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THE AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

Vol. I. No. I.

APRIL, 1892.

PER COPY, 6d.

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

E. TIPPER,

High St., West Maitland.

Price, Five Shillings Per Annum in Advance;
Booked, 6s 6d.

I AM SELLING MY LEATHER COLORED ITALIAN QUEENS,

Daughters of Imported Mothers, at the following rates:—

1 guaranteed, first quality, £1

Same, in 3-frame nucleus, £1 5s

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I HAVE a Lot of Odd Sized Hives with Small Frames, containing First-class Queens, which I am selling at 30s the 2 story hive, equal to 1 story Langstroth. They can be obtained at my 'Sunnyhill Apiary' or of Mr E. TIPPER, Printer, High-street, West Maitland.

J. W. HOPKINS,
Sunnyhill, Tickhole,
Wallsend,

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To Correspondents.

A Sample Copy of the BEE BULLETIN will be sent FREE upon application.

The Bee Bulletin when ordered is sent to subscribers until an order is received by the publishers for its discontinuance, and all arrears paid.

Lost Numbers.—We carefully mail the BEE BULLETIN to every subscriber, but should any be lost in the mails, we will replace them if notified before all the edition is exhausted.

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The Australian Bee Bulletin.



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J. F. MUNDAY.

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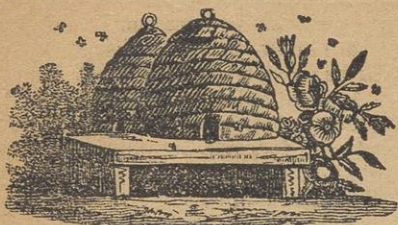
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— **C MANSFIELD,** —
HUNTER RIVER APIARY,
LARGS, MAITLAND.



The Australian Bee Bulletin

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED BY G. R. HARRISON.

WEST MAITLAND.—APRIL.

A Hearty Greeting.

Dear Bee-keepers,—We have at last succeeded in making our appearance as a real bee-journal, and with your help and countenance we have come to stay. We want your help in many ways: we want your subscription every year; we want your good word to your bee-keeping neighbour, that he may subscribe; we want you to send accounts of anything new or strange in bee-keeping, and accounts of your successes and failures; we want you to ask questions when in doubt or difficulty, and we want you to be proud of your monthly journal, and to work for its interests at all times and to feel that you are responsible for its success as much as its editor. With confidence that we shall not look in vain to you for these things, we greet you in this, our first issue, with a friendly, aye, a brotherly greeting.

THE SPECIAL MEETING

H.R.B.K.A.

A special meeting of the above was held on Tuesday, March 22nd, in the Science Class-room. In the absence of

the Vice-President, Mr. R. Patten was voted to the chair. After approval of the minutes, a memorandum from Mr. E. Tipper was read, informing the Association that he was about to publish a monthly journal, to be called the *Australian Bee Bulletin*, and asked for the patronage of the Association, and the support of its members. Mr. G. R. Harrison, the representative of the BEE BULLETIN, described what it was intended the paper should be, a sixteen-page monthly journal, carrying two columns upon a page, and as full of matter interesting to bee-keepers as it is possible to make it; and the support which was asked would consist in—first, their annual subscriptions. Secondly—their help in the way of news of their districts, reports of their season's work, their successes and, what is even more instructive, their failures, and bee gossip of all kinds.

A motion, to the effect that the Association extend its patronage to the AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Scobie drew the attention of the meeting to two sample bottles, of German make, which could be imported at a very low rate, kindly sent from Richmond, on the Hawkesbury, by F. G. Daley, one of which was estimated by those present would contain 1½lbs. of honey, while the larger would hold about 2½lbs.

A long discussion followed upon the subject. Should we immediately open a list of members who would require some, and the number they would require, and send to Mr. Daley, asking him to get a large consignment? Such was the course suggested at first, but Mr. W. S. Pender questioned whether the sizes and shape were the most suitable. All were ready to agree that the quality and price were all that could be desired. Mr. Harrison said that on an order for 100 gross, which was suggested by the sender of the samples as the smallest practicable consignment, that the manufacturers would gladly modify shape and size. After a good discussion, it was decided

to leave it to the Convention, when it was anticipated that the packing of honey for the market would form a prominent item on the programme.

It was then moved by Mr. Mansfield, and seconded by Mr. Pullen, that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. George Daly, for his kindness in sending samples. Carried with acclamation.

The arrangement of the programme was left over to the convention committee, which meets on Tuesday, 29th.

