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## **The progressive bee-keeper. Vol. XIII [XV], No. 6 June 1905**

Higginsville, Mo.: Leahy Manufacturing Co., June 1905

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JUNE 1905







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## .. Contents ..

Good Things in the Bee-Keeping Press	- -	143
Government Aid	- - - - -	147
Seeking Information	- - - - -	148
"Skirts" a Swarm of Bees	- - - - -	150
Editorial	- - - - -	152
Hoffman Frames	- - - - -	155
Missouri Patents	- - - - -	158

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# The Progressive Bee-Keeper

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Supplies

VOL. XIII.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., JUNE 1905.

NO. 6

## GOOD THINGS IN BEE-KEEPING PRESS

### SOMNAMBULIST.

Think if I wander around outside of "beedom" much more I will be compelled to change the above heading slightly but will make yet one more venture. It is from the "Advertising World" I cull:

Wonderful discovery (copy right). Don't pay \$5 to \$10 for a stand of bees. When you can learn the art and secret of fitting up empty hives and place same in your own door yard so as to attract bees for miles and thus catch all the swarms you want at home, year after year, for nothing. Easily done. Brooklet mailed for \$1.00. Address T. W. Bryan, Box 66, Fricklia, Illinois.

That's a "booster" or pulling ad. isn't it on page 465 Gleanings may be found a Miller "straw" which reads:

"No one has done so much harm to the market for extracted honey as bee keepers themselves—those who have put unripe honey on market. Yes, I know that is not an original remark. E. D. Townsend said practically the same thing, p. 416, and others have said it; but it needs to be said a good many times."

And with all the sayings there will yet remain some who are so lost to reason or common sense as to "do it again"

Coleridge defined wisdom as "common sense in an uncommon degree." I have but one fault to find with this term and that is it's too mild. The

Dr. should have substituted a club. Straws wont always do the work. To be sure they indicate which way the wind blows, but that same wind has oftimes to attain cyclonic force before it will wake a man up as regards his safety and that of his neighbor.

Years ago I knew of a beekeeper selling extracted honey by sample, and among other sales he made one of five gallons to a hotel keeper, but when the honey was brought around it was in a working or fermenting condition. The hotel man refused to take the same as it was not true to sample, and this so enraged the honey producer as to cause him to undertake to take the man's life.

Here was so simple a thing as the offering of an unsalable article almost ending in muder, accident alone preventing.

Old Dame Experience has boxed my ears and shook me up until I am bound to believe with Mr. Hatch in same number of Gleanings:

"All men are not honest, and bee-men as a class may be more honest than some others; but there is no use shutting our eyes to the fact that all bee-men are not honest"

The following suggestions on the Sibbald non-swarmer plan meet with my favor: In regard to the article in the Review, by Mr Sibbald, and yours in Gleanings on "something that Promises Better than Shook Swarming." I should like to state that the plan is a fine one, but it is not necessary to wait for queen-cells to be started, but all strong colonies can be treated thus at the beginning of the



main honey-flow: and, futher, when you move the old colony to one side, turn it with the entrance in the opposite direction for a day or two, as this will keep the field bees from going into the old colony where their queen is, and this is a very important part of the operation.

D. R. KEYES.

Montgomery, Ala., Apr. 4.

[Your last suggestion I believe to be indeed important. Let all those who try the plan take note.—Ed.]

From the Review we clip the following:

"Advertisements in some of the farm papers, and general newspapers, urge upon city people, villagers, farmers—especially women folks—to go into bee-keeping. They tell how profitable, fascinating and healthful it is, and how easily it is learned. I suppose it may be 'business' for the manufacturers of supplies and the publishers of bee journals, to thus help to make additions to our ranks, but, if this thing is carried too far we will soon have to start another 'League.' Seriously, it seems to me that it would be better if the publishers of bee journals devote all of their energies to the betterment of existing bee-keepers, instead of trying to augment their numbers. It does not seem like a kindness to either the new recruits nor to the old hands, when we urge people to enter bee-keeping at the same time that we are donating hundreds of dollars to try and lift the honey market even to a normal plane."

Now will be a good time to test this matter. Sting on the hands may be largely prevented by washing the hands in strong vinegar, says Ira D. Bartlett, of East Jordon, Mich. He says it is really amusing to see the bees dart at the hands, and then dodge back just as they have touched or

nearly touched the skin. It is probably the odor that does the business.

"Bees prefer a one-inch auger-hole to all other forms of entrances. This may be proven by boring a hole into the back of any hive having a slot entrance at the front."

As I happen to be in a position to know that almost every bee-keeper in this section, and I presume other sections were not slighted, was treated to literature similar to that Miss Wilson gives the readers of "Our Bee-keeping Sisters." I give her opinion of some as taken from American Bee Journal:

THE WONDERFUL (?) COTTON CONTROLLABLE HIVE

About 25 years ago a hive with a woman's name attached was somewhat extensively advertised for which large claims were made, and no little was said in the bee papers about Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton and her controllable hive, the general belief seeming to be that there was very little if any woman in the case beyond a man using his wife's name. Little has been heard of Mrs. Cotton and her hive for some years, but lately it seems to be coming to the surface again.

A circular about "The Controllable Hive, Improved Bees, and New System of Bee-Keeping," is to hand, which starts out by saying that owing to poor health Mrs. Cotton has transferred her interest in "The New System of Bee-Keeping" to her husband, C. R. Cotton. But just as great things can be done with the hive now as 25 years ago. Get the improved bees in the Controllable hive, and "your success in the end, and your profits of the first season are greater from one swarm of these bees in this hive than from 6, swarms of bees in any other hive." Hives with outfit ready to receive a swarm of bees, \$6. 00. The same with a "full swarm of Improved Bees."



\$20. That's only \$14 for the bees alone.

The following letter has also been received:

MARNE Dec. 24, 1904.

