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✠ THE AUSTRALIAN ✠ Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY E. TIPPER.

VOL. 9. No. 7.

OCTOBER 28, 1900

PER COPY, 6D.

Per Annum 5s, booked 6s 6d, in Australasia, outside N.S.W., add 6d postage

YOUR HONEY WILL SELL BETTER

In Well Made **LEVER TOP TINS**
That do not Leak.

WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM

Chown Bros. and Mulholland, Ltd.

THOMAS STREET, ULTIMO, SYDNEY.

PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION.

R. K. ALLPORT,

Manufacturer & Importer of Beekeepers' Supplies,
CHUTER STREET NORTH SYDNEY.

REDWOOD HIVES FROM 3s 6d EACH.

Before Ordering send for Price List.

YOUR OWN BEESWAX MADE INTO
FOUNDATION AT 5d PER LB.

"First of the throng and foremost of the whole,
One stands confest the Sovereign and the soul!"

And if you want the

First and Foremost Queens of the Season

direct from Australia's largest breeder, let me book your order now, and you can receive queens the very day you are ready for them. My queen-raising apiaries are now in full swing and beautiful young queens are ready to go off by return mail. Don't tolerate old queens in any of your colonies when you can obtain vigorous young queens in the Spring that will double your returns. I can furnish beautiful Golden queens, the result of 16 years' careful breeding, or leather coloured queens raised from direct importations from the best breeders in Italy. By my improved method of queen raising, the most perfectly developed of queens only are produced, and as my breeders are excelled by none, I am enabled to guarantee satisfaction to all customers. All queens are sent post free, and safe arrival guaranteed to any part of Australasia. We have no foul brood in Queensland, and I guarantee all my apiaries to be entirely free from disease of any type. My catalogue contains over 50 pages of useful information, and is sent free, so kindly send for a copy.

	One	Three	Five	Ten
Untested Italian Queens	5/-	13/-	20/-	39/-
Tested	8/-	22/-	35/-	65/-
Select Tested "Breeding" Queens	15/-	42/-	65/-	—
varni-Italian Queens	5/-	13/-	20/-	39/-

H. L. JONES,

Goodna, Queensland.

Queensland Agent for the 'Australian Bee Bulletin.'

QUEENS! 3s. Each. QUEENS!

One Untested 3/-; Three for 7/6; Tested, 6/-; Select Breeder, 12/6.

Golden, Five Banded, Ligurian, Cyprian Italians. Golden, Five Banded and Ligurian are bred in separate apiaries. I am breeding all my queens from new imported blood, the best that money can buy. I have made great preparations for the coming season, and if we have a good season will be able to execute orders promptly.

Try one of my SAFE INTRODUCING CAGES, with queen, 3d extra, without queen, 4d.

Full Colonies, 8 Framed Dovetailed Hive, £1.

3 Framed Nuclei, 10/-, with division containing two queens and two frames each, 15/-. The advantage is, two Nuclei same freight as one.

R. H. JERVIS,

WREKIN APIARY,

MOSS VALE, N.S.W.

The Australian Bee Bulletin.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

— Edited and Published by E. TIPPER. —

MAITLAND, N.S.W.—OCTOBER 27, 1900.

We would ask those beekeepers who appreciate the manner in which this journal is conducted, to patronise those who advertise in it. We believe they are all good reliable men, whether queen raisers, supply dealers or otherwise.

The following is a list—a poor one we are sorry to say—of advertisers in this issue, but we are satisfied those who do advertise with us will not regret it. One gentleman, doing a large business, and a large advertiser, told a friend that an advertisement he had in the *A. Bee Bulletin* paid him better than any advertisement he had ever inserted in any paper. And why should it not? Beekeepers as a body are a thrifty, straightforward, careful class of people and if the number of our advertisers are small, all the better for those that do advertise in it. The excuse made by the general advertiser is it is a specialist journal, only one class of persons reading it. And we have seen journals that we knew had neither the circulation or the excellent class of readers, but simply because they were supposed to go among a mixed class of readers, well supplied with general advertisements. Will our many friends and sympathisers help us in the matter with advertisers they happen to know.

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

Supply Dealers.

R. K. Allport, Chuter St., North Sydney.
A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket, Sydney.
The W. T. Falconer Manufacturing Co.,
Jamestown, N.Y., U.S.A.
J. Pease, 8, 9, 10, Newtown Rd., Sydney.
Chown Bros. and Mullholland, Ltd.,
Thomas St., Ultimo, Sydney.

Good Foundation.

R. Beuhne, Tooborac, Victoria

Queen Raisers.

W. Abram, Beecroft.
H. L. Jones, Goodna, Queensland.
A. A. Roberts, Muswellbrook, N.S.W.
Jas. McFarlane, Lyndhurst, Victoria.
Mrs. Jennie Atchley, Beeville Bee Co.,
Texas, U.S.A.
J. W. Miner, Ronda, N.C., U.S.A.
R. H. Jervis, Moss Vale, N.S.W.
S. C. Strand, Longford, Tasmania.
T. Bolton, Dunkeld, Victoria.

Miscellaneous.

A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket only,
Sydney.
Allen & Co, 242 Sussex street, Sydney
Anglo-American Publishing Co, Water-
loo Chambers, 458 George street,
Sydney
The Farmers' Co-operative Company,
Ltd., Sussex street, Sydney.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

Our bees are now becoming strong in number. Several swarms have issued. They were amongst the strongest in the apiary, had gathered some honey, and had brood on seven or eight frames. There were a few good queen cells well developed. We placed the old hive on a new location, put the swarm with the old queen on the old stand, giving a frame of brood from the original hive. As the field bees returned to the original stand, and the young bees in the original hive might not now be sufficient to care for all the brood left in it, we took a couple of frames away to strengthen other hives.

Though such swarms issuing are from good strong hives, we do not reckon them

the best in our apiary, and consider the fewer of them the better. Our preference is for those who stay at home, fill up abundance of space with bees and honey, and do not swarm. From such we select our breeding queens to requeen the inferior hives that the progressing season discovers to us.

To save as much drone brood rearing as possible, we place all frames with drone comb next sides of hive, leaving good worker comb in centre. They are generally filled in this position with pollen or honey.

A coastal man tells us he has taken twenty-six 60lb tins of honey off. We hope to be able to do so in a week or so's time.

Now is the time to prepare your sections. Much discussion has taken place as to the best section to use. The old fashioned square, $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inch ones are nice to put on a plate and cut out. The adherents of the tall sections say the bees tendency is to build downwards, and so these sections are filled better. It is to our thinking a supply dealer's or manufacturer's question. Another disputed matter is the separator. Most decidedly a separator is needed to induce the bees to make them shapely, and fit for packing without breakage. There are several kinds, some claiming the bees to have more freedom to work about, and fill the sections than others.

For section raising pick out strong swarms. Hives with proper fixtures for section raising can be had at any supply dealers, (see our advertisement pages). Also sections in the flat. The latter need soaking in water or steaming before folding together. Much discussion has also taken place about the amount of foundation required to get the bees starting in sections. Some urge full sheets, some top and bottom starters. For ourselves we think the less foundation in them the better. We have known sections awarded first prize at shows in New South Wales for looks alone. The honey was perhaps very inferior—one lot we especially remember being thin, sweet,

and watery, and the "gob"—in the interior, every bit of which had to be spat out, did not create a desire to touch any more of such. So we recommend small starters only, of as fresh foundation or comb as you can get. To place these starters in, several appliances are used, Parker's and the Daisy fastener being most popular (see our supply advertisers).

Those persons who have taken to bee-keeping as a hobby, or a garden ornament, and do not to go to the expense of an extractor, we say go in for sections. When your bees are strong and honey coming in well place your super of sections on. When they are filled, place a board with a bee escape between the super and body of hive, say in the evening. In the morning all the bees will be out of the super, and the sections can be taken off without trouble from the bees. These escapes are to be had very cheap from any supply dealers. If the honey flow is still on, a second super may be placed below the first, over the brood chamber, filled with sections and starters as the first. Swarming may be greatly prevented by having a hive body with starters only below the brood chamber, putting such there when the bees are sufficiently strong to be likely to swarm.

There may come very warm weather, in which, though combs may not break down, yet it may seriously affect the larvae, which in consequence will not fully develop. You will see full sized white larva not capped, and neglected by the bees, looking as if they were wrong side up. Either raise the cover a little, or the hive bodily by supports off the bottom board. Give them ventilation.

W. B. McI., Lyndock, South Australia, :—I am sorry to see so many beekeepers have had such a poor crop. We can't grumble for our district has been one of the best in the colony. The last three years averaging two and half tins per hive. This season promised to be a good one. I am well pleased with the A. B. B. Wishing you success.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOUR HONEY.

UET up in convenient retail packages, 2lb., 4lb., or 7lb. Nicely and clearly label it. Make it look on the storekeepers' shelves as nice as jam tins, or golden syrup.

Have two prices, one for your retail customers, the other for wholesale quantities. Arrange with your fellow apiarist what prices to sell at.

Advertise in your local newspapers.

For section honey get your local cabinet-makers or your tinsmiths to make cases with glass fronts to place on the storekeepers counter or in his shop window. As much as possible ant proof.

If you local storekeeper won't buy direct, leave it with him for sale or return.

A PROTEST.

—o:— THE BEE DISEASES ACT.

As stated in our last we received notice to attend a deputation to the Minister for Mines and Agriculture, to urge on the passing of the act, in such time it was impossible to attend. Next day our copies of September issue arrived from Maitland. On looking again over the correspondence we noticed the various opinions from N. S. Wales, were all averse to the act. At same time a Sydney daily paper was shown us in which a simple line told us the bill had passed its first reading, in spite of the wishes of those who get their living by beekeeping. We felt we had an immediate duty to attend to, and must take the responsibility on ourselves as there was no time to consult our Bee-Farmers' Committee. So drafted the following protest, and posted it to the Minister, writing several copies to send to different influential Members of Parliament we were personally acquainted with. We have since had the pleasure of hearing that several members of the committee had also written letters

to their Members. We received warm promises of support per return from said members, two of them handing in the protest to the Minister. All correspondence we have carefully kept to present at our first Bee Farmers' Association meeting when we trust due recognition will be made of such members' valuable services, also, *if such is considered necessary*, a bill be drawn up that practical bee farmers will approve of.

THE PROTEST.

TO the HONOURABLE J. L. FEGAN, Minister for Mines and Agriculture, and the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN.—

I beg respectfully to make a most emphatic and urgent protest against the passing into law of the Act relative to Diseases in Bees, which has already passed its first reading in your honourable Assembly.

I am the Editor and Publisher of the *Australian Bee Bulletin*, also a beekeeper with 150 colonies of bees. The *Australian Bee Bulletin* is the recognised organ of the beekeeping fraternity throughout the Australian colonies. I am also a Justice of the Peace. For further information respecting myself, I refer you to members of Parliament named. (Here I mentioned names of several members of Parliament with whom I have for some years been personally acquainted).

