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## **The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. 14, no. 1 April 28, 1905**

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, April 28, 1905

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# THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

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

No 1

APRIL 28, 1905

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**M**R. J. B. KLINE, Guildford, SADDLER and  
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Western Australian Beekeepers' Association, is  
Agent for the "A. BEE BULLETIN," and is  
authorised to receive Subscriptions and Adver-  
tisements for same.

E. TIPPER,


"A. BEE BULLETIN."

## NOTICE.

**S**HOULD any beekeeper have a doubt of  
the genuineness of any honey sold in his  
neighbourhood, send a sample to the Chairman  
of Health, Sydney, who will cause it  
be analysed, and take proceedings if  
necessary.



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# N.S.W. BEE-FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

## The Annual Meeting

OF ABOVE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE

**CRESCENT COFFEE PALACE,**

(OPPOSITE HORDERN'S NEW PLACE.)

**GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY.**

**APRIL 26TH, 1905.**

**PRELIMINARY MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 24th, AT 2 O'CLOCK.**

Members can obtain Ticket for Railway Concessions (not less than 25 miles) at single fare for the double journey from the Hon. Secretary

**E. TIPPER,**  
**WILLOW TREE, N.S.W.**

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## N. S. W. BEE-FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

### OFFICERS:—

**President:**

**HASSELL HALL, M. A.**

**Vice-Presidents:**

**F. W. PENBERTHY, T. BRADLEY.**

**J. F. DONNELLY.**

**Secretary & Treasurer.**

**E. TIPPER, J.P., WILLOW TREE.**

**Committee:**

**MESSRS. E. J. RIEN, J. PENNINGTON, F. BOLTON, J. R. W. GAGGIN, E. DOWLING, J. R. IRVINE, J. ANDERSON, W. GEE, P. RIDDELL, W. E. BAGOT, W. NIVEN, — BUSHELL, LATIMORE, HEWITT.**

### RULES & OBJECTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.

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



Registered at the General Post Office Sydney  
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post as a Newspaper.

**THE AUSTRALIAN**  
**BEE BULLETIN**

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
Devoted to Beekeeping —  
Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of  
Australia — New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope

**EDITOR & PUBLISHER,**  
WEST MAITLAND & WILLOW TREE.



MAITLAND, N.S.W.—APRIL 28, 1905.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue, all of whom we would recommend our readers to patronise:—

### Supply Dealers.

C. J. Manning, Chuter-st., North Sydney.  
A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket, Sydney.  
John Rush, Mentone, Victoria.

### Queen Raisers.

W. Abram, Beecroft.  
H. L. Jones, Goodna, Queensland.  
E. T. Penglase, Fernbank P.O., Gippsland, Victoria.  
R. H. Jervis, Moss Vale.  
J. W. Miner, Ronda, N.C., U.S.A.  
W. J. & F. Barnes, 174 & 180 Albert-street, East Melbourne.

### Honey Tins.

Chown Bros. and Mullholland, Ltd.,  
Thomas St., Ultimo, Sydney.

### Miscellaneous.

A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket only, Sydney.  
P. J. Moy & Co., 161 Sussex St, Sydney.  
Prescott Limited, 336 & 338 Sussex-St, Sydney.  
W. L. Davey, Station-St., Fairfield, Vic.

Index for year 1904-5 in next issue.

A lot of interesting matter held over.

Mr. W. L. Davey wishes the attention of the Bee-Farmers' Conference to a United Beekeepers of Australia Meeting.

The Chapman honey plant (echinops sphx norephelus) is strongly recommended as a honey plant by an English writer.

A hive of bees which had been robbed of their honey, and brought in from the bush and placed in a box, attacked the fowls on Mr. G. H. Hawkin's premises at Goroke, Victoria, as they were running about in the yard, killing four of them and maiming about twenty more. So savage were the bees that it was only by catching the fowls one at a time, beating the bees off them, and placing them in a covered box, that any at all were saved. From the comb of one minorca hen as many as thirty bee stings were afterwards extracted.

Anthony Hordern and Sons' Fashion Portfolio for Autumn and Winter has just been issued. The book is an exceptionally interesting one, being adorned with something like five hundred illustrations of fashion items, and containing all sorts of interesting information about the season's novelties. This is probably the last fashion portfolio Anthony Hordern and Sons will issue from their present premises, the Haymarket (Only). The next one will date from the biggest store on earth.



**THE HONEY INDUSTRY.**

GEO. STRATTON, RICHMOND RIVER.

FOR THOSE WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

The statements of Mr. W. L. Davey's are facts which are well worth the while of serious consideration by beekeepers, old and new, and especially those about to be beekeepers. The glittering side of the industry has been persistently portrayed by the wolves of grab or parasites of beekeepers till the shadowy side is now even more gloomy than W. L. D. pictures. For instance :

March 13, 1905.

20 tins Honey, gross weight 1211lbs.

Tare ... 60lbs.

---

 Nett 1151lbs. at 1d. £4 15 11

Less charges :

Boat freight, 10s.; cartage, 2s.;	
commission, 4/9	... 0 16 9

---

 Balance ... £3 19 2

From this deduct cost of 10 cases,	
tins ...	... 0 10 0

Labour, cleaning, etc., etc., and carting	
to wharf given in.	...

---

 Nett proceeds of half ton of honey ... £3 9 2

(Original statement of firm enclosed for Editor's perusal.)

Can give a dozen statements only 1d. per lb. higher.

The foreign market cry is a myth which has been and still is dangled before the "verdant" honey producer by supply dealers for their own selfish ends. They are the sharps, the beekeepers in most cases being the flats. Beekeepers—in many cases—have been led like lambs to the fleecing shed, and shorn of their shekels by visions of high markets abroad, when their own became exhausted. Those who have led them are morally responsible for their plight. They may still "fool some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time, but they can't fool all the people all the time." Beekeepers have met as a body in years past to devise means of dealing with diseases; now, although at the eleventh hour, why not unite and deal with these parasites of the industry. They cannot be gagged, but

they can be exposed. The sham that enshrouds them may be held out for inspection. The imaginary foreign markets, what do they amount to? Someone says honey is retailed in London at 9d. and 1s. per lb. Well, five or six years ago, to my knowledge, so it was in Sydney. It may still be the case now as then at fancy fruit shops, where the "get up" costs the money. Of what use is that to the producer?

Quality and flavour and grading is not responsible for the failures in export; well, not to the degree that is attributed to them.

I have seen men and women in Sydney in the early morning hunting stray dogs from the dirt boxes—placed for the corporation carts—in the hope of finding a stray scrap of food amongst the sweepings. Poverty cannot pander too much to palate. Our honey cannot be so repulsive to the large majority—to the large hungry majority—of England that they can afford to turn up their noses at it. The fact is the market is an open one, and is already supplied; we may contribute and cut at the supply if the prices suit. If the market of London is so rosy, why does the market of America remain so low? The old countries, where the pursuit has been developing for ages past, and labour cheap, do not appear to be reckoned with. Again, what about the Australian men who have tested the home market, Allan and Co., who have sent shipments of finest western honey in various styles of packages, neatly labelled and packed substantially; Mr. Hassell Hall, of Emu Plains; Rhodes of Sussex-street in years gone; Sussex-street agents who have again and again tried and failed? Producers themselves who went home with their crops. Pender Bros., what have you to say of your own experience or of your agent of years ago, Messrs. Hawken and Vance? You are all standing back, quite sufficient evidence of your failures. Several years ago in Pender's journal an article was published from a beekeeper on this river, who gave a statement showing about 30s. per tin for



60lb. tins of honey sent by him to England. This man this season has disposed of most of his hives of bees complete at 5s. each. He is not of independent means, just a "poor working man." When men like Ager rear up and gas about honey production, and invite others to enter into the business, well they are poorly furnished with the details of our supply and markets, or else are ———. Upon his logic, if he had a paddock of grass that would just keep the number of stock already there he would hunt up any stray ones to be found and divide it with them. Such logic, in a few words amounts to "Misery loves company;" the after result, "Survival of the fittest."

Mr. Peter Riddell writes: Mr. Tipper, I have watched your attitude and endeavours for the best interests of beekeepers, and having every confidence in you, wish you to use my votes for the best. The price of honey is the greatest immediate problem. I doubt if very much can be done to improve us just now, but we must do what little we can to ensure the ultimate good results, as I am confident that time will see the N.S.W.B.F.A. a power for good. Still more so as now the days of union and commercial grants must be met with like, and the old absurdity may come in new force with truth, "*Similia similibus curantur.*" Hope the annual meeting will be a complete success. Unity of mind and action is the only hope. Our business is a very honorable one, and would be full of bright reward, but for the intermeddling of men who have nothing of the real beekeeper. I have kept up tons of good honey for nearly 18 months and would like to see prices improve.