Miss Wilson:—Should like to introduce the Controllable Hive and Improved System of Bee-Keeping to the people of Illinois. If you will favor me with your order for a Controllable hive and complete outfit on receipt of this letter, I will furnish you on receipt of \$4.00—regular price \$6.00—providing you will recommend to your friends, if it pleases you, as I am certain it will.

I refer to F. G. Adams who has had the hive in use more than 20 years.

Don't delay if you want the hive and outfit at this reduced price.

yours truly,

C. R. Cotton.

To which has been sent the following reply:

Dear Sir:—In reply to your recent letter, I would say that it is considerable trouble to test unknown things, and would suggest the following arrangement: You send me free, with all charges for carriage prepaid, your complete \$6.00 outfit of hive, etc., together with \$2.00 to pay for the trouble of testing, and if upon trial its great superiority is shown, I will cheerfully recommend it to friends.

EMMA WILSON.

The strange thing in the case is that after 25 years of publicity such a wonderful hive would need to be introduced "to the people of Illinois," or of any other state. Strange too, that not a man of those who make their bread and butter by producing honey seems to have gotten hold of this great improvement by which their profit could be increased sixfold!

Honey is said to be as good as soap for cleansing the hands. Directions are to rub it on when the skin is dry, moisten a little and rub again, use

more water and rubbing, and finally wash thoroughly when the hands will be as clean as though the strongest compound of grease and lye were used

The Farmers' Review.

I did not have much faith in the cleansing properties of anything as sticky as honey, but concluded to give it a fair trial. Say, it works better than you may think it would. Give it a trial and see.

I have lady customers that buy alone for toilet purposes, saying they can get no equivalent in the way of creams and lotions on the market. Of course we think them a sensible lot, and they are women of mental and financial stability.

Miss Wilson also calls our attention to the success achieved by a Michigan sister who prides herself on furnishing honest honey:

#### A SISTER'S WELL-RIPENED HONEY

Mr. A. L. Root, in his notes of travel, gives an interesting account of success of a sister bee-keeper in northern Michigan. She not only takes the entire charge of between 50 and 60 colonies of bees and secures good crops of honey, but adds to that the honor of producing a very superior article. Score one for the sister. Mr Root says.

"It was my privilege to stay over night at the home of Mrs. Morrow, who has between 50 and 60 colonies of bees, but as neither her husband nor one of the children take to bees, she managed them entirely herself. She has secured good crops of honey, and strange to tell, her honey never candies. It is stored in sap-pails with a cloth tied over the top and on a frosty morning you can turn the pail

My secret forebodings in regard to the practicability of brick honey (for this section), received an awakening shock on reading from Louis H. Scholl



in Gleanings, as follows:

"A 'brick of honey' is standing up well in Texas. This "brick" I brought with me on my return to the South, simply carrying it in one of my grips. It has gone through all kinds of weather and through temperatures ranging from below zero up to 95 degree. The weather here has been raging between 65 and 85 since I came home, and the honey is just as it was when it was first put up in December."

My opinion is that the brick-honey industry can be developed here in the south quite profitably, although it did not seem so at first. Well ripened honey granulates solid during our winters, and some of our honeys granulate soon after being taken off the hives early in the season. With the assistance of cold storage or a refrigerator, no doubt the candying could be hastened, and result in a more solid cake for cutting into bricks. Once put up in the smaller packages it would stand up longer, and there would be little danger during the cooler months. When warm weather sets in, the brick might be placed in cold storage as are other things. If this can be done there is no reason why such goods must be sold out before warm weather comes. Neither will the bee-keeper be compelled to take any unsold brick honey off the dealers' hands at the North the same as to the south.

It would be well worth trying some experiments along this line. If the bricks can be kept in a cool place and taken out as needed when sold to the customer, such honey could be kept on the market the year round.

A cake which I have here now has withstood as high a temperature as 95 degrees during the day, without being the day, without being affected. Of course, the nights were quite cool. This would go to show that a very low temperature is not necessary in the

cold storage. If the honey will remain firm in a cool room the problem will be solved. The room must be cool and dry. None of the honey need be kept on display in a warm store where it might melt down, daub shelves and counters, and attract flies. Large printed placards would remind the consumer that a stock of the honey is kept on hand.

On Page 470 E. R. Root has this to say on counter articles vs direct retractions of comb honey:

"Mr. W. A. Selser, partly under the direction of the A. I. Root Co. and partly under that of the Honey-producers' League, has been writing various articles on honey as a food, particularly on the general subject of comb honey and the impossibility of its manufacture. He has interviewed quite a number of publishers and editors, and in most cases he has been fairly successful, either in securing direct retractions or counter-articles giving the truth about honey.

Mr. Selser remarks in one of his last letters that publishers do not like to admit that they have published an untruth in their columns, because they don't like to confess to have published nonsense or a lie. But it is often very easy to get them to accept a counter-article that does not in anyway refer to the first one, but which gives the facts from the standpoint of the bee-keeper. Mr. Selser thinks (and I believe properly) that sometimes it is wise to give prominence to the original untruth by even mentioning it—that it is often best to ignore it entirely, and then give a readable article which the publisher will be in duty bound to accept and place before the readers as prominently as possible."

And on page 472 he tells us how pure foods are placed under the ban of distrust.