Mr. Mansfield drew attention to the fact that the Hon. Secretary had an undue share of the work of the Association and Convention, and the time had come when an honorary assistant secretary should be appointed.

The chairman concurred with Mr. Mansfield, and suggested that there was no one more fitted to hold that position than Mr. Mansfield himself, if he would allow himself to be nominated. Mr. W. S. Pender moved that Mr. Mansfield be asked to accept the position, seconded by Mr. Noad.—Carried unanimously.

In reply to the Hon. Sec.'s application, a letter was received from the Council Clerk stating that the Association might have the Council Chamber on the date named at 10s per day. It was asked if this meant the night also.

The meeting empowered Mr. Harrison to procure 150 badges, consisting of a deep blue ribbon, one and a quarter inches wide and about three inches long, with a queen bee and the letters H.R.B.K.A. printed in gold upon it, to be worn by members at the reception of the visitors and to be presented to the visitors after the ceremony, with a view to identifying the fraternity.

A letter was received from Mr. John Tucker, of Paterson, in regard to the colour of the registered labels, it was a very bad colour for the purpose, if it had been chosen for its unsuitability the choice would have been a success. Also that the minimum price which had been fixed by the Association worked harm to him. They had weekly auction sales at

Paterson, and as every one there knew the minimum price of the Association, rival bee-keepers, who did not belong to the Association, put a reserve upon their produce just a shade below the lowest he might sell for, and supplied the market while he could sell none.

The chairman considered that the case of Mr. Tucker was a hard one, but there was a remedy, which was to sell his produce under another label, not the registered one. The Association guaranteed the honey sold under that label, and demanded in return that the price of the article guaranteed as best should not be sold under a certain price, and if it was necessary to sell below that price, we must not ask the Association to guarantee it. He was quite in sympathy with Mr. Tucker in regard to the colour of the label, he did not like it at all. But the color was not registered, and we were at liberty to use what color we pleased, though it might be questionable policy to use different colors.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Association had resolved that exhibits for the "World's Fair," at Chicago, should be put up in uniform packages, and that applications for space would not require to go in until June 31, and the exhibits themselves in November, while the exhibitor's risk ceased when the stationmaster received them and placed the Government broad arrow upon them.

It was decided to apply for forty feet of space for the Association's exhibit at the show.

The meeting then dissolved.

Spotted Gum has begun to bloom at Paterson.

When shall we be able to improve upon the infamous auction method of getting our produce to the consumer.

Those bottles sent by Mr. Daly are daisies, but we may get even them improved.

The honey exhibit at the Maitland Show is to be worth looking at this year.

TO THE EDITOR.

Good Words from our Melbourne Friends.

Melbourne, Victoria,

March 19, 1891.

SIR,—On behalf of the bee-keepers of Victoria, allow me to offer congratulations, together with best wishes for the continued growth in usefulness and financial success of the *A.B.B.* May its circulation ever increase, its subscribers always pay in advance, and its editor and contributors find both pleasure and profit in the labour undertaken.

Blessed be apiculture!

Blessed is apiculture!

For apart from all consideration of a sordid nature, we bee-keepers *know* that the study of the bee-hive enlarges first a man's perception and secondly his heart. May it ever be the proud boast of our fraternity that we are "willing to communicate, ready to help, scorning all selfishness."

Here is just where a bee journal is wanted, and where its usefulness lies—to gather and distribute knowledge and bind bee-keepers together in brotherly bonds of kindness and goodwill.

Here in Victoria we had a bee journal, but it has died. Not so much through its want of support or limit in its field of action, but for need of vigorous pushing while on the up grade. Matters apiarian are growing in Victoria. Many persons have turned their attention in the direction of the immense crop of honey yearly going to waste. In many cases the gathering of this crop has proved a valuable increase to income. In some cases it is being relied upon entirely as a matter of support, and, with intelligent work, will prove equal to the demand made upon it.

The honey crop of the present season has been very patchy, some districts reporting a good flow, while others not far distant reporting little or none. So far as my experience goes, it is a very difficult matter to judge surely of the

blossoming of the various species of eucalyptus. They appear not to be subject to any fixed law.

Even the red gum of the river flats, which is the most reliable, blooming bi-ennially in December, has this season bloomed out of regular time in some parts of this colony.