R. H. G., Glen William.---I am enclosing my proxy paper for you to use my votes at the next annual meeting B.F.A. to be held the 26th of this month. I fully intended to be present, but for an accident; my little baby girl upset some boiling milk on herself, scalding her severely; she is getting along nicely, but

I would not like to go and leave her for any length of time. I feel disappointed at not being able to attend, but it cannot be helped; things could have been worse. Wishing the meeting every success.

## PREPARING COLONIES FOR WINTER.

R. BEUHNE, IN "LEADER."

The removing of combs of sealed honey from the brood chamber at the beginning of winter, and replacing them with empty combs is a decided disadvantage to the colony, if a little honey should come in after. It is to the consumption of this unripe and soured honey that much of the mortality in spring is due. Against this assertion, it has been repeatedly urged that box hive men sometimes rob their boxes very late in the season, and the bees have to depend entirely upon late gathered honey, and yet they often come through the winter well. My reply to this is that it is an entirely different thing. A colony deprived of everything late in the season cannot build comb outside the warmth of the cluster, and therefore any honey stored will be ripened, or, at any rate, preserved. Bees do at any time build but very little comb in advance of immediate requirements, much less so during cool weather, and as combs are extended downwards the honey stored gets the benefit of the warmth required for comb building. The amount of unripe honey is therefore very small, and is always consumed first, as soon as nothing fresh is stored. A frame hive colony, however, having empty combs accessible, may store new honey should a few warm days occur even in winter. At the beginning of this article I stated that the ideal condition was to have the brood combs heavy with sealed honey, and crowded with bees. The advisability of having the brood combs full of sealed honey for the winter, has been disputed during the controversy (some years ago) as to the cause of the disappearing mortality then prevailing. It was as-



sorted that there should be some open comb left in the brood chamber to enable breeding to proceed to some extent. To satisfy myself on that point, I fed twenty colonies with honey during last autumn while the weather was still fairly warm, till all the combs in the brood chamber were sealed excepting a few patches of brood in the centre. Examination during the middle of September last showed that these twenty colonies contained more bees, more brood, and mere honey than any other 40 colonies in an apiary of over 200. This appears to show that when bees require room for brood rearing they make it by consuming honey, and refraining to a large extent from flying for new stores during the cold season, thus preventing loss and wearing out of workers.

To confirm the previous experiment or otherwise, I have again fed twenty colonies heavily, although all others are well stored for winter as well. I have received several inquiries as to the cause of bees blocking their brood combs with honey, and how to prevent it. The answer is, don't try to prevent it, for you will not succeed, but will most likely make it worse by inserting empty comb.

The stopping of breeding rather early in the autumn is in many instances due to want, found that an earlier stoppage of breeding is followed by an earlier start in spring.

If a colony contains a fair number of bees, a laying queen and plenty sealed honey, all it needs is a water-tight cover and not too large an entrance, and it may safely be left alone for the next three or four months. In spring, if not taken in doors, I advise to place underneath the brood chamber, after having extracted any honey the combs may contain, particularly if it is thin. This honey, if kept in a warm place, may with advantage be used for feeding during the blank following the spring flow, provided always, however, that no foul brood existed in any of the colonies the honey came from.

## EXPORT.

A writer in the *Brisbane Daily Mail*, says: - I see such great possibilities for Queensland honey at home, if the people here will only be guided by those who know exactly what the English people like in the way of honey. Give them what they want, and they will pay you well for it, but if beekeepers are ill-advised and make a failure of the business this time, they will ruin themselves as far as the English market is concerned for a very long time. If this is correct and no one is likely to contradict, does it not strike one at once that it is the duty of the Government to take a hand in the deal and see that the experiment is carried out under the most favourable circumstances. The Government would not allow a lot of inferior butter to go home and spoil the market for Queensland, then why should they allow inferior honey to go home and spoil the honey market for Queensland. The Queensland beekeepers have on their committee men who are in every way capable of looking after the honey business, but the danger is that being few in number they may be overruled by those less capable. And then, again, these capable men have no control over exporters of honey generally. I know for a fact, that quite recently large quantities of honey have been bought at the markets and sent home, and we all know what most of the honey that finds its way to the market is like. Some of it is undoubtedly good, most of it is certainly not so.

## QUEENSLAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Cambinwah,  
Sandgate,  
Mar. 28, 1905.

E. Tipper, Esq.,  
West Maitland.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for sending me a copy of your paper, which I receive regularly. Our Association is getting along splendidly. I enclose copy of rules, which, by the way, are not all



they might be. Am also sending you papers containing our President's address on the "Exportation of Honey," also "Daily Mail" containing an address by our hon. Consulting Expert, Dr. Hamlyn-Harris.

Yours faithfully,  
A. H. W. CLARKSON  
Hon. Sec.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS.

### Name.

1. The name of the Association shall be the Queensland Beekeepers' Association.

### Objects.

2. The objects shall be encouragement in the use of honey, improvement and advancement of bee culture, and to arrange for combined action in exporting honey.

### Management.

3. The Association shall be managed by a committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and five other members, all to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held as hereinafter provided. At every meeting of the Committee three shall form a quorum, and the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his own.

### Membership.

4. Any person wishing to become a member of the Association shall be proposed and seconded at a General or Committee meeting, and upon being elected by a majority vote shall become a member on paying his subscription.

### Subscription.

5. Members who keep 5 hives or under shall subscribe an annual fee of 2/6; those who keep over 5 hives, 5s. All members paying 2s. 6d. shall be entitled to one vote, those paying 5s. shall be entitled to two votes.

### Honorary members.

6. Any person can become an honorary member on payment of 5s. per annum, or an honorary life member on payment of two guineas. Such members shall have no power to vote or take any active part in the management of the Association.

### Voting by proxy.

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

### Report, balance sheet, etc.

8. The Committee shall submit at the annual meeting a report, balance sheet, and list of members, with the amount of their paid subscriptions.

### Auditors.

9. At the Annual Meeting two members shall be elected to audit the accounts of the Association.

### By-laws.

10. The Committee shall have the power to make or alter by-laws, provided always that they shall in no case contravene an existing rule. They shall also have power to fill any vacancies that may occur on the Committee.

### Meetings.

11. A General Meeting shall be held in August, November, February and May in each year at which 8 members shall form a quorum, that held in August shall be considered the annual meeting, but the financial year shall end on 30th June.

### Apiarian Exhibition.

12. If the funds of the Association admit of it the Committee may hold one or more Apiarian exhibitions, either on their own account or in conjunction with any other society, at such times and places as they may deem most desirable to the interests of the Association and its objects, and shall adopt such measures as they believe will most conduce to extend and improve a knowledge of bee-keeping.

### Business.

13. The committee shall meet at least once every three months for the transaction of business.

### Alteration of Rules.

14. These rules shall not be altered unless at a general or special meeting, which may be called by the Secretary on the application of 3 members of the Committee, or on the written request of not less than 6 members of the Association, a two-thirds majority of those present or represented being necessary to effect an alteration. The Secretary shall give each member seven days' clear notice of the same, and state the object for which the meeting is called.

## VICTORIA.

We extract the following par. from the "Melbourne Age" of March 31st:—

BEE-FARMING, Stawell, Tuesday. — A largely attended meeting of district bee-farmers was held in the Mechanics' Institute for the purpose of forming a branch of the Victorian Apianists' Association. The chairman said he believed that in the Stawell and Wimmera districts they had the best country in Australia for honey, as regarded quantity and quality. One benefit of the formation of the Association was that bee farmers could now take up



10 acres instead of one acre. It was decided to form a branch, and the following officers were elected—President, Mr. D. Morgan; vice-president, Mr. F. Kilner; secretary, Mr. F. Howard; treasurer, Mr. M. Morgan.

ARARAT, Tuesday.—Mr J. E. Burke, vigneron of Norval, is about to try an experiment which is novel to this district. He is dissatisfied with the price obtained for wine, which is to be distilled into brandy, and purposes reducing the must now being made by condensation, and then feeding the thick liquid to bees, to be transformed into honey. It is said that the bees convert the condensed grape juice into honey in an incredibly short space of time, and that the product has a very pleasant flavor.