"It has been stated that the average man is more capricious, timid, and more subject to panic over his food and drink than almost any thing else. Some of the late scientific articles for popular reading, while confined very largely to the actual facts, have a tendency to create general distrust in nearly all lines of pure foods that are capable of adulteration. Reputable manufacturers and honest producers over the country generally are beginning to feel the effects of these articles, because they have been copied widely, fearfully distorted, and commented on in the most sensational manner by the average daily press. The consumer reading these distortions will not dare to buy any more canned goods or syrups, much less honey, because this honey is reported to be very generally adulterated. The result has been a general 'panic' among consumers. Even ripe fruits have been placed under the ban of distrust, because, forsooth, somehow the story got into circulation that a 'poisonous fungus' was affecting the cucumbers, and that even tomatoes might cause 'locomotor ataxia,' and that often heads of lettuce would be the nesting place of 'deadly-vipers.' The trouble is, it is sometimes wise not to tell the whole truth, for the reason that yellow journals desiring something sensational to 'fill up space' will take that truth, garble it, and make a mess of lies out of it. That is exactly what they have done regarding honey. There can be no doubt at all that producers of both comb and extracted honey have been heavy sufferers."

of honey upside down and not spill a drop, it is so thick, and yet it is just as clear as a glass. For quality it suited me so well I took a bottle of it home to show our Medina folks what good thick honey is like. The only explanation she could give for the fact that her honey does not candy;

while the raspberry honey of that region is celebrated for candying solid as soon as cold weather comes, is that her extracting is done late in the fall. She just piles the hives up one story on top of another, so as to give the bees room. When extracting time comes, the combs are taken into a warm room, and kept there long enough to get well warmed through. The room is kept at a pretty high temperature where the extracting is done, because the honey is so thick it is a pretty hard matter to throw it out.

"Of course there are other bee-keepers, many of them, working on this plan. The honey is better ripened, a good deal, than the average comb honey, especially comb honey that is taken from the hive before it is soiled by the bees tramping over it. And I for one do not want any more comb honey so long as I can get Mrs. Morrow's extracted. I have submitted my sample to a good many people since then, and they pretty much all agree with me. The honey is so thick it is difficult to get it out of the bottle without warming, or letting it stand in a warm room. Of course such thick honey ought to bring more money than the ordinary liquid honey on the market; but I for one would be willing to pay for it."

#### GOVERNMENT AID.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is about to establish a sub-station for experimental work in apiculture in connection with its plant introduction garden located at Chico, California. This is in fulfillment of a plan brought forward by the apicultural investigator of the bureau of entomology of the department. Mr. Frank Benton, in 1903, and one of his assistants, Mr. J. M. Rankin, has recently been commissioned to proceed to Cali-



fornia and undertake the conduct of this work, which will consist in making observations as to the honey- and pollen-yielding capabilities of the various plant introductions made by the bureau of plant industry, especially of new forage crops, in order to determine their availability in filling gaps in the honey and pollen yields in various parts of the country. Also to receive and test (under control) promising honey-producing plants, and to make comparative test of such new varieties of honey bees as may be secured for introduction into this country. Investigation of bees diseases as they exist in California will also be undertaken.

#### BUILDING DRONE COMB.

"Say, Doolittle, I am perplexed on the comb-building matter. When I wish my swarms of bees to build worker comb at this time of the year they generally build only drone comb. Can you tell me something about this?"

"All observing apiarists know that, as the season for swarming draws on space, and the colony is about to cast a swarm, the queen ceases her prolificness, so as to be able to fly and go with the swarm, so that, when swarming does occur, said queen is scarcely larger than a virgin. Nature has so ordained things for two reasons, the first of which is that the queen can fly: for, if taken from the colony when no such preparation has been made, she can not fly at all, as she is so heavy with eggs. The second reason is that the queen need not be damaged by an over-accumulation of eggs before there is time for the bees to construct comb in the new home for her to deposit her eggs in. Thus we find that all good queens do not become fully prolific again until nearly a week has elapsed after the new colony has arrived at its new location or home."

"Well, what has that to do with what I wish to know? It was not about queens or swarming I wished to know just now."

"Just this: During this week comb has been built very rapidly, especially if honey is coming in plentifully, while the queen has not been able to keep up with the workers, owing to the reason I have given you the result of which is that the bee commence to build store comb, which is always of the drone size of cells."

"That is something I did not know about, but it does look reasonable that when building cells for honey only the size should be of the drone order. But why did you speak of good queens in this matter?"

"Because some seem to think that no drone comb is built by new swarms unless the queen is an old one, or one which is beginning to fail. I consider that the reason I have given has more to do with the building of drone comb by newly hived swarms, with the majority of bee-keepers, than does the failing-queen part; but I am free to admit that much more drone comb will be built where there is a failing queen with any colony building comb."

"Well if you are right how is such a state of affairs to be avoided?"

"The way I manage is to give the colonies or swarms which are hived on frames not filled with foundation a brood-chamber of only a little more than half the size of the one from which they came, this smaller size being made by contracting the chamber of the new hive to the size I wish by means of dummies or division-boards, and also giving them a set of sections at the time of hiving them, so that the swarm may have rather more room in such a prepared hive than they would if the hive had its full complement of frames with no sections."

"Ah! I think I see. This gives



them room to store the honey they gather in the sections rather than in the brood-frame."

"Yes, and in this set of sections there should be several containing partially drawn comb or 'bait sections' as they are called, in order to coax the bees up into the sections for storing their honey. And where such a start is made at first in the sections this gives the bees plenty of room above to store honey, thus not crowding them in the brood-chamber, so that comb of the worker size is built below, and that only as fast as the prolificness of the queen demands it. As her ability for laying increases, more comb is build, so that, at the end of the white-honey flow, we have the frames in the contracted brood chamber filled with all worker comb, and the sections filled with nice white honey."

"I see. But the colony can not winter in this contracted hive, can it?"

"No, not usually. After the white honey flow is over, the dummies are taken out and hives filled with frames of worker comb."

"But suppose I do not have such comb?"

"Then I should wait till the dark-honey flow commenced latter on, and give the colony enough frames filled with foundation to fill the hive, when these would be drawn out into nice worker combs, also the same being filled with honey, and thus your colony be in good shape for winter."

"Then you would not try to make this colony build all the combs the hive contains?"

