widening circles favor the belief that it is taking an inventory of a wider circle of objects, with its hive as a central point. After the winter's confinement, or after a considerable confinement at any other time, a fresh marking takes place as if to refresh the memory. Then, after the marking is carefully done, no time is wasted in reconnoitering to find the right place on subsequent flights, but depending upon its memory for the appearance of surrounding objects, perhaps for a great distance in all directions, it goes in a bee-line direct to the central point of the objects previously noted.—“American Bee Journal.”

Who has not noticed that any time before swarming, and after a colony has become quite prosperous, if a frame with starter only is given either at the side or in the center of the cluster, the bees will almost invariably build drone comb?

An American was recently melting wax in his honey house by means of water in the same can. He put on more coal and went to dinner—something no man should ever do when he would leave heating wax behind. Of course it boiled over, and by the time he arrived on the scene the flames had travelled along the ceiling to the other side of the room. Thinking that the room was doomed, he rushed around the outside to save some other things; but his assistant, entered the room a minute later with a bucket of water, closed the door behind him and dashed the water against the hot stove. The flames went out all over the room as quick as a flash. The sudden

volume of steam had simply choked the fire.—*Exchange.*

I consider honey much preferable to cane-sugar as a food. It is practically a fruit sugar, and is ready for absorption. Eaten in moderate quantities it ought to tax the digestive organs much less than cane-sugar, and is to be commended. Many persons ought to be able to utilize honey who can not use cane-sugar. Adults often lack the power to digest cane-sugar. Cane-sugar is chiefly obtained from grasses and roots. It is a sugar adapted to herbivorous animals. One of the four stomachs of the cow secretes a ferment which is capable of digesting cane-sugar. Digestion of cane-sugar converts it into honey, so honey is practically cane-sugar already digested. Malt sugars are best of all, as they are adapted to the human digestive apparatus, being the natural result of the action of saliva on starch. I think maltose is preferable to all sugars; but honey comes next, and I frequently recommend my patients to use it when they do not find it convenient to use malt sugars. So I consider that you and your busy bees are engaged in good missionary work, and you have my hearty sympathy. Knowledge in health-lines is increasing at a very rapid rate these latter days.—Dr. Kelloy in GLEANINGS.

There is a certain sort of romance about working with bees away up in a mountain canyon, but I can imagine that after a few days of hard work, in the hot sun, with cross bees, and only warm cistern water to drink, that much of the picnic feature would wear off. It would be almost impossible to get a well of good water up on the mountains. There is a sort of companionship about the mountains that I think would require quite a lot of hardships to make me entirely forget it. I stayed one night at an apiary in the canyon, and, as we sat out in front of his cabin in the evening, and saw the hills grow purple with twilight, and the stars come glimmering out, there came over me a feeling as though the surrounding mountains were protecting friends.—*Exchange.*





Mr. E. T. Penglase, Gippsland, Victoria, writes:—The above is a photo of one of my queen-rearing apiaries, also one of our residence. I had one taken showing the apiary altogether, but it came out badly. The enclosed is only part of it with a general view of our honey farm looking North. You will see the top of the Australian Alps in the back ground. The middle building is our extracting and honey-house and the shed at the bee-yard is a storehouse for empty hives and a vinegar room. The large building is a back view of our house. You will see my hives are not in straight rows, but for queen-rearing I think it is an advantage to have them as much unlike as possible. Sorry to say the weather throughout the season was unfavourable and the season was very poor indeed. Judging by my correspondence it is poor, as regards honey, all

over the State. I hope our Conference will be held earlier this year as Melbourne is a bit cold in June. Are you coming over this time?

### \*CORRESPONDENCE.\*

P. B., Castlereagh. - Things have been very dull in the bee line the last couple of years; although doing fairly well since January off the white box bloom. Trusting that you have had a good season and wishing your paper (which contains a lot of valuable information) every success.

H. B. Wilmington, South Australia.—After a very bad time the bees are bringing us plenty of honey. But swarms are



are coming out almost every day. It seems to be the order of the day, for miles around from the size of ones' fist up to a bucket. Mine have plenty of room and plenty of honey, but still they come out. The Sugar Gum has just finished blossoming. The White Box is just coming out but is very hard to extract, owing to the cold weather. Hoping you have a good season over there.