## ✻ CORRESPONDENCE. ✻

J. S. C. Kendall, March 29th. The season here has been very bad, and what honey we got was only of medium quality. The dry wind spoilt our chance. Trusting you have done better, with best wishes.

W. B., Tunnoek, Tasmania, March 24. —The present season has been a rather poor one for honey, owing to weather conditions being generally unfavourable, but the bees are gathering some at present from black-top, and stringy bark, which in other seasons always blooms in February. I sowed some Phacelia seed, which I got from Mr. Beuhne, Victoria, in the early spring. It grew very well to about 30in. high, commenced to bloom November 20, and continued in bloom until the new year. I consider it a really good honey plant, as the bees crowded it on all favorable occasions. I think, considering that it grows so fast, it stands the dry weather very well.

C. B., Eden, March 21st. —There is no bee news round this way; last year was starvation, and this year has been very dry. There is not much honey coming in

and there was very few swarms. I lost a lot of bees last season, but I was fortunate to what some of them were. I hope to have a better report next time. I receive the A.B.B. regularly, and it is very interesting. Wishing you success, and the Association.

J. F. B., Dungowan, April 4th.—No very good bee news from this part; a moderate flow during spring and early summer months. Just enough for bees to live on since Christmas, with prospect of half of them starving in the winter. Price of honey, 6 to 7 shillings per 60lbs. after carting it 30 miles.

J. F. D., Woodbine Apiary, Bellingen March 28th.—I cannot be to the meeting this year. No one would like to be there more than I, but my bees have not been up to the mark this season, in fact have only taken two tons, and you know there is no margin for a trip from that after expenses are paid, but will be with you in spirit. Do your best for the industry. I am sorry that I am so far away, and would like to have a chat with you often re bee matters. It would do me a lot of good.

R. W. P., Garland, March 27th.—We are having a particularly bad time here, just now, no honey coming in since the new year, and hives that at that time were well supplied with stores are now nearly destitute. About half of my hives will need to be given all the stores necessary for their winter use.

P. V., Brusby Hill, April 8th.—My bees did fairly well till New Year, but the heat-wave—118 deg. in the shade for three days—knocked everything on the head. A lot of apple-trees came into bloom, but not an ounce of honey was gathered from them. We have had splendid rains lately, and white box is bursting in to bloom, so I shall have a good winter flow, weather permitting. Hoping things are improving down your way.

H. B., Wilmington, S.A., April 2---Owing to bad seasons I have had to go away north prospecting, and only came



home a few days ago. We had a great heat wave here Christmas time, killed all the blossom. Have been feeding 80 swarms this three months past, and will have to keep feeding until August. I think I will have to give up beekeeping. When honey comes down to 2d. there is nothing in it.

P. B., Castlereagh, April 10.—We have had a poor season here; white gums and bloodwoods bloomed well in end of February and March, but owing to dull showery weather the bees did not gather much honey. Trusting you have had a better season, and wishing you and the A.B.B. every success.

### A SAD MISFORTUNE.

A. H., Tarcutta, 20th March.—I had almost everything destroyed by fire on New Year's Day, 80 colonies in 2 apiaries. I have about 30 colonies left. I hardly think it possible for them to live. What do you think would be the best to feed them on as a substitute for pollen. There was scarcely a green tree to be seen after the fire for miles around. 2½ tons honey, honey-house, and everything belonging to the apiary was destroyed. I estimate my loss at about £220.

We deeply sympathise with you in your sad misfortune. Peas meal or even wheat flour is a substituts for pollen.

### MATING.

An American writer says:—I watched the queen from the time she came out of her cell until her final departure, many times each day, and sometimes at night; and the result was similar to what I had seen before.

May 80, 9 p.m.—Fine dark queen appears.

June 2, 12M.—Queen shows great activity; follows a crowd of young bees to the exit, looks out, and retires.

June 3.—Bees begin to encircle and caress the queen. After an hour of excitement she took flight about 1 p.m., and in ten minutes returned with no evidence

of success. An hour later she went to the exit, but did not venture forth outside.

June 5.—Queen made flights at 12, 1, 2, and 3, being absent from ten to twenty minutes, the last time returning with a small appendage, which the bees removed in half-an-hour. The substance came away entire.

June 6.—Queen takes another outing, and came back no more.

In very many cases of successful mating I have noted always that, as Baron von Berlepsch puts it, "the signs of copulation stand far out." But in these cases of unsuccessful mating, the appendage, although conspicuous, is much smaller than in the former cases, and is speedily plucked away by the bees instead of being gradually and wholly absorbed.

*L'Apiculteur* advises beekeepers to save all the propolis scraped from frames or other parts of the hive. A piece about the size of a black walnut, when placed on a warm stove, will fill the room with a most delightful odor, rivaling the best essences. Pieces of it placed in drawers containing clothes will impart to them a most agreeable odor.

SQUARES OF DELIGHT.—Boil two pounds of sugar and one pint of water together until a little dropped into cold water can be rolled into a brittle ball. Moisten ten ounces of cornstarch with enough water from a pint to make a thin paste. Heat the remainder of the water to the boiling point, and add it, with a pound of powdered sugar, to the dissolved cornstarch, and cook over the fire for 10 minutes after the paste is clear. Slowly pour it into the sugar syrup, add a ¼ pound of extracted honey and a ¼ ounce of powdered tartaric acid. Flavour with rose or any fruit flavoring, and add ½ pound of chopped almonds. Return to the fire and cook until it will not adhere to the fingers when lightly touched. Cool in an oiled straight-sided pan, and when cold cut in squares with a sharp knife.—*Yankee Paper*



## PRICES OF HONEY.

*Maitland Mercury*.—Honey,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2d. per lb. Small tins 1s 9d to 2s.

*Melbourne Leader*.—Honey.—Values remain at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d for prime, medium bringing 2d. Beeswax—Clear is saleable at 1s 3d, medium 1s 1d to 1s 2d.

*Melbourne Australasian*.—Honey—Slightly better demand, prices shade firmer; prime,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d; cloudy qualities still quiet. Beeswax—1s 2d to 1s 3d

*S. M. Herald*.—60lb tins prime extracted  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2d, some choice lines  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d lb. tin lots,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Beeswax, dark  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , prime clear  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per lb.

Some men succeed in localities where the majority fail, and one reason is because their more thorough knowledge of the locality enables them to adopt methods more perfectly adapted to the peculiarities of that location. Above all things *know your locality*.—Exchange.

## HONEY.—

The market shows an improvement. Owing to the high price of Jam, consumers are buying more freely. We can do with some choice lots, which would realise about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. Inferior lots are still unsaleable.

## BEESWAX.—

Good demand. Light  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Dark 1/- to  $1\frac{1}{2}$

## PRESCOTT LIMITED.

COMMISSION AGENTS,  
336 & 338 SUSSEX STREET,  
—SYDNEY.—

## QUEENS.

One, 3s; 3, 7s 6d; 8, £1.

Bred from Imported Stock.

R. H. JERVIS,  
Moss Vale.

## FOR SALE.

MY WELL-KNOWN APIARY AT  
CLEAR CREEK.

JOSIAH E. TAYLOR.

## HONEY. HONEY.

WE are open to SELL ON COMMISSION  
A FEW THOUSAND 60lb. TINS

## A1 HONEY.

None But Best Samples Sold.

Send early, and secure Highest Prices. All enquiries will receive prompt attention.

W. J. & F. BARNES,

174 & 180 ALBERT-STREET,  
EAST MELBOURNE.

THE

## LONDON DIRECTORY

CONTAINING over 2,000 pages of condensed commercial matter, enables enterprising traders throughout the Empire to keep in close touch with the trade of the Motherland. Besides being a complete commercial guide to London and its Suburbs, the London Directory contains lists of:—

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**ARMIDALE.**

The good people of Armidale held their annual Show on the 21st and 22nd March. In everything it exceeded all their former efforts. There was a far larger attendance, and the exhibits exceeded all former shows both in number and excellence. The energetic committee have been very busy during the year, and several important additional improvements have been made to the grounds, notably a large addition to the poultry sheds; a capital shed and sties for the accommodation of pigs met with a good reward—a number of splendid animals being penned. We have never seen a better display of pigs in any country show in New South Wales. The luncheon was graced by the presence of the Minister for Agriculture, besides the other local Members of Parliament. The bee entries were more numerous than we have seen before at Armidale. The following is the prize list:

Honey in comb, A. Strahle, 1; W. Doak, 2. Extracted light honey, V. and A. Fittler, 1; F. J. Taylor, 2. Extracted dark honey, R. Roberts, 1; Mrs. G. Fittler, 2. Beeswax, George Fittler, 1; Mrs. G. Fittler, 2.