The box tribe, embracing so many crosses by hybridation, are most puzzling. Possibly as we collect local information in various districts, we may have more data to work upon. To this end all bee-keepers should be urged to carefully note year by year the blossoming of particular individual trees—obtaining also botanical classification of the same. This may be accomplished by submitting to a botanist the leaf, blossom and seed pod, with description of bark and if possible a specimen of it. Towards the end of collecting and tabulating information, the writer has travelled largely through Victoria and has found infinite variation in the tribes; soil, aspect, and elevation all assisting:

With the growth of railways, we face the decrease of timber, and from a bee-keeper's point of view, it is rather saddening to see the work of the woodman's axe on all the wooded lines of railway; but probably we shall all be able to obtain our share of honey, even allowing the woodman to take more than his share of the timber. Has one generation the right to use for its own purposes that which nature has been preparing for centuries, thus robbing coming generations? Look at the waste of Cedar, Kaurie, and other timbers, which has been and is now going on. It is well for us that we have a bountiful land to supply that which has even made provision for man's greed.

With variation in species of timber we have also corresponding variation in sample of honey. In a few years probably we shall be better prepared to classify and name according to sources. In the meantime many bee-keepers are entirely in the dark as to the sources of

some of their honey. Intercommunication and comparison will help in this direction.

Here is work for an aspirant to botanical knowledge.

The sooner we, as bee-keepers, are prepared to place before the public a properly nominated sample of honey—which may be hereafter known as a standard—the better for our trade.

Kindly excuse these rambling remarks, but be assured of my own personal well wishes, and I think I may safely say as before stated, those of all our bee-keeping friends on this side of the Murray.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD T. CHAMBERS.

[We have not arrived at that stage of civilization where an intelligent State will say what may be taken and what reserved. We want a standard honey, or proper scale of points for judging it.—Ed.]

Words of Encouragement.

Sunnyside Apiary,
Denham Court.

Via Liverpool,
27th Feb., 1892.

Dear Sir,—It is with much pleasure my brother and I greet the promised advent of the *Bee Bulletin*.

A journal devoted exclusively to bee culture is what we have sadly needed hitherto, and if properly appreciated and supported by the fraternity, it will, I am satisfied, prove of inestimable value, for through its columns we shall have the pleasure of hearing of each others progress and success, and derive much benefit from being able to discuss moot points, new methods, and inventions in connection with our beloved industry. I have said—appreciated and supported—advisedly, for on that appreciation and support must, to a large extent, depend the value and even existence of the journal. Bee-keepers should remember that “Unity is strength,” say the bees as they strive, and each one brings

something more to the hive.” And I think all N.S.W. bee-keepers should unite in strengthening the hands of the editor of our first bee journal, for, however, hardworking and intelligent he may be, his task will prove almost superhuman, unless “each one brings something to the hive.”

The *Bulletin* will, I trust, lead to a better understanding and fuller knowledge of our native flora. A subject on which the English, Canadian and American bee journals cannot, of course, be expected to throw any light, it being peculiarly and exclusively our own. We must all bear this in mind, and give the bee-flora of our own districts due prominence in communications to our own bee journal. At present great confusion arises from the diversity of names applied to the same species in different localities. If the *Bulletin* reduces this chaos to something like order, alone, it will do a religious work, and deserve our highest commendations. Heartily wishing our new bee journal a long and prosperous career, and its editor the success he deserves for his courage and enterprise.

I remain, dear sir,
Yours faithfully,
S. A. BRADLEY.

Captain Slade, J.P., of Alberton, in Gippsland, says:—

Dear Sir,—I enclose the amount of 5s. for subscription for 1892, for the proposed *Bee Journal*, to be published in April.

I hope the new publication will contain *practical* information; I don't call for *theories*, I have enough of that in various books. Huber tells most of what may be required.

Mr. Doyle, of Werris Creek, in sending his subscription, gives us the following report of his season and district:—

DEAR SIR,—I have had a good honey season up here, but lost all the last of the honey flow by being laid up with

Influenza, and all the hives got blocked up, and I have only just had time to empty them again. The bees are not gathering much now; but the eucalypti will start to bloom again next month. The last two years the ridge eucalypti have bloomed from the end of March to June, when the leather-jackets begin, and continue till January; then the apple trees come into bloom and last till February, and there is then a spell of about a month; but there are enough wild vines to keep the bees gathering honey (surplus), so that practically speaking, the flow of nectar never ceases. In this part I have had the bees fill full-story top boxes (Langstroth) in the month of June, and have drones flying by the middle of August, and think I will manage to get them by the middle of July this year.

