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## **The Southland queen. Vol. I, No. 5 September 1895**

Beeville, Texas: The Jennie Atchley Company, September 1895

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Vol. 1. No. 5.

Sept. 1895.



THE

# SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE BEST  
INTEREST OF BEE-KEEPERS EVERYWHERE.

ISSUED BY THE JENNIE ATCHLEY Co.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, - - \$1.00 PER YEAR.



WEEKLY PICAYUNE BOOK PRINT,  
BEKVILLE, TEXAS.





# The Southland Queen.

MOTTO: FAIRNESS.

Vol. 1.

BEEVILLE, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER, 1895.

No. 5.

Bro. York of the American Bee Journal, has gone into the supply business

They are having one of the coldest and most severe winters in Australia, at present, that has been for 30 years.

We want to be progressive, so please lend us your assistance, and let us push the Southland Queen to the front.

If you do not receive your paper regularly by the time the month is out, let us know and we will be glad to send you another copy.

We have just had the finest fall rains for years, and we are almost assured of a good honey crop in 1896. Fall gardens are looking well.

It seems there are quite a number of bee-keepers who want to sit down on the five band bees, and look like they are afraid to, but if you don't sit too hard they won't sting, as they are very gentle, but, if you give them improper treatment they will pop it to you and you can't blame 'em. So we will add; sit down slow and easy and you are safe.

The report of the North American Bee-keepers' Association, held at Toronto, Canada, Sept. 4, 5 and 6, 1895, is being given in full by the American Bee Journal. You ought to read it.

We are glad to offer you the good reading of the Texas State, and the Central Texas Bee-keepers Associations in this number. Please read the reports and see if you can meet with them next time.

There seems to be a little tit for tat, or useless chat lately in the old reliable, American Bee Journal, about the North American report of a year ago, and it seems both parties are to blame. Quit it and give us that report, as we are anxious to read it.

## Central Texas Bee-Keepers.

The Central Texas Bee-keepers Association meets at Milano, Tex., Nov. 16, 1895. This will be our second meeting, and we want all bee-keepers that can, to meet with us, and remember you are all cordially invited.

F. A. Arnold, Secretary,  
C. B. Bankston, Corresponding  
Clerk, Chriesman, Texas.



**DOES NOT LACK  
for bee literature and is well  
surrounded with  
Queens.**

The Jennie Atchley Co.:

The Southland Queen and the three banded Queen arrived in fine shape. The three band was introduced and the fifth day when I examined her colony I found her grandly enthroned with already a large number of eggs in the cells. You called her a three band, but I failed to see the bands as she appeared solid yellow to the tip. Now I am surrounded with 21 queens from all points of the compass, one for each colony in my Apiary, and if queens secure happiness I should be happy, and I am, especially in the early morn when yet there is not enough light to see the busy toilers I can hear their contented hum mellowed by their burden of nectar as they bear it to their homes.

As to THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN, I find it quite practical and the very thing the beginner in bee culture needs. With it, The American Bee Journal and three or four good text books, as the "A B C" by Root, The Bee Keeper's Guide by Prof. Cook, Langstroth Revised, by Dant, with what can be gleaned from Encyclopædia Britannica, one by close observation of his Apiary, and close study of what the above veterans say upon the subject, work himself or herself into a practical bee keeper, provided they have the natural prerequisites to begin with.

Now in Southland Queen, July No., page four, (Lesson 2,) upon the subject of dividing bees, after giving process it is said: "When you take all the sealed brood away from the parent colony and give it to the new colony you have the very same conditions that you would have in natural swarming, the new colony having the young bees and queen."

Well that upsets all I thought I knew about that, for I thought the old queen as a rule carried off the new colony consisting of old, middle aged and perhaps some young bees. Now I don't mean to criticise, but get right. How is this?

Bees are not laying by large stores here so far this season, there are too many drenching rains. This I learn from my brother bee keepers, for it would not be proper to judge from my Apiary as I have had it in a tumble since the middle of June; first transferring from box and log hives and soon after looking out old black queens and introducing the Italian strain and when you remember the anxiety of a novice in seeing his first Italian babies, you will agree with me that,—blessed are they that expect nothing the first year in bee culture for they shall not be disappointed.

When I transferred in June, I took about 36 lbs. of honey to the colony, still we have the cotton, pea, corn, red clover and buck wheat as cultivated pasturage, and the forest flowering plants of the fall before them, but what the harvest shall be will be better stated later on.

In the American Bee Journal I notice an advertisement of Henry Alley's Adel queens. I wondered what that word meant, and searched from cellar to garret to find the word; not there. I then searched Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary's list of proper names, and found the name which was the name of a little village in Iowa. Then the puzzle came, could that be the nativity of the Adel queens of Mr. Alley. While in suspense there came a sample copy of the Apiculturist, published by Henry Alley, Wenham, Mass., and here I found relief. He tells us that the Adel's home is in Carniola and that the term signifies "noble; superior;" and claims that they are the original race of yellow



banded bees, and that he has a colony of these bees that has neither stung or swarmed in six years. Now while I am waiting for one of my colonies to become queenless, and I almost wished one of my lately introduced Italians would prove no good that I could have an excuse to pinch her head off and supply her place with an Adel, but while waiting I would like to know the minds of some advanced Apiarists on this strain. With Greetings.

W. J. COPELAND.

Fetzerton, Tenn.

DOCTOR:—I am glad you have called my attention to dividing as given in lesson No. 2. I should have said; the colony with all the sealed brood set off to themselves, have the young bees and young queen, representing the old or parent colony in natural swarming, while the old queen, old bees, and part of the young ones too are left on the old stand almost broodless, (but in better shape by having some unsealed brood) represent the swarm that issues naturally. This plan has proven very satisfactory for the south and is one of the best we know of. You are right about what constitutes natural swarming.

The name, ADEL, is a hard one to define properly. We have a man (a merchant) in our town by the name of Adel, and I thought that Bro. Alley had likely purchased his start from a person of that name till I saw his explanation that you give. My honest opinion is that the Adel queens are decendants of the Carniolan races, as I find that the best Imported strains of the

Carniolan Bees soon run to yellow, and a pretty yellow too, and are very gentle and fine honey gatherers. I am now convinced that the Carniolans will run to yellow in 3 generations, as it is born and bred there and will crop out. I believe Mr. Alley claims about the same. They are by no means a fixed race of bees.

MRS. ATCHLEY:—I do not now read any bee paper, or I do not take any, but I noticed some two or three years ago that you wanted some Cyprian queens, and I now have some twenty Cyprian queens that I could let you have, as I have more bees than I want (400 colonies.) What will you give for them? They are terrors, but nice queens, fearfully awful to manipulate, but I go along with them for their other good qualities. They are prolific, hardy, well marked, and they gather more honey than any other of the races I have. I suppose I am the only one in the country that has the Cyprian bees. No one wants to monkey with them, in fact I cannot employ any one to work with them, and in fact they cannot; even an old veteran as I am, they drive me in at times, as they sting and sting. J. W. TEFFT.

Warners, N. Y., Aug. 19, 1895.

FRIEND TEFFT:— It was a customer I was wanting Cyprian queens for and not for my own use, and had to send to the Island of Cyprus for one for him, and she came O. K. Pure Cyprian queens are at a premium at present, as I know several parties that will not have any other kind. Yes, I know that the Cyp's and Holylands are the best bees extant, but, the main rea-



son that they are not more in general use is their sting propensities, but that never was any objection to speak of for me. I would like to take a look at one of your Cyp's.