"No. Although it can be done, yet my experience goes to show that it is far better to buy foundation for the remaining frames to take the place of the dummies than it is to try to make the bees fill them with workers comb

when they will, as a rule, try to build drone comb only."

"Why not fill all the frames with foundation on the start, and not try to have any comb built?"

"You can do this, if you so feel; and where any one has no time, or does not have the disposition to do the work this plan requires, it is well to fill all frames thus, for it will secure worker comb in all the frames. But in the use of the plan as I have given it to you, the cost of the foundation is saved with those frames which the bees fill with natural comb; and what is still better, according to my view, the bees are put at work in the sections at once, and a greater yield of the more salable honey is secured; for, so far as I have ever been able to see, the bees work in the sections to better advantage while the bees are building the proper amount of comb below than they will with no comb to build. In other words, these frames are filled, apparently, without the cost of any section honey, while it seems to give great energy to the colony so building comb."

"But won't the queen go up in those bait sections and put eggs in them, where only empty frame starters are used in such a contracted brood-chamber?"

"She will be likely to. And I am glad you asked about this, as it would have slipped my mind to say any thing about this part of it if you had not. In all cases where empty comb is used above, over a brood-chamber having empty frames, a queen-excluder should be used, so as to keep the queen where we wish her. In this we have the advantage of those of the past, who had no perforated metal to use."

"But does not this queen-excluding metal hinder the work in the sections?"



"From many careful conducted experiments during the past, I unhesitatingly say no!"—Gleanings in Bee Cultural.

#### UNRELIABLE BEE-INFORMATION

An interesting department in the American Bee Journal, that has been running in that journal for some time, is "Our Beekeeping Sisters." We herewith copy the following interesting items from the last issue of that magazine:

A good friend in Michigan sends a clipping from that excellent periodical, The Epworth Herald, which emphasises anew the fact that it is not a safe thing for any other than a bee-paper to publish matter about bees without first submitting it to some practical bee-keeper. The article is styled, "Safeguarding the Queen," is reliable in the main, and written in an interesting manner, but some of the items would hardly be endorsed in their entirety by a two thirds vote of the sisters. For example:

"Indeed, it is practically impossible for an intruder to enter a strange hive without discovery. And discovery means instant death and dismemberment."

And yet thousands of bees, upon returning from the fields, have entered wrong hives and receive a kindly welcome. Did any of the sisters ever observe a case of "dismemberment," as mentioned?

"The honey-gatherers are not permitted to feed the queen direct. When they enter a hive they must give a mouthful to two drones waiting on guard. If the sample proves satisfactory the bees carry the nectar to the storeroom, where it is mixed with what the other workers have gathered. When the hive-cells are full, the

workers and drones sample the mixture again, and then seal up the cells."

That leaves us all agape for fuller information. During the weeks when no drones are in the hive what is done with the mouthful that should be given to the "two drones waiting on guard?" What weapons of offense or defense do those "two drones waiting on guard" use? "If the same proves satisfactory the bees carry the nectar to the storeroom," but if the "two drones" do not O. K. it, what is done with it? Is there not danger that the "two drones" will be overworked when the workers are pouring into the hive with their loads at the rate of a hundred or more in a minute? When the cells are full, and the mixture is sampled again, do the same "two drones" do the second sampling?

Other questions may be asked when the foregoing are answered.

#### AN AUSTRIAN SISTER 'SKIRTS' BEES.

The following account of what one of the sisters did in Austria is from the American Bee-Keeper:

"Jungklaus also tells how a young woman captured a swarm of bees. Being on a tramp, she found a swarm of bees hanging on a bush. Wishing to secure it, she took off one of her skirts, tied up one end, and, by the help of sticks, spread it out in such a way that she could hive the swarm into it. After the bees had all moved in, she tied up the other end of the skirt and thus carried the swarm several miles to her home. (Well done.)"

We have twice had a somewhat similar experience. Once on our way to the Hastings apiary—which is about 5 miles distant—when about half way there we were offered by one of the neighbors a small swarm of bees which hung on a willow-tree by the roadside. Dr. Miller thought it would not pay to



bother with them, as we had no way of carrying them, when I suggested my bee-hat—a broad brimmed straw-hat with a veil sewed around the outer brim, having a rubber cord run in the lower edge. He rather thought it might work, and as the bees were hanging on a convenient lower limb, we commenced operations at once.

Dr. Miller trimmed everything down as close to the swarm as possible, then carefully cut off the limb with the swarm, and while I held the hat upside down and stretched the rubber cord as much as possible, he slipped the swarm inside, while the veil was secured about the limb above the swarm and we started on our way once more, I carrying the swarm by the end of the limb. When we reached the apiary we got a hive full of empty combs ready and let the bees run in, and I once more had possession of my hat.

Once later, when we had occasion to hive a small swarm at some distance from the Wilson apiary, we used the hat again in preference to carry a hive that distance.

#### WINTERING BEES—GOOD PROSPECTS.

I want to report on my good luck in wintering the bees last winter, as it was very cold. I was away from home last fall when I ought to have been packing my bees, so I left them on the summer stands. The stands are from 8 to 24 inches from the ground. I lost 3 colonies out of 21, so I now have 18, all in good condition. The three that died were late swarms, and they did not store honey enough to feed them. We did not have a very good honey crop last season. A hail storm ruined the first crop of alfalfa. I got 500 pounds of comb honey, and increased from 14 to 21 colonies. We have a good prospect for the season, if all goes right Success to all bee-keepers.—The

American Bee Journal.

MRS. BEN FERGUSON.  
Ford Co., Kans., May 8.

#### Low Rates Via Chicago & Alton.

Buffalo and return, \$26.15, July 8, 9, and 10, account of Grand Lodge Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The Chicago & Alton R'y announces this rate and extends it not only to Elks but also to the public.