I have 60 hives, and I am now busy putting the top boxes on them, all ready for the flow from eucalypti. I have some with three stories on and all full of bees. I have mostly blacks, but I find the hybrids are far the best honey gatherers, but very bad at robbing. The pure Italians I have not tested at honey gathering, having only two queens, and I keep them to rear queens. Unfortunately I have very little spare time to attend to the bees, so cannot rear as many queens as I would like. The best colony has filled four stories of a langstroth hive, 10-frame, with honey, besides the brood chamber, and were even then blocked up for room for about a fortnight. Some of my hives were blocked up with honey for a month. So you see I have lost a lot of honey this season through lack of time, but I have now got lots of top boxes, and intend practicing the storifying system, and with the bee-escapes which I am now using, I hope to be able to keep up with the bees next season. I have had a two-roomed honey house built, and have all my bees in very good order. I am grouping them in the five-in-a-group system.

I am afraid this is rather dry reading, so will conclude it.

I am sir,
Yours faithfully,
E. F. DOYLE.

[Not at all dry, friend, give us more; would like your experience with the escapes.—Ed.]

Mr. George Green, of the Clarence River Apiary, which, by-the-way, is the one which took the highest National prize in 1890, sends the following with his year's subscription:—

I am very glad you are going to publish a bee journal, I wish you every success, and surely this great colony ought to support one good live bee paper, well-managed and up to date. It is very nice to learn how the brethren do things in one's own clime. The foreign journals are good, but there is so much that does not concern us, that everlasting wintering problem takes half their space. I am very sorry I cannot get down to your Convention, as I am very sure it would combine profit with pleasure. I hope to be able to take a run around in the slack time about July, to see how others do things and pick up a few wrinkles.

The following is from Mr. F. W. Daley, of Richmond:—

DEAR SIR,—I forward you 5s for my subscription to the new BEE BULLETIN, with my best wishes for its widest circulation. I regularly subscribe to the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and to the GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE, and I have read some six or eight standard works on the subject of bee-keeping. I may say I derive the greatest possible benefit from the perusal of the journals, and consider a journal of the kind actually indispensable to those who would keep abreast of the times, and make themselves conversant with all the recent developments and improvements in appliances of bee-keeping. A department of bee-keeping will shortly be inaugurated at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, ostensibly to teach the same to

the students. But in my opinion the bee farm at the college should also be utilised for the purpose of carrying out any experiments relating to hives, appliances, breeding, honey plants, &c., &c. And if this were represented to the Minister for Agriculture by such a society as the H.R.B.K. Association, I am sure it would be carried out, for as this is a national institution, I think it should be used for the benefit of the whole colony. As you are aware, all experiments of the kind alluded to are carried out in America at the State Agricultural Colleges, and notably by Professor A. J. Cook, of the Michigan State Agricultural College, whose work, "The Manual of the Apiary," should especially be read by all bee-keepers, as it treats exhaustively of the anatomy and physiology of the bee. The present has been a very good season for bees in this district, and most bee-keepers have a very good yield of honey, of which, more in my next letter. I intend in my next letter to give my experience of the new Hoffman frame, and of comparative tests of Italian and black bees.

F. G. DALEY.

[Friend Daley, the *A.B.B.* will have a little to say now an then on what we want the apiarian department to do, and the departments of Agriculture and of Public Instruction look very favourably on bee-keeping.--Ed.]

THE ITALIAN HYBRID.

W. SHAW.

THE Italian Hybrid is now generally recognised, in the matter of honey-gathering, to be able to hold its own with any race of bees in existence. This may seem a bold statement to make, but nevertheless authority is forthcoming to prove this. A "glance" at some of our American friends reveals what they think of the bee under notice. Mr. James Heddon prefers a carefully-bred strain of Blacks and Hybrids. Mr. P. H. Elwood, who has upwards of 1000 hives,

favors the Italian Hybrid. Mr. Gates says: "Get a few swarms of Blacks and Italians, let them mix up as they like, and you will get a bee that cannot be beaten." Recently a vote was taken in the United States on the various races of bees, with the following result: Blacks 1, Italian Hybrid 8, Pure Italian 9. This shows that the pure Italian and the Hybrid are about considered equal. What I meant in my question was, a pure Italian queen impregnated by a black drone. Let us see what Root thinks of Hybrids. He says: At present the Italians are by far the most profitable bees we have; and even the Hybrids have shown themselves so far ahead of the common bee that I think we can safely consider all discussions in the matter at an end. Many times we find colonies of Hybrids that go ahead of the pure stock. . . . As honey-gatherers, these bees that have the blood of the two races, are, I believe, taking all things into consideration, fully equal to the pure Italians. There are times, it is true, when the full-bloods seem to be ahead; but I think there are times and circumstances when the taint of black-blood gives an advantage in respect to the amount of honey gathered, that fully makes up the difference. . . . Speaking of a certain Hybrid queen, he says: "The queen was extremely prolific, and I do not know that I ever had one single queen that was the mother of so large a family of bees. Many of these hybrid queens are extraordinarily prolific." I have known a strong hybrid colony to be slowly accumulating stores in the fall, when full-bloods in the same apiary were losing day by day." My own opinion of these bees is that they are wonderful honey-gatherers; the queens are enormously prolific (a most desirable qualification it must be admitted in bee-keeping) that they fasten the combs well on to the bottom bars in the supers, but they are great robbers, and at times very vindictive.