Knowing that efforts were being made by a few individuals to get such law passed, in August issue of the *A. Bee Bulletin* I published the Proposed Act (page 103) earnestly asking every beekeeper to send in his opinion of it by the 20th September. *I did not bias them* in any way by giving my opinion of it for or against. In the September issue published on 28th of the month, I gave the replies received, and there is *not one in favour* of the proposed Act!! You will see them on pages 134, 135, 136. I earnestly desire you to read them through.

Every man who has replied is a beekeeper with from 50 to several hundred colonies. I can supply you, if needed, with the original manuscripts. Since that issue other replies have come to hand, including one from Mr. W. E. Bagot Ballina, Richmond River, in which he says:—

"I must enter my protest against the hole and corner way some Government billet seekers are working up the Bee Diseases Act. Make no mistake, apiarists. Has any Act in any country kept away Foul Brood in Bees? Now most beekeepers are readers and good observers. If they are not they soon go out of the business. In this way it leaves a capable lot of men in the industry, who are quite capable of curing any Foul Brood that may break out

"among their bees, without Government interference."

And now a word as to the men who have been urging on the passing of this Act. They have the impudence to style themselves the National Beekeepers' Association!! I attended their last annual meeting in July. There were six (6) present, viz:—

1. ———, a pensioned state school teacher, at one time employed by the Government to lecture on beekeeping. He has two hives.

2. ——— a carpenter living at Enmore, Sydney. No hives there, but is said to have about 20 elsewhere.

3. ——— Surry Hills, works in a store. Has some 20 hives away from Sydney.

4. ——— Newtown, selling beekeepers supplies and bicycles. No hives of bees.

5. ——— of Sydney Tobacco Works, had two hives for six months.

6. Myself, with 150 hives. When Mr. Gale said Mr. Fegan had promised to introduce the Diseases Bill, I said as there were only six there the whole membership was only 37, while there were some 660 beekeepers in the colony, was it not presumption taking so important a matter in hand? I declined the honour of vice-presidentship.

They do not represent the industry. A committee was formed by placing on it persons not present, men not possessing a single bee, and their consent or anything else not sought, but because they might have influence with the Government or the Royal Agricultural Society.

Honourable Gentlemen,—I earnestly ask you not to pass a law interfering with an industrious class of people scattered all over the colony, and against their own will.

Necessarily being so scattered they cannot get up one single big petition to you, or have a big meeting without great travelling expense to themselves.

I have asked them through their recognised press organ, *without giving my own views of the matter*, so that they could say *yes or no* freely. *Not a single reply in favour of the Act* has come in, but replies have come against it representing *thousands of hives*.

I ask you on behalf of the whole industry, not to let a few Sydney people work against the expressed desire of a whole industry, and appeal to yourself as a member of the Labour Party, not to pass a law likely to interfere—as I do not know to what extent the proposed law may—with a number of poor struggling men trying to get a living on the lands of the Colony.

And I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

E. TIPPER, J. P.

Willow Tree.

Accompanying this are copies of the *Bee Bulletin* referred to.

After sending the above away the following letters came to hand which we printed in the form of a "Special Extra" and sent it to the Minister.

William Hall, Telegraph Point Wilson River, (Extract from letter), Sept. 20—Write that bee inspector bill down.

Wm. Niven, Eugowra (Extract from letter).—I strongly object to the Foul Brood Act in its present form. Whatever steps you take against the Bill will have my full support.

A. E. SHAW.

Circular re proposed Foul Brood Act received, dated Sep. 25. I only returned to town to-day, hence the delayed reply. You were evidently not given much chance to attend the deputation.

I am very much opposed to a Foul Brood Act myself. I consider it would be unnecessary expense to both the State and the beekeeper, to say nothing of the loss of time to beekeepers at the proposed inspections. If the State takes any hand in a matter of this kind, I think it would be better to issue advice and instructions for dealing with disease, and do away with the appointment of inspectors, etc. I work 100 colonies, but the dearth of forage last season has reduced my number to 55 colonies.

PETER RIDDEL.

I strongly object to the proposed Foul Brood Act. Those bringing it forward do not in my opinion sufficiently represent the beekeepers of this colony. If we find some such as supply-dealers, bottlers or agents, and again an interested faddist at the handy end for business, and if more interested in the remunerative disposal of stuff than in its remunerative production, purporting to represent the beekeepers of this colony, that would explain why a beekeeper holds back. The men who make a living at or whose sole work is beefarming, are as anxious as any to keep their stock healthy, and what is more quite as fit to see that it is so as any experts that might be appointed. I for one should object to most after handling bad to go round my bees. The bill in its present form would only add expense in the wrong direction, and by its wideness of embrace could create no end of fuss and expense almost anywhere. Were it confined to foul brood less trouble might arise, but other, by a zealous expert is sure to cause trouble and loss, since the real beekeeper is out back with the bush nests to face and not his neighbours neglected cases. I cannot see that legislation will benefit the real producer, but it will be sure to tax and worry. Talk of experts. I would not give my own knowledge of bees for that of the best ten in the colony.

The whole case could be met by allowing the beekeepers to qualify by examination and results and register his apiary. This part has no bee diseases. Besides myself (working 100 colonies) there are but three bee-farmers solely in

this part, with about twenty having from 4 to 30 hives. All these will object to the Act as now read. The number of hives exclusive of mine represented would be 400 (10, 12, 40, 50, 50, 50, 30, 30, or say 20 at 20.)

I protest against the Foul Brood Act as it stands, and believe it to be opposed to the interests of the true beekeeper.

G. H. ARKINSTALL.

In reply to your circular of 25th instant re foul brood and other bee diseases, I have gone carefully through it and fail to see where there is any injustice to beekeepers except the time specified after notice is given, viz, one week which from what I have read of the disease it is almost a matter of impossibility to rid an apiary of it in anything like the time, which should be extended to at least one month (30 days). I refer to Clause No 2. No 4 clause also at least 48 hours notice should be given by inspector so as the proprietor of apiary could be in attendance if he thought fit. Re registrations and fee, I rather like the idea as it would deter a lot of people from keeping a few hives and not properly attending to them, thus being the cause of spreading diseases broadcast to say nothing of lowering the price of honey by selling or rather bartering it for any price that is offered him. This clause I consider would be a distinct gain to the legitimate beekeeper who looks to his bees for a living. Number of hives I represent 140.

The past season has been the worst I have experienced, only taken off two tons of honey as against five tons the season before; the coming season so far, promises well; my bees are in very order considering the long winter they have gone through. The honey flow dropped off here the end of February so that we have had six months with no honey coming in. They are just starting to store a little this last week. Since writing you last I have given up working at my trade and taken on dairying as it works in better with beekeeping; the cows only requiring attention morning and evening leaving the rest of the day to attend to the bees.

W. E. BAGOT.

I have not had much time to spare writing on bee matters of late, but I must enter my protest against the hole and corner way some Government billet seekers are working up the Foul Brood Act. Make no mistake, apiarists, you will have to foot the bill with a nice little hive tax. Its not likely the Government are going to pay a special man like that out of the general revenue without making provision for him. Has any Act in any country kept away Foul Brood in bees? Just read a few foreign bee papers, and you will see it is as rampant as ever.

Now, most beekeepers are readers and good observers, if they are not they soon go out of the business. In this way it leaves a capable lot of men in the industry. Now those men are quite capable of curing any Foul Brood that may break out in their bees without the interference

of the Government. And will he go and fall and destroy all Foul Brood nests in trees that are pointed out to him without any extra expense. In a bad district that will keep him pretty busy, between times he can spy out a few more for the future, and on holidays. All Government servants keep holidays. He can go and discover throughout the wide breadth of N.S.W. some gin cases; well, never mind about them, we are all human.

Proposed Foul Brood Act, Clause No. 1.—That's good for the established beekeeper. It will knock the box man out. Clause 2.—Not important, only the penalty of perhaps £10 if you are in default. No. 3.—What does the Governor know about bees? It says nothing about advising him. Perhaps he will appoint an ai-de-camp. Oh! save us from our friends, the Governor may appoint half a dozen of them. No. 4.—More assistance, it's to be hoped he won't go further than the local bobby. I guarantee he won't go near the hives, he would sooner face a burglar. Now I think it's only right, that any one writing on the subject should give their standing as a bee farmer. Mine extends for fully twenty years, and I am a pioneer with the bar frame, having used them for over seventeen years, which I can substantiate by showing a receipt for extractor and other bee material imported from L. C. Root, Mohawk, New York, U.S.A. No other at that time being obtainable in Australia. To-day I have about two hundred stocks in ten-frame hives, double and treble, all made on the place out of local timber, a complete copy of A. I Root's famous hives. End spacing frames and all? Produce honey by the tons, sell a good deal locally, place a large quantity on the market, fill orders for down the country, have sent samples to Great Britain. I have taken in a partner to still further extend my business.

J. FRAUENFELDER.

The perusal of the many replies to your request for opinions on this Act, and speaking against it, has given me a great deal of pleasure. The demand for such a law has always the appearance, in my eyes, to be wanted for some other fellow who is not so good as ourselves—not for the benefit of such as are on the road to "blasted hopes."

Foul brood germs are always about waiting but for conditions in which they can develop. The question is not law of parliament, but a law of nature, this law of nature is what we have to study, not to make a law which compels us to report to an inspector. Beh, it is like praying to Jupiter to lift our waggon out of the bog instead of putting our shoulder to the wheel.

When foul brood appears in my apiary, I do not wait till dark, nor do I remove it to any distance away, but I take at once steps as I think the case requires. Three weeks ago I discovered the disease in two colonies, if I had to report and wait for an inspector to come around

I might have the disease yet, instead of having two healthy colonies.

Beekeepers should make it their care to breed from *healthy and mature stock*. Queens do not have swarming conditions in the first year of their existence, they do not have drones nor capped queen cells the first season if left to their natural impulses. This fact proves to us that no queen is fit for the propagation of her species the first season, but is only fit to prolong her existence by raising worker bees. (I hope I shall not be understood here to mean that a worker bee is of a different species. In-breeding is another factor in raising queens of constitutions that tend towards predisposition of diseases.

After that several others came to hand, including from Mr. Pankhurst, Mr. J. J. Barnett Mr. Greyston, the latter being a sufferer from Foul Brood, and having called on Mr. Pankhurst to decide the matter, afterwards smothered the bees and burnt the frames and combs.



J. A. BRIEN.

289. What is the best way to treat honey to keep it from candying in the winter? Will acid do it, if so in what quantities and how used?

QUIZ.

290. Could you, by paying a fair rent for the tree tops, compete with those that have no rent to pay?

291. Would you expect the Government to reserve the forest from ringbarking around you to the detriment of the grazing value, for your special benefit for nothing (good and promising timber excepted)?