We cannot refrain from complimenting the excellent committee and their energetic secretary, Mr. McArthur, on the results of their efforts.

**AN OUTING.**

The flow is over. We know enough honey is in the hives to keep them till next flow comes. To open them now means robbing. Strange, there has been scarcely any swarming this season. Perhaps our giving room and keeping down drones did this. So we got our travelling bag ready. Our first objective is Armidale, the principal city in New England, famed for its delightful climate. We will add to the latter its good and hospitable citizens. Amongst its many good things are several excellent hotels, not the least of which is that of Tattersall's, kept by Mr. Frankland. Also several

very large stores. Having to be judge at the show detained us Tuesday and Wednesday, but at six o'clock on Thursday morning we were on board the Brisbane mail train bound for Tenterfield. Travelling by daylight is very much nicer than by night. In the compartment in which we found ourselves were some very nice people, which enabled the half-dozen hours it took for our journey to pass very quickly. There is not much in the way of scenery on this line. The most noticeable is the Bluff Rock, an immense rock several hundred feet high, almost reminding one of some old baronial castle, close on to the railway. It was near our journey's end. At Tenterfield we were very pleased to meet Mr. Walker, an old beekeeper, who told us he did not now take the interest in beekeeping he used to, but still kept a few hives; also Mr. A. Butler, a photographer, an enthusiastic beekeeper of more recent date than Mr. Walker. He had a nice display of bottled and comb honey in his shop window. The coach for Lismore started within an hour of the arrival of the train. On Thursdays the Sydney weekly papers are carried by this route to Lismore, Casino, and other towns near the coast. The body of the coach was packed and packed up with mail bags, and there were only two seats for passengers on the box seat. We secured the middle one, and so, with a sociable driver on the right of us, and a nice gentlemanly fellow on the left, we started on the long, all-night journey of 17 hours. For some few miles the route lay through farming country, much corn, not looking too well, and shorthorn cattle, being the principal things to attract our attention. Gradually we got into the mountainous country, the road, at no place too wide, winding and winding round the numerous ridges, the mountains rising at an angle mostly of 75 or 80 degrees on our right, descending the same on our left; the dense vegetation, tall trees and scrub, hiding from our view the depth of the dark valleys. Occasionally the bottom would be discoverable by a pool of water,



round which cattle were drinking. There were no distant views, but a wilderness of hills covered with dense green vegetation of all kinds. There was stringy bark, iron bark, llantana, cockspur, and we don't know what else. There was a refreshment house on the way, where we were told some bread and butter and a cup of tea could be had. We ate a piece of bread half the size of the palm of our hand, and drank a cup of tea, for which we were charged 1s. Drake, formerly called Fairfield, was once a flourishing mining township, boasting of some half-dozen pubs, and as many stores, now reduced to one of each. At Tabulam, where we arrived about six o'clock, we had a fair meal. On the table was some thin honey that would not get first prize at many shows. Night now came on, and fresh horses were ready to pull us over the dividing range. The full moon was rising in a coquettish manner behind some distant clouds. As we slowly ascended the mountain, the densely-timbered hills, undergrowth everywhere, unfathomable depths, the winding road, all lit up by the glorious full-orbed moon, gave scenery that few painters could imitate, and pictured the imagination with all kinds of weird, fairy, or even bushranging fancies. It was a weary climb for the horses, with the heavy load of mails behind them, but the top was reached at last, and the descent was made at a better speed. On this route the drivers are good steady men, with good nerves. At one sharp turn, going down at full speed, the front horses were almost head on to the front horses of a team coming in the opposite direction. The horses were pulled up short, and when the two vehicles were crossing side by side, the wheels of one were perilously near the unsheltered edge of the great precipice, down which had it slipped neither men or horses could have reached the bottom alive, but the calm nerves of the drivers negotiated the difficulty safely. It was two in the morning when we passed the apiary of Mr. S. Barber, of Sandilands Range, the neat rows of hives showing

well in the bright moonlight. We felt sorry we could not stop the coach and shake hands with him. And now the country becomes somewhat more level, and the coach hurries on till at two in the morning we arrive at Casino. Of course it would not do to attempt to describe a town under such circumstances, but the delivery of the mails, and a change of horses and driver found us in an hour's time on the road to Lismore.

### LISMOKE.

Lismore is a well laid out town of about 5,000 inhabitants. It has fine wide streets, good hotels, one just being completed said to cost some £10,000, and some extensive stores. Fine sanitary arrangements, a good hospital, and two well-conducted newspapers, one being the *Northern Star*, conducted by Messrs. Hewitt and Sons, one of the latter being Mr. T. M. Hewitt, the possessor of over 500 hives. As a sample of the business done we were informed that on a recent Saturday one store sold as many as 300 pairs of boots. Churches are well represented, the Church of England being presided over by Archdeacon White, who is deservedly popular, assisted by a most energetic curate, the Rev. D. D. Carruthers and Mr. Ashleigh Brown. A new stone church is being erected to cost £5,000. The foundation of a handsome Roman Catholic Cathedral is also laid, and the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches have also new buildings under way.

Lismore is known as "The Queen of the North." From the excellent dairying land constantly being reclaimed from the scrub, and utilised for dairying purposes, there is a great future before it. Good dairy land in the district is worth £10 per acre.

Though 75 miles from the sea, the Richmond River is navigable right up to the town, large steamers giving almost daily communication with Sydney. The station of the Casino-Tweed Railway is on the south side of the river. In com-



pany with Mr. Hewitt we took train for Mullumbimby, 39 miles up the line towards Brisbane. The platforms at the stations are all low, and to get into a carriage requires a climb. Many of the names of the stations are aboriginal, and funny ones at that. Fancy "Billimudgel," "Booyong," "Dunbible." But the scenery along the line is interesting. Numerous dairy farms, with their herds of milking cows and suitable buildings. We might here mention that we spent a very pleasant day at one, where labour-saving appliances seemed perfect. 41 cows were milked, the baling arrangements for the cattle, and permitting them to enter another yard after; the tramway by which the milk was conveyed to the separator; the latter of the most improved kind, worked by an oil engine, which for its economy of working had superseded a steam engine; the pipes conveying the separated milk to the pig-styes, where cross-bred Yorkshire and Berkshire beauties were happy as pigs could be. But the splendid library of the owner showed in what way spare time could be put to good account. Well, to return to the railway. Various small towns were passed, all showing newness, the largest being Byron Bay, at the easternmost part of Australia, with a fine hotel facing the railway, and its lighthouse with the peculiar revolving flash-light. Also the North Coast Creamery, which pays out to its constituents £1000 a day—this being one of eight creameries, so the prosperity of the district can easily be accounted for. Not only this, but there is a bacon factory here also, one of a number in the district, one of which alone turned out 750 pigs in one week recently. Much of the farm labour about is done by Hindoos, who get wages equal to Europeans, and seemingly give great satisfaction. Their many-colored turbans are very conspicuous in the town crowds. We left the train at Mullumbimby, where we were met by Mr. Broomham, Mr. Hewitt's apiary manager, at whose residence we breakfasted, and then proceeded to one of Mr. Hewitt's apiaries,

7 miles out, the route leading into the heart of the mountains. A beautiful fresh water creek, running clear from the mountains, crossed the road seven times. The land adjoining the road, except where cleared for the various dairies, brought its vegetation right up to the edge of the road. This apiary of Mr. Hewitt's is well situated, has nearly 200 hives, and is one of several others owned in the district by Mr. Hewitt. The honey house is well fitted up. Mr. Hewitt has a good manager in Mr. Broomham, who is also assisted by his son. We might mention Mr. Broomham is a tanner by trade, and showed us some beautiful specimens of tanned snake and marsupial skins. Mr. Hewitt has altogether some 500 hives.

In the evening we went on to Crabbe's Creek, where we were met by Mr. George James, Mr. Gaggin's manager, who took us out to one of Mr. Gaggin's apiaries, some two miles along a similar track to that of Mr. Hewitt's, again going through running streams crossing the road three times. Mr. James entertained us most hospitably. We were up early next morning, and had a good look around. We had never seen such vegetation. Fancy, a clearing made in the mountain by fire three months ago, and now paspalum six feet long, or corn with stalks 14 feet high, a flock of 17 Romney and merino sheep getting fat on three-quarters of an acre!