### A Blacksmith Bee Man.

THE JENNIE ATCHLEY Co:—

I am a black-smith, and weel-wrighit, and work hard all day in the shop and put in foundation at night. I have 23 colonies of bees, most of them I transferred from trees this spring. The hail and drouth together has ruined the honey crop this year, but I did get some honey from my old hives before the hail struck us, but none since. I have two five band queens I bought of J. D. Givens and their bees have begun to fly. I cut a bee-tree a few days ago that contained a colony of pure Italian bees, (3 bands) they were such beauties. I caught the queen and a double hand full of the bees and carried them home in a cigar box, seven miles. I made them a little hive 9x9x5 in. and put them in it, on six frames of foundation. 24 hours later I looked in, and was surprised to see little fellows busy drawing out the foundation comb; the queen was literally filling the comb with eggs. They had a full half pound of honey stored. My neighbor, Mr. Bessler has found 47 bee-trees this summer, and some of them had as much as two gallons of honey, while some had none at all. I make my own hives and frames, the hive is 17x12 inches and 9 inches deep. The supers are regular size, and hold 24 one pound sections. My supers project over in front, and the hive has a strip nailed under the super to furnish a complete rest for the super. A. S.

Waring, Tex., Aug. 19, 1895.

Success to the blacksmith that works all day in shop and puts in foundation at night.

### Arrived.

On the 10th Inst. J. O. Grimsley, of Otto, Tenn. arrived at our place. Mr. Grimsley has been expected for some months, but, on account of business which was unavoidable, he could not get here sooner. Mr. Grimsley is a printer as well as a bee-man, and will now take charge of the printing of "The Southland Queen," and we will hereafter try to get out on time. With a printer at the head, with the experience that Mr. Grimsley has, we may soon expect improvement as well as interest added to this paper.

We ask you to please excuse the delay we have made in the last few issues, as we could not help it. We trust that the lessons we will give in this and next issue will make up for the delay, as these two issues alone are worth no doubt to many of our readers, many times the cost of this paper one year. These lessons we mention, were printed in the American Bee-Journal some time ago. We had them electrotyped in Chicago, and will have it printed in book form some time in the future if we can, and with the rest of the book added, we hope to have a valuable work on Southern Bee-keeping.

### A Swarm In October.

On Saturday, Oct. 5th there appeared to be an increase in the Atchley family, by a swarm, a ten pound girl. Its name is JENNIE BEE. Both mother and child are doing well.



### Bees Moving Eggs.

From American Bee Journal, July 4.

The members of the Southwest Texas bee convention seemed to be unanimous and some of them emphatic, in asserting that bees do not move eggs; and several of them gave their reasons for that belief, viz: Moving eggs from one cell to another would require reason, and as bees do not reason, therefore they do not move eggs.

Not long ago Mrs. Atchley published an article in the "American Bee Journal" in which she claimed that mankind is the only animal that is endowed with reason. I do not propose at present to discuss the question of animals reasoning, though I might relate many anecdotes illustrating the reasoning power of beasts, bees and other animals and if she will wake up a little memory that is at present dormant, she could probably tell just as many.

None of the members of that convention had read any of the instances recorded where bees have moved eggs, or they had forgotten them, or believed the writers untruthful. I have witnessed several cases of egg moving myself—not the act of moving, but the work after it was done—and I supposed it was of such common occurrence that it was not worthy of remark.

I wish Willie Atchley would take a queenless colony and give it eggs only in a very old, black comb, putting this comb at the side of the hive, and then put new, empty combs next, and report results. If I should say: "It is not possible that bees gather and store honey for future use, for that would require reason, and bees do not have reason," these same persons would say, to themselves at least, "Beckwith is in the same condition mentally as the bees;" but if the bees can do the one without reason, they can the other.

J. W. BECKWITH.

Grover, Colorado.

I notice on page 424 of July 4, 1895 issue of the American Bee Journal that Mr. I. W. Beckwith takes a lot of us Texas folk to task, and as I see no one else has yet made him a response, I take up that task and call for more proof than he gives to show us Texans that bees do move eggs. He seems to construe a meaning that we do not believe what others have said on this subject, and I wish to impress upon his mind that we are simply taking them the same as we take him on this subject, to be mistaken, and not that we think them untruthful in the least as we find the general run of bee keepers as truthful as other people. Now I would like to call Mr. Beckwith's attention to a few facts that have come under my observation during the last few years. I do not wish to have him believe for a moment that I observe closer than he does, or that I do not make mistakes, for mistakes I do make, and lots of them, and it may be that I am mistaken in this case. but let us see about it. One of my mistakes was I thought bees moved eggs from one cell to another or from comb to comb till I learned better. In EVERY instance, where I had occasion to suspect that bees had moved eggs, I found out, without an exception that it was a mistake, and they did not do it. I will ask Mr. Beckwith, or anyone else, to send me a little piece of brood that is the



product of eggs moved by workers from comb to comb or from hive to hive, or from any place to another. If anyone will, without partiality, answer my question about where and how he obtained such a brood, I will pay all postage and expense, and then, if he proves to a finish and to a certainty that bees do move eggs, of course I will give it up, but the proof that has been produced is insufficient. Mr. Beckwith says for me to take an old black comb that contains eggs, hang it in a queenless colony with a new comb without eggs by its side, and note results and report. I wonder if he thinks that I have worked with bees for 12 years, and almost every day of my life for that time, and never have tried that simple experiment? I have done it forty times, yes, I will be safe in saying twice forty, and in all my observations I have failed to have eggs moved by the bees. You must be very particular where you get that new comb, as I have only caught myself by observing that the bees hatching from my supposed new combs were of a different color from those hatching from the black comb. I was caught, you see. The eggs were there, and it may be that the comb had been out of the hive several days during warm weather and the eggs lay dormant just as a hen's eggs would, and after putting in the hive would hatch.

At other times, I have been fooled by the eggs being laid by the worker bees, as they often appear in 24 hours after a hive has been made queenless, at a time when the bees were highly stimulated. The brood you send must be sealed. Mr. Beckwith seems to think that bees have reasoning power. This may be, but I must disagree with him again, but I hope he may not think I am contrary, as I try not to be one bit so. I believe the sharp instinct possessed by many animals and insects seem to head reason off. Such as taking a pig a mile from home tightly closed up and then turn him loose and it will beat you home. Ma has made me take a sack of kittens off at different times, tied tightly up in a sack and I have poured them out a mile or more from home and they would beat me back, and those kittens were small and had never been further away than the yard. Mr. Beckwith may call this reason, but I do not, as reason can't do that. Take a frame of sealed brood off clear out of reach of other bees and let them hatch out, and they will just act like any other bees, talk bees, store up honey for winter, and do anything else that other bees do. Mr. Beckwith may call this reason, but I do not, as reason can't do that. Reason must be a development, and bees never develop anything, but always remain the same. Take a human being off to some secluded

spot, and never allow them to come in contact with the reasoning powers that is developed in the human race, and its reasoning powers will always lay dormant and such a being would only live by the powers of instinct. Sometimes we have practiced taking out the queens when a honey flow came on, to get the use of the bees in storing section honey, and in such cases, if Mr. Beckwith's arguments are correct, we might expect the bees to move the eggs from the black combs below, to the new section combs above. What is the use in using queen excluders to keep brood out of the upper story any how, if the bees are going to move the eggs up any way? Who ever saw brood in the upper story, or in the sections, when queen excluders were used, unless the queen got through?