On to Denver. \$16.65 round trip Account Epworth League, July 5 to 9, 1905. The general public may take advantage of this opportunity for a Colorado outing.

\$28.80 to Baltimore and return via Chicago & Alton R'y, July 1, 2 and 3. This timely opportunity to go east at a low rate is account of the meeting of the Christian Endeavorers. The rate is also open to the public.

Low rates to Milwaukee, account Modern Woodman meeting the Chicago & Alton R'y will sell tickets from Higginville, Mo to Milwaukee and return at \$10.00. Dates of sale June 17 to 18 inclusive.

N. E. A. low rates. Account of the meeting of the National Educational Association, July 3 to 7, the Chicago & Alton R'y will sell excursion tickets to Ashbury Park, N. J., and return at \$33.40. Dates of sale, June 28 to July 1. The rate is open to the public.

For further particulars apply to  
S. A. VERMILLION, Ticket Ag't  
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## The Progressive Bee-Keeper

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as second-class matter.

**50 CENTS PER YEAR.**

E. B. GLADISH, Editor and Manager.  
S. E. MILLER - - Editorial Writer.  
LEAHY MFG. Co., - - - Publishers.

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7 agate lines, ½-inch, one insertion.....	\$ 50
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28 agate lines, 2 inch, one insertion.....	1 70
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No fake medicine or mining scheme, or advertisements of a questionable character allowable.

### SAWDUST FOR SMOKER FUEL.

S. E. MILLER.

Sometime last autumn I gave my experience with the use of Sawdust as smoker fuel. As the item at that time was rather unreasonable and as I have been using sawdust almost exclusively when working with the bees this spring, I will here repeat the directions for using it, in the hope that it may help some who did not read the item when it appeared in the Progressive, and others who have probably read it and forgotten. I used sawdust from under my buzz saw table which is mostly from pine, or other soft wood, and the smoker is of the upright boiler (fire pot) pattern, the kind now in general use.

Directions: first, put down on the grate a small wad of excelsior or fine shavings. In the absence of both of these, use grass. Put on just enough to keep the sawdust from sifting down through the grate into the space be-

neath it. Next fill the fire pot to within about three-fourths of an inch of the top with sawdust shaken and packed down until it is packed somewhat firm but not too solid. Then with a pointed stick bore a hole down in the center by running the stick down nearly to the grate and giving the upper end a rotary motion so as to form a funnel shaped hole in the sawdust. Into this hole drop about a teaspoonful of kerosine. I keep a ten cent oiler with kerosine (coal oil) in it where it is handy and find it useful in firing up even when I do not use sawdust. Now, light a match and drop it into the hole and set the smoker outside with the cover thrown back and leave it so for fifteen to twenty minutes. Do not close it too soon or it will smother out in short order. After it is well started put some green grass on top of the sawdust to act as a spark arrester and close it up. Give several puffs to make sure that it is well started, and if you have done everything just right, you will be ready for three or four hours work without replenishing of fuel. When she gets too hot and begins to throw sparks it will be necessary to grab up a bunch of green grass and put it on top to keep down the sparks. Fifteen or twenty minutes may seem long to wait for a smoker to get ready for work but it is not necessary for the engineer to sit down and wait for it to rain steam (smoke). If he knows how to manage his work he will find plenty of turns to do while the smoker is getting ready and in the end it will be a saving of time. I wish to say, however, that I do not recommend this way of filling a smoker when one wishes to use it for only a short time, such as opening one or two hives on, when intended to be used for only about half an hour. In such cases I fill the smoker in the ordinary way—that is start the fire in the bottom with shavings or



other fine stuff and gradually coarser stuff, using about half decayed elm wood, after it is started, which I find to be the most satisfactory for ordinary use. Another and better way and one which I frequently use is to pick up a few coals where the smoker has been emptied before. Drop these on the grate and on them a few drops of kerosine. Drop 'n a match, add first fine and later coarser fuel and leave stand open for a few minutes, when it will be ready for use. Always remember that it is not well to close a smoker too soon after starting a fire in it. A newly started fire must be fed on plenty of oxygen and if the lid or cover is closed down too soon, we shut off the greater part of the supply.

#### A FEW SMOKER HINTS.

A smoker lying on its side will not consume as much fuel as when standing upright. Therefore when you do not expect to use it for several minutes lay it down. If the wind is blowing, you will save fuel and the time necessary to replenish it by lying it down and placing a box or hive body and cover over it.

If you keep the smoker in the honey-house, cut an old five gallon can in two and nail half of it to the wall near the door in which to place the smoker when you have emptied out the coals after using it. Should a few stray sparks remain in it, there will be no danger of them dropping onto something combustible and starting a conflagration. Keep a five-cent pocket knife handy and give the smoker a general scraping out occasionally.

Never kick or throw it against the side of the house when it gets a contrary spell. I have tried this and find it does no good. Now, if I don't change the subject, my write-up for the Progressive this month will be all smoke and very little fire.

#### QUEEN EXCLUDERS.

In an interesting and somewhat elaborate article in May Review, Page 138, H. H. Hyde takes a "dig" (as he expressed it) at queen excluders in the production of extracted honey, and I am now going to take a "dig" at him.

Mr. Hyde says in fact they are in truth and reality "honey excluders." They can be easily dispensed with, and are just that much less machinery to handle and that much less expense. I wish Mr. Hyde had told how to dispense with them and at the same time secure first-class honey without having a lot of worms (larva) swinging around in the honey at extracting time. Of course this is not such a serious matter as there is nothing really foul or dirty about these larva. But at the same time I should not like to have a number of my honey customers come around at extracting time and see a lot of what nearly every one of them would term "worms," swimming around in the extractor.