W. J. D., Bunbury, W.A. —Our little pets are having a bad time here this season. We hear the same tale from all parts of W.A., no honey and very little brood in the hives. The bees have been idle with me all the summer, and I fear that it will mean winter feeding. Some of my brother beekeepers have lost almost all their bees. The red gum blossom which is usually our best supply has failed here this season, altogether.

D. S. McL., Hawkes Bay, N.Z. —Although I am a long way from you it does not make any difference, I always receive the "A.B.B." a few days after it is published.

J. B. C., Bunbury, W.A. —What are those redwood hives like advertised by R. K. Allport?

[We have heard them very highly spoken of.]

J. T. M., Lower Portland. —We have had a very poor season down here on account of the cold and rainy weather. There has been plenty of flowers but very little honey. The bush trees have the appearance of a good bloom for next season, the ironbark and box are covered with young buds. I hope the weather will be more favourable than it has been the past season.

Novice, Coleraine, Victoria. —I did not get any honey this year. I sent an order to a firm I deal with and the money. After two weeks they replied, "cannot fill your order for some time" altogether eight weeks, so I lost the little flow there was. A very strong hive sent out a swarm on 9th April.

W. J. B., Clarence River, April 7. —I am pleased to report that I have experienced a record season here this year for honey, and although I have had to

dispose of a large amount, I have still a fair supply in store awaiting the market for honey to rise. You couldn't wish for better honey, as it has both body and flavour. Trusting that your prospects have been equally as bright.

L.H., Washdyke, N. Z., March 28th, 1904. —I have sold most of my bees, they are retailing honey in the shops here at 2d per lb, and I cannot compete with that. If at some future time, if prices alter, I may make another start, then I shall be glad to have your bee journal again, as I think it is a great help to one interested in bees.

## VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE.

At the Council meeting of this Association it was resolved that the annual meeting should be held in Melbourne about Wednesday, June 22, 1904, just prior to the annual meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture and Rural Producers' Association, so that members may have opportunity of attending the latter at Kyneton.

Fuller information will be given in next issue, as to place and time, subjects, etc.

A complaint was received at the Council meeting that one of the members had placed his bee farm within the 3 miles radius of another member's bee ranch without permission. It was resolved that the member at fault should be written to for an explanation, to be dealt with at the next meeting.

Members and friends are requested to send particulars of any subjects that they wish discussed at the Conference, as early as possible to the Secretary.

### Chown Bros., Mulholland & Co.

While in Sydney we paid a visit to the works of the Messrs. Chown Bros., Mulholland and Co. We go along the western side of George-street, up past the Cyclorama, to the next turning on the right. Turning down some 200 yards we come to the Technological



Museum and Colleges. We do not pass them but turn up to the left. Another 200 or 300 yards, and we are at the works of the above firm. We soon introduced ourselves and a member of the firm undertook to show us around. We were under the impression they did a good business, but were not prepared for what we saw. Rows and rows of heavy solid machinery, and smaller ones for minor ingenious devices. Smart hands, busy as bees, working, and flitting about, and plenty of them. Tinware is of course, the great specialty. Honey tins of all sizes, 60's, 9's, 4's, and 2's, stacks and stacks of them. One machine for cutting out, another for soldering on, another for cutting wire, &c., &c. But honey tins are not the only specialties of this firm. Buckets, tubs, baths, are as much in evidence as tinware. After spending some half hour here we were invited to go below. Yes, down a steep staircase. Going down in the darkness we were reminded of Dante's wonderful dream. And were we not wide awake should have imagined ourselves in some such place as he depicts as we came upon the lurid glow of bright fires, and active strong figures moving about. But we were on Mother Earth, and the fires were the molten iron from the great furnace carried about to many mouldings in big two handled buckets. The firm are makers of stoves, and there were the different parts being moulded. We were well repaid for our time spent in going round the factory of this enterprising firm.