I was a little amused when I read that the act of moving eggs had not been observed by Mr. B. after he had witnessed it.

Nature says, in her instinct powers to the bee, gather your winter stores, and prepare for winter, the same as to the squirrel, rat &c., and to do such things is common, but to move eggs from one comb to another is not common, as Mr. B. puts it, and requires reason, and of course the bee is void of that article. Nature says to the bee, you must let such as that alone for your keeper to do and remain in your allotted channel. If I had one thousand

colonies of bees on my right that were queenless and had no brood or means of rearing a queen, and one thousand on my left that all had queens and brood, I should not expect the right to steal eggs from the and provide themselves queens, but I would surely see them all perish, unless perchance a virgin queen, or some queen from the other side got over. It would take reason to steal eggs and rear queens, and bees have not that article. Queen bees deposit the eggs that make worker bees, just as nature says for her to do, and no other insect does it, is my observation. The workers may deposit eggs, but no workers come forth from such, as nature has forbidden it. When the queens deposit their eggs, they remain in the identical cells she deposits them in, unless moved by something other than a worker bee. Here I am, put up for a target, and let us see who will cast the first stone at me to see how well I can dodge.

Bees will destroy eggs, but do not move or redeposit them.

WILLIE ATCHLEY.

The above article was written for the American Bee-Journal in response to Mr. Beckwith's article, in which he takes the whole of the Southwest Texas Bee-keepers Association to task, and as no one else seemed to re-pond, I took up that task myself. The editor of that excellent paper—yes, I will call it the father of bee-journals—



says flatly that I did not write the article, or he would print it. Below is his letter verbatim. W. A.

We give Mr. Beckwith's criticism that our readers may better understand Willie's reply. J. A.

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 19, 1885.

Mr. Willie Atchley, Beeville, Tex.

DEAR SIR:—I enclose card received today. If I could be assured you wrote the enclosed article, I might use it, but, I don't believe you wrote it, so I return it.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. YORK.

Here is the card that Mr. York refers to, word for word:

Geo. York, Dearbon st, Chicago Ills, Care American bee Joarnal. Dear Friend, I sent you the Southland Queen, look it over: I would like to know. who is the composer of the articles signed Willie Atchley? I don't believe Willie A: is scholar enough to compose or write such articles?—————a Bee-Keeper. Dallas. Tex aug 5th. 1895.

I suppose that Mr. York left it with his dear friend to judge my article and by the way is not friend enough to know where Mr. York lives. I am perfectly willing for him to proof read my articles, just to see what improvement he has made in spelling scholar, over and signed. Also, see how anxious he is to know who wrote the articles. He could not hold his pencil till he made an interrogation point and a big cut dash with his closing sentence when no question was asked. My dear readers, when you want your letters proof read, send them to Mr. York's dear friend, who, by the way, signs himself a bee-keeper

when he has not a bee to his name, and is strolling about the country begging work, wishing to meddle with other people's business and let his own go to the dogs. Surely it can't be that Mr. York or his dear friend is afraid of me or THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN, as we are both peaceable and try to attend to our own business and let other people's alone. I wish to thank Mr. York for the high compliment paid THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN, as he says she contains some powerful articles from some body; and I am happy to inform both Mr. York and his dear friend that I have a hand in composing and writing my articles. Mr. York and his dear friend may take me for a fool, and maybe I am, but I have instinct enough to run to the table when the dinner bell rings, and I will praise myself that much if they laugh at me. I must confess, as I have always done, that I am not much of a scholar, not versed in grammar or Latin, but I can write enough to tell when a queen will hatch, and put down how much honey one of my colonies gather, and I think that is pretty good for a boy of 20. While I am not much of a scholar, I am glad to say I have a father who is, and I manage to scratch my articles down in some way and my father rewrites them on the typewriter and arranges them for the press, like any good father will do. When my articles are done and ready for



the press, I read them over, and if they are as I want them, I put my signature to them; if not, I have them set aright before signing them. The article above, which was sent Mr. York, was partly written with my own pen in my own hand, with my own signature attached, the balance was rewritten and some added to by my father, E. J. Atchley, and when I read it, I found that the article was not quite complete, and I wrote the last of it with my own pen, without any one correcting the mistakes. If any of the good bee-keepers wish to use the name of a gump-head like myself in any of their articles, please send same to an editor who can believe I wrote it, so I may have a chance to reply, and I will manage to scratch something back at you. We do not have to go to lawyers, doctors or professors to get our articles written; so when you read THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN, you may know it is something from the Atchley family. Mr. York, please do not use my name in your good paper in connection with any article unless you can allow me a reply through same. Good luck, long life and happiness to Mr. York and his dear friend.

WILLIE ATCHLEY.

I will add, that Willie may have said more in the above than he should have, but, as he is nearly a man, we will let it pass. Willie is a boy of too much modesty to

say anything good for himself, and I will add that he is scholar enough to carry off the highest prize in his Bible class at Sunday school, where there are lots of big, old and young, grown up people that are good scholars. You know that the great London preacher, Chas. Spurgeon, once said that if he had obeyed his parents and went to college, his life of ministerial work and usefulness might have been ruined. Myself, Willie and the rest of the children have had a good schooling in the bee yards for many years, as we have had to do it for a living, and we can thank the Lord that made us. Mr. Atchley, being an invalid for many years, has been able most of the time to attend to the office work and do the writing for us, for which I am thankful, as without him, we could never have done our work with the bees and office work too. What little we know, we have learned the most of it right over the bee hives in the hot sun, and we would take our notes, items, etc. while at work and hand them to Mr. Atchley, who would get them up in good shape, ready for the press. We do not profess to know all of bee-keeping by a long way, but this paper is printed in order that we may impart to others, especially beginners, what we know; that they may not experience the many ups and downs and make as many mistakes as we did; that we



may be able to tell them how to manage their bees successfully from the start. So come on with your articles and questions and let us learn of each other, and make the best of bee-keeping we can. I love to learn of you getting big crops of honey. Send in your reports, and we will see who gets the most.

JENNIE ATCHLEY.

I wish to say that Mr. Atchley re-writes, arranges, proof reads and looks after nearly all the matter that goes in THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

PUBLISHER,

**REPORT OF THE CENTRAL  
Texas Bee-keepers  
Association.**

September 14, 1895.

The Central Texas Bee-keepers Association met on the above date at the residence of Mr. John Carnes, Chriesman, Texas. After looking over Bro. Carnes' beautiful beeyard, and partaking of his hospitalities the assembly was called to order by C. B. Bankston. We at once went into permanent organization and elected our board of officers as follows. E. R. Jones, Milano, Texas, President; F. A. Arnold, Hookerville, Secretary; C. B. Bankston, Chriesman, Corresponding Clerk and Business Manager; G. W. Beard, Milano, Treasurer. After discussing many questions of minor importance, the following very important question was presented for final solution.

Which pays best, comb or extracted honey?

G. W. Beard:— I have run bees for extracted honey for 15 years, but I am thoroughly convinced that the production of comb honey will pay best.

C. B. Bankston:— I believe that strong colonies will pay best run for comb honey. I like the divisible brood chamber, so when the bees are ready for the sections, I can remove the surplus combs to weak colonies and run them for extracted honey.

John Carnes:— I run my bees for both comb and extracted honey. Those that seem to prefer working in the sections are run for comb, and the lazy ones are run for extracted honey.

F. A. Arnold:— Comb honey is my favorite branch of apiculture. The market for comb honey holds out better. The persuit being more complicated, or rather harder to get a good crop of comb honey than extracted, prevents Tom, Dick and Harry from over stocking the market.