Denison-street, Mudgee.

[Dear friend Shaw, this gives the editor a chance to confess to an error in the report of the vote on your paper at a past meeting of the B.K.A.; the majority who voted were for the pure race, though the weight of evidence seemed on the other side.—Ed.]

HOREHOUND HONEY.

W. SHAW.

READ AT THE MEETING OF THE B.K.A.

THE statement of the Rev. Mr. Ayling at your meeting on December 13 last, is the first instance that I have heard horehound honey condemned. I have sold a good deal of it for years back, and on not one single occasion have I ever heard a complaint against it; all my customers seeming perfectly satisfied. I will admit that when you are extracting, an odour peculiar to the herb greets the olfactory nerves, but this soon disappears, and you then have a very fine honey. It granulates in winter, and has a beautiful white appearance. As many are aware, the plant itself contains high medical qualities; and even that fact alone should make the honey to be sought after. With the uncertainty of the eucalyptus blooming annually, no one engaged in bee-keeping can afford to ignore any good honey-producing plant. If the season is a favourable one, the chances are that you will get two crops of horehound honey. This year, unfortunately, has been too dry, especially the latter half. Again, the flower being white, must assure a good honey.

Denison-street, Mudgee

THE APPLE TREE vs. WHITE BOX.

W. SHAW.

HAVING heard many statements regarding the apple tree as a honey producer, I made up my mind that this year I would have ocular proof as to the correctness of the statement or otherwise, and I now

fearlessly make the assertion that the apple tree is of very little use to the bees. On two occasions I took bee-keepers with me, and we carefully watched the trees in bloom where branches were near the ground, and yet we could only see an odd bee. As to moths, flies, hornets and beetles, the trees were literally covered with them. The white box is now in bloom, and what a difference to the apple tree. I went on three different occasions to examine the trees, and what a hum there is over your head. The trees are covered with bees, and scarcely any flies, beetles, &c., to be seen. Of the various kinds of eucalypti, I consider white box to be one of the most valuable to bee-keepers. We are now experiencing a great honey-flow from this source above.

Denison-street, Mudgee.

[Once I had thirty strong colonies next door to starving amid a profusion of apple-tree bloom.—Ed.]

Cowra, 5th March, 1892.

Hon. Secretary H. R. B. Ks' Association

Dear Sir,—I am so pleased with the idea of your Convention that I intend to be present.

What sort of a man is that namesake of mine who has been writing about eggs in queen cups? also A. J. C. Vögele? are they very big and strong? because if I meet them at the Convention I mean to have a say about those eggs, unless I get frightened when I see them; then I shall have to ask the editor of the *Bee Bulletin* to allow me to tell them why I think they are both wrong; but I am so busy just at present extracting that a fellow don't feel much inclined for writing, especially if you have had a good few stings on the hand.

I am glad the *Bee Bulletin* is to be published as a separate publication. I intend to subscribe and have already obtained one other subscriber, "still there's more to follow."

I want to tell Mr. Munday he is quite right about bees transposing eggs. I

have often known them to do so, when I have placed a frame containing eggs in a nucleus hive on the side of the hive I have known the bees to carry them on to the centre comb. There is no doubt about it, as I have seen it done over and over again; as I work most of my nuclei in three (3) frame glass hives and thus have a good opportunity of watching, generally having a full frame in the centre and only a strip of comb in frame on each tide, which allows me to see what is going on.

I find that Italians do better than blacks, but the first cross does better than either; that is, the progeny of a pure Italian queen mated with a black drone, or a drone from a hybrid queen. I know some one will say this would be an Italian drone, but I say no! Now fire away bee-keepers.

I did not write the above for publication, but I leave it to your option.

Hoping to see you shortly, and have a good time at Maitland.

Yours truly,

JOSIAH E. TAYLOR.

How to Handle Bees with Smoke.

WRITTEN FOR THE *American Bee Journal*.