Paspalum is the king of the whole district. Buffalo grass is not in it. It spreads and grows fast, and everything does well on it. It is also a killer of various noxious weeds. There were many acres in maize. Though called a scrub there is some magnificent timber about, though some of the best sorts are diminishing. There is mess-mate, a good quality of iron-bark, cinnamon box, so named from its colour, teak, blue fig, beach, etc., etc. There were trees 150 feet high and over 8 feet in diameter. Among the undergrowth vines was one called the lawyer vine, a specimen of which was shown us 98 feet long, strong and tough, well fitted



— N. S. W. —

# Bee-Farmers' Association.

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## ANNUAL MEETING

**WED., APRIL 26th, at 2 o'clock.**

CRESCENT COFFEE PALACE, GEORGE ST., SYDNEY.

☞ **PRELIMINARY MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 24.** ☞

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**OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

**ELECTION TAKES PLACE AT EASTER MEETING.**

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### PRESIDENT :

HASSELL HALL, M.A., F. W. PENBERTHY, J. E. TAYLOR, J. G. R. GAGGIN,  
T. H. HEWITT.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS :

F. W. PENBERTHY, T. BRADLEY, J. F. DONNELLY, E. J. RIEN, J. G. R. GAGGIN,  
T. H. HEWITT.

### SECRETARY & TREASURER :

E. TIPPER, J.P., WILLOW TREE.

### COMMITTEE :

MESSRS. E. J. RIEN, J. PENNINGTON, F. BOLTON, J. R. G. GAGGIN, E. DOWLING,  
J. R. IRVINE, J. ANDERSON, W. GEE, P. RIDDELL, W. E. BAGOT, W.  
NIVEN, BUSHELL, LATIMORE, HEWITT, J. E. TAYLOR, P. MOORFIELD.

☞ Members who cannot attend can obtain Proxy paper on application to the Sec.

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## BUSINESS.

READING OF ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.  
APPOINTMENT OF TWO AUDITORS.  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS.



**SALE OF HONEY.**—Where are we to find a Market for our Honey, and what is the wholesale price to be in the future?

**CONSIDERING THE ADVISABILITY OF FIXING A PRICE FOR FIRST CLASS HONEY IN THE SYDNEY MARKET.** I think this could be brought about by leading bee-keepers agreeing, say, under a penalty of £2, not to offer 1st quality under price agreed upon.—J. J. Hefferman.

**BUSH FIRES.**

**A UNITED AUSTRALIA MEETING OF BEEKEEPERS** at an early date.—Suggestion by Mr. W. L. Davey, Secretary Victorian Apiarists' Association.

**GRADING OF HONEY IN SYDNEY.**

**REGULATING OF PRICES OF HONEY.**

**THE HONEY EXPORT SCHEME.**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A HONEY DEPOT.**

**THE PASSING OF AN ENACTMENT** making it compulsory for all honey intended for export, to pass through the graders hands in order to a better and greater development of the industry, and to ensure the consumer of getting better satisfaction at all times.

**JOINING CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.**

MR. F. W. PENBERTHY, Elsmore, writes : I do hope you will get a good roll up at the Meeting, and induce those that talk export, to try it. There is no reason why they should not if they can sell all they raise locally. I think you would do well if you could obtain all information how to get about the sending of Honey to London from the Bee Yard. Name of Firms to send it to, Shipping Co's. with rates, etc., and publish the same in the *A.B.B.*

to make either clothes baskets, when split up, or school teachers' canes. Nearly all the hives here are made of beach, a locally grown timber, well suited to the purpose and which lasts well. Both Mr. Hewitt's and Mr. Gaggin's honey-houses are well-arranged for labour saving purposes, the extracting, storing in tanks, and draining off into tins from successive heights, being well considered. Mr. James says a good cure for robbing is a wet cloth thrown over the top bar, either under or over the cover. Mr. Gaggin is going in for sheep breeding, and has obtained a Romney marsh ram from the Wollongbar Farm. The Romneys and the cross with them and the Southdowns are said to be able to resist foot-rot and fluke. He has also cleared a space in a ledge half-way up the mountain, in which to plant bananas. It is most beautiful soil, the great rainfall of the coast inducing it, and the successive falls of the leaves for year after year producing a soil in which anything will grow. The honey from this district, though of excellent quality, is, from the moist nature of the climate,

thin. Mr. Gaggin is getting an arrangement made whereby the honey passes over a heated iron, zigzagging down it, and in this way he hopes to densify it. We hope he will succeed. There are a number of apiaries in the Richmond River district which we would like to have visited, but time would not permit. We must, however, give our most hearty thanks to the many friends, new and old, who seemingly could not do too much to make our journey pleasant and agreeable. It was simply a holiday, and no business was connected with it.

On the Friday, in company with Mr. J. G. R. Gaggin, we visited the Wollongbar Experimental Farm, where we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Gorman, the manager; Mr. H. V. Jackson, Mr. Stephenson's successor in the export cold storage branch of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Haywood, the dairy expert of the farm. It is needless to say we passed a very agreeable and instructive time. Were shewn different plants that were being experimented with to find their suitability to be profitably grown in the



district, among them being the Rhodes grass, from Africa, at present believed to be most valuable, and by some to be superior to *paspalum*. They have a little herd of Guernsey cattle, by some considered superior to the Jersey, being larger at any rate. Also some Romney Marsh and Southdown sheep, imported; also their crosses. Mr. Haywood has a fine lot of cheese in preparation for market. As the different plants and animals are found to be equal to what is desired of them they are distributed to the settlers of the district. The farm is six miles from Lismore, the road ascending a great part of the way, and the sides covered deep and high with the *lantana* weed. This weed makes a fine high hedge, and perhaps adds to the picturesqueness of the road, but is perfectly useless, and expensive to destroy.

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## THE EXPORTATION OF HONEY.

PAPER BY MR. H. L. JONES.

The following is the text of the paper on the exportation of honey," read by Mr. H. L. Jones (president) at the meeting of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association on Friday evening, the 3rd inst.

The subject I am dealing with to night is one of great importance to every honey producer in the state, and in view of the present condition of our market, is one that demands immediate consideration on our part. Put briefly, the position is this—that production in Queensland far exceeds the consumption, and as a result honey is a drug on the market, and has to be disposed of at a price that admits of no profit whatever to the producer. Our hope of future prosperity, therefore, lies in our ability to find an outside market, where conditions are not so favourable for honey production, and where the supply is thus more limited.

### ENGLAND AS A MARKET.

When we look towards Great Britain and find honey selling there at 6d. to 1s. per lb., and know that we can land equally good honey at 3d. per lb., prospects certainly appear bright for a very large business. But unfortunately experience has shown us that things are not at all what they seem, and instead of obtaining 6d. or even 3d. per lb. for our honey, returns almost invariably show a loss on each shipment. Now wherein lies the trouble, and can we flatter ourselves that we are entirely free from blame? I say no, as we have neither done our duty at this end, nor the other. As we know to our cost, there exists in England a most unwarranted and unreasoning prejudice against Australian honey, and we are certainly not going the right way to overcome that prejudice, when almost without exception, we make our shipments to, and leave them entirely in the hands of brokers and middlemen who have no interest whatever in our honey except to pass it off their hands as speedily as possible. Then, again, we have no supervision at this end, and honey of such a class has occasionally been shipped, that the old prejudice has been kept alive, and we have been enabled to establish but a poor reputation for our honey—honey that is equal to any produced in any part of the world. Under present conditions, it is open to any dealer or speculator to buy up all the cheap rubbish on the market, and ship it to England, as "best Australian honey." This has already been done, and with most injurious results to our industry. The remedy for this is to have regulations framed similar to those embodied in the Dairy Bill. We could then be assured that nothing but good marketable honey would be allowed to leave our shores, and the result of this would be an increase in the popularity and price of our honey abroad.

### QUEENSLAND HONEY MISJUDGED.

Beekeepers, show those who do not take the *A. Bee Bulletin* your copies. Let them learn the true state of the industry.

There is no doubt whatever but that a good deal of the prejudice in England is due to ignorance of our real products.



Some time ago the editor of the "British Bee Journal" (one of the best informed beekeepers in the world) stated in his influential journal that "most of the colonial honey is so rank and strong in flavour as to be totally unfit for table use." I at once protested against this statement being sent broadcast throughout England, and sent the editor a sample of our genuine honey. It was just an ordinary sample, no better than most, and not so good as some we produce. Still the editor, through his editorial columns, pronounced it good in colour and consistency, and immensely superior to what he had been accustomed to see.