E. R. Jones:— My hobby is comb honey, I have some shallow frames but my experience with them is not sufficient to give anything definite about them.

M. r Vorner:— Comb honey pays me best. I have no trouble to sell all that I can produce.

It was decided to meet at Milano, Texas, Nov. 16, 1895. Every one that is interested in bees is



invited (cordially) to meet with us. Also those not interested are invited that they may become interested. We will be glad to have some of the editors of THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN to meet with us.

F. A. Arnold, Secretary.

C. B. Bankston, Corresponding Clerk.

### REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH Meeting of the Texas State Bee-keepers Association.

The Texas State Bee-keepers Convention held its 18th meeting on Aug. 21, 1895, at Greenville, Texas, being its first semi-annual meeting. The members were pained to learn, on meeting, that our beloved president, Dr. W. K. Marshall could not be with us on account of illness caused from being thrown from his buggy. We were very glad to learn that the Dr. was not seriously injured by the fall. The convention was held at the bee-hive factory. Opened by our Vice President, W. R. Graham, who gave us an address of welcome and told in his good humored style how he always loved to meet the bee-keepers of his country, and when he was only a boy, how glad he was to hear the old dinner horn blow, as that was the way they used to settle the bees in those days.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT.

W. R. Graham, A. B. Spradling,  
W. D. Spradling, R. E. Spradling,

G. B. Pierce, W. T. Boyd, Melvin Kimbrough, R. D. Waddle, Greenville; B. F. Yancy, James Yancy, David Yancy Jr., Campbell; J. L. Strickland, I. T. Willis, Dangerfield; Clay Dodson, W. N. Pedigo, Royse City; W. H. White, Alva White, Deport; G. E. West, R. E. L. Peck, Rockwall; W. W. Strickland, Dent; W. L. Bolton, Alliance; and E. F. H. Mattox.

There were 650 colonies represented. There had been but little honey taken, up to date: 3375 lbs. reported.

#### QUESTIONS.

How can we market our honey to best advantage?

The prevailing idea was to get it in as attractive a shape as possible and in small packages, and be sure to sell honey equal to samples.

What size section is best?

Some preferred  $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{7}{8}$ , snow white. Some preferred a smaller size.

Which is the most profitable to produce, comb honey at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound, or extracted at 10 cents per pound?

Extracted was given preference, as it was thought that almost twice as much extracted honey could be secured as comb.

What advantage is the queen excluding honey-board to the honey producer?

For no purpose only to keep the queen below.

Is there any advantage in ex-

## SOUTHERN TEXAS.

Lands,  
Homes,  
Farms,  
Investments.

The Texas Coast Country is fast filling up with a thrifty class of people. Fine lands in high, rolling, healthy, localities. Large bodies of improved lands at \$2 per acre. Small farm tracts at \$5 and up. Printed matter free.

Address

**T. J. Skaggs Real Estate Co.,**

BEEVILLE, TEXAS.

### RECOMMENDS ITSELF.

Our Foundation needs no recommendation among those who have used it, and as it is given up to be superior to all makes we only ask a trial order, which will give you a chance to become a customer. Honey, beeswax, veils, Langstroth on the honey bee and general beekeeper's supplies.

Write for catalogue. **Chas. Dadant & Son,**  
Hamilton, Ill.

## Queens.

Untested 55c each, \$6 per dozen. About eleven out of every dozen will make fine tested queens, and for gentleness and industry we defy the world to beat them. Safe delivery. Money order office at Decatur, Miss.

**Cleveland Bros.,** Stamper, Miss.

## Fifty Cents

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## THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

JENNIE ATCHLEY, Editor.  
WILLIE ATCHLEY, Associate Editor.  
E. J. ATCHLEY, Business Manager

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Entered at the postoffice in Beeville, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

BEEVILLE, TEXAS, SEPT., 1895.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11.]

tracting from the brood nest?

It was decided there were some advantages.

How many colonies should a person have to justify him to purchase an extractor?

Six to ten colonies was thought sufficient.

Will extracting from the brood nest stop work in the sections?

It was thought it would.

Are there two kinds of moth?

It was decided that we had but one kind, but besides this, we have a wax worm.

Is it profitable to plant sweet clover for bee pasturage?

It was thought profitable to plant all waste places in sweet clover, and all were urged to try the

experiment and report.

The organization of county bee-keepers conventions was discussed, and looked on that it would be a great help to bee-keepers.

How can I Italianize my Apiary the quickest and cheapest?

Several plans were given by those present, which were very interesting.

Increase of colonies was explained by Bro. W. R. Graham.

Awards for exhibits were as follows. R. E. L. Peck, honey knife for best sample extracted honey. H. L. Bolton, honey knife for best bees. W. H. White, Langstroth's book on bees and honey.

R. E. L. Peck reported Foul Brood in his apiary, owing to "sin qua non."

The convention agreed to adjourn to meet the first Wednesday and Thursday in April 1896.

W. H. White, Secretary,  
Deport, Texas.

### State Bee-Keepers Meeting.

The 19th meeting of the Texas State Bee-keepers Association will be held at Greenville, Texas, the first Wednesday and Thursday in April, 1896.

W. H. White, Secretary,  
Deport, Texas.

We have received a sample of bees and drones from A. P. Lake, of Batesburg, S. C., and they are perfect beauties, large, uniformly marked and give evidence of a fine strain of Italian bees.



# PROFITABLE BEE-KEEPING.

## LESSON NUMBER 1.

### BEES—DRONE, QUEEN, WORKER.

I will take it for granted that you all know what bees are, but I will describe the inmates of the hive clearly, so that you may better understand.

In the summer season there are three different kinds of bees that occupy the hive of a populous colony, namely: the queen, drones, and workers. (But usually at the close of the honey season the drones are killed or driven away from the stores of the hive to die.)

I will describe the drone first. This is the male bee, and for no other purpose than to fertilize the queens, with one little exception that I might here add, and that is, if there are several hundred of them in a hive after it has cast a swarm, or made weak from any other cause, the drones serve as a "stove" to keep up the proper heat on cool nights, which keeps the brood from suffering.

The drone is the largest bee in the hive. He wears coarse male attire, large broad wings, and can be distinguished by his size, shape, and by the coarse sound of his wings in the air. I think now you will be able to pick out the drones.

Next I will describe the queen. This name (queen) was given her before bee-keeping had advanced to a better understanding of the nature and habits of the wonderful bees. Her name proper is "mother-bee," as she is the mother of everything in the hive except herself, and some other (queen) mother-bee is her mother. This is the case where she has occupied the hive two or three months during the working season.

A queen may be the only mother-bee in the hive, and, after all, not be a mother-bee of anything. She may be a virgin, or a young queen from one to 15 days old, that has never mated with a drone, and will not become a mother

of queens and workers until she mates with a drone, but she may lay, all her eggs producing drones. This I will explain further on.

The queen has a body resembling a wasp, except she is not so slim at her waist, and the slim joint that connects her foreparts to her hindparts is shorter than that of the wasp. Her wings are the same size, as nearly as I can judge, as the wings of a worker-bee. Her body is about one-third longer than a worker's body, and her face, head and legs are different. This gives her a different appearance from any other bee in the hive. She is often hard to find by an inexperienced person because one bee among so many others is hard to find even if she does look differently, as there is only one queen in the hive, with some exceptions, which will be explained further on.

Now I believe, if you are going to make a bee-keeper, you can find the queen.