After 20 year's experience in handling bees, let me say to the beginner not to attempt it without a smoker in good trim. Go in front of the hive, and blow in the entrance three or four strong puffs of smoke, then rap with the knuckles, ora small stick, half a dozen times, then two or three more puffs of smoke in the entrance; after which remove the cover of the super or hive, and raise the corner of the quilt and puff smoke in from the top, gradually drawing back the quilt or cloth, and cover the the sections or frames with smoke. Remember that the reason some of the bees are cross, and will sting is, that they have had no smoke. Be sure that every bee in the hive has been smoked, and you can handle them as you please.

J. I. BROUGHT.

The Convention.

THE general outline of the proceedings at the convention has been decided upon.

At 11 o'clock on Wednesday, the 6th of April, the Mayor of West Maitland will welcome the visitors to the town, when badges will be presented; in the evening the convention will assemble in the Council Chamber, in the same building, under the rule of the President or Vice-President of the B.K.A., the same will be repeated on the second and perhaps on the third evening, while it is intended that Saturday shall be devoted to visiting apiaries.

The following distant bee-keepers have signified their intention of being present:

Rev. J. Ayling, Pitt Town, near Windsor; Mr. H. E. Bigg, Thalgarrah, Armidale; Mr. J. J. Coil, Teralba; Mr. and Mrs. C. Chamberlain, Boggabri; Mr. B. Carroll, Riverstone; Mr. Jno. D. G. Caddan, Windsor; Mr. R. J. Cribb, Brisbane; Mr. B. Carlill, Casino; Mr. G. Eastcott, Tumbledown Creek, Paterson; Mr. Wm. Fagan, Dural; Mr. Albert Gale, Sydney; Rev. Wm. Grant, Aberdeen; Mr. J. Greenhalgh, Rydal; Mr. P. S. Grunsell, Goulburn; Mr. J. Hopson, Eccleston; Mr. B. Hoyle, Toronto; Mr. G. R. Humble, Warrah; Mr. W. G. Hughes, Wallsend; Mr. G. Hardy, Lambton; Mr. G. Knight, Kiama; Mr. G. Lawrie, Halton; Mr. — Lawrie, Halton; Mr. B. Naveau, Barrengarry; Mr. Wm. Niven, Eugowra; Mr. C. Osborne, Minmi; Mr. G. Packham, Molong; Mr. O. Pickles, Fassifern; Mr. J. S. Rutter, Armidale; Mr. John Somerville, Kiama; Mr. G. Streathfield, Forest Reefs; Mr. W. Shaw, Mudgee; Mr. M. Shallard, Glenbrook; Mr. J. Trahair, Sydney; Mr. J. E. Taylor, Cowra; Mr. H. W. J. Taylor, Minmi; Mr. A. Towers, Glendon Brook; Mr. H. J. Wright, Forbes.

There are also several who are known to be intending to attend who have not yet sent in their notice to the secretary. In addition there will be the attendance of the local members.

Some Points.

The following are a few points of interest to bee-keepers all over the world, and are gathered from the transactions of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association as reported in the *American Bee Journal*:—

What Ought the Government Do in Apiculture?

O. L. Hershiser—As the placing of a bounty on sugar has lowered it in price, and the price of honey is affected by the price of sugar, the producer of honey ought to have a bounty on honey.

R. McKnight—Our Government grants our bee-keepers' society \$500 annually.

On motion of P. H. Elwood, it was voted that the Department of Agriculture be requested to add a department devoted to apiculture, and that this department report to bee-keepers through the North American Bee-Keepers' Association; also that an appropriation be asked for to enable the North American Bee-Keepers' Association to meet the expenses of publishing a report of its proceedings. To look after this matter, the following committee was appointed: P. H. Elwood, O. L. Hershiser, and J. E. Hetherington.

Thus you will see the Yankees look to their government to help them along a little. We want *ours* to give us a 'Foul Brood Act.' Sugar is cheap here, but we do not feel the effect of that so much on the price of our honey as the insane competition among bee-keepers themselves, who rush all they produce into the market when they produce it; when by keeping it till fruit gets a little scarce, and by putting a reserve upon it at auction, they would get the price they want.

Some Facts Not Generally Known About Rendering Beeswax.

C. P. Dadant—I would not like to keep wax as hot as boiling water for a long time.

E. R. Root—We cannot keep it much over 180° for a long time.

S. Corneil—I saw some of the editors were talking about boiling wax, and I wanted to see if they knew what they were talking about. Beeswax does not boil until it reaches about 600°.

E. R. Root—What we meant by this was at the boiling point for water—212°.

C. P. Dadant—If bee-keepers will keep their wax away from iron, and melt it over water, they will have very little dark wax. For cappings and light combs the solar wax extractor is all right. With old combs the skins of the larvae soak up the wax.