Therefore I use queen excluders exclusively in the production of extracted honey. By their use I am not obliged to handle combs containing five pounds of brood and one pound of honey and run the whole through the entire process of extracting. I am not throwing out a lot of larva that have practically consumed the greater part of the food necessary to bring them to maturity. I am saved the bother of watching to see that none of these larva are mashed while straining the honey and their contents becoming mixed with the honey. As I said there is really nothing dirty about this larva, and in fact it is not to be compared to the old-fashioned strained honey where bees brood pollen and all were often smashed up together and the honey allowed to drain out. But to say the



least, it is a disgusting sight and I prefer to keep the larva and the honey separate. Perhaps Mr. Hyde could tell us how to manage to avoid this, but he certainly neglected to do so in this article.

There seems to be a peculiarity about my locality or my bees that seems to be just the reverse of the way bees do in other localities, if I may judge from reading of the experience of others. This peculiarity is that if the queens, by any possible means, obtain access to the upper story, they will occupy it to the exclusion of all the combs beneath. In many cases the latter will be deserted and left bare and dry. If Mr. Hyde can tell me how to get this order reversed and manage to keep the queens below, and have full combs of honey above without the use of an excluder, he will certainly enlighten me.

#### IS IT THE MAN, THE BEE OR THE LOCATION?

At the Bee-keepers Convention held on the World's Fair grounds in St. Louis last September, a majority of those who spoke on the subject were opposed to the use of queen excluding honey boards in the production of extracted honey. On the other hand many comb honey producers use and recommend the slatted wood-zinc honey boards which are queen excluding. Here at Bluffton it is just the reverse. Queen excluders are an actual necessity in the production of extracted honey while in the production of comb honey they are a nuisance and an abomination. I do not use a queen excluder or honey board of any kind in the production of comb honey and I think I may safely say that not one section in five hundred ever contains any brood. Now who can tell why it is that I have to work my bees just contrary to the way many others manage?

#### PROSPECTS.

The prospects for a honey crop are very fair at present. Were the colonies as strong as they should be at this season I should expect a heavy crop from white clover, as the pastures and many waste places are almost white with bloom and have been so for over a week past—this 27th day of May. The weather has been so cool, however, that a greater part of the time the bees worked very little or none at all and the same cool weather has somewhat retarded brood rearing. If the white clover continues to bloom for a few weeks yet, I think we shall secure a good crop of it, provided the weather is favorable.

#### IMPROVE YOUR STOCK OF BEES.

There are probably very few apiaries where there isn't one or more colonies that out-do all the others in the amount of honey they store. The bee-keeper should aim to have queens reared from the mother of such colonies to replace those of less industry. Swarming time is on hand and when these best colonies cast a swarm we should save all choice cells from such colonies and use them to best advantage. If we have other colonies that are not up to the standard as honey gatherers and then cast swarms about the same time, or a few days later than the best colonies, we should remove their queen cells and substitute therefore queen cells from the best colonies. Another good way is as follows: Five or six days after the best colony has cast a swarm, break up into nuclei the old or parent colony having reared queen cells. By cutting the queen cells all but one, from such combs as contain more than one and inserting them in combs that have no queen cells on them, we should be able to join a nucleus for each queen cell or at least one for each comb contained in the hive. Use one comb having a



queen cell to each nucleus and add combs, and if necessary bees from other colonies to make them strong enough. It is not necessary in this climate, however, to have nucleus very strong after about June 10th to 15th, as the weather from that time on is not likely to be cold enough so chill them should they not be very strong.

Nucleus when formed in this way and moved to a different stand should be confined to the hive for about three days to prevent them from returning to original stand. In this way we can secure a number of queens from the best queen mothers, and after they have commenced laying we can use them to replace such queens as are found wanting or in any way inferior. In this way we may greatly improve our stock at very little expense or trouble.

The needless hives need not be expensive and may be only large enough to hold two frames. Anyone handy with tools should be able to construct a number of them in a short time and of boxes bought at a low price from the grocer.

#### SAVE THE WAX.

Did you ever think of it that an ounce of wax is worth nearly 2 cents? That it does not take a very large piece to weigh an ounce and that there is always a demand and ready sale for it, while it requires hard work and hard thinking to dispose of honey at a fair price?

If you have not, just stop a minute and think about it and then start in to save every particle of wax if you have not been doing so in the past.

Bluffton, Mo.

Get your friends to subscribe for the Progressive, the bee-keeper's best friend. Fifty cents the year.

#### HOFFMAN FRAMES.

RECENT ARGUMENT ANSWERED BY  
THE INVENTOR.

BY JULIUS HOFFMAN.

After promising to write more about the Hoffman frame and V edge I looked over back numbers of Gleanings, and found that so much has been written about the frame, pro and con, by more able writers than I, it took the wind out of my sails, and I hesitated to say any more about the subject. However, as I have used the frame which is known by my name for over 30 years I wish to say that I do not know of any other frame that could induce me to make any change.

MODIFIED BY THE ROOT CO.

To give the reader a better understanding of why The A. I. Root Co. thought proper to modify the frame so far as the top-bar is concerned, I will mention that the hive I used is rather cubical in shape, the top-bar being only 12 in. long, hanging across the narrow way of the hive, in rabbets only 5-16 wide and deep.

The depth of frame is 12 in. outside by 11 wide, the projection of the top-bar resting in the rabbet only  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on each end. The manufacturer of the Hoffman frame (The A. I. Root Co.) for the very good purpose of making the Hoffman frame adaptable to the at present existing style of hives, made the change of the top-bar, differing from what I use.

UNSPACED FRAMES CONDEMNED.

To say any more about the advantages of self-spacing frames I think is unnecessary, as, for the practical bee-keepers will still say that a loose not self-spacing frame can be spaced by fingers or eye measure speedily and correctly, and that a fixed-distance self-spacing frame is not as easily



interchangeable. Mr. Editor, you know as well as I do how the comb in a colony of finger-spaced frames look after being worked for a time. Only an experienced worker could ever space them as accurately as they should be, not mentioning the careless or beginners, and, of course, combs will be in bad shape for interchanging, while the self-spaced are of a more uniform thickness, and better fitted for interchanging.