Last, least, and easily found and learned, are the workers. There are usually from 20,000 to 60,000 of these bees to a populous colony, so they are not hard to find, and with the little "thorns" in their tails, inexperienced bee-keepers sometimes quickly find out which is the worker and "biter" bees, without any one telling them. But I will here say that the fear of bee-stings usually disappears when the nature and habits of the bees are known. You should bear in mind that you would be afraid of a horse, until you learned something of his nature and habits.

Now I have made known to you, as best I know how on paper, the three different kinds of bees that occupy a hive. I will now begin with you with a full colony of bees, as I cannot well teach you properly unless you have, or soon get, some bees. So I had better tell you how to get the bees, then go on with the manipulation, etc.



## GETTING YOUR FIRST BEES.

If there is no practical bee-keeper in your neighborhood that has bees in movable-comb hives (I used the word "practical," as representing one using frame or movable-comb hives; for one cannot practice much unless the bees are on movable combs, as a person *must* see the inside of the hive to get much practice in bee-keeping), I would get a box-hive of bees, and transfer them into some hive that bee-keepers use who are making a success in producing honey—the Simplicity 8 or 10 frame hive, or any good hive that you can get the cheapest and handiest.

## HAULING AND TRANSFERRING BEES.

I would get bees already in a movable-comb hive if I could, unless you wish the transferring experience, which you ought to have, and *must* have, to get along well, as no bee-keeper of long standing can get along without transferring some combs, as the contents of a hive may melt down, or be knocked over, etc., and it will *have* to be transferred. So I will start you out after a box-hive of bees. This you can engage of a neighbor, and have a time set to go for it; and if you do not wish any racket on the road, you had better load up and haul the bees on some moonshiny night, until you gain more knowledge about bees, then you can move them at any time, which will be explained before we close.

Get a smoker—there are several good smokers on the market. Also get a bee-veil, but *no* gloves. I do not think I shall teach you to wear gloves to protect your hands from stings, as with a good smoker you can always keep the bees from stinging your hands much, but I am not going to teach you how to handle bees without getting stings, as really that is one part of the business.

When you get to your bees or box-hive, and you are ready to start home, smoke the bees gently at the hive-entrance until they have had time to fill themselves with honey, taking care not to use smoke more than they can stand, or they will rush out of the hive rather than go up. When you have smoked them, a small puff every few seconds for three to five minutes, pick up the hive and set it in the buggy or wagon, bottom up, and slowly drive home. You can keep the smoker lighted, and should the bees show any disposition to fly, give a little smoke, but usually, as soon as the wagon starts, they will quiet down.

If the bees are blacks or hybrids, it may be best to tie a cloth over the mouth of the hive. Further along I will tell you how to know they are blacks or hybrids.

When you arrive home, place the hive where you wish it to remain after they are transferred. Then in the morning, or when you are ready to transfer, get the new hive in readiness, and two thin boards a little larger than the frames, for transferring-boards. (For just one hive you can lay some boards down on the ground, but for a number it is best to have a table and a regular transferring-house.)

With an old hatchet or other tool cut the nails of the box-hive. It is best to lay the hive in such a manner so the combs will be edgewise, and the head of the hive the lowest. Then cut the nails and lift off the top side-board, and reach down and saw off the cross-sticks, if there are any, and I guess you will be sure to find them. Then pull down one other side of the hive—the side next to you. Then reach in and take hold of one cross stick and twist it back and forth a little, when it will slip out. Keep the bees smoked out of your way while you are at work.

Now with a table or butcher knife, cut out the combs—one at a time; lift the combs by taking hold of the bottom end, as the top end is likely to be tender, and if with any honey it is the heaviest. Now hold each comb over the new hive, and brush the bees off the combs into it, laying the combs down in a pile on a board near by. Proceed until all the combs are removed in the same manner.

Now lay down one of the transferring-boards, lay on this an empty frame, then take up a comb and lay on the frame, and cut one or more pieces until it fits nicely in the frames. Then tack small, thin strips of wood across the comb from the top to the bottom bar of the frame in such a manner that the sticks will hold the comb straight in the frame.

Now lay the other transferring-board on top of all, and pick all up together, and turn it over, removing the first board, and tacking strips on this side as on the other. Then pick up the frame of comb and hang it in the new hive. Proceed until all combs that contain brood and honey are put in, leaving out the drone-comb, if you choose, unless it has honey in it, if so, better put it in, too, and when the bees use the honey you can remove it, or not, as you like.

Now place all frames straight in the new hive, put on the cover, shake all the bees off the old box in front of the



new hive, when they will soon run in, and all is over, and you have a colony in a frame hive.

Now you have a good lesson, and are ready for the next. There are many ways to transfer that it would take too much space to tell—I give this plan so that you may not fail, as I have tried almost all plans, and this gives the best satisfaction, especially with beginners, as when bees are slow to fasten their combs to the frames, strings may be gnawed in two before the comb is fast-

ened; and when the combs are heavy with brood and honey, any clasp that does not reach clear across the frame will let the combs bulge.

After you have become acquainted with the bees, you may devise some plan of your own, that is better, but I give this one so that you will not make a failure. You can remove the clamps or sticks when the combs are fastened to the frame.

About fruit-bloom is the best time to transfer.

## LESSON NUMBER 2.

As we just finished transferring in closing our first lesson, we will now suppose that the bees are working nicely, and will soon be ready to swarm. But I wish to impress upon your minds, before we proceed further, that the season must be watched, and see if the bees are gathering sufficient honey to support them, as transferring usually stimulates them to the highest pitch, and they turn right in to rearing brood as fast as possible, and soon consume all the honey they have, as it takes honey to rear bees, and instead of being in a swarming condition, they may be starving.

To make a bee-keeper, you must study your flowers, especially those that give your honey, and at times when you have no honey coming in, better feed if you wish best results.

Well, to make this part short and to the point, I will ask you if you would think of letting your horse starve to death on a dry pasture? You answer no. Then you should no more allow your bees to starve than your horse, as at times during warm weather the bees may starve if there is no honey to be had.

Now, as *every* bee-keeper that I have ever known wishes his or her bees to increase especially until a certain number is reached, I will give instructions how to increase your bees, and give along with it caution.

### HOW TO INCREASE BEES.

As increase usually comes before we get our surplus honey, we will go into detail and try to describe all manner of successful increase.

First, let us consider where you live, and at what time of the year you get your surplus honey. If you live in Northern States, or anywhere where swarming and your honey harvest come together, better let your bees swarm naturally, and if you are producing comb honey, you can hive your swarms on a contracted brood-nest (Contraction and Spreading will appear later), and realize a crop of honey; while if divided artificially, you would likely spoil your honey crop, as your seasons in such countries will not allow time in which to build the bees up after the time of year arrives that it is safe to divide.

But if you live in a Southern country, where the swarming season comes two to three months before any regular harvest, I would surely advise you to divide your bees, and make your colonies artificially, as it is called by some. But to my certain knowledge there is no colony of bees that equals a natural swarm for work, as nearly all the field forces go along with the swarm, and a new home to build up, and new combs to build, it seems that it gives them a vigor that no other kind of a colony has. I tell you, it *pleases* a natural swarm to get to build combs, as they usually go out prepared to do this kind of work, and they seem to feel somewhat disappointed if they are hived on full drawn-out combs. I would *always* leave part of the combs for a natural swarm to build. Foundation gives them a place to use their comb, and also gives you straight combs. Foundation will be discussed later on.