R. H. JERVIS.

283. Perhaps a scarcity of pollen. Years ago in midwinter a man was taking the honey from his bees (box hives). I begged the bees. I fed them—it was too cold for them to fly. In a week they had a nice lot of eggs. I looked a week later; still plenty of eggs—no larva, the bees having no pollen could not raise brood; made some candy and put some flour in it, and they bred up splendidly.

285. Keep in small hives.

286. A decided check.

288. Divide a good colony into say four; give at least each one a laying queen. In that way each colony will make 10 if a fair season; with a little feed, 20. It much depends upon locality. When I started the out-apiary, I was surprised

at the difference in locality. In the home apiary a fair queen has usually about ten frames with more or less brood in them. One early spring I took a friend to look at my bees. The first colony we looked at had 16 Langstroth frames, with more or less brood in. Bees in the out-apiary will stand a lot of crowding for room before they will swarm, whereas the home bees must have two supers on, and then often swarm. I often wondered at the Americans giving so much space, discussing size of hives, but now I find locality makes all the difference. This is the latest spring we have had for years. Bees are very backward. The indications for the coming season are fair.

J. BALLINGER.

289. I find the best way to bring honey to its liquid state is to stand the tin of honey on top of a vessel of boiling water. I never had it go candy after this treatment. I don't hold with putting acid or anything else with it to prevent candying. You would have honey in its natural state.

290. If you had say 20 hives of bees, and paid rent for the tree tops, and another man had twenty hives alongside you, and paid no rent, you could not expect to compete with the latter who paid no rent. You can make more money off tree tops than you can by grazing.

291. I would expect the Government to consider the bee farmer as well as the grazier. because a bee farmer can make a living off forest lands where a grazier could not exist. There are lots of forest and scrubby lands taken up and ringbarked and are no use for neither grazier nor bee farmer afterwards. Take my own case for instance; I applied for 46 acres that were lying useless to Government or any one else. I got it for a stand for my bees. All the adjoining lands are ringbarked except a little reserve about 40 acres. Now if this piece was ringbarked it would be of no use to bee farmer or grazier. In its natural state I can make more off it than some of the neighbours can off 320 acres alongside.

PETER RIDDELL.

289. Have no grains to give it a start. If when dense at a high temperature it is sealed up slowly will it granulate. Store in a warm place. The best honeys granulate, and if things were as they should be the same, or as in any other country, granulated or candied honey is of equal value with liquid of same sample. If stored in large tanks, gentle heating pipes under. No doubt acid will do it. I never tried it, however, having objections to same.

290. As it stands, Yes. The question is the "fair." I prefer the payment of fair rent and certainly of field in a proper spot to chance or inferior locality.

291. No. But in cases where the honey value is greater than the pasture value and on demand, I should expect reserve. Again, if a beekeeper has made a home near crown land honey field

and the field supports that home, he ought to have the first say as to his surrounding trees. The true value to the state does not result from the grazing fee in simple, but from the greatest economic value. In other words, it is of more value to the Commonwealth to protect a flourishing home as an asset than to have merely a low grazing value in rent.

E. TIPPER.

289. Bring it to nearly a boil once.

290-291. Knotty questions I would like to see answered. If the Government are going to take better care of their forests, surely a rent from a beekeeper, who could also be a caretaker, ought to be an advantage to the Government, and beekeeper as well.

QUESTIONS NEXT MONTH.

292. Do dark combs affect the colour of the honey obtained from them?

293. What is the best kind of paste for sticking labels on tins?

294. Which do you think is the best way to work for extracted honey, with or without excluder? Beekeepers, I want you all to give your opinions on this question.

295. Have you had any experience detrimental to the use of sugar for feeding or stimulating purposes?

296. Do frogs eat bees?

297. What distance can bees conveniently travel to water? Would quarter of a mile be detrimental to quantity of honey gathered?

298. Best artificial means for watering bees.

BEGINNER'S COLUMN.

2.

Well, now, you want to transfer your bees from the gin case to a bar framed hive. Get a good smoker. Remove the gin case to a table or stand a few yards from its original stand. On the latter place the bar frame hive, with top off and frames out. Go to gin case and turn it upside down, taking it off bottom board. Smoke the bees into one corner, and pry out one of the sides. On a table or level space, place a frame, with three or four strings sufficiently long to go over and tie, laid straight out under it. Now go to gin case and cut the combs out piece by piece, tying them up, fix in the bar

frames as you do so, and placing them in the empty bar frame hive, putting those containing brood in the centre, and being particularly careful you don't kill the queen. As the frames are being put into the hive, the flying bees will gradually gather into it, and when all have been transferred, dump whatever remains in the gin case in front of the new hive. Put blanket or linoleum on and cover over that. The work is done.

If possible locate your hive so it will face the east.—If on stand say two feet high, it saves stooping to work at it. It is well to have as little wood work or other walls too close, as such may harbour spiders. If on ground have bottom board tarred, it is a remedy for white ants. Some are very careful to have their hives shaded from the sun. We do not bother about such ourselves, and have never had any bad results from combs melting. Paint tops white. A sheet or two of newspaper in addition to an oilcloth is very useful. Paper is a non-conductor of heat as well as an absorber of damp.

We have seen a little of the work of getting swarms out of trees. Some may have been fairly successful at such. We knew one young fellow, in a good district, after a good season, coming into town nearly every day with swarms so obtained. But if he had to chop down 3 feet diameter tree giants he well earned all he got for his trouble. On not a few occasions we have seen such trouble taken with results—some smashed up comb, with brood and honey, and a disorganised useless swarm with perhaps no queen. It seems cruelty to have so broken up a home.

Every beekeeper should possess himself of a veil and a smoker. Some people profess to be very brave, and to do without a veil. Perhaps an exuberance of beard may give an immunity from stings. But having seen chickens and fowls totally blinded by bee stings, we look on such bravery as foolhardiness. A veil may be made by a facing of black silk tulle, to see through, inserted in white mosquito netting, an elastic band being so

fixed on the veil can be placed on the hat, and the hat rim sufficiently large as to keep the veil a suitable distance from the face.

There are several kinds of smoker, both hot and cold blast, the most commonly used being Clark's. It may be large enough for only one or two hives. We however prefer a larger one, at present using a Crane.

EMU PLAINS.

W. H. HALL

I notice in the *Bee Bulletin*, which you have been so kindly sending me, that you wish to communicate with beekeepers who are making their living from the industry, with a view to the formation of a strong Beekeepers' Association. I have about 110 strong colonies, and for the past five years have been making my living from the sale of extracted honey. I have not hitherto been a member of any Association, partly because even the small subscription was an item to me, in the struggle incidental to starting a new home with very little capital and latterly because I have no confidence in the N.B.K.A. If you succeed in organizing an Association of practical men—as I hope you will—I shall have much pleasure in becoming a member. I have had a fairly good year, and have sold my crop to advantage. Some candied honey that I had packed and named for export to London was sold locally by the ton at 2½d. In fact the whole of what I had packed for export, some two or three tons, sold within a few days of arrival in Sydney at or over the reserve I had placed upon it.

I am a bit behind hand with my bee work this spring, as I have been giving a good deal of attention to a small, but very profitable strawberry patch, trying to do a bit of clearing, trenching, &c. The increasing roar in the apiary, however, warns me that I must attend to duty among the bees. The colonies all appear to be very strong, although I expect I shall find a few queenless hives when I come to give them a proper overhaul. The bees are working strongly on fruit blossom, grey iron bark, and E. Eximia, in fact some of the hives want relieving of a considerable new season's surplus. The E. Eximia is blooming very early this year, odd trees are in full blossom, and the whole mountain side is covered with trees loaded down with the weight of bursting buds. The indications point to a very heavy spring flow, and probably to a heavy swarming time. In many respects the conditions are similar to those which prevailed three years ago, when my bees went swarming mad, and despite a large infusion of steady-going Ligurian blood, and every effort to restrain them, the count rose in a few months from 50 to 100. That year, in fact, they nearly drove me crazy, keep-

ing me going for months from 12 to 19½ hours a day, making me burn the midnight oil, and refusing to let me rest in the morning by waking me with the roar of issuing swarms soon after sunrise. I don't mind a good honey flow, but I don't want swarming mania. Anyhow I hope they will have the consideration to keep from going mad till after strawberry harvest. Last year my main flow came from Sydney peppermint (E. piperita), one of the finest honey producers I know of, and white stringybark (E. Engenoides) also good. The latter tree is very plentiful here and blossomed in batches, keeping the bees going for months. The honey from it, contrary to my experience with all other honeys in this district, did not candy.

I have noticed that when the swarming mania is on that it is almost impossible to keep the swarms, unless the queens are clipped. Some six years ago in another part of this district, when my stocks were fewer, I had an experience of the complaint, also I think on E. Eximia. That year I had neglected to clip. And though every swarm was hived yet every laying queen I think without exception reissued and cleared out. Four or five huge swarms sometimes joining mounting high and making off in a roaring cloud. That year every swarm made for the coast due East. Three years ago they all made for the mountains due West. On the latter occasion they also showed the same mad desire to abscond, but having clipped queens I only lost two or three, probably with supplementary queens, that had escaped notice when I was clipping. I was amused at some neighbour's excitement over the huge swarms that kept passing over their house for I knew that it was but one swarm which roared over the house twelve times in going to its chosen tree and returning to its captive queen.

In the event of a strong representative Association being formed comprising all the large honey producers of the colony. I think it would be a good plan for the members in good years to pledge themselves to export a certain proportion of their crop. This would be much fairer than to allow the burden to fall upon a few and would pay indirectly if not directly by preventing the disastrous gluts which have so seriously threatened the industry of late years. Some types of honey will always be sold cheaply in N. S. W. but I think the aim of the combined producers should be to prevent the price of the best grades from falling below 3d per lb. I do not believe in producing artificial scarcity, in an article of food like honey by combination, but I certainly do believe in preventing ruinous gluts when by combination and good faith amongst producers the remedy is in their own hands.

L. A. W., Tomago, August 22nd 1900;
—I hope we shall all have a good honey flow this spring.

HONEY RETURNS.

W. NIVEN

Returns of honey extracted at Sweet Home Apiary, Eugowra, during the season 1898-9, with dates of extracting, and quantities of honey taken. In quoting tins each tin holds 60 lbs.

HOME APIARY.

SPRING COUNT, 110 COLONIES.

1898	tins	1899	tins
Sep. 13, 19, extr'd	32	Jan. 16 extracted	18
Oct. 4, 5, ..	49	Mar. 21, ..	6
Oct. 17, 18 ..	51	Ap. 10, 14, ..	39
Oct. 23, ..	3		
Dec. 14, 16, ..	42		
Dec. 22, ..	21		
Dec. 28, ..	16		

Total—277 tins or 16,620 lbs.