S. Corneil—Make a solar extractor with double walls and double glass, and when the rays of the sun get in then they are "trapped," and the heat will rise to *above* that of boiling water.

C. P. Dadant—I do not wish to be understood as saying that heat alone injures wax, but heating it over boiling water does.

—
This throws a strong light on the wax question, very few seem to know the harm done to wax by its being heated in contact with dirty iron; it spoils the color every time.

The solar extractor is not the best for getting the wax from old brood combs—these should be broken up fine, soaked in water for 24 hours, to prevent the silken cocoons absorbing the wax, and then placed in a steam extractor, and if this is not on hand, it may be tied up in a bag of loose texture, such as cheese-cloth, with a weight sufficient to sink the whole mass, and then put in a tinned or copper boiler, when the wax will rise to the surface. It will still be necessary to take the bag from the water and apply pressure to get the whole of the wax.

Foul-Brood.

J. M. Hambaugh—Are we in need of any more legislation upon foul-brood?

E. R. Root—I think that foul-brood is

diminishing; hence, I think no more legislation is needed.

S. Corneil.—If you had a law, as we have in Canada, compelling each one to report the existence of foul-brood, I think you would be surprised at the amount of it.

So according to friend Corneil, without a Foul Brood Act we cannot really know how much of the pest we have; and I think he is not far wrong. It has been reported that foul brood exists in some box hives near the Paterson, so watch for indications.

What Constitutes an Italian Bee?

The committee, on a standard of excellence for Italian bees, reported as follows:

Italian bees must adhere to the combs when properly handled, and not cluster about or rush around and fall to the ground. They must have three bands, of a color ranging from golden yellow to leather color. They must be quiet when well handled, and in time of scarcity must place their honey in a compact shape.

Hive Covers.

Out of 16 answers from prominent bee-keepers in the *American Bee Journal* to a query as to whether a gable or flat hive cover is preferable, there is only one who even admits that the gable covers have any advantage, and he prefers the flat, therefore the whole 16 are unanimous in preference of flat covers.

Ascertaining the Purity of Italian Bees.

WRITTEN FOR THE *American Bee Journal*
BY GEO. S. WHEELER.

I believe that bees from very yellow pure queens, even though they meet black drones, will show three bands and pass for pure Italians.

I have an Italian queen, very light in color, whose bees show four or more bands, that I have reared queens from the past season, and were finely marked. In my apiary there were flying at the time these young queens were out on their wedding flight, drones that eight out of ten were black, yet every one of these young queens produced nice three-banded bees. It is my opinion, from the experience I have had, that we may rear as many queens as we like from these young queens, and put them in an apiary where none but pure Italian drones are flying within five miles, yet their progeny will show genuine hybrids.

The first season I tried to rear Italian bees, I had a fine queen produced of a Vermont queen-breeder (more than 20 years ago). I had some 20 colonies of black bees, and only Italian drones in the one Italian colony; the other colonies reared black drones, as usual. Nearly every queen, I thought, mated with Italian drones, as the bees showed three bands like the old Vermont colony.

Well, the next season I had introduced these Italian queens, and had lots of Italian drones, and supposed I should have all my queens purely mated, and have fine three-banded bees, but such was not the case, as about every one of those queens produced hybrids. There were no Italian bees then kept within ten miles of my apiary.

The past season there were no Italian bees kept within three or four miles, which these young queens could have met. Now, I believe that queen-breeders who rear their queens from very bright yellow pure queens, and warrant the queens sent out to produce three-banded bees, run little risk in having complaints of impurity, as the workers will show three bands; yet many of them are nothing but hybrids.

New Ipswich, N. Y.

Mr. W. S. Pender showed the first Porter bee escape on the Hunter at the meeting.

How I became a Bee-Keeper.

BY C. MANSFIELD.

LIKE an inapt speaker I once heard of, I wish to be permitted to "say a word or two before commencing to speak." I presume it will be generally allowed that it would be well to drop the "Mr. Editor" style, and adopt in its place the more fraternal, though American, appellation of friend. To begin, then:

Friend Editor,—As we shall shortly be able to peruse the first issue of the *Australian Bee Bulletin*, and as articles on apicultural subjects from those "on the job," so to speak, will tend to make it a real live paper, I have been searching around for a subject of general interest. Seeing that many topics would at the present time be unseasonable, I have hit upon the above upon which to say a few words, so that others may avoid my mistakes, and profit generally by my experience.