#### COMPARISON OF HONEYS.

I have sampled honey from almost every American source, also from Chili, Cuba, Jamaica, and several samples of English honey, and can truthfully say that ours holds its own with the best of them. Of all the foreign honeys I have tested, I prefer the American alfalfa, but let me tell you, we too, produce hundreds of tons of this honey, and I am quite sure that if we shipped this honey to London brokers as Queensland honey, it, too, would be condemned on account of its "eucalyptus flavour." I have some samples of American honey here, also a sample of best English honey (at least I paid 9d. per lb. wholesale for it as best English honey) and would like you to sample same. Any disinterested judge must admit that the bulk of our honey is incomparably superior to it, and I am therefore quite confident that once the British people know the truth about our honey, we shall have no trouble in finding a reliable and profitable market.

#### UNSCRUPULOUS DEALERS.

I believe that even now a good deal of Australian honey is sold in England, but unfortunately it is not always sold as Australian, and perhaps the following extract from a letter in the Melbourne "Age," from its London correspondent, may enlighten some of us:—"Inquiries recently made have thrown some light on the mysterious disappearance of Australian honey which figures on ships' mani-

facts, and is sold wholesale at prices averaging from 3d. to 3½d. per lb., but is never heard of again. It appears that the grocer rechristens the produce, which is sold as "genuine Narbonne," at 1s. If the buyer asks for Australian honey, he is assured that no one can touch an article on account of the disagreeable flavour of eucalyptus." Now, I have not the slightest doubt about the truth of the above statement, and believe that a good deal of this is going on, so it is really time that we took a hand in placing our own honey and putting the truth before the consumer.

#### THE OUTLOOK FOR QUEENSLAND.

Some years ago an effort was made in New South Wales to export honey through the Board of Exports, but it fell through, but in those days honey was neither so low in price nor so plentiful as it is with us to-day, so (perhaps with some assistance from our Department of Agriculture) we may be able to make a success where others failed; anyhow, the scheme is certainly well worth considering. No doubt we could improve in some ways on the N.S.W. scheme, and in the first place it might be better to ship our honey in bulk, and bottle or tin in England, as the trade might demand.

For instance, there is a large trade done in England in 1lb. glass jars, which retail in England at about 1s. each. Now the cost of putting up in these jars is 1½d each, and that includes cost of jar, labour, &c. The cost of putting up in 2lb. glass jars is about 1d. per lb., 1lb. tins about 1½d. per lb., 2lb. tins 1d. per lb., and 5lb. tins about ¾d. per lb. Now if we assume (to be absolutely on the safe side) that honey in glass jars would only realise half the above estimate, we could still have ample margin for a satisfactory profit.

#### THE BRITISH TASTE.

There is one thing we may not be able to regulate, but possibly we can educate, and that is the British taste, which, in some cases, is not similar to ours. Some time ago 12 samples of honey were sent from Sydney to three large dealers in



London, with a request that each firm should carefully judge and value each sample. Before shipping, this honey was carefully judged by experts in Sydney, and full particulars of each sample recorded. On comparing reports it was discovered that the sample which our experts considered as one of the worst in the consignment was judged by them as follows:—Colour, fair; flavour, bad; aroma, bad; density, bad, was placed by each of the British dealers (all of them acting independently) as the best of the lot, and worth up to 27s. 6d. per cwt. We can infer from this report that there is a profitable market to be obtained for even our so-called second-class honey.

#### THE WARWICK SHIPMENT.

No doubt many of you noticed the report on a shipment of honey from Warwick to London, which realised only £17 per ton, while at the same sale New Zealand honey brought £32 10s. per ton. The report says—"The colour of the Queensland lot was satisfactory, and the buyers described its consistency as 'fair,' but its flavour of eucalyptus was decidedly against it." It's the same old delusion—the same old lie. In this case it happens that I am quite familiar with the Warwick shipment, and know that it contains no eucalyptus flavour, in fact—and I want to state this most emphatically—not a single variety of eucalyptus yields a honey that has the slightest flavour of eucalyptus, and the sooner we proclaim and prove this to the world, the better. Our eucalypti are now thriving in California and producing abundance of honey, and the editor of "The American Bee Journal," than whom no more competent and unprejudiced judge exists), in speaking of this honey says "Our sample came direct from California, and it was most excellent honey, in body, flavour and colour." Professor Cook, author of "The Beekeepers' Manual," and now of Pomona College, California, also speaks very highly of this honey. Some time ago I sent a shipment to friends in England, and which went off, as the Americans would say, like hot cakes, at 1s. per lb., and the cry was

for more. Now, if I had sent this to the London dealers, it would undoubtedly have met with the same old reception—eucalyptus flavour—value £17 per ton.

#### EXPORT OF COMB HONEY.

I would now like to say a word or two about the exportation of comb honey, as this is a side of the business which we should not neglect. We can produce abundance of the very finest comb honey, and with careful packing can ship with very little risk to almost any part of the world. Some time ago a consignment of 11b. sections was sent to England from N.S.W., and sold readily by auction at 8s. per dozen, which must be considered a very satisfactory price. I may state that before long I hope to acquaint this association with the result of a small shipment that I have sent on.

#### A "FAR EAST" MARKET.

So far I have only mentioned the English market, but would suggest that we also try nearer home, by directing our attention, say, to the East. I have already exported honey to Singapore at a profit, and am now quoting to parties in India.

I would very much like this association to take further steps to test these markets, also China, Japan, South Africa, etc. etc. We can, with our unlimited possibilities in the way of honey production, supply the requirements of the world, but we must first show our business capacity by advertising and placing our production upon the available markets of the world. I don't think there is a country more gifted by nature for the production of honey than Australia, and we should endeavour by every means in our power to take full advantage of this bounteous gift.

I will now leave this matter in your hands, and trust that you will earnestly consider same, so that some scheme may be evolved which will have the effect of placing this industry in the position that it is destined to occupy—that of one of the leading wealth-producing industries in the state.



## HONEY POISONING.

In view of the discussion that has taken place on this matter, and the importance of the subject, we herewith re-print a report supplied by the Rev. Father Madan to the New Zealand "Australasian Bee Journal" of the results of an investigation into the circumstances connected with the death of two Maori lads after eating honey taken from a tree hive in the bush about ten miles south-south-west of Matata, Bay of Plenty, in the autumn of 1888-89.

### THE HUNTING PARTY.

About three months ago, three Maori youths, Tetiera, Te Ngara, and Teri, whose ages range from fifteen to nineteen, started on a wild pig hunting expedition in the bush about ten miles inland from the sea at Matata, Bay of Plenty. In the course of their hunting they were led to descend into a deep ravine, at the bottom of which ran a rapid stream, Pikiahu by name. This stream rises some seven miles higher up, receives small tributaries, and then about 500 yards below where they struck it dashes down a cataract, and finally forms a waterfall some seventy feet high. At the bottom of this is another cataract, after which it threads its way through manuka and tall fern until it falls into the great river Tarawera.

About thirty feet from the bottom of the ravine they observed bees entering a hole in an old tree called the Tawhero. The tree was leaning at an angle of 45 degrees over the slope, and was in that state of decay when, although rotten inside, there is still strength left to throw out young shoots from odd parts. The three lads at once proceeded to extract some honey to eat then and there, resolving to return later on with cans to contain the rest. When questioned as to how much he ate, the survivor described it as about three-fifths of his hand, or about  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. When questioned as to what he ate, he said it was honeycomb, not brood or cells of bee bread, although his meaning was not to exclude

some of the latter, which might per accident be present. To look at, it was a piece of clean comb honey. The lad in question, viz., Tetiera, the survivor, then cut his name on the tree, and they all proceeded on the hunt.

They crossed the stream, climbed the opposite bank, and after some time caught a pig and proceeded to eat it up. While thus occupied, about two hours after eating the honey, they became conscious of having eaten what is known amongst the natives as poisonous honey. Giddiness came on, then vomiting. The vomiting is described as (1) wax and honey, (2) then honey, (3) then greenish stuff, "very bitter." There was little or no pain, but some headache. They resolved at once to adopt the Maori remedy, viz., drinking all the water they could, and sousing themselves in it. They all started for the stream they had left, now some distance off, and for some time kept together. A. Tetiera, the survivor, soon found that he could go no further. Pains began creeping up his legs, then his thighs, and then upwards, and he threw himself down in the bush. This was, as far as he can judge, about 3.30 p.m. The next thing he remembers is finding himself getting huddled up from the cold, with the sun well above the horizon, probably about 7 a.m. He was slightly giddy only, but perfectly oblivious as to why he was where he was, nor did he notice that he had cast away his trousers, hat, knife and swag. He somehow, thus dazed, made his way through the bush, down a slope, across the stream, and through manuka and tall fern, until he came to Umukika, a Maori settlement, some two hours' journey for a good traveller. He could give no account of himself, but the next day was well enough to lead a search party, from which he returned to Matata, and recovered perfect health.

