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## **The California apiculturist. Vol. 1, No. 10 November, 1882**

Oakland, California: Apicultural Pub. Co., November, 1882

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# THE CALIFORNIA APICULTURIST

VOL. I. NO. 10. OAKLAND, CAL., NOVEMBER, 1882.

TERMS: \$1.00 PER YEAR.  
IN ADVANCE.

## Our Workers.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### THE CHEAP QUEEN TRAFFIC.

G. W. DEMASEE, KENTUCKY.

I HAVE taken no part heretofore in the discussion of the subject pertaining to the traffic in "cheap queens," because I have regarded much that has been said on the subject, as a species of cheap advertisements. I have wondered at the patience of the proprietors of the papers whose columns have been filled with arguments *pro* and *con*, as to whether or not it pays to rear queens at a certain price. It is not a matter of general interest to bee-keepers, as to whether or not queens can be reared for \$1.00 at a profit. That is a matter which concerns the breeder alone. There is a phrase of the cheap-queen business however, which does concern every intelligent bee-keeper, and that is as to whether or not the slip-shod methods so commonly practiced in queen rearing and queen bartering has been conducive to the best interest of bee-culture.

Although many have disposed of the subject in short order, by either condemning or approving of it. To my mind the subject is not so easily satisfactorily disposed of.

If we are willing to admit that bee culture is yet in a "crude state," and are content for it to remain so for years to come, why, then the tons of honey obtained and put upon the market of late years would indicate that the "cheap traffic in queens," has done wonders for bee culture.

But there is another view of the subject. Many of us believe that if the breeders of queens had all this

time been pursuing a more scientific course in selecting and breeding, with one eye to the very best stock that can be obtained, and had been less selfish and greedy, and more determined to send out none but the best queens, bee culture would be far in advance of what it is to-day.

Most persons seem to be unable to perceive that there is quite a difference between the shoddy "dollar queen" business, and the legitimate business of rearing and selling either tested or untested queens to suit customers.

"Dollar queen," is a shoddy phrase borrowed from the trashy dollar store business. It means about this, "I have many hundreds of articles to sell, they are worth from little or nothing, all the way up to one or two dollars, but these articles which are worth one or two dollars, are in comparison to those that are worth little or nothing, about as one is to a hundred. My customers must take them all, you can have any of them for a dollar, you may get a bargain."

You will see that the shoddy dollar queen business requires of you to buy with your eyes shut, and take anything that is "born alive." The wise man suggested that no man was weak enough to expect to capture a bird by laying the "snare in its sight," but it would appear that intelligent bipeds can be taken in that way.

The generality of mankind have a weakness for "cheap goods," and there is nothing particularly strange or wrong about it, nevertheless it works evil and that continually. This false notion of "cheap traffic" is at the bottom of all shoddy business.

I have kept a small queen rearing department to my apiary for several years past to supply my own apiary with choice stock and for experi-

ment, and in this way I have gained quite an experience in queen rearing. The breeder should make it an undeviating rule to reject at the start all queens which are abnormal in size, color or form. This I believe to be essential to scientific queen breeding. This rule will apply to the scientific breeding of all animals, but more particularly to queen breeding, because the queen is a creature of "development." Were I rearing queens for the market, I would pursue this course with fidelity, and would have no hesitation to sell such selected queens to suit customers, reducing the price when sold, before they were tested as to their mating.

That the reader may have a glimpse at the inside of the dollar-queen business, I quote from the catalogue of one of our largest dealers in cheap as well as dear queens. And by the way, a gentleman who is as square as a brick in his dealings, and hence has nothing to conceal as to his manner of doing business. Here it is, *verbatim ad-literatim*:

"DOLLAR QUEENS.—The dollar queens are always taken just as they come, and are *never culled*. Customers often ask us to pick out a large yellow one for them. My friends who would then have the *small dark* ones We can't do it for anybody, not even for the Queen of England. If you want *us to pick*, you must buy *tested* ones." [Italics mine.] The above speaks a whole volume, for the "true inwardness" of the shoddy dollar queen business. The dollar-queen man won't "pick" for anybody, not even the Queen of England, but he will pick for his dear, precious self, else where does he get those "large yellow" ones to sell as "tested ones." But then who will take the "small dark ones," if it is

known that the large yellow ones are sold at the same price? Echo answers, who?

It will be seen that by following the rules of scientific breeding, instead of the slipshod dollar-queen methods, the breeders will have no "small dark" or otherwise abnormal queens for sale, and not resort to the wily tricks of "trade" to work off the trash.

Taking this view of the case, the difference between the lottery dollar-queen business, and the business of careful breeding and selling each queen upon its own merits, is as wide as the heavens are above the earth.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### BEE CULTURE IN MONTEREY COUNTY.

KENNIE ERCANBRACK, WATSONVILLE.

A FEW weeks ago, Mr. Editor, we promised you some statistics concerning the bee interests of this county.