Now, if I get a little wild, and get off the track, you must excuse me, as I am



teaching you from memory, and I am using bees, hives, etc., together with my experience, for books. I have no books by me to quote from. I have read almost all of the bee-papers and bee-books, and am indebted to them all for my success, and I could not yet get along well without my bee-papers and bee-books. So please excuse my wanderings, for I have set out to tell you *all* about bees, and I will have to go into detail.

Well, I now had better show you how to make artificial swarms, and give my reasons.

Keep your eyes on the bees, and when they are getting strong in bees, honey coming in enough to keep brood-rearing going, and sealed drones in the combs, then you may get a new hive ready.

Now go to the colony to be divided, and raise out the combs until you come across the queen, then place the comb she is on into your new hive; take half the combs—those nearest empty—and leave the frames of sealed brood in the old hive (four frames—we will suppose you use an eight-frame hive).

Now place the old hive away on a new stand (leaving one frame with eggs in it). They will at once start queen-cells, and if you keep close watch you will find on the eighth or ninth day a number of sealed cells. I put the time to nine days, that you won't have to make a second investigation to destroy queen-cells. We will say on the ninth day you overhaul the young swarm in the old hive, and destroy *all* their queen-cells *but two* of the longest and largest ones; then on the twelfth or thirteenth day from the time you made the division, look in, and if one cell has hatched, tear the other one down. If neither cell has hatched, better look twice a day for two days more, and remove one cell as soon as the other hatches. This is to prevent them from swarming.

Now, as you have only the two colonies, and no other chance to rear a queen except in that one hive, I have told you to leave two cells for fear one *might* not hatch, and I tell you now that the old adage, that two chances are better than one, holds good with bees, too. But, should both cells hatch at about the same time, you can hunt out one queen and kill her, and the bees are sure not to swarm. If you let them have their own way about it, in this country, the bees *will* swarm, and cause you to get no honey from these two small swarms that year.

Now, if all has gone well with you, your virgin queen will fly out and be-

come mated about the fifth day, if the weather is fine, and on the eighth or ninth day from the day she hatched, she will be a laying queen, and just about the time the last bees are hatching from the comb, she will be there ready to re-fill cells with eggs.

Let us count and see if we are right about this. We will calculate that your queen was reared from a larva one day old. Three days in the egg, one day larva, 12 days a hatched queen. Now count and see if this is not 16 days.

Well, as there are usually eggs that are two or three days behind those the queens are started from, we will count two days behind the queen, and three days ahead of her, and we have the last workers just hatching about the time she mates with the drone, on the fourth or fifth day; and as the queen often hatches on the eleventh, and sometimes the tenth day, owing to the age of the larva she is started from, you may be looking for your young queen to begin to lay just about the time the last bees hatch out, and if the bees have all been hatched a week, and still no eggs, you may begin to be alarmed that your queen has been lost in mating, or otherwise prevented from beginning her work. She may have bad wings, or be defective in some way, and never be any good. In such cases you had better buy a queen from a queen dealer or breeder at once, giving a frame of eggs and larva from your old queen, by swapping a frame. This will keep them from running into laying-workers, as we term it, which will be explained in one of our lessons.

As soon as your queen arrives, tear down all cells started on the comb of brood last given them, and introduce her according to directions that usually accompany the queen. Be very sure they have no kind of a queen, and you will succeed nine times in ten in introducing the queen. You can save all this time and bother by purchasing a queen before the division is made, and introduce the bought queen at the same time you divide, and all will go better. But I gave the whole plan as above, in case you did not wish to buy a queen, as I would like you to use economy. But it would be economy after all to buy a queen if you made a failure in getting a laying queen.

Well, dear scholars, if you ever expect to count your colonies by the hundred, you have all these ups and downs to go through with sooner or later, and the sooner you learn to mount the obstacles



that are cast in the successful bee-keepers' pathway, the better for you. This is why I have led you through all this preamble.

Now the increase being over for the present, let us get to work and prepare the two colonies for the honey harvest. We will say this dividing was done on March 1st, then you have two months, or until May 1st, to get your bees in tip-top condition to gather the harvest, which is ample time.

But before we get too far, we will talk about other ways of increase, as this seems to be the subject of this lesson, so, to make it plain, we will jump clear up to a 50-colony bee-keeper at one jump. We do this to get at one of the best modes of increase I ever practiced, and is *very* good where we run our bees for extracted honey. (See Extracted Honey further on.)

But in running for extracted honey we ought to have two-story hives, and I like hives that both stories are the same—that is, take full-sized frames. Then at the close of the year, or in time for the bees to store ample honey for winter, you can rear a queen-cell for every colony you have (see Queen-Rearing), and three days before these cells hatch, take half the frames from the top story and adhering bees, place these eight frames in an empty hive, take it off to a new stand, give cells on the evening of the second day, or morning of the third day, to the queenless colonies, and you will soon have double the number of colonies, and also have *all* your empty combs occupied, as in warm countries like this it is a big job to get combs through without the moth injuring them, if not ruining them; then you have had the full benefit of all your bees, as this is a plan where swarming has been kept down, and the bees run for extracted honey.

In northern countries it is not so hard to keep empty combs over, as freezing weather soon comes after the fall flowers are over, which stops the work of the moth.

Should any colony, or colonies, miss a queen from any cause, you can unite them with some of your weakest colonies, by caging the queen three or four days. This is a splendid and paying way to increase, and gives vigorous colonies for next year's work. Then you can go on from year to year making increase the same way until you get to

your limit, or until you get as many bees as you want.

We will now consider one other way of increase before we close this lesson, which makes all the plans, then, that I would use aside from natural swarming.

This last plan I will only give briefly, as it is not much practiced, but just as good colonies are made in that way as any other.

Along through the season, at intervals, you can take frames of hatching brood from four to eight colonies, or until you get enough combs to form a colony, taking only one frame from any one colony, and you can hardly detect any shortage in the hives drawn from, and at the same time form *good* and profitable colonies.

This can be done until the apiary has been gone over, and in two weeks repeat it, etc., giving queens by some of the plans described in the forepart of this lesson. If this method is practiced while bees are gathering honey, and the newly-formed colonies supplied with a sponge of water and shade, all will go well, and after five days they will have bees old enough to go out after pollen and water, and by the time their queen begins to lay, they will be all right, and surprise you. This is what we call the *drawing-brood plan*.

To close this lesson, I will give my reason for preferring artificial increase. We will, of course, suppose you gave the colonies frames of foundation, or empty frames to fill their hives at the time of dividing foundation is best. My reasons are, First, we do away with having to watch our bees at swarming-time, and we can control them to increase only double, while if left to swarm naturally, all the same precaution *must* be used to prevent second swarms, and getting laying queens, etc.; and as the anxiety, or fear about natural swarms coming out while no one is present, is worth a great deal, as a bee-keeper *cannot* afford to lose bees, especially big, first swarms, this feature alone is sufficient to warrant me in preferring artificial increase. Then I have all built up and ready for the honey-flow together.

We now have two *booming* colonies for the harvest, and this is a big word for me against one kept from swarming at all, and usually gives more honey.

In the next lesson we will take up honey-production.



## LESSON NUMBER 3.

This lesson is likely coming before its time, but many are now anxious to get it so as to help them in June and July, to enable them, or be a help, in securing a honey crop.

### PRODUCING COMB HONEY.

We will first tell how to produce comb honey. We will suppose you have kept *close* watch over your honey-plants, and know just about when they will be in bloom—I mean those that give your surplus, as these are the special ones, and if you do not get this part of the lesson, or have not got it noted down, this whole lesson will be a mere blank to you, for to be a successful honey-producer you *must* know when to expect your harvest, and have your bees ready to reap it.