B. Teri hurried on to the water. He struck the ravine some 550 yards below the hive, where it was almost perpendicular for some fourteen feet, and then a very deep descent for some 130 feet to



the channel of the lower cataract. In his giddiness and desperation he went straight over the precipitous part, crashing through the undergrowth of the bush, and, without taking off his clothes, plunged into the stream, where he was afterwards found dead, in a sitting posture, with his head and feet out, and the chilly water eddying rapidly round him. Not having, unfortunately, a thermometer with me, I cannot tell the exact temperature at the time of my visit, but I was unable to keep my hand more than three and a-half minutes in it, from pain from the cold. When Teri was found dead he had been forty-five hours in it. He was very bruised and knocked about, but as far as I can learn had no fatal injury observable.

C. Te Ngarara struck the ravine rather higher up. He too went over the precipitous crest, although in a slightly less precipitous place, and crashed through the thick undergrowth of the bush until he reached just the top of the waterfall. He was evidently sensible enough to see his danger, as his clothes were found higher up, about half-way down the cataract. He must there have got into the rapid stream, where certainly I could not in perfect health have withstood the force of the water, and was carried over a six-foot fall into a basin some three feet or more deep, where he was caught in the fork of a fallen tree and held tightly under the water, so completely that the search party could not see any part of him. His jaw was found broken, and he was so bruised, and as one described it, "broken in half," that the natives seem to think it scarcely worth while to particularize the injuries. It was only by raising the tree at a venture that his foot was seen, and so they found his whereabouts.

#### II.—THE SEARCH PARTY.

For the purposes for which this report is drawn up it will be unnecessary minutely to detail the proceedings of the search party. After finding the bodies, three of them went to find the tree hive, and brought back with them some honey to the rest of the party. Three of them

ate what they describe as a piece about two fingers large, after which, carrying the bodies, they approached, after two hours' walk, the aforesaid Maori settlement of Umuhika. Here, one of those who had eaten some honey fell off his horse, and shortly after the other two were gravely affected. The following is the description, as far as I can ascertain, of the various stages of the malady: (a) Giddiness, and motions like those of a drunken man, staggering to and fro; (b) a pain beginning in the calves, rising up to the thighs, thence to trunk of the body, then the head; (c) vomiting; (d) rigidity of the limbs - the arms so rigidly straight as to resist the efforts of two or three men to bend; the legs similarly rigidly straight, and the back also; the jaws open and working backwards and forwards; (e) complete insensibility; (f) complete recovery about 2 a.m., that is, about ten hours after the attack.

These three were doused in water according to the Maori custom, and as far as I can understand, half drowned. They all absolutely and completely recovered.

#### III.—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

The following additional items of information bear on the subject:

A. There are three flowering plants known as producing deleterious honey or pollen. (1) The Wharangi, a plant about five feet high, bearing white flowers in the early spring. (2) The Puawangana, a climbing plant, described to me as the white clematis, and also as the wild vine, bearing white flowers in the spring. (3) The Whauriki, a small plant resembling watercress in its habits, but bearing a yellowish flower like the yellow buttercup in the autumn. It grows by the edge of swamps and running streams, and flowers in the autumn when the water goes down.

B. A gentleman in this neighbourhood, who has for years been engaged in the bush surveying, tells me that as regards the first two of the above plants it is certain that after about two months the deleterious substance, whatever it is, disappears, and that the comb can be eaten



perfectly innocuously. With regard to the whauriki, he happens not to have been able to test it either one way or the other.

C. He further stated that the honey in question could only have been gathered from the whauriki, which was very profusely in flower last autumn owing to the dry season. And as to its poison also disappearing I was assured over and over again by the natives that it was no use my now going to examine the hive, for the evil in the comb would have ceased. I may say that the natives are very minute observers of such facts, and can be generally relied absolutely on.

The natives about here say that since the eruption, which affected the whole of this neighbourhood, the effects have been far worse than before. Before it, it was giddiness and vomiting, but not much more.

E. The manuka has been the only flowering plant about here for the last three months.

F. It will be remembered in Zenophon's "Anabasis" that some soldiers in the "Retreat of the Ten Thousand" ate some wild honey in Asia Minor, and became as it were drunk. But none died from it, if my memory serves me right.

G. The tree hive in question is about ten inches in diameter, the tree being at that part about sixteen inches thick. There was no very old comb, nor, as far as I could see, any fungoid growth. I should suppose the bees had been, at the outside, two seasons there. There were three openings into it. The whole of the combs are now out, I believe, and the colony will probably die out.

#### IV.—THE SPECIMENS SENT.

The contents of the four tins sent herewith were all taken out in my presence from the tree hive, marked by Tetiera on his first visit, and known to be the one in question.

Case A contains full honeycomb.

Case B contains (1) a piece of new brood, (2) empty comb of the date of the accident, according to the natives' account, (3) a bit of bee bread of the same

date, according to the same authority.

Case C contains odd pieces of foul comb.

Case D contains some bee bread.

#### V.—CONCLUDING REMARKS.

It will be noticed from the above —

(1) That the Maori lad most affected was the only one of the original party that recovered; and that a case of death simply and solely from eating this or similar honey is not yet before the public, as far as I can ascertain.

(2) That it seems to be accepted as a known fact that the deleterious substance whatever it is, disappears in all cases two months after storing in the comb.

It is but common justice, as well as a pleasure to me, to add that the obtaining of the specimens and the verification of the circumstances attending the deaths of the two youths would have been almost out of my power but for the courteous and gratuitous aid of one of the shrewdest and most experienced natives of this part, Porione by name, to whom I thus gladly publicly tender my thanks, in which you will no doubt wish me to tell him that you join. Nor should I have been able to obtain so many different specimens of the contents of the hive, nor get at all the facts, but for the aid of a good neighbour here, Mr. William Savage, whose perfect knowledge of Maori and skill in dealing with bees were of the greatest aid in bringing the expedition to (I trust) a successful issue.—*New Zealand Farmer*.

## CAPPINGS.

Our leading bee-keepers are not always careful, neither are they always successful in handling bees without stings, but they usually care little about stings. Not long ago, I was visiting at the home of one of our best honey-producers. We visited together one of his apiaries, out in the wilderness, and he told me that he had a horse killed by the bees accidentally. The apiary was located on the east side of a hill covered with white sage. He was in the habit of tying his horse on the op-



posite slope of the same hill, only a short distance from the apiary, but out of sight of the hives. One day, after handling bees for several hours, and finding them unusually cross, he discovered that his horse had been stung to death by them. He warned me that the bees were not to be relied upon at that apiary. As I was travelling and did not care to have my face swollen out of shape by stings, I asked him to let me handle the smoker, during our stay there. I carefully smoked each hive at the entrance before opening it, and not a single bee molested us, although we were there for several hours. The old bees are always cross when the hive is disturbed. If the weather is fine, they leave the hive in search of honey and at midday there is less need of smoke than any other time. If the blossoms yield honey, the bees are so intent on honey-gathering that very little smoke is needed, and, sometimes, in the busy part of the day, hives may be handled without the use of smoke. But when the bees are all at home, young and old, morning and evening, it is never a good plan to open the hive without first smoking the bees that guard the entrance. Experience dictates whether we should give much or little smoke, but when in doubt it is best to give enough. Too much will confuse the bees, and will cause them to rush about and even to desert the hive, and this would be very inconvenient. However, it may be asserted that there is more trouble caused by too little smoke than by an overdose. When the weather is cool and the bees are all in the hive, more is needed. When it is warm and some bees are flying, a few puffs just enough to frighten the few guards, will prove sufficient. In very good honey-producing seasons, there is need of but little smoke. A hive may be opened with so little disturbance, that many of the bees will not pay attention to the intrusion. I have seen bees start out for the field through the opening made by the operator in removing the cover. It is very easy to notice, as the working bee darts out, in a bee-line, for the field, while the disturbed workers hover around after taking

wing, probably wondering what is to become of their home. The bee that has been harvesting honey, and knows where more of it is to be found, seems to pay attention to nothing else, and she flies out straight for another load as soon as her load is off. A little smoke at the entrance will never do any harm, and, whenever in doubt, it is well to use it.---Exchange.