OUT APIARY, No. I

SPRING COUNT 36 COLONIES.

1898	tins	1899	tins
Sep. 16, 17, extr'd	16	Jan. 4, extracted	16
Oct. 10, ..	16	Mar. 9, 10, ..	13
Oct. 22, ..	11	Ap. 8, ..	5
Dec. 15, ..	13		
Dec. 22, 24, ..	23		

Total—113 tins or 6,780 lbs.

OUT APIARY, No. II

SPRING COUNT 54 COLONIES.

1898	tins	1899	tins
Sept. 14, 15, extr'd	29	Jan. 23, extracted	18
Oct. 14, 15, ..	23	Mar. 7, 8, ..	22
Dec. 13, ..	16	April 7, ..	15
Dec. 21, ..	26	May 1, 2, ..	18

Total—167 tins or 10,020 lbs.

OUT APIARY, No. III

SPRING COUNT 15 COLONIES.

1898	tins	1899	tins
Sept 12, extracted	7	Jan. 3, extracted	5
Oct. 3, ..	5	April 14, ..	3
Oct. 17, ..	5		
Dec. 16, ..	4		

Total—29 tins or 1740 lbs.

HUSKS AND CHAFF.

For The Australian Bee Bulletin.

G. R. HARRISON.

YOU ARE RIGHT MR. EDITOR (p. 98) Australian honey has been going to England for many years, and has been sent to order of merchants there who know well what honey is, it has not been selling as Australian. I know a firm, who in 90-91, were buying the Williams River box hive honey and straining it, sending it to the "old dart" but bless

you,—it wasn't their little game to tell everyone what they were doing. I saw the honey coming in in the farmers' carts in kerosene tins, hacked open, and sealed up with a piece of rag and some paste.

BUT WHAT WE WANT is for our honey to be known on the English—or rather British—market for its good qualities, to be sold as Australian honey, and also for us, as the producers, to get the advantage of the better price, and not for enterprising exporters here and brokers and merchants there to get it all; and we also want the improved price, which its known price in Britain will give, as well as the improvement of the removal of glut here.

NOW MR. EDITOR, if you can show us poor benighted beekeepers, any pathway leading to a consummation so devoutly to be wished, you will be rendering the greatest service to the craft, and every bee man of them will rise up and call you "Blessed."

RIGHT AGAIN MR. EDITOR (p. 101), the local market is the honey raiser's sheet anchor, but there is no seller like the beekeeper, the storekeeper has no more interest in selling one article than another. He does very little pushing, as a rule, but supplies people with the things they ask for, the manufacturers do the pushing, by supplying him with gorgeous advertising cards, and advertising their wares in the public press, and the people get in the habit of asking for certain lines.

THE STOREKEEPER KNOWS that he can sell tinmed treacle and buys it; if the people asked for honey, he would hunt round for it, but if the people of a town or township have not been got into the habit of honey eating by beekeepers peddling it, the storekeeper can sell very little.

BUT IF THE BEEKEEPER peddles honey he must not expect the storekeeper to buy from him at the price he peddles it at, the storekeeper cannot get a higher retail price than the beekeeper fixes, and he won't sell unless he can get a return to cover rent, wages, taxes, insurance, etc., and if there is some profit as well he will

be pleased. The beekeeper also cannot peddle at his wholesale price, the price he must get for it at the people's doors, is his wholesale price—plus something to pay him wages and wear and tear in carrying it round.

WE MUST ADVERTISE the advantages of eating honey, get the people to WANT IT, there is no trouble in selling to people the thing they want. See how the different manufacturers of cocoas, soaps, oatmeals and blenders of teas advertise. Now, if we had a Government lecturer lecturing in the cities on the food value of our product, we should find the storekeeper asking for it. So mote it be.

Our Forests.

Mr. Walter S. Campbell, Chief Inspector of Agriculture in N. S. W., in his annual report to the Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, makes the following practical remarks:—

I beg once again to invite particular attention to the wanton destruction of timber and shrubby vegetation throughout the colony, particularly in the western districts.

This will, in a very few years, be most bitterly regretted, when extensive areas of country will be laid waste by unchecked sweeping winds, and become useless for cultivation.

I have noted during this last drought the large areas of wind-swept plains where *the whole of surface soil has been carried clean away*, exposing a rock-like hard subsoil upon which probably netting can grow, until time and exposure may break it into soil to be swept away again during the prevalence of any severe dry weather.

Miles and miles of wire-netting fences have become banked up with drift soil, so much so that one can drive over them anywhere with ease. Probably millions of tons of surface soil have been carried in air-currents far away, and sometimes to the ocean. I traced one dust-storm from beyond Wagga to Sydney, noticing it all along the railway. In Sydney it was considered to be smoke, but this was not so ;

it was simply dust from the far away plains travelling out to sea.

If no extensive shelter-belts of forest are preserved in this western country, the surface soils of cultivated areas will, in times of drought, travel off to sea also, and it is not difficult to imagine the consequences. I have been most strongly advocating for years, officially and otherwise, the urgent need that action should be taken to compel owners and lessees of land to retain a percentage of forest to clearings made.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"Australian Photographic Journal," a journal devoted to the advancement of Australian and Scientific Photography.

Report of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture for the year 1899.

From Mr. J. Sanders of *Australian Star*, a copy of the Libel Law Amendment Bill, which has now passed its first reading in the N.S.W. Assembly. Space prevents us entering into details, but having read it carefully through, when passed it will be the rendering of a great justice to the members of the press, who, strange to say, while themselves the great safe-guard of the liberties of the rest of the community, have been liable to the grossest injustice under the law as it has hitherto existed.

A TYPE OF BEEKEEPER.

We visited such in the neighbourhood of Lake Macquarie not long since. About 50 boxes. He did not know how many had bees in them. All made by himself, frames included. Sheet of corrugated iron on top of each. Had about 13 acres of orchard, to which he was paying great attention. Had no flow last year, in fact such was the case with him about every third year. Had several years ago, purchased a foundation mill but never used it now, as the bees made good straight foundation by an empty frame being put between two full ones. Never looked at his bees during the winter. What died off during that time were the inferior ones, and what survived the best—the survivors of the fittest.

D. M. M., Deep Lead, Stawell,—We are going to have a good season, swarming is a little late but bees are all in good condition. I lost only about 10 per cent this winter and it has been a rough one.

CAPPINGS.

From American and other Bee Journals.

There is no rule as to how often hives should be examined, except to remember never to lift out a frame unless some useful purpose is to be served thereby. The less often hives are opened needlessly the better.—*Beekeepers Record*.

If drones are too numerous in a hive the beekeeper has only got himself to blame, seeing that the cause is either a failing queen or too much drone comb, both matters easy of regulation.—*Beekeepers Record*.

An ordinary funnel with a bent nozzle to pour syrup in at entrance on to bottom board, the front of which is slightly raised, so the syrup is confined by the strips at side and back, is recommended by a writer in *Gleanings*. Of course the bottom board must be syrup tight.

"Old Grimes" recommends as a queen-excluder between the lower and extracting story of a hive, a solid board without perforations of any kind. A space of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch is left on all sides, next to the walls, for the passage of the bees.—*American Bee Journal*.

Mr. Barker says in *Progressive Beekeeper*:—There are four points that I have come to consider important in working my apiaries. First, pushing the bees in spring, by keeping plenty of feed; Second, clipping every queen; Third, weeding out the old queens and supplying young ones; Fourth, keeping an assistant every day that I am not there myself.

H. H. Hyde, says in *Progressive Beekeeper*:—I want queens reared by the best methods from industrious stocks, queens that have been well fed in their larval state, queens that are large and able. I want no queens that cannot have twelve frames of brood by the commencement of the honey flow.

I would like to encourage all those that have natural tact, and are in a locality where it would pay them, to keep bees, but to indiscriminately advise every

one to keep bees for a living would be to do a great injury. We should be very cautious how we encourage people to keep bees. I think a beekeeper, like a fiddler, is born. If a man can look after ten thousand little things, and do every thing right, at the proper time, in the proper way, is desirous of keeping bees, and is willing to live in a new country, encourage him.—Mr. HALL in *Canadian Bee Journal*.

I do not suppose that all of the honey secreted by the flowers will ever be gathered, even by the best of bees, still less will the best or most productive bees it is possible for man to produce, ever get honey where none is to be had; but, if we can breed from our strongest and most industrious colonies till 50 or 75 such shall gather what a 100 are now required to do, we shall at least save what it requires to keep the extra number of colonies. I believe we would better for a time, look for *Apis Dorsata* in our own yards. If we fail to find it, we may, perchance, find something even better.—J. E. CRANE, in *American Bee Journal*.

In bottling honey it should be of one certain temperature—no more and no less—to avoid incorporating bubbles of air. If too thick, the down flowing stream of honey will waver from one side to the other, lapping over itself when it reaches the honey in the vessel, thus enclosing streaks of air. If too thin, it will pierce right into the honey below, dragging down air with it in the form of small bubbles. It should be just of the right thickness to spread out in the form of a cone when it strikes the honey below, neither depressing its surface, nor piling up on it, but uniting with it at once wherever it touches.—H. RAUCHFUSS in *American Beekeeper*.

Once, after a mild winter, with the bees in an apple orchard, there were numerous swarms in March. They invariably pitched on the body of the tree, near the ground. There was no foliage on the trees. I had trouble in the ordinary way to get them into the hive. I took a frame

of eggs and brood in all stages, and tied it to a limb so it would hang against the bees. In a very short time I found the queen on it. I put it in the hive, and the bees all quickly entered. After that, whether the swarm was in a difficult place or not, I put against it such a frame, and the queen invariably got on to it in a very short time, and there was no trouble in hiving the bees. Sometimes I would use a pole to elevate the frame to the place where the swarm was. By this method I found hiving easy. —J. W. Jackson, in *Gleanings*

Doolittle says in *American Beekeeper* :— I have shipped my honey on commission ever since 1877, and an assertion that "our products, through the prevailing method of sale, is at the mercy of the most unscrupulous commission man," is not the truth, by any means, according to my experience. To be sure, I have run across unscrupulous commission men during that time, and I now know of some who will drop off honey, or any other product at a lower price, by 25 per cent. than the goods are really worth or quoted at. But I cannot allow that these unscrupulous ones "who sell the lowest, establish the price," for all of my experience, covering a period of 23 years, tells me that there are many commission men who do not even so much as "wink" at the prices made by these unscrupulous ones. Therefore, the assertion that "the honest commission man; the one who would get full value, is not in it," is very far from the truth. I could name parties handling honey who have sold my honey each year for the past twelve years, at from one to three cents per pound above the prices quoted and from the same price to one or two cents above the prices quoted in our bee-papers for those same cities.