#### FORGETTING TO CROWN FRAMES TOGETHER.

Mr. J. A. Green, Oct. 1, 1904, says that the Hoffman frame is not the frame for average bee-keeper, as they will forget to crowd the frames together when finishing work in a hive. This is easily answered by giving such average bee-keepers the advice to go back to old box hive. However, I for one have a better opinion of the average bee-keeper. I know many of them personally who are not slovenly, but handle the Hoffman frames all right, although not experts.

#### DIVISION-BOARDS AND NUMBERS OF FRAMES.

Right here I will say that I find division or spacing-boards essential with a spaced hanging frame, and of much importance to me. My hives hold eleven frames without the spacing-board, but as a rule I use two boards and ten frames, which leaves space enough in my size of hive between the spacing-board and the hive-end for handing boards and frames with ease. However I do not confine myself to giving a colony a certain number of frames. When I put on section-super I regulate the number of frames to give or leave a colony, according to its strength in bees, so that the weaker colonies get 8 or 9 frames, and the vacant space is

filled out with more spacing-boards, of which I always keep a surplus near by. With wedges behind the follower or spacing-boards I do not bother, as the bees will fasten things well enough if we crowd frames and boards well together after working and handling them.

#### PROPOLIS.

This brings me to talk about propolis which is generally held and talked about as a great nuisance. An excess of propolis of course, is not desirable; but I consider it only a necessary evil, and, would rather have the frames glued together with propolis than not at all.

The V shape in the Hoffman frames is condemned by quite a number, as they claim too much propolis is used by the bees to fill up the space between the beveled edge where it meets the square edge of the next frame. This the bees do with me to such a small extent that I certainly want the V edge yet.

It does not give me much trouble in my locality, but the difference in breed did so quite considerably. I imported the Cyprian and the Caucasian bees and found them to be excessive propolizers; they even would close the hive entrances with propolis so that only one bee could go through. I had also Italians that would use wax in place of ordinary propolis, packing it on their legs wherever they found any scraps of it lying round.

#### NAILING TOGETHER WRONG

Another objection to the V edge is raised by C. Davenport, Nov. 15, also by J. A. Green, Oct. 1, 1904, about nailing the V-edge frame together the wrong way, so that the V and the square edge will not meet right. I will only say that I have had inexperienced hands nail V-edge frame,



together by the thousand, and would not make any mistake after showing them how to it. I invented the main features of the Hoffman frames but I am tolerant enough not to find fault with those who have different ways and appliances; and although there is more in the man than in the hive or frame he uses, I am sure the best frame will give best results in manipulating, and consequently, in dollars and cents.

Mr. Ernest Root, I believe, has the right idea when he thinks of manufacturing both the V and the square edge Hoffman frame, so that all can have their choice, and also do away with considerable grumbling and faultfinding, which is often caused by difference in climate and locality, and also by difference in the breed of bees.

To wind up, I will say that many criticize or find fault with a new thing which they have not tried long enough. For example it was thought the Hoffman frame could not be used in Cuba. How is it now? The A. I. Root Co. sends carloads there and to other hot climates. Louis H. Scholl, Jan. 15, 1905, states that he used the V-edge Hoffman frame for a number of years, and thought the V-edge unnecessary, but has changed his views since, and decided in favor of it.

Canajoharie, N. Y.

—Gleanings In Bee Culture.

ORDERS WANTED—For 200 Imported Italian, Carniolan, Caucasian and Bantam Queens. I intend to go to Italy, Carniola and further East for the Queens in August. Write for prices.

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### New Use For Auto-Goggles.

Engineer Frank Benjamin, of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, probably was the first locomotive driver in the world to stick his head through a cab window with a pair of automobile goggles protecting his eyes. But since that innovation, more than two years ago, the use of automobile goggles has spread until dozens of the engineers on that line regard them as indispensable to their comfort and to the best interest of their work.

Benjamin has been driving one of the fast passenger engines on the Chicago-St. Louis run. It is a leviathan of its kind, with driving wheels 7 feet 2 inches in diameter and capable of reeling off seventy miles an hour, under ordinary pressure upon the



Engineer Benjamin Equipped with goggles looking out of C. & A. locomotive car.

time card. At a certain noted grade on the line the main railway between two good-sized towns parallels the tracks of the railroad, and at the top of this long stretch it was common for the engineer to find an automobile enthusiast waiting to give the big locomotive a race for the foot of the hill, nearly two miles away. It was this run through the heat and wind



observing the protecting goggles of the automobile driver, which caused Benjamin to invest in goggles on his return to Chicago. On a good many occasions since then Benjamin has raced the automobile experts down the hill. So far as known, only the Alton engineers have effected the automobile goggles. Their experience with them has been satisfactory in every way. Not only the dust and smoke and cinders wear upon the eyes of the men in cabs of fast engines, but the pressure of the wind becomes almost unbearable at times when running into it. After the ordinary run over his division, Benjamin's face presents an odd appearance. Smoothly shaven his face is black and grimy, save for the great ellipses around the eyes, where the goggles leave the skin almost as white as when he left the roundhouse at the other end.

Benjamin is an enthusiastic disciple of the goggles and if he were the president of a great system of railroads, he says that automobile goggles would be a part of the equipment of every locomotive in the service.