## CAPPINGS.

*From American and other Bee Journals.*

I suppose most bee-keepers have a cloth over the top of the hive, to keep the bees from sticking the cover fast, and they are always eating it full of holes. Mine don't. I use mostly pieces of gunny-sacks, but old ingrain carpet without any holes is dandy. Cut your pieces to fit, then give each piece a good coat of lard

old, rancid lard is as good as any. The bees will coat it over with glue and never gnaw a hole in it.—Writer in *American Bee Journal*.

After some experience with horses, cows, sheep, and pigs in a bee-yard, I have had most trouble with sheep pushing hives off their stands. Hives are too low for horses or cows to rub against, and sheep are probably greater rubbers than pigs.—*Dr. Miller*.

*Gleanings* extracts the following from EL COLMENERO ESPAÑOL (spanish bee paper) Continuing his review of bee culture in the various countries of the world, the editor has this to say of Austria, which I take from the Spanish: This country stands fully abreast with Germany so far as apiculture is concerned. The Emperor Francis Joseph is a great enthusiast in bee matters. He has brought the prestige of his office to bear on apiculture to the extent of instituting an academy in Vienna for the advancement of a knowledge of bees. Over this academy the Emperor presides in person. In the various functions of his office he performs no small part in the development of apicultural interests. The railroad companies of Austria have in their warehouses bee supplies, to be distributed among their hands who may wish to devote themselves to the care of bees; and there are railroads that are lined with apiaries belonging to the employees of said companies. The companies distribute premiums to reward those who make the best record in caring for bees. Apicultural instruction is paid for by the state and this teaching is done by professors who travel around from place to place. The late Empress of Austria was equally enthusiastic in the study of the bee, and was an honorary member of at least some of the Austrian bee keepers' societies. The whole constitutes a very pleasing picture. Speaking of Russia the editor says: In Russia from very early times theoretical and practical apicultural schools have been established; and the pupils therein according to an imperial decree of 1828, are



exempt from military service. There are many thousand apiaries there, but most of them are conducted in the old fashioned way; however, the modern ways of keeping bees on movable frames are much better known in Russia than in Spain.

**HANGING FRAMES BEST FOR PRODUCING EXTRACTED HONEY.**—No hive is suited to the economical production of extracted honey which contains closed-end frames of the Quinby, Bingham, Heddon, or Danzy types, as none of them can well be used with the frames spaced wider in the supers than in the brood chambers. We cannot afford to use the same spacing in the supers, owing to the ridiculously thin combs after uncapping, the larger number of combs required to hold a given amount of honey, and the resultant increased cost of handling. While an entire case of Heddon or Danzy combs can be inverted easily, and the case lifted off, returning the frames to the cases, after extracting is slow work, the proof of the folly of using closed end frames for extracting supers, is found in the fact that no *extensive* producer of extracted honey is using them. I have used many Hoffman frames but do not yet know if I like them. Loose, hanging frames suit me very well. I have just ordered 200 ten-frame, shallow, extracting supers with loose hanging frames. All my hanging frames have staples driven in the end bars, near the lower ends, and projecting  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. This is a kink of real value, for, with these "you can ram frames in or out without killing bees between the ends of the hive and the frames."—E. F. Attwater in *Bee-keeper's Review*. [We have tried frame with staples in end bars and don't like them.—EDITOR "A.B.B."]

In speaking of the question of house v. hive roofing *Gleanings* says:—Aside from freedom from twisting and warping zinc covers have the advantage over the plain board covers that they are cooler in summer and warmer in winter. I think you will find the zinc much more serviceable than the tin--the old iron used in tin roofing has been displaced by steel. If you will look

at your old spoutings and iron roofings you will, see that many of them are still good while the more modern tin roofings and spoutings made of steel are comparatively short-lived. I would put zinc covered roofs first; galvanized sheet steel next, galvanized iron has disappeared from the market; good roofing paper next, and ordinary steel tinplate last.