Now, to do this, you should begin to stimulate, or see that all the queens are good, and laying nicely about six to eight weeks before your honey-flows. I do not wish to teach you to rear bees out of season, as this is a dead loss, and what I mean by "out of season" is rearing bees more than are necessary to keep up the strength of the colony when there is no prospect for a surplus ahead and the reason I say begin six to eight weeks ahead of your flow is, that I want you to give your bees time for the second litter of brood to be hatched just about the time your harvest begins, as your bees will need the first litter to begin the work in the harvest field, and the second to complete it, in this latitude, and by this time you will have *all* booming colonies, and that means honey to you.

Now, while your bees are getting ready, you get ready, too, or you will be left with your tub bottom up. During this six to eight weeks you must have all your sections, crates, and starters all in, just ready to place upon your hives about the third day after your harvest begins, or a little sooner will not hurt; but be sure to have them on as soon as you discover white or new comb along the top-bars of the brood-frames. But it will not pay to put them on when no honey is coming in, as the bees seem to delight in biting holes in the starters, and get the sections dirty where the same are exposed to the bees.

It will be nice to have two crates ready

for each hive, as you may have a good flow, and just as soon as the first crate is about full or completed, you can raise it up and place an empty one between it and the brood-nest. This will cause the bees to cap over the sections quicker, and give you nice white honey. As soon as it is, ready to take off, remove it at once, and should there be one or two sections not finished up to suit you, set them in the center of the crate the bees are at work on, and they will soon finish them up. But this you will seldom have to do, if honey has been coming in steadily.

Now watch every movement of the bees, and the flowers giving the flow, and if you are not expecting any more harvest that year, you had better begin to contract, or move some of the filled sections, and placing the unfilled in the center of the crate, and you will more than likely get *all* nicely finished sections, unless your flow ceases all of a sudden. Then you will have some unfinished sections to extract or sell at a reduced price in your home market (Notice Selling Honey, in a future lesson.)

If your season is now over, clean up the crates, etc., and store them away in a dry place, and you will soon rejoice that you have followed my instructions.

Should you be at all this trouble and expense, and not get any honey, or but little the first year, do not be discouraged, but sing just as merrily, and be (or try to be) as happy as if you had a carload of honey to sell, for it really takes this kind of grit to make a good bee-keeper. And, dear scholars, I beg to stop right here long enough to explain to you that we *must* make up our minds at the outset to overcome, if possible, the disappointments through life, and take things just as easy as we can. Otherwise we will be wearing ourselves out unnecessarily. I believe this should be done in any kind of business that we undertake in life.

### PRODUCING EXTRACTED HONEY.

Getting the bees ready for extracted honey is much the same as for comb honey. I will only add that we must work to get the bees in time to catch the harvest, and the bees *will* attend to the



gathering. But we can get extracted honey from smaller or weaker colonies than for comb. But I say, give me great, big *booming* colonies for extracted honey, too. Why, 14 years ago this month (June) I had a colony of bees gather 521 pounds of extracted honey in 21 days. It was in a 5-story Simplicity hive with 10 frames each, and the bees could not enter at the one entrance, so I made three entrances, and when we would shake the bees off the combs on the ground, they were an inch or two deep for a foot or more around the hive.

This seems like a "fishy tale," but when explained, it is very reasonable to an average bee-keeper. It was one of the best queens I ever had, and a "dollar queen" we then called her, from A. I. Root, as *all* untested queens at that time were called "dollar queens," as that was the price they usually sold for. Well, we had a good year, and a horse-mint field within half a mile of my bees, so thick that one could scarcely walk through it, and I did not allow this colony to swarm, and the queen was *very* prolific. At the time of our harvest this colony was as large as five ordinary colonies, which accounts for the big yield.

I have related the foregoing just to show you what may be done when we are up with the times, and willing to work and make good use of the means at our hands. I will only add a word more about this colony, and say that it gave me over 500 pounds of extracted honey for *three years* in succession. I trust that you may all draw a good lesson here, and be up and doing at the right time, and if a flow of honey comes, be ready for it.

In running for extracted honey, do not worry about where the queen is laying. I would just as soon have her lay in the top as the bottom story, and like her better if she is able to fill them *all* with brood. I am willing to take the honey from any part of the hive.

I would advise you to use full-sized stories, say eight frames each, at least, Langstroth frame, which is the size I use. But any good frame will do, so that it is not larger than it ought to be to handle easily, or too small to take too many frames to accommodate the bees with room enough. Nothing pleases me more than to have *plenty* of empty combs for producing extracted honey, as this sometimes gives us a good crop, when if the bees have to build their combs we miss a part of it.

The hive I mentioned before was sup-

plied with frames of foundation (full sheets), and it saved me at least 100 pounds of honey.

I am a firm believer that comb foundation will pay for itself twice, if given to the bees at the proper time—*especially* if we have no full drawn combs. The latter is my preference.

We will likely meet with years, and sometimes two in succession, that we will get but little honey, but I have not failed to get some honey for 15 years, that I remember, and I do not know a season when we did not get honey—some years more, and some less.

I would let the honey get ripe, or begin extracting about the time the bees have the combs one-third sealed, and this gives us some real ripe honey that goes along with the little unripe, and keeps all good, and no objection will ever be raised by customers. But if we extract too soon, we are likely to have trouble both with our honey and customers, and ruin our market. But it saves a lot of work to take the honey when the combs are only about one-third sealed over.

During a honey-flow I take from nearly or quite all the frames in the hive, and I seldom damage any brood, as I *never* turn fast enough to throw out the little larvae, as it does not matter whether we get the honey *all* out or not. Our main object is to give the bees room.

If care is used, no combs will be broken while extracting, even if no wires are used. But it is best to use wire for extracting-combs.

I will add here in this lesson that it is best to use some kind of an extracting house, or a place made of wire-cloth, or something else that will be cool, and still keep the bees out, as the smell of the fresh honey draws the attention of the bees, and they *will* bother more or less, sooner or later, if we do not keep them from getting a start.

To conclude this lesson, I will say that it is best to have a set of combs to start with, as then you can close up each hive, and will have to open it but once; this is an item where bees show a disposition to rob, which they will do unless honey is coming in very fast. What I mean by an "extra set of combs" is, the same number of combs empty that you will take from one hive; then you can take out the full combs, brush off the bees, place the full combs in a comb bucket, put the empty combs in their stead, close up the hive, and all is over. I *always* leave two or more combs of brood and honey that I do not touch—th s



keeps all quiet, and no time is lost by the bees.

Put the honey up in screw-top cans, if you have them, or kegs or barrels, waxed inside and painted outside, or you may soon almost wish you had no honey.

I would keep the honey in a cool, dry place until sent to market.

The next lesson will be on queen-rearing, as some of you are now almost impatient to hear it.

## LESSON NUMBER 4.

### QUEEN-REARING.

I will first give queen-rearing in a small way, then on a large scale, as queen-rearing proper is a business by its self, separate from the general line of honey-production.

First, I will tell you that if you only wish queens for your own use, and you have one or more queens that you wish to breed from, you can wait until swarming time, and as soon as a swarm issues from a colony that you wish to save cells from, see how many cells they have, and go to work and prepare a nucleus for each, counting all except one to be left in the parent hive. Usually about the eighth day is the time to move the cells, but there are exceptions to this, as a swarm may be kept back from swarming by bad weather or some other cause until the cells—some of them—may hatch in two or three days. This you can tell by close watch, and should one hatch, you can remove the balance. Any way, you can have the nuclei ready, and move the cells before they hatch; and to put you nearer right, you can move the cells just as well on the fifth or sixth day, or as soon as sealed, if you have any doubt they will hatch soon. But the nuclei should be made about three days before the cells are moved, then they will seldom tear the cells down.