BEES ON SHARES.—When bees are kept on shares it is the rule for both parties to share equally in the profits, and in the expenses and losses. The time of the one who contributes the labor is supposed to offset the capital of the other in the form of bees, hives, implements, etc. Carrying this principle out, each party pays for half of the new

hives, sections, shipping-cases, honey-barrels, honey-cans, etc.; and each party receives half the proceeds of honey and bees sold. At the end of the season the increase is divided equally between them. For instance, if there is an increase of 50 colonies from swarming, each would have 25 colonies, including hives and a half-interest in the supplies left over. If at the beginning of the season the owner has 25,000 sections, the one who is supposed to work the bees is expected to pay half their cost, including freight. But if half the bees die during winter, notwithstanding the fact that the operator puts them up the best he knows how, carrying out the same rule, he should make good half the loss of the bees. And right here is where many troubles arise. The operator is apt to complain, and with a fair show of justice, that he ought not to be expected to pay for bees that were lost during winter that were not his legally. But here comes the owner, and says that, if his partner had taken care of the bees, no such loss would have occurred, and then there is a row. So it is well to have this particular point safely covered.—*Gleanings*.

In speaking of honey, Mahomet says, in the Koran, "This sweet, wholesome substance, which sustains and strengthens the body, which cures all maladies, is a thousand times preferable to the poisons administered by the doctors to the human race." Again, "Bees spend their nights out of doors, except Thursday evening, when all return home, because of Friday, the holy day." That sounds superstitious; but when Mahomet had been dead a thousand years, and books were common in England, it was commonly believed there that bees built chapels and celebrated the Lord's supper in the hive; and even to-day many superstitions regarding them are alive in all countries.—*Gleanings*.

I prefer beautiful yellow bees, if they do just as good work, but my best honey storers have proved to be among those having some black blood. There is an objection to breeding from anything but pure stock. A cross of any kind is not so

sure to perpetuate itself. Pure Italian stock will furnish queens that vary very little from the mother. A cross will not produce queens so uniform. Some will be better than the mother, some worse. But stock from a cross-bred queen that has given an extra record for honey-storing may average better than that from a pure-bred queen. So, on the whole, I think I get more honey by breeding from a queen that has given a very high record, even if there is some black blood present.—DR. MILLER, IN *American B. J.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

A. C., Mia Mia, Victoria, August 27th.—A very poor year for the bees, hoping the coming one will be better.

J. D., Cobham Creek, Murwillumbah, August 18th.—I must say the *Bee Bulletin* contains a lot of useful information for beginners.

W. A.G., Stroud, August 10th.—The last season was a bad one up here. But I hope for a better one this time. My bees have enough to winter on. Things have brightened up here now, for they are getting pollen off the wattle trees.

F. W. P., Elsmore.—Bees are very backward here this season, they will not touch honey on the hive cover yet I have to feed them with meal. The honey flow generally start here before half the hives are strong enough to gather it.

J. S., Eskdale, Victoria, September 1st, 1900.—Bee matters very quiet for the last twelve months; have hopes of better times very soon. I am not much of a correspondent but I think you have improved the *Bee Bulletin* very much lately, and I am glad you have some correspondents who give beginners a lot of valuable information.

E. T. P., Fernbank, Victoria.—Bee news scarce just at present. One of the wettest winters for a number of years. Almost sure to be a good summer for bloom. Honey selling well, nearly all old supplies in Victoria cleared. Prices sure to keep up till Christmas I think.

A great many gone out of the business the last few years. Nearly all the old beekeepers hold on, and are joining together. Let us hope for some good work in future, as I believe this Association is going to stay. Wishing you a prosperous season throughout your colony.

W. G. B., Anakus, Victoria.—Last season although it started with very good prospects was a complete failure and only managed to extract 500lbs. and could not get even one section completed although a number started early in the year. Can you throw any light on the following puzzle? I hived what I thought was a first swarm and on going round on the eighth day to remove queen cells, I found a laying queen in the old hive and only the remains of two queen cells. I then examined the swarm and found it also had a queen laying. How can both have laying queens in the time mentioned?

They might not have swarmed till young queen was out, or just coming out. Eight days gave plenty of time for her coming out being mated and laying. A mother and daughter, by no means an uncommon occurrence. Whichever is the mother will not last long.

A. H., Tarcutta, September 3rd.—I am very thankful for your forwarding the first copy, it helps me along very much with my bees. Please continue sending it. I am only a beginner with bees, I started last spring with 5 hives, for which I paid £4 10s, I have now 23 doing well, no foul brood so far. I found the disease in one nest in the bush last year out of about 30. The coming spring looks very promising. Iron bark are in full bloom, red gum and stringy bark are budding splendid. There is always plenty of white clover in the spring.

A. P. H., Henty, August 22nd.—The A. B. B. I have always received regularly. I have always read it with great interest. I think it a journal that every one should have, if he only had 5 hives of bees. I have only 18 at present, and I find it very instructive. Had a very poor season here last year, only over 30lbs per hive. The first blossoms were out too early and the others too late; have had blossoms all

ANTHONY HORDERN'S

FOR — BEE GOODS.

—)o(—

- - THE BUSY BEE - -

IS the source of much prosperity to thousands of industrious folk, who will find their condition considerably strengthened by taking advantage of—

ANTHONY HORDERN'S FAMOUS LOW PRICES

— FOR —

The A. I. ROOT COY.'S BEE GOODS.

Bee Hives—

For Comb Honey, 1½-storey ..
8 frame, 5/9; 10 frame, 6/6 each

Complete with sections, foundations and nails.

For Extracting—

1½ storey .. 8 frame, 5/3; 10 frame 6/0 ea.

2 storey .. 8 frame, 6/6; 10 frame, 7/3 ea.

The above hives are dovetailed, fitted with Hoffmann's frames, Danz Covers and Bottoms, unless otherwise ordered.

The Simplicity Hive—

1½ story, 10 frame .. 5/6 each

2 story .. 6/6 ..

Complete fitted with Hoffmann's Frames and Starters.

Hoffmann's Frames—

Wedge Top, self spacing .. 8/0 per 100

Stapled Spaced .. 8/0 ..

Moulded Top .. 7/9 ..

Thick Top .. 7/0 ..

All Wood .. 5/3 ..

Shallow 4½ in., 5/3; 5½ in., 5/3 ..

Bodies, Empty .. 8 frame 1/4; 10 frame 1/6 ea

Bottom Boards, Danz or Solid, 8 frame 8d, 10 frame 9d

Books—

The Amateur Beekeeper .. 0/6 ea,

The ABC of Bee Culture .. 4/0 ..

Lanstroth on the Honey Bee .. 4/9 ..

Doolitt's Queen Rearing .. 3/9 ..

Comb Foundation .. 1/8 lb.

Covers, Gable, Danz or Solid, 8 frame, 0/10; 10 frame, 1/0 each

Comb Fasteners—

Parker's .. 1/0 ea.

Daisy, with lamp .. 4/0 ..

„ without lamp .. 3/3 ..

Daisy Roller .. 0/7 ..

Cartoons, Fig 16, Root's Catalogue

2/9 per 100

Extractors, Wax—

Doolittle's Solar .. 13/6 ea.

Swiss, with Generator .. 10/0 ea.

Jones' .. 12/0 ea.

Boardman .. 32/6 ea.

Extractors, Honey, with Tanks, made of best Tinned Steel, with malleable Gear and Gates—

Cowan's .. 2 frame, 42/6; 4 frame 85/0 ea.

Novice .. 2 frame, 27/6 ea.

Entrance Guards, 8 and 10 frame 2/6 doz.

Escapes—

Porter's .. 0/9 ea.

„ with board .. 1/3 ea.

„ Honey House .. 0/9 ea.

La Reese .. 1/8 ea.

Embedders—

Spur .. 0/7 ea.

Easterday's .. 0/7 ea.

Feeders—

Simplicity .. 2/3 doz

Gray's .. 0/9 ea.

Miller's, Flat .. 0/11 ..

Boardman's, Flat .. 7/3 doz

Followers .. 1/0 ea.

Gloves, Rubber, sizes 6, 7, 8, 9 .. 4/6 pr.
 " " " 10, 11, 12 .. 4/9 pr.

If you order by number, remember that in rubber you need two sizes larger than you wear in kid; i.e., if you wear No. 6 in kid you will need No. 8 rubber.

Hats, Bee 1/3 ea.

Honey Boards— 8 frame 10 frame
 Roots, Bound .. 0/9 0/10 ea
 " unbound .. 0/8 0/9 "
 Tinker, bound .. 1/0 1/2 "
 " unbound .. 0/11 1/0 "
 Wood Zinc .. 1/0 1/2 "

Knives, Honey—
 Novice .. 3/9 "
 Bingham, American .. 3/0 "
 Muth .. 2/6 "
 Quinby .. 3/3 "

Knife Heaters, with Lamp 3/3 "

Nails, Cement Coated—
 $\frac{3}{8}$ x20 $\frac{3}{8}$ x19 $\frac{1}{2}$ x18 1x18 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ x16 2x13 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x12 inches

1/6 1/0 0/8 0/6 0/5 0/4 0/4 lb.

Coppered Staples .. 0/6 lb.

Queens and Drone Traps, Alley's,

1/8 each
 " Catchers, Miller's .. 0/5 ea.
 " Cages, Benton's .. 2/0 doz.
 " West's Spiral .. 3/3 "

Queen Cell Protectors—

West's .. 2/0 doz.
 Doolittle's .. 0/8 "

Smokers—

Clark's .. 2/0 ea.
 Cornell's .. 3/0 ea.
 Crane's .. 5/0 ea.
 Bingham's "Little Wonder" .. 2/3 ea.
 " "Smoke Engine" .. 3/9 ea.
 " "Doctor" .. 4/9 ea.
 " "Conqueror" .. 3/4 ea.

Sections—

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 1 20/0 per 1
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. .. 20/0 "
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 5 .. 20/0 "
 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 5 in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. .. 20/0 "
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 3 .. 20/0 "

Section Presses, Hubbard's .. 12/0 ea.

Swarm Catcher and Tripod—

Manum's .. 4/6 ea.

Supers—

8 frame 10 frame
 Empty .. 0/8 0/9 ea.
 Complete with Sections .. 2/0 2/3 "
 " Plain Sects 2/0 2/3 "
 Ideal .. 2/0 2/3 "

Simplicity Supers, Empty .. 1/0 "

" Bodies .. 1/8 "

" Alighting Boards 6/0 "

Uncapping Cans—

Dadant's No. 1, 17/6; No. 2, 22/6 "
 Tanks made of Tinned Steel and Malleable Gates.