Those who have large quantities of honey which they cannot sell, and who read with irritation the wonderful things the honey trade in Australia is going to be, might also read with interest the following extract from the *Irish Bee Journal*:—"Bee-keeping in this country, Ireland, is a despised, neglected and starved industry. Yet, where properly conducted, it is beyond all comparison the most profitable of agricultural pursuits. A profit of cent. per cent can be made out of the labours of the honey bee. The best honey in the world can be produced in Ireland. The demand for the sweet product of the hive is so great that, although a large quantity is produced in England, Wales and Scotland Great Britain's honey imports in 1903 amounted to £30,349; in 1902, to £27,126; and in 1901 to £42,837. "Every penny of that sum might have been earned in Ireland. There is not an intelligent farmer, or labourer, or school girl, in any of our counties who might not make from £10 to £50 a year in this way—some are, even now, reaching a profit of £ 00 per annum by bee-keeping and that without extravagant expenditure of capital or time, while a corner of a garden or a yard suffices to provide accommodation for the hives."

As reported in the *Lahrer Missions blatt*, Siam abounds with honey and bees (*apis dorsata*). Huge combs are seen hanging from the limbs of large forest trees. We counted forty of such on one single tree. The native bee-hunters secure the honey by setting up bamboo poles reaching to the nests. With a lighted torch in hand they climb up, drive the bees away, and secure the honey. We bought one of the combs, which was half moon shaped,



three feet long and one foot wide. We also bought some small pieces of comb for our attendants, who were very anxious for them. These contained some young larvae and were greatly relished. The natives immersed them in the liquid honey and thus ate them.—LEIPZ. BZTG.

To bleach wax and make it white it is exposed to sunlight in moist atmosphere, and in very small particles. The process requires from five to six weeks, unless one and one-fourth to one and three-fourths per cent. of turpentine has been added to the wax, when the time may be shortened to six or eight days, so says Pr. Wegw.—*Jamacia Times*.

The "British Beekeepers' Record" for December says—We hear of districts in the south of England where excellent harvests of honey have been secured, while in other parts of the same county, bees, while managed by equally competent hands, have done very badly indeed. In some places the produce has been fair in quantity, but utterly spoiled by honey dew; and yet apiaries located a few miles away were entirely free from this most annoying cause of deterioration in the season's ingathering. Then, with regard to the north of England, the white clover crop has, from various causes, turned out a complete failure. On the other hand, Scotland has done very well indeed, and curiously enough the honey harvest has been obtained chiefly from white clover, the heather crop, from which great things were expected, yielding a very poor return.

We take the following from "To Correspondents" in the *British Beekeepers' Record*—"A Bee-man (Somerset)—Buying Honey from Advertisers.—It is impossible for us to guarantee that honey advertised and sold as 'British' has been produced in the United Kingdom. On the other hand, purchasers can always safeguard themselves in this respect by purchasing on the 'deposit system' and obtaining the desired guarantee from sellers."

"My plan to make the bees lay soonest in the sections was to have the hive or

brood-chamber of a size that an average queen will keep filled to the exclusion of honey, thus keeping the section boxes close to the brood. If you will try this you will find that the queen will keep the combs in a hive of 1500 to 1600 cubic inches filled with brood, except, perhaps, the extreme upper corners, and if any honey is to be had from the fields the bees will put it in the sections, as there is no where else to store it. This is one of the secrets of successful comb-honey production."

Honey in bottles that has candied can be very readily liquefied by exposing them to dry heat. For some months back we have been relquefying our bottled honey without removing the labels or corks. The bottles are put into a tray having a coil of steam pipes under them, subjecting them to a temperature of not more than 105 or 110 degrees. When the granulation all disappears the bottles are taken out without even wiping, and are then ready again for the shelves. For those who have not steam pipes, the back oven to a stove, or even a regular bake oven with a low fire, doors left open, will give the same results; or better, put the bottles on a wire screen two or three inches above the top of the stove for over night, where they will get a bottom temperature but not very much heat at the corks. If over night does not prove to be long enough, and the stove is needed for other purposes, put the bottles back on again as soon as the stove can be spared.—Exchange.

*L' Apiculteur* for August, in its honey reports for Havre, Marseilles, Hamburg, and Belgium, reports sustained and increasing prices on foreign honey. Chilian honey seems to cut a wide swath in Europe. Concerning the matter of cutting prices the editor says, "The members of the Central Society, on the 19th of June, decided to ask 115 or at least 110 francs, and that price would have been sustained by the Parisian dealers. But just at that time a Gatinais house scattered circulars broadcast among grocers, offering superfine honey at 105. To offer honey at such a price, that house must have had some guarantee from some



one against low prices. Whose fault was this, if not the producers', who sold without informing themselves as to what was going on around them?—*Gleanings*.

Overstocking is possible—there must somewhere be a limit—but how many bee-keepers have *really* tested, in a scientific manner, the nectar producing capacity of their fields? I venture to say the number is very few. I will give you a genuine instance of overstocking. Some three or four years ago there were kept within a radius of one and one-half miles of Longmont, Colorado, about 1,500 colonies of bees. The yield dwindled to less than half that secured at the yards four or five miles away. More than half of these colonies have been moved to other locations, and the surplus yield in that vicinity now compares very favorably with the general average.—*Exchange*.

Extracted honey production has one advantage that is quite important, and of which very little has been said, and that is that it may be carried over from one year to another, if a large crop lowers prices, while comb honey must be sold the same year it is produced. Of course, it is possible to keep over comb honey, but the expense of furnishing proper storage and keeping it warm so that it will not candy, greatly lessens the profit. Besides comb honey kept over, even under the most favorable conditions, never has the delicious freshness of new honey.

Extracting was going on at a ranch, in Cuba. One of the big bee-keepers from the States, who was on a visit to the island, was there. He came out into the yard, and saw a hive opened. The combs were fat and heavy. They were loosened, caught up by the ends, given a shake, and placed in the super on the wheelbarrow. He said, "Is that the way you get bees off the combs? Don't you have a brush at all? You can't do that where I came from." After watching for a short time he said he thought bees could be brushed off faster than when shaken. So he got a brush, and the two worked together. The result was, the man that

had no brush put two combs into the super on the wheelbarrow, to one of the man with the brush.

Mr. Alley says:—As commonly used the honey-board is placed between the brood chamber and the super. This prevents the queen from going into the upper story of the hive and depositing her eggs where they are not wanted. In other words, the honey-board is a queen-excluder. If we place the honey-board between the bottom-board and the brood chamber, in that style of hive in which the entrance is made by the raised rabbit on the sides of the bottom-board, the queen excluder in its new position becomes a queen restrainer, the queen being unable to pass through, while the workers have perfect freedom of action throughout the entire surface of the honey-board and the original entrance.

In British Honduras, the mangrove bark is fast becoming an important article of export. As the mangrove abounds all along our coasts, and for a long way up our rivers, and is a fair honey yielder, the supply is almost inexhaustible. The getting of the bark needs no capital and the industry is therefore one which is essentially one for the poor man with energy to engage in. The bark is used for tanning and the demand is practically unlimited.—*Jamaica Times*.

The use of small nuclei for mating is the part of the new Swarthmore system that has been most debated by bee-keepers. The use of royal jelly has been shown by Mr. Pratt to be but a waste of time; the use of artificial cells has been advocated by him, and is now widely used; the laying of eggs in wooden cell cups by the breeding queen saves much time formerly spent in transferring larvae.—*Exchange*.

A German writer says, in *Bienen Zuechter*, if a hole is made in an ant-hill, and a lump of camphor put in and tamped over, the ants will seek new quarters. A good dose of borax poured in will answer the same purpose, and costs practically nothing. At times ants are annoying to bees, and their hillocks are unsightly at



best. A writer for a German bee journal living in Calabria, Italy, says he has for years used lemons to attract swarms. He says, "Our bee-keepers attract their swarms in a few minutes, and get them where they wish, be it in a log, a hive, a box, or even in their hat. To do this they simply rub some bits of lemon or lemon leaves in the places designed for swarms. Some use essence of lemon." There's no doubt that bees like the odor of lemons. Who doesn't?


*Revue Eclectique* says if the leaves of absinthe be rubbed on the hands the bees will not alight on them, as they have a great aversion to that plant. If swarms are in the habit of alighting on certain inconvenient limbs, this plant, if rubbed on the bark, will repel them.

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

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

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