My first experience with bees was in felling trees in the bush and securing the honey, and occasionally the swarms whose stores I had thus appropriated. In this way, and by hiving in common boxes passing swarms, I gained some experience, although meagre compared with what is possible with moveable frames. I remember on one occasion being out in the bush a mile or two from home, when a swarm alighted on the top of a tall sapling. By climbing to the top I was able to cut off the limb without shaking the bees off. I then carried the bees home on a pole, and hived them successfully. In passing, I would like to say that my plan of robbing bees in common boxes was this:—In the middle of a fine day—not in the evening, as many do—I would invert the box after puffing in a little smoke, and waiting a short time, place an empty box over the one to be robbed, and drum the bees into the empty box in the usual way. Then by removing the side of the box cut away

the honey. The few bees remaining on the combs would soon "skidaddle" by lightly tapping the combs before cutting them out. My advice to box-hive men—by the way, a class now rapidly disappearing—is never rob in the evening. Some years ago I was enabled by the kindness of a friend to peruse Langstroth's noted book on Bee-keeping, which, you may be sure, I read with avidity from beginning to end. About the same time—now some eight years ago—I saw an apiary managed on modern and scientific principles. Exposure to such influences, as you will guess, brought on a complaint which is now spreading with alarming rapidity, and which is commonly known among those affected as "bee fever." And I made an attempt with the frame hive. Circumstances debarred me from following up the subject for a short time, but it was not long before I suffered a relapse, which proved more severe than the first attack.

Of course, like all progressive bee-keepers, I must then have Italians. I accordingly killed the black queen in one of my hives—previously transferred into frames—and by removing the queen cells from the eighth to the twelfth day or longer, I had a queenless colony. I then purchased an Italian queen, and introduced her to my queenless hive. Then, when I thought I was doing famously, my troubles began. It was a little after midsummer, and having the hives in a sunny aspect, the bees would persist in absconding. By degrees I removed the hive into a more shady place, and they stayed. When spring arrived, and the queen had just begun to lay, I was struck to find that my prized gold-banded friends had departed. I learned next day that a neighbour, a box-hive man, in hiving a swarm, noticed an unusual number of Italians among them. His curiosity being aroused, he examined them, and found *my queen* dead on the ground! She had been badly clipped, and so had managed to follow or lead the swarm,

Nothing daunted, I ventured again, and this time I invested a sum of £3 in a full colony of prime Italians, and during that summer made some increase. But an unusually wet winter following, my stock was reduced to two to commence the following season with. By natural swarming and a little manipulation, these two increased to forty in the one season.

By obtaining queens from reputed apiarians, and by importing direct from Italy and elsewhere, I now have bees fit for hauling in the honey, and number somewhere about 100 colonies. And I don't regret having embarked in the interesting and profitable study of apiculture.

Hunter River Apiary, Largs.

Convention Programme.

1. Reading Circular,—Sec.
2. President's and Vice-President's Addresses.
3. Roll Call.
4. Paper—J. F. Munday—Frames, Foundation and Wax.
5. Discussion on above.
6. F. G. Daley—Paper on Bee Pasturage.
7. Mr. A. Gale—Bees as Fertilizing Agents.
8. Discussion on both of the above papers.
9. Queens—R. J. Cribb.
10. Discussion.
11. Curing Lazy Swarms—W. Shaw.
12. Discussion.
13. Burr-combs—G. R. Humble.
14. Discussion.
15. Foul-brood—P. S. Grunsell.
16. Discussion.
17. Marketing Honey—A. Niven
18. Discussion.
19. Races of Bees—C. Mansfield.
20. Discussion.
21. Extracting Honey and Wax—M. Scobie.
22. Discussion.

23. Organization of Bee-keepers—R. Patten.
24. Discussion.
25. Point System in Judging—A. Vögele
26. Discussion.
27. Manipulation—W. S. Pender.
28. Discussion.
29. Bee Literature—G. R. Harrison.
30. Discussion.

TIME TABLE.

Wednesday 27th, 10.30 a.m., Mayoral Welcome; 7.30 p.m., assemble; 8 p.m., business commence; 10.30 p.m., adjourn.

Thursday 28th, 10 a.m., assemble; 10.30 a.m., business; 12.30 p.m., adjourn; 2 p.m., assemble; 2.30 p.m., business; 5 p.m., adjourn; 7.30 assemble; 8 p.m., business; 10.30 adjourn. At the close of this sitting it will be decided as to sitting on the following day or adjournment.

Subscriptions Received.

WE have to acknowledge subscriptions from the following, and to thank many of them for their kind words of encouragement.

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