A queen living five years would lay from 200,000 to 400,000 eggs per annum (110 times her own weight): and as she often lays from 2000 to 3000 eggs per day, and sometimes twice her own weight, she lays during her lifetime upward of 1,500,000 eggs, which, if put end to end, would reach  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

That every cottager in Ireland should be afforded the opportunity of learning how to keep one or two stocks of bees on the most economical and profitable system how to prepare his honey harvest for the market, and how to push it, but to render no assistance, nor in any way encourage large bee farms, is the ideal of yours, —Writer in *Irish Bee Journal*.

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I am not afraid of some drone-comb. I give the bees credit for a good deal of sense, and if they want to build some drone-comb under such conditions then it must be for some good. I believe some drones are necessary in a hive of bees whenever the bees want them, if for no other reason than to satisfy that desire; an all-wise Creator gave them that desire or instinct. He is wiser than I.—J. E. Johnson, in *American Bee Journal*.

I said just now that the bees produce wax, whether they will it or not, and this is confirmed by the experience of scientists who have discovered wax-scales formed on bees that were caught in the harvest-field. But the rapid production takes place only when they hang in numerous festoons in the empty portion of a hive. That is why a natural swarm builds so readily, nearly all the bees having become wax-makers. Their stomachs are full, and in order to empty their sacs they must first have the structure in which to deposit the honey.—C. F. Dadant, in *American Bee Journal*.

**DESTROYING ANTS.**—Put a lump (about the size of a quarter) of cyanide of potassium in the nest, wet it a little, place a piece of paper on top and throw a double handful of dirt on the paper to hold it in place. In three days remove the cyanide and put it in a new nest. This drug is a deadly poison, but is all right to use if one exercises a little care.

*Gleanings* says: "When sections become more scarce and expensive, extracted honey will to a great extent supplant comb honey, and its production will become more general."

"It is not so very essential regarding how syrup is made for spring feeding as for fall, as the bees can fly often in the spring, while in fall they should be fed in view of their winter repose and quietude, as much as possible. But for early spring feeding I should make the syrup "richer" than later on."—Doolittle.

"Der Deutsche Imker aus Boehmen"—contains the statement that there are in Germany 20 manufactories of arti-

ficial honey, and a single one of them sells three times as much as the natural honey of all Germany.—*Gleanings*.

Honey-sugar candy, or what is called the "Scholz" candy, or "Good" candy—thus named from the two persons who first recommended it, Mr. Scholz in Germany, and Mr. Good in the United States later—is very good bee-feed. It is used mainly in mailing of queen bees, or transporting of colonies that are without food. This candy is made by heating a little honey and mixing with it as much pulverized sugar as it will absorb, until the mass is hardened to a thick paste. The honey is heated in order that it may absorb the more sugar. If it were not heated, it would soften when placed under the influence of the bees' warmth, and might liquefy enough to run. In either case it is very important not to overheat the honey or the sugar, and the very best grade of either must be used so as to avoid the feeding to the bees of any foreign substance that would increase the load in their intestines during the time of their confinement.—C. P. Dadant in *American Bee Journal*.

Honey, it is said, will not granulate if kept for a long time in a warm room.

Mr. Abbot—May I tell a small beekeeper how I do? It seems like a simple small way. If you have 50 or 60 pounds of combs, pour warm water on it and let it soak thoroughly. My wife does that; I don't suppose I would bother with it. Then she has a large pan that fits inside of the oven. She puts in the wax that would weigh four or five pounds on top of a large sieve, and shuts the oven door and goes on about her business. In a little while the wax is all down in the water, and then she takes the sieve and puts more in, and if done that way it about all goes to wax. There isn't much left to throw away.—*American Bee Journal*.

Last season an Irish Beekeeper says in *Bee Journal* he got 10d per section, and 7½d per lb. for run honey.

Bisulphide of carbon has long been used by the American people for the



destruction of vermin of various character. Bee-keepers have employed it to kill wax moth and their brood, thus protecting combs and comb honey. As it is used here, the chemical is allowed to evaporate, which process produces an explosive gas. I have not dared to make use of it inside of buildings. Dr. Brunnich makes use of the sulphide of carbon in a different way. He says in *Schweiz. Bienenzeitung*: "Sulphide of carbon is a liquid which burns easily, and produces sulphur fumes, as it can not be accomplished by burning sulphur. The liquid burns slowly with a small flame, producing little danger of damaging the combs hanging directly over the burning liquid, which leaves no residue. Any one having used this chemical will never go back to burning sulphur."—F. Greiner in *Gleanings*.