Veils, No 2, Silk Face .. 2/3 "

No. 3 Cotton Tulle .. 1/9 "

No. 4, White .. 1/3 "

Globe .. 4/- "

Wire, Tinned, 30g.—

1oz. 4oz. 8oz. 1lb. 5lb. reels.
 -/8 doz. -/3 -/5 -/9 3/- each

Wire Gauze—

24 30 36 inches
 Green -/5 -/7 -/9 yard
 Galvanized -/7 -/8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -/11 "

Plated for Honey Stainers., 24 in. wide
 2/6 sq. ft.

For Extractor Basket. 36 in. wide
 -/9 run. "

Zinc, Queen Ecluding—

Roots', 28 in. x 96in. .. 6/- sheet
 Tinker, 24in. x 38in. .. 3/6 "

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—)o(—

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Universal Providers,
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the winter (Grey Box and Yellow Box.) It is the severest winter have experienced since '94, but the bees are pulling through very well, have not lost a single hive so far; always believe in leaving plenty stores. The coming season is very promising. I cannot understand how honey can be raised at 1½d per lb (Bee labour must be cheap.) I get 4d per lb at the door, never had any other but good honey. I am very much pleased with the labels you sent me.

We use boiled flour with a little alum to preserve it. Have always found it satisfactory. A little glue dissolved and boiled with it may strengthen it.

P. E., Echuca, August 8th:—By the A. B. B., I see that the bee-keepers your side of the Murray are not having a very rosy time of it. It is to be hoped things will improve, if not I take it we on this side will be suffering from the same cause, when the uniform duties come in existence. Honey season has been none too good in this locality. Hope you will get a good honey flow, and that prices will improve for same.

C. G., Keiraville, Sept. 25th:—We seem to be having a very nice spring down here, as we have had some seasonable showers lately, and my bees seem to be coming on very strong, as there is plenty of bloom out now. Many of the ironbark trees are in bloom round this district at this time, and the wattle is also out. Some say the wattle is good for the bees, but the black wattle which is plentiful here is no good for the bees as far as I can see, as I have never seen a bee on it, and I have looked scores of times. The turpentine is in full bloom and the bees work well on it up till noon, and you can commence to smell the honey at the hives now.

"Halewood," Billabong West, Sept. 14th:—Mr. R. Beuhne's notes in August issue are well worth the consideration of all beekeepers, especially the remarks re associations. Three years ago I was working 100 colonies of bees, but paralysis, bad seasons, and over-crowded locality have reduced my number to 55. Still I

am in hopes of pulling up again this season some of my lost ground. I have received *Martin's Home and Farm* since I wrote my previous note. It is a welcome little paper.

G. F. B., Wellington:—My bees have come through the winter without loss, and are coming on well.

W. H., Telegraph Point, Sept. 26th:—I have just finished extracting 23 tins of honey. Write that bee inspector business down.

R. C. L., Albury:—Bees have wintered fairly well here, no feeding required and swarms in good order. They are working on white box, which has been out all through the winter. Fruit trees are out in blossom now, and feed for young bees coming in fast. Wishing your paper every success, and hoping to have a good honey season.

B. B., Rheola, Victoria:—I have always been interested in bees, in fact, they are solely what I intend making my living by. I only have 30 hives at present, but we are going to have a good season here this year, and I expect to increase to 50 or upwards. I only have a few Italians at present, but I intend getting a few queens about the end of this month or beginning of next. Could you advise me where I will be likely to get the best untested queens in New South Wales. I want the best honey-gatherers. I don't want bees to look at, so I don't mind whether yellow or leather coloured.

We believe all of the queen raisers advertising in the A. B. B. are thoroughly reliable.

J. M. S., Tamworth:—I saw in June A.B.B. Mary Porter gives the following recipe, &c., for honey candy, and a most saving one to fuel, &c. You boil it in cold water till it hardens, but I guess it would take a mighty hot sun on the top. I see by the last that the gale hit hard, nearly blew a lot of the covers off my bees, but I expect he will calm down again, and we will have a good spring after all. I see by looking round the yellow box trees and gums that the blossom buds have three-parts dropped off,

whether it is too much rain or the frosts or the heavy wind I cannot say, but I never knew them to fall off like it before. This occurrence may not be in other parts, and I hope it is not, for those in bee culture.

W. F. E., Tooloom:—With reference to your leader in last A. B. B., I feel called upon to say a few words as it is of interest to all bee-keepers. I am aware that the N. B. K. A. have done some very useful work, but I contend that so far it has failed in the main thing, that is, in helping to find a market for our surplus honey. No doubt the big prizes at the Metropolitan Shows are all right for the few bee-keepers that are close to with their few jars of well selected honey, or sections as the case may be. But as affecting the industry generally it is of but very little value. We want a real live bee-keepers' Association composed of genuine bee-keepers, that would have for its main object the finding of a market for our surplus honey at a fair price, for if things continue much longer as they have been of late the business will be left in the hands of the few that are able to get their honey to market at the least expense and others that have something else to depend upon. Although the honey season was a failure in a great part of the colony, honey is very cheap and plentiful in Sydney, so what can we expect with a good season unless something is done. I am willing to pull with any Association that will have for its main plank the finding of a market for our surplus honey.

A. C., Dubbo:—Just a few lines to let you know I am still alive, but that is more than I can say for the bees, or at least most of them. I have come down from 160 to about 35, all told, and I expect to have none in another year if things don't take a change; in fact there will be no bees left in this district, that is my opinion, as there is nothing but decrease this last four years. I have done everything possible to save mine, but it is beating me, so I have made up my mind to let them take pot luck for the

future. I went to the trouble and expense last Autumn to build a shed for what was left, and put them into it, and built a large box along the hives and packed them in chaff one foot thick all around them. But I found about a dozen empty the other day when I took them out of it, so I am convinced it is not the cold winter weather that kills them, as I could have lived in them myself without any more covering the coldest night we had. Honey is very scarce here at present, I have orders for tons if I had it, but I am sorry to say I have none. I tried to get some from Sydney to supply my customers but failed. I got several samples sent me but such stuff, no wonder we see such low prices advertised. If that is what they call honey down there I am glad they got a name for it, as I could not find one.

J. C., Rockdale:—I very much admire your paper, and the useful information gained by it; at the same time I think you harp too much on the string, that amateurs do injury to the practical bee-keeper in the way of trade. I have 6 hives of bees in the above district, which is a very bad one. Increase, nil this season, two last season; 46lb honey this season, about 210 last. I have to increase by division, being away all the week. I have sold honey, when honey was selling for 2d, the best I sold at 4d to a grocer. He retailed it at 6d as an experiment, consequence it took. People asked for more; he came to me for more. I declined to sell but told him the name of several bee-keepers which I got from your journal, and also told him where he could get the honey in 60lb tins from auctioneers in Sydney. Since then he has done a good trade in it. I have sold several small lots at 6d per pound and advised the people to write to some of the leading apiarists, giving them the names. The people all seem to be afraid of shop honey, believing it to be adulterated. If beekeepers could bottle honey and put it round the suburbs, I think it would sell well, more especially if they put their name and name of apiary on it. A good

many of the above people never bought honey before, treating it as a luxury. Honey is put on the table at every meal here, and it is brought under the notice of all my friends, who are told its value not only as a food but as a medicine. A good many try it and continue using. I am never anxious to sell, as if I do I have to buy more for home use, and I would rather use my own honey taken by myself. We use about 140lbs honey in 12 months, thus I benefit beekeepers by my sales.

"Border," Oct. 1:—We had a bad season last year, and I lost a good many swarms by paralysis, which seems bad in this district. I have two hives bad with it still. I have changed their queens, but I don't always find that succeed. I had one lot so bad last year, that two or three queens died of the same thing after laying a few days. I think it is some kind of fungus or something that makes them itch, as they seem all the time scratching themselves with their legs. I believe the very hot weather is the best cure. I wish to ask you how any one can tell adulterated honey. Now some came here (imported from Victoria) the last month, or the month before in the cold weather, it was clear as water almost, and tasted not too bad, but seemed to lack flavour. Now all my honey (not that I had much) was candied, and always is at that time of the year, yet I read every week in the Melbourne papers, clear garden honey, so much cloudy samples, no demand, etc. How do they always have clear honey for sale? Of course you know they send Victorian honey over here, but 2d per lb. duty blocks us from sending a lb. over there. However, federation will at least make us equal. As you often point out beekeeping is boomed so in almost every paper, and also books, by those interested in the sale of supplies, that almost every one is talking of keeping bees, and a very great number are doing so about here. Its not the least good trying to rear pure breeds as no one else buys queens, or if they do, only one, and don't breed from her. I am not a professional beekeeper, but I don't sell my honey for

what it will fetch, but stand out for my price.

[Put some of suspected honey in a clear glass. Then mix with spirits—brandy or whiskey. Let it stand. If adulterated a sediment will sink to the bottom. If pure honey, the spirits and honey will blend.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

MR. J. D. KLINE, Guildford, SADDLER and HARNESS MAKER, and Secretary of the Western Australian Beekeepers' Association, is Agent for the "A. BEE BULLETIN," and is authorised to receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for same.

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E. TIPPER.

* VICTORIA *

Victorian Notes.

R. BEUHNE.

BEES DISAPPEARING.—Since writing last I have to report still further losses, and my apiary which last summer consisted of 216 strong colonies, has without disease of any kind been virtually wiped out, for all there is left are six weak colonies and some 21 frame nuclei. I have visited several other apiaries and had many reports from different parts of the colony, and find that I have come off worst of all, for although losses have in some cases been severe, the surviving colonies are in fair, or at least better condition than mine. In some cases the losses appear to be due to paralysis, and in others to starvation. In my own case and some others I have seen or heard of the bees have simply disappeared by degrees leaving combs of sealed honey. The queen in every instance being still quite lively when the workers had dwindled away to a few dozen, which finally perished from cold or turned out in despair on the first fine day to join some other colony. Several experienced and well-known apiarists have visited me lately and agree with me that there is no disease, or putting it cautiously, no known disease.

About a month ago I uncapped a comb of honey in each of the colonies which were then still strong enough to benefit by stimulation, but it appeared to me since, that they then dwindled faster than ever. After one or two warm days I find the clusters alarmingly reduced in numbers of bees and they are still going. Having raised over 100 queens last season, mostly from imported queens, I was anxious to save as many as I could and left any that had enough bees to keep the queen alive, till I receive fresh bees from elsewhere, for the purchase of which I have arranged, but owing to the

wintry weather, swarming is late and none have come to hand up to date (Oct. 15th). With so many utterly defenceless hives standing about, it struck me as peculiar, that no robbing took place, as absolutely no honey was coming in. I also noticed that only the honey from the top corners of the uncapped combs had been eaten out. This honey near the top bar was gathered in spring, 1899, or the season before, the rest of the comb was grey box honey, gathered March or April, 1900. I have extracted some of it, and although not very dense, appears otherwise in no way to differ from the usual grey box honey. Some of it had candied in the comb, and the rest has candied since extracting. Why do the bees refuse to eat it? I have made the following tests and observations:—

1. At the two extreme ends of the (former) apiary, I placed two empty hives each containing two uncapped combs of honey (not candied), and one comb filled with sugar syrup. The second day bees were flying freely to these hives helping themselves to syrup, and leaving the honey untouched, although the comb of syrup was in between the two combs of honey.