### Missouri Inventors

The following patents were issued this week to Missouri inventors:

Daniel Berry, Springfield, stove or range; David Boyer, Point Pleasant, vise; Wm. Brady, Kansas City, straw shaker for threshing machines (sold for \$10,000); Winfield Cannaday, Washington Court-House, delinting machine; Louis Cary, St. Louis, automatic street car coupling; Jos. Chmelir, St. Louis ventilating window; Chauncey Crandal, St. Louis, interlocked fastener; Walter Grath, St. Louis brick machine (sold for \$35,000); Marion Jenkins, Browning, hay loader and stacker; Thos. Mc-

Adams, Annapolis, Telegraph key and switch (sold for \$6,000); Jas. McFall, St. Louis, Railway-tie; Jephtha O'Dell, Rayville hen's nest; Geo. Peter, St. Louis vending machine; John E. Praul, St. Louis, Merry-go-round or carouse; Wm. D. C. Smith, Kansas City, fare-registering and transfer-ticket printing and issuing device.

Copies of any of the above patents will be furnished to our readers at cost price, five cents each, by D. Swift & Co., Washington D. C., our special patent correspondents.

If a boy is allowed to run the streets at night when he is twelve years old, says the Kansas Chief, the mother has no one to blame but herself if he is a wreck at twenty. No influence is so harmful to formation of character as that with which boys meet in the street association. No influence is a sweeter or a better builder of character than what is found in the happy, contented home, where mother's name is sacred and mother reigns supreme. The boy who is raised in such a home seldom brings sorrow to the parents. He respects them too much to grieve them. When mother is gone and only a memory remains he sees her dear white head with this vision ever before him ringing in his ears he will not do wrong out of respect of her memory. Nothing is more beautiful than the devoted mother of a dutiful son. Would that the world had more of them. To be a mother of a dutiful son is the greatest joy on earth, but to be the mother of an ungrateful child is the greatest of sorrow.

Self respect should be the first principle of everyone. The other fellow will take care of himself.



# BEE BOOKS.

No bee-keeper can afford to be without a library of Bee Books. A book costing from fifty cents to one dollar is worth many hundreds of dollars to one who would succeed. Every beginner should have a book suitable for beginners, (one that will point out the road,) and those more advanced will need something more scientific as a reference book. We will here give the names of such books as we recommend, and will be pleased to furnish you, sending them by mail at the following prices:

THE AMATEUR BEE-KEEPER, (a gem for beginners,) by Prof. J. W. Rouse; price, 28c.

ADVANCED BEE CULTURE, by W. Z. Hutchinson; price 50c.

MANUAL OF THE APIARY, by Prof. A. J. Cook; price \$1.25.

THE A B C OF BEE CULTURE, by A. I. Root; price \$1.25.

A TREATISE ON FOUL BROOD, by Dr. Howard; price 25c.

SCIENTIFIC QUEEN-REARING, by G. Doolittle; price \$1.00.

LANGSTROTH ON THE HONEY BEE; revised by Dadant; price \$1.15.

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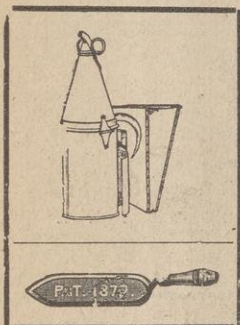
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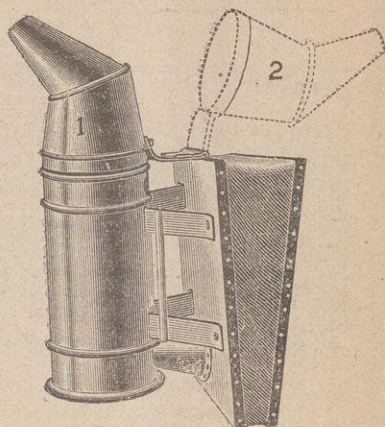
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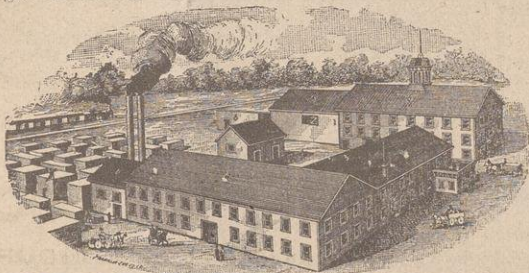
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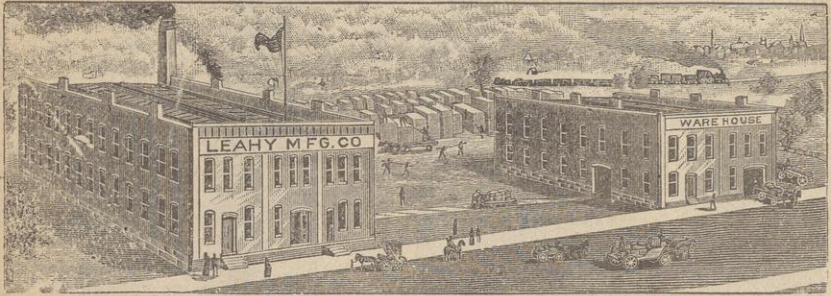
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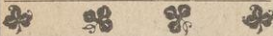
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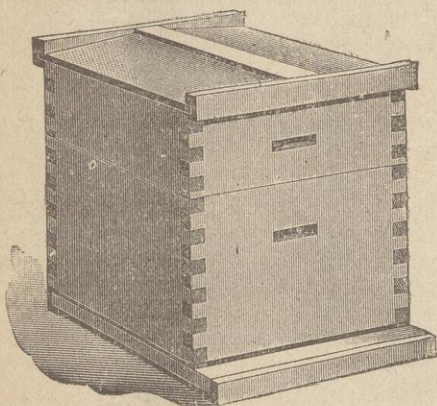
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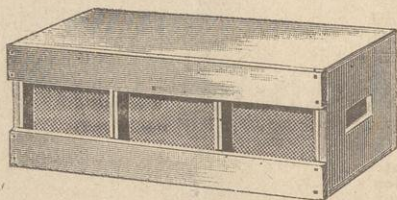
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