Smoke is the result of imperfect combustion. The lid or top or chimney, usually called a nozzle, is all there is in ordinary smokers to prevent the fuel in them from blazing—giving off no smoke of value. This curtailing of combustion, at the same time encouraging it, lies at the foundation of all modern smokers. You who have a doubt as to the effect of a blast of air on fuel in a smoker, please see how continuously and how slowly you can work the bellows for a few moments. The result will surprise you. As if by magic the fire will start up, and a small continuous stream of smoke will slowly issue, and the fuel will soon exhaust itself. If, instead, the bellows is worked frantically for the same space of time, the fuel will also be exhausted; but if, on the contrary, the bellows is allowed to rest until the nozzle and body of the machine are full of smoke, and then with gentle pressure of the bellows expelled, your object will have been accomplished. It is this feature that renders large smokers so much more satisfactory.—J. F. Bingham, in *Gleanings*.

Selling honey in paper bags or sacks is carried on in America. The honey for

the purpose is stirred daily for about a minute with a small stick to make it candy. To begin stirring while the honey is yet clear, not only assists granulation but causes it to granulate much finer and more evenly, and adds greatly to its solidity in the candied form. The 3½ lb. sack is the size most convenient for general use. With the sack peeled from around it, this amount can be served entirely on a plate, with the advantage of appearance and attractiveness not attained by the same laboriously dug from out a glass jar or pail. To produce perfect candied honey, smooth and fine in the grain, and that will not rain: Let the bees ripen and cap before extracting; extract on a drying day; keep the honey well protected from the air; stir and mix well before putting it into small containers. To candy it, jar, agitate, or rock the honey while in the small vessels. This can be done by machinery. But I prefer to let the changes in temperature caused by day and night do it. Place the honey in a thin-walled building, in one whose inside temperature changes rapidly with outside changes. The expansion and contraction furnish the necessary movements in the honey. 1. Thin unripe honey candies coarse and rough, and it is ill-flavored, and will drain; and, more, the selling and keeping qualities are of a low grade. 2. With plenty of combs you'll get as much capped honey as of the thin stuff, and the wax will pay for uncapping. The young bees that do not go to the fields anyway are just anxiously waiting for the job.—"Gleanings."

CLIPPING.—Take the queen from the comb by her wings with the right hand hold the first finger of the left hand in front of her and let her catch on to it. As soon as she does so, bring your thumb upon her feet; let go your hold on her wings, and, as she raises them in an effort to fly, clip off the membranous portion on each side symmetrically. Never hold the queen by one foot only, or she will swing round and round and attempt to wring it off.



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one. I have one lot of queens from her laying now.  
They are very uniform in colour, and started to lay at  
the same time, notwithstanding the unfavourable con-  
ditions.—R. Beuhne.

Buangor—Dear Sir, The selected queen I got from  
you is very prolific, her young queens being as much  
alike as peas in a pod, and are real beauties. Anyone  
getting your bees will want more, as they are an excep-  
tionally fine strain.—T. G. Matthews.

Claremont, N.S.W.—The queens arrived in splendid  
condition, and have started to lay.—W. H. Farley.

Vasse Road, Bunbury, West Australia.—I am pleased  
with the last queen you sent; there was not one dead  
bee in the cage. Please send six untested and one  
tested.—John A. Ayre.

Willow Tree, N.S.W.—The two queens I got from you  
worked up well and quickly. Unfortunately there has  
been no flow yet to test their honey producing qualities  
or their offspring, but I have no fear for them.—E.  
Tipper.

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prizes.

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Desirable Qualities combined. Desiring to  
maintain that High Reputation, I again submit  
for your consideration the fact that I can supply  
to satisfaction, if you give me description of  
your requirements. Thanking you for past  
favours.—I remain. yours truly, W. ABRAM.

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