2. A colony, which a month ago covered two combs, has dwindled down in three weeks to about 30 bees. The queen being quite lively, I put the whole colony into an ordinary queen cage, and after keeping them in the house for a week there is not a single dead bee yet.

3. I bought a box hive of black bees two miles from here, the only bees in the locality, and two miles from any grey box, they were quite strong. I transferred them into frames, they had very little old honey, and what there was quite different from ours.

4. The colonies which gathered the most and went into winter very heavy, are all extinct.

5. Some of those that did not gather enough are still in existence. (I helped (?) the others with sealed combs from the heavy ones on top).

6. Hives without sawdust packing lost their bees earlier.

7. Golden, leather colored, hybrids and blacks, new brood or old stock, suffered alike. The only colony at present in fair condition is one of golden Italian, which had paralysis in the fall, and which being the only case, I intended to do away with, but forgot.

Since writing the above I have had further reports, of bees dwindling away, which wintered on grey box honey gathered late in the season. Everything points to the food on which the bees were reared, being the cause. Up to the grey box flow the young bees were reared on old honey, spring honey, or sugar syrup, so were the queens, hence their vigour and better vitality as compared with the workers raised since, for bees raised before the grey box flow would by now have gone in the natural order of things. The young bees which took their place are short lived and weak, and became chilled or exhausted when out foraging. There are no dead bees to speak of about the hives, but I find them up to half a mile away on fruit bloom and native flora benumbed and unable to return home.

Any reader who has followed up my Notes will remember that the troubles of our district began in January (as reported in February number) with overheated brood, followed later on by a general slaughter on honey laden returning workers, and that again recently by the dwindling away of bees to such an extent that combs of perfectly healthy brood were left without any bees on them.

I feel disinclined to draw conclusions lest something further should turn up to upset them, for after devoting all my time and thought to the subject of beekeeping for so many years, I appear to be as helpless about it as the African nigger who rakes his honey out of a piece of hollow log.

But a few days ago I thought I had solved the problem of preventing further loss by removing the honey from the surviving colonies and substituting sugar, but have learnt since that it will not save bees reared on unsuitable food, but can only benefit a future generation, and as

the decline in numbers of adults is greater than the increase by brood hatching out, a supply of workers from outside is the only means of arresting and reversing the decline.

Neighbouring apiaries which had the grey box flow a little earlier, owing to lower elevation, have suffered less, either on that account or because being smaller in number of colonies were not forced to use unsuitable food to the same extent. This is my present opinion, looked at philosophically, there are some redeeming features about the whole affair as regards the industry. It is not a new disease, is not likely to occur often, and only in certain localities under certain conditions of season. So far as I am concerned personally, it may all be for the best, but at present I am quite at a loss to see where it comes in.

WAX PRODUCTION.

"The Australasian Beekeeper" denotes considerable space to wax production in place of, or in combination with honey production. Mr. Pender states that a swarming of bees carrying one pound of honey, will produce from it 4 ozs. of wax, and challenges anybody to prove him wrong. Will Mr. Pender get another 4 ozs. of wax if he feeds that swarm with another pound of honey? Does it follow that 10 lbs of hay produce a bucket full of milk because a cow with that weight of hay inside her gives a bucket full of milk even if tied up. According to the formula of wax and honey we are as likely to make a cube with less than six faces, as we are to get one pound of wax from four of honey.

The swarm of bees that carries a pound of honey with it, may produce $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of wax in 24 hours, but not necessarily out of that pound of honey. The elements of the wax are probably accumulated in the body of the bee before the swarm issues.

Just make a swarm out of a strong colony, the queen of which has been caged for a week, from a day, a month before, as I have often done with foul brood colonies, and watch how much wax or

rather how little even 10 lbs. of honey will produce. Assuming for argument's sake however, that 4 lbs. of honey would produce 1 lb. of wax with a swarm, can we maintain the exceptional condition? Bees build comb only as they require it for brood, or the storage of honey, therefore one of wax to 20 of honey is the most we can obtain, unless there is a way of taking the wax and leaving the honey, that means feeding back, and I will challenge anybody to produce 1 lb. of wax by feeding twelve pounds of honey. The best we can do is to revert back to cutting out instead of extracting, and running more colonies to gather the total now obtained.

When nature's process of wax production in the body of the bee is thoroughly understood by the scientist, it may be possible to stimulate bees to wax production from other materials than honey. When science has progressed that far we may possibly see wax equal to beeswax produced artificially from inferior sugars, glucose, or even maize and potato starch. I have done my share in trying to turn honey into wax, but I am not going to try again till I can afford it.

VARIED TOPICS.

W. L. DAVEY.

FRIEND BEUHNE'S LOSSES.—I left off in last issue at the purchasing of 20 foul brood colonies. It was after the treatment of these colonies that a peculiar incident occurred. Before I had read the McEvoy cure I used the starvation plan. After starving the colonies for 48 hours I placed them on starters; owing to wet weather I had to feed them for over three weeks. Seven weeks from the time of treatment they were on seven frames of capped brood. *Now notice particularly.* During the morning of a hot wind day I saw this brood had plenty of bees to cover it. A cold change followed the heat. The next morning something prompted me to glance at the hives. I saw frames of brood, but no bees. I could not understand it. The first impression was that they had swarmed, but this was incorrect, because the last frame revealed

the queen, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb. of bees. All the hives were in the same condition. What was the cause. I will venture to give the reason. The bees when treated were on an average about four weeks of age. The starvation plan would help to wear them out considerably. Four weeks wet weather before any eggs were laid, and just about the time for the hatching of this brood the adult bees disappeared, because they were worn out; during the last three weeks of their existence; honey was scarce, and they had hard work to earn enough food to keep things moving, which I think helped to bring about their end. I know this experience has many different aspects to our friend's loss, but I think his bees went into winter at rather a mature age. Owing to the scarcity of bloom all the summer, his bees would breed but little, consequently very few young and vigorous bees would go into winter, and such a long winter would gradually deplete the hives of bees, until friend Beuhne's examination, when only a few bees were left in company with the queen, even though they had frames of sealed honey. Spring dwindling and such like complaints seem to me to be simply the dying off of old bees in a natural way, before the hatching of brood to take their place. I am sorry that I can give further proof of my contention. Early in August our bees ran out of food, as bees were then with us rousing strong on from 5 to 10 frames, so that you could not see the combs when lifted out because of the cluster of bees. We anticipated but little danger of any loss. We had to feed them for eight weeks, and as fast as they got as far as three frames of brood, just as fast they started to tear it out, because of wet spells we have been experiencing all this spring. At the end of September we found the bees in at least a dozen colonies could not get home with a load of honey, because they were too old. They died in the hives, and in the field, leaving capped brood behind them—old age again, as these bees that died off were hatched about last March, whilst some of our hives that kept their brood going during the wet spells of September are getting well

under way, although some of them weakened terribly during September. Is there not here a connection with friend Beuhne's disasters? Only that our bees bred heavily during March we would have had very few bees left. They very seldom get a fine enough day to allow them to fly after March until this season, so they did not wear themselves out, as was the case with the 20 colonies of 1895. This year's experience I would say is a natural loss through old age. What does friend Beuhne think? I congratulate him on his courage in telling his losses so candidly as he has done, and I think it would be a good plan if a few more would do the same when they lose. Our losses, including doubling up about 15 colonies, have totalled about 40 colonies out of 123. The loss would have been almost nil with anything like a medium spring.

CONVENTIONS.—Page 136, J. L. M. S. asks "what have they done? Why ruined the industry by introducing foul brood." Can he prove this. Conventions have not done much good, but I never heard before that foul brood was brought in by foreign bees and conventions. He has a fancy for English and German bees. Are they then not foreign bees just the same as Italians, and what on earth has the bee itself got to do with clear honey and fine flavour? It is not the plant or tree that flavors the honey, or the method that gives the clearness. It is the bee. Come on, friend S., this is indeed something new. Give us some more. My experience goes to prove that the yellow bee is a good foul brood resister, and if they came as a result of Conventions, then let us be thankful for Conventions. The Italian strain of bee is the best gift in the bee line that Australia has ever had. The Italian strain needs no recommendations—they speak for themselves; and just as much the blacks shew an inferiority, when compared with the yellow. Of course exceptions are taken for granted.

Elaine, Victoria.

HONEY-COMB.

I respect Mr. Beuhne as a man and a beekeeper. I do not profess to be his equal among the bees, and candidly admit the dreadful fact that I never extracted a pound of honey in my life. I believe like other amateurs that I could do so if I only knew how. Forgive me if my expressions are rather hazy. I however imagine that a man who has only produced comb honey may know something about bees. I know certainly more about them than a man bred in a town, and have kept them both at home and in outstations and have actually made them pay until of late years, but I have discovered beyond doubt that my love for beekeeping does not pay me at present. I am unable to afford the time they require, and find that I could more profitably attend to my professional duties.

Regarding my ideas of a perfect bee locality, I claim the right to express myself, as there are few of us who may not indulge in fairy dreams and build castles in the air. Mr. Beuhne says I overlooked some items, but making an assertion is not always establishing it as a fact. I said that I should like to see a perfect bee locality created to find out how much honey could be produced from such. I certainly meant that it should be kept from competition as far as could reasonably be expected, for how else could the true yield from a specified area be determined?

Regarding minor industries dovetailing into each other. I merely defend my ideas by stating that it is not desirable that land should be given up to bees alone. I say that land on which animals are depastured, can be made to grow good honey producing trees in actual every day experience, and that such trees will be of value not only for the production of honey. The proper sorts will secrete honey in any place they will thrive in I think.