If you have undesirable drones in your yard, you must move the young queens beyond their reach—say two miles—or put drone-excluders over all the entrances of the hives with undesirable drones. In short, if you wish to have your queens mate purely, do not allow any but pure drones to fly within two miles until your queens are mated. Later on, in another lesson, I will tell you how to form nuclei.

Now, this plan of queen-rearing is an excellent plan to get a good lot of queens

without much trouble, and 25 to 50 queens can be reared at a very small expense.

If it transpires that you have no swarms, and you desire a few queens you can take out of one to two (or as many as you choose) queens that seem to be your poorest layers, and give a frame of eggs and larvæ from your select queens. A partly built-out new comb is best, or a half sheet of foundation placed in your breeders' hive until eggs and small larvæ are shown, then hang this new comb in the center of the hive you have made queenless, giving a little more space than common, so as to allow the bees room to extend the cells.

Then about the eighth or ninth day you can pinch off all the short, dumpy cells, and save none but the best or largest ones; and on the tenth day from the day you gave the frame, move all the cells to the nuclei except one that you will leave in the hive. Don't forget to prepare the nuclei at least three days before it is time to move the cells. The cells built in this way will likely hatch on the eleventh or twelfth day, and about the ninth day after you removed the queen from the cell-building hive, you had better go through and tear down all the cells they have started on their own combs and from their own stock, else a queen may perchance hatch out on the tenth day from the time you removed the queen, and tear your fine cells all down; then you would be in a fix. But by this plan you can get good queens, and is to be used when you have no chance to get natural cells.

Now, dear reader, I propose to give you the most complete lessons on queen-rearing that ever appeared in print, and to do this it will take time, patience and work, as it cannot be told in a few words.

Now if you are of a speculative turn



of mind, you can try your hands at grafting natural queen-cells, or what we sometimes term "fooling the bees." This can be done with any kind of bees that are preparing to swarm. Should you have a colony starting cells, or preparing to swarm, you can remove the little larvæ from the cells they have started, and place instead larvæ from your breeder. This can be performed with a little short stick slightly bent on the point (a broom-straw will do). Just reach down under the larva and move it from the jelly, or if you take a little jelly along with it, all the better. Let it down into the cell after the one is taken out that was there, and so on until you graft all the cells they have started, and if you are pretty steady-handed, you will likely make the transfer without losing many. Then, when ready to move, treat as before, and you will also get nice queens.

All this you can do without being much of a queen-rearer, as nature does all after you make the transfer, and nature will also tear all down if you don't look out and get all cells moved

before any queen hatches. This I repeat lest you get careless, as this is the *main* point where so many fail.

Now the three ways I have just explained are good enough to get queens for your own use, and possibly a few to spare, and these plans will interfere but little with the production of honey, and to keep your bees up to the standard and have good stock. Select good stock to rear your queens from, also good stock to get your drones from, and mate the queens to nothing but select drones. If you get drones from a different strain of bees from the queens, all the better; but I would not be so particular about this, as I have failed yet to find that a regular line breeding runs the stock down any. But it seems to be our nature to keep down in-breeding in bees as well as chickens, etc.

I will try to explain in the next lesson *all* about rearing queens on a large scale, or for market, and have *all* good queens—just as good as natural queens, as I have failed to see any difference in five years watching.

## LESSON NUMBER 5.

### REARING QUEENS EXTENSIVELY.

I forgot to tell you in last lesson that you could dip cells and rear queens in upper stories as per Mr. Doolittle, and fine queens can be reared that way.

Well, if we wish to rear queens largely, and have *all* good queens, the same as natural swarming, we will take the following plan, which is our latest, to-wit:

We dip our cells, as per Doolittle, except we have a small part to the bottom of the queen-cell stick just the size of a worker-cell, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch long, then when cells are dipped, there is a little sink in the bottom just right to take the cocoon from the bottom of a worker-cell. We place an old, tough comb in our breeder's hive, and when we get larvæ hatched in the comb, the younger the better, we use them just as quick as we find the eggs have hatched.

We now cut out a piece of comb containing just about the amount of larvæ we wish for this present work or time,

and take a sharp razor and shave down the cells just as low as possible not to disturb the larvæ. Then take a small pair of watchmaker's tweezers and remove the cocoon, little larva, and all, and put it right down firmly in the little sink made to take it when the cells were dipped. All this we do sitting on a box or stool, right by the side of the hive made ready to take the cells.

Place them right on the combs, just under the sealed honey, or in a rainbow circle over the comb, so as to be in the midst of the nest, and when the bees are properly prepared, made broodless, and queens on the combs of honey for from 12 to 48 hours, we get two-thirds, on an average, of *all* our cells saved, and all as *fine* queens as by natural swarming, or by any other plan I ever saw.

The little larvæ get no check at all, are out of the hive but a few minutes, and the bees are not even shaken off the combs where the cells are placed, and the bees at once (yes, before we get them all stuck on the combs) attend to them, and we can by this plan get the



most even lot of cells and queens of any plan yet tried.

To prepare the colonies, we select some that we have good reason to believe are good cell-builders—those that are good honey-gatherers and working finely, and are prosperous. Take away all their brood and queen at about night-fall, and let them remain so until about noon the next day, on an average; some we graft in sooner, say in the morning early, and some are not ready until the second day. Any way they are ready when they show the queenless sign, and mourn. Just as soon as their hive is opened, and queen-cells can be seen about here and there, and near or about the pollen, if they have any, then they are ready.

In this way we prepare from five to ten colonies at night, and lately we have succeeded in getting 19 out of 20 cells saved in one strong colony, and if care is taken in selecting the very *smallest* larvae, the queens will all hatch out at about the same time, and all are built out about the same length, and are fine indeed.

We are having hatched at this writing (June 4th) about 50 queens daily, and our queens are mated at the proper time, large and prolific, and I believe this the nearest after natural cells of any plan yet known, and I believe nearer all good queens, as we sometimes have little, stumpy queens by natural swarming as well as other ways.

There are so many ways to start queen-cells that I have thought best to

give the only one giving us the best results, and by this method we can rear all the queens we need, and the old queens can be caged and then introduced back to their colonies when the cells come off, if you so desire, as the colonies that have built the cells can be broken up into two-frame nuclei to take care of the cells, as they seldom ever tear any cells down.

We *must* be sure to move the cells the day before they hatch, or great danger will befall them, as the bees will swarm, or the first queen will tear all down.

Now, to get the time the cells will hatch, count three days in the egg, one day larva, and 12 days from larva to hatching queen, and we have 16 days. But to make sure that we do not "get left," we mark our cells to hatch on the eleventh day after the grafting is done, and take them out on the tenth day, and put them into nuclei and mark them to hatch in two days, etc. This is a sure way to not "get left," for by this plan the queens surely hatch on the 12th day after the grafting is done, and it won't do to leave them longer than the eleventh day, at most.

Now we know how to rear queens on a small scale and on a large scale, and know how to transfer, produce comb and extracted honey, etc.

In the next lesson I will give the diseases of bees, and try to prepare you to meet the disappointments that may occur along the line, and we must know that there is no business without its "ups and downs."

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