With regard to dividing the colony into bee areas, and granting licenses, probably the plan would be impracticable as

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a general thing. Theoretically more honey would be produced if we could place the whole colony under honey production, placing apiaries all over it at fixed distances of say three miles apart in parallel lines. Whether the colony should strive to obtain all its honey I leave an open question. But the spots on which the apiaries would fall would be found in very numerous instances on private property. Supposing that the owner's house were not there he could not in all probability be induced to place it there; he would not perhaps allow another man to live there, or sell an acre of it, and leave a road out, and in many places the area would not pay a beekeeper to license it. We all know that bees need the owner's presence, somewhere in the neighbourhood at least, for their protection, and their proper care. If the areas were let so that anyone could rent them and place bees anywhere on them, the result might be that the boundaries would be besieged as Mr. Beuhne states, but the owner would pay back in the same manner if it did happen he was invested, which would be the exception. It would be better from a beekeeper's point of view, I should suppose, to have some area he could call his own, that is if large enough. It would be better than having his neighbour side by side with him or on the other side of the road. It may be that in forest reserves or crown lands, bee-keeping areas would be established and rented from the crown, but as a general rule, I am of the belief that anyone should be allowed to keep bees when or where he pleases, etc., that bees should be treated as a help but not as the only source of income. Mr. Beuhne has a pleasant wit, and I have often had a laugh with him. I myself, dullard though I am, who overlook so many things, have noticed rich jokes in the pages of the *Bee Bulletin*. One of our friends was made to state that he had laid some eggs. Mr. Beuhne seems in practice to back me up in my idea that honey yielding plants should be grown. For example, in his introduction of Californian Sage (for which all credit to him) and then he

proves his generosity in distributing it. But might I not point out that that sage might need protection from trespassers I observe that grouse will eat the sage seeds; might not grouse be introduced too, and both sage and onions grown. Then a barbed wire fence could be made to keep out the trespassers, or better still a fence that would be grouse and bee proof at the same time. The place might then be let to city sportsmen at a figure which would repay all expenditure, and the wants of these sportsman might be attended to profitably. They might be good customers for the honey or the wax (if the apiarist went in for wax production only). There would then be no need to deprive the poor worms of the pleasure of spinning their own cocoons. The silk people could invent something in that line.

As to the poultry, I shall confine myself to showing how they might be supplied with water. I give the idea for what it is worth in reply to a query I saw in the *Bulletin*. Get a long box or very long hollow log—a very long idea—leave it open at one end, place the water at the other and a pane of glass to let the light in. The fowls will see the water through the glass and peck at it, but will not break the glass. Attracted by the shade in the hot weather they will go in the log, which should be split in halves and rest on the ground, and drink of the water. Should any bees get in the scratchings of the fowls in the dust or a few ashes will expel them and a bee escape may be let into the glass to let out any stragglers that may get passed. A funnel could be used to supply fresh water. Added to this, place the bee fountains up aloft on the neighbouring tree tops where the fowls will not interfere with them and eventually the bees—a new type of bee may be produced, a cross between the Swiss and Italians, may in time ascend to the clouds. In warm weather they would surely not find it too cold and their Swiss descent would render them insensible to it and also make their ascent easy. So we may go on. With reference to the white mice, I have been thinking of them. It would be necessary to protec

them with bee-proof netting and rear them on top of the hives. I presume that they would be trained to perform tricks and sold for large sums and, in view of the impending visit of royalty, they might even be trained to go in golden harness and be made to draw the distinguished visitors about the streets of the metropolis. If not strong enough an automobile might be attached so that they would appear to do the work. I am in a new locality and a very poor one, where not a bee is to be found on the flowers. I believe that I can keep a few hives but until I can make enough out of my bees to pay for the *Bulletin*, I must give up subscribing to it, valuable paper though it is. Should I ever take to bees again I shall take the *Bulletin*. The idea one gets from it are worth more than the money paid for it.

One factor in reducing the strength of hives is the birds. The worst bird I ever saw for bees is the Goldfinch, which is very intelligent and pays regular visits to the hives in certain seasons. Once I shot 40 odd in a few weeks. There appeared to be only a few and they came from some distance, appearing only between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m. or whether the bees would be abroad in early spring or winter. They reduced my bees in strength considerably, and after I shot them, the bees showed quick improvement. I don't believe Mr Beuhne would let birds weaken his however. I regret Mr Beuhne's loss of hives, especially as it comes before a good honey flow. With those he has left I expect he will get a good yield this year and he may console himself with the fact that prices are good, so far at least. Mr. Beuhne's system of winter covering appears an excellent one. Some day I may send you a few notes on ants, but I suppose that it will not matter much if I don't. I would now only space does not permit. Surplus or refractory mice might be fed to Persian cats— don't suppose this a wild cat venture for they are worth £1 apiece. The cats could be lodged in an extra upper story of the beehive and, so that the minor industries would dove tail prop-

erly, they might be induced to hatch pigeons' eggs— a good warm cushion being provided under which the eggs would be placed. The pigeons in their turn could be utilised in matches and in time of war. But I am afraid I may have overlooked some of the possibilities and will return to actual facts. I note that one subscriber has the audacity to state that he intends to introduce foul brood into all his hives. Well he may be forgiven as he says he intends to remove it when hatched. I think a foul brood act would be a piece of nonsense. I have read with interest and approval most of Mr. Beuhne's opinions on and treatment of foul brood. With regard to those who earn their living by bees alone or rather by honey and wax alone, I think they are very few. I should imagine that it is wise to add a little to one's income as an author or by being an agent, inventor of materials, or teacher of the art of bee-keeping, by poultry and orchard, etc. But most men will adapt themselves to circumstances and surroundings and give most attention to what is most profitable. I have discovered that just at present it is not advantageous to me to keep bees, but I may do so some day.

W. M., Bathurst, Sept. 25 :—Please tell me through the A.B.B., when is the best time to introduce queens, before or after swarming?

[We never saw any difference. Perhaps some of our readers have. Will such reply.]

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LOSS OF BEES.

W. ABRAM.

It was my serious intention to have written on this subject before, but swarming, etc. kept me rather busy. Now, however, swarming is almost over, and I will give this matter a little thought.

Like others I am very sorry to hear of the enormous loss of bees by Mr. Beuhne; the more so since I cannot give him, and others in a similar circumstance, any definite advice as to remedying the evil. I will only give a few hints. In all probability the causes of loss are of various origins. Mr. Beuhne cites some of the causes, but in my opinion there are others besides those he mentioned. For instance, I have always observed, and I daresay it will prove the same in other cases, that there are some stocks amongst the lot, be the number large or small, which stocks seem to escape impregnation, some to a greater, others to a lesser extent. The weather and general conditions are pretty well alike to all stocks, then why the difference? Is the food gathered by the progressive ones debarring attack? Not much, because years ago when experiencing abnormally bad times, I took spare honey from such and gave it to others but with no beneficial effect whatsoever, the progressive stocks would go on progressing, the others would go downwards. Even feeding them with honey from other parts made no improvement. Pollen was always in store. Then, for experiment's sake, I exchanged queens in some stocks and combs with brood etc. in other stocks, and I found that the good or bad effect would manifest itself soon after all the bees were from either a progressive or declining stock in the same manner as previous to my manipulation. Had I not made these trial experiments, I would have come to the same conclusion as Mr. Beuhne, but with these facts before me, I think the fault lays elsewhere. Of course bad seasons and unfavourable weather conditions cause to bring the varied conditions of the hives most into prominence, that is to say, the defects, if any, become more apparent and distinct; had the season been very suitable, the failure would probably have passed unobserved, the bees would have satisfied the keeper although on close observation the difference in results of different stocks would have varied, nevertheless.

I will here re-call to mind the expression I made some years ago, namely, that I believed paralysis to be an introduction from America. I am of the same opinion still, and I go further and express the opinion that a lot of the beekeepers' troubles are due to their adopting various methods of American style, to the importation of American queens and to the following of their scientific queen rearing. Such are my views based on close observation. Possibly some sort of disease affects the perishing

bees, as I note other localities suffer similar to Victoria. Be that as it may, if we bear in mind that the weaker the constitution the more likely such constitution is to fall an easy prey to diseases; then this strengthens my view—that we must pay more attention to energy, industry and stamina—since the fittest survive. In Australia most seasons are favourable to bees thus defects in energy are not so readily noticed, therefore not so closely guarded against. On the other hand, all beekeepers have not the experience nor the training that is required for the application of scientific methods. Just look through the names of the numerous writers on queen breeding, and form your candid opinion on the subject, and it must be patent to the observant that science in the hands of the scientist may be a good thing, not otherwise. And then look at the prices of queens. It is a starvation job raising good queens at 5/- apiece, but it is done—must be done. But under what conditions and in what manner? And how many beekeepers rearing their own queens, only do not follow some method as applied by the professional expert? The one has an aim in view, the other follows aimlessly. It is much easier to lower—degenerate—than raise the standard of efficiency, since two bads don't make one good. Some may understand my meaning and profit thereby, others may know better and possibly smile. That will not alter my conviction, though, that beekeeping is too easy-going in this country, but periodical changes and bad seasons intervening as our teachers.

Just now some see a fortune awaiting them who can prevent swarming altogether. Well, I am out of that, as I believe in nature's law and her guidance, and try to follow same. Preventing swarms and checking swarms means two different things; checking is aiding nature, preventing is contrary to nature. The Italians are naturally a less swarming kind, the black, carniolan and leather included, a more swarming kind. Some beekeepers are never satisfied. Bees also like to build comb at times, it is their habit, but the greed for gain overshadows such mere trifles.

The extreme changes of the weather in this country are not of much consideration for the beekeeper as yet, but might it not deserve more attention? House inhabitants close their doors and windows in cold or hot windy weather, the beehive has an opening as big as a barn doorway, wide open at all times. How, I ask, can the bees regulate the temperature in their hive under such conditions? Can the bees feel comfortable, can the brood develop properly when the sun temperature and the wind are enough to dry up any moisture it comes in contact with? Cold is just as bad as heat, but as good seasons follow bad ones, the trouble is soon forgotten, and all is well that ends well.

Re bees hatching hen eggs, just inform John J. Norton that such has been described in a Queen Bee Journal some years ago.

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We are again very sorry to hear of Mr Beuhne's further losses. We have two reasons for bees dying in the way he speaks of with plenty of stores in the hive. The first that occurred to me some six or seven years ago, scarcity of food in the forests for tree spiders or other insects eating creatures; second, something injurious to bees; the sugar fed, as given in page 123 last issue. Mr Beuhne says the bees went for the syrup before the honey in experiment 1. It would be well if he could get this sugar analysed, to find anything detrimental to the bees.

J. P., Wingham, Sept. 18th:—The past season has been a good one here for honey. A few of the best of my hives gave as many as six extractings (ten-frame hives). Five out of the six were Ironbark. As you know this is a first class honey. The output of honey from this district is becoming heavy and increasing rapidly. Honey has been low in price this last two years and I believe it will be lower than ever in the near future. Bees are breeding up well at present. We will probably have a honey flow on in another month. Re proposed Foul Brood Bill, I do not see what good it can do beekeepers. In this part of the country there are more bees in the bush than are kept in hives. My present number of hives is 200. A total honey failure is an unknown thing in this district. Our worst year up to the present gave us one extracting. We have such a variety of timber here, when one fails there is always another to take its place. Wishing you better luck in the coming season than last one.

To Bee Farmers.

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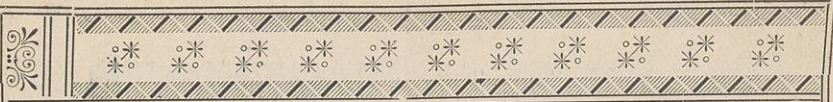
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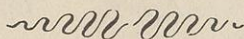
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