As bees and honey are not taxed in this locality, I found it impossible to get any official statistics of course, so intended to travel by private conveyance and post myself for the benefit of your readers.

This last intention was not carried out for lack of time and pressing business. Scientific bee-keeping is in its infancy in these parts, although we have many splendid localities and no lack of capital among our farmers and fruit growers. Our's is a thrifty county, the hills and valleys being very fertile. We, as a rule, have abundance of rain, and that well distributed through the season. Being a coast county, our vegetation is kept green and growing very late in the season. The Pajaro valley fogs, which reach our locality, are well known to all travellers and readers of California's history. It is to their influence that we are indebted for our green fields, never failing crops and so many nectar yielding flowers.

Our principal source for honey gathering is the wild sage bush which grows in nearly every part of our county, even down in the river bottoms, almost to the ocean. Early forage is found in abundance, and among the most important are the wild manzanita and common willow. This manzanita blooms from early in January till late in

May, and I have reasons to believe it yields its sweets during the whole time. Other plants and shrubs are in bloom during early spring, but their names are not familiar to us. From the time that sage commences to bloom, which was April 10th this last season, the hills and valleys are one mass of blooming life.

While some parts of this state suffered an almost entire failure of the honey crop this season, we had a fair yield. Late cold weather this season caused us to lose what would otherwise have made a full crop. This I give as the experience of those longer in the business than myself.

With all our advantages of climate and forage, we are not up to the times, if I judge correctly from reading Eastern literature, on bees and honey.

The hives used by most of us are apparently not the best we having got hold of the Harbinson style. Now right here, let me ask of you, Mr. Editor, and of many others who have tried this hive, or who may chance to know something of it, what do you think of it as a comb honey hive? If you know of a better one for comb honey, then please give a thorough description through the columns of the APICULTURIST and greatly benefit us, who find it hard to manage bees, where the frames and honey board are glued to the hive by the bees.

As near as I can judge, from my acquaintance with the industry here, there are about two thousand colonies of bees in this county. Not all of them, however, are in movable comb hives. Two parties only use extractors and work for extracted honey. There are two apiarians that make the industry their only business, and I believe have prospered, both of them. Our market at home is good, and while it is well supplied with box hive stuff, our comb and extracted honey sells well at fifteen cents a pound, when neatly put upon the market. Some of us plant for bees and consider that it pays well when properly timed. Buckwheat honey sells readily in our market for fifteen cents a pound, and the seed grows well in the hills, as of course it does in the valleys. The grain sells for a fair price and the straw will nearly all be eaten by the stock after being threshed.

With reference to water, I can say that living springs are to be found every where in the hills, while the valleys contain streams or lagoons in abundance. The springs of course, feed the streams and bodies of water below. What we need here is more enterprise, and that kind which will branch out and try what there is in new things. Farming pays well, so does stockraising; but either of these in connection with the bee business will pay still better. I, for one, believe the APICULTURIST is going to do a great deal of good for our county and our state. There is land in every county south of San Francisco, I am told, ready and waiting for the settler, and surely in this county there is plenty of it adapted to bee culture.

Now let us all aid our APICULTURIST in every way we can. Write for its pages, get new subscribers for this next year, and remember that in aiding and encouraging it we are aiding ourselves. Let some one in each county write up the history of that county, as briefly as possible, telling particularly of the bee interests and bee prospects. Is this agreeable to you, Mr. Editor?

Your last issue was the neatest and most instructive, as well as the most interesting, yet given us.

May the APICULTURIST go on and prosper this next year, as it has the past year, is our earnest wish.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### LAS FLORES CAMP.

C. M. DRAKE, SANTA PAULA.

### CHAPTER VIII.

A FOUL BROOD STORY.

VENTURA bee-keepers became excited over the subject of foul broods early in the year. A foul brood inspector, Mr. Touchton, was appointed; a tax of one cent per hive, afterwards raised to three cents, was levied, and measures were taken to eradicate the disease. A number of years before, during the dry season of 187-, some honey was shipped from San Francisco to Ventura county, and in every apiary where that honey was fed foul brood soon appeared.

Careless handling of diseased hives, ignorant transferring of foul combs to uninfected hives, and half

way feeble efforts to doctor sick colonies, spread the disease over the entire county. As climate and other conditions affect all diseases, so the foul brood in some localities came to be of a mild type, and it is possible some regions became inoculated, as it were, against the most virulent forms of the disease, and the apiarist ignorantly supposed his apiary to be free from the disease.

In due course of time the foul brood inspector visited Las Flores Camp in his rounds, and examined every comb in the apiary with great care, probing into doubtful cells, and finally marked three hives as diseased and two others as doubtful. He advised the boys to destroy these hives, and burn them and their contents, and bury the ashes in the ground, as the only sure way of stamping out the disease.

Though this advice was undoubtedly wise, yet the boys could not bring themselves to do this, so as the next best plan they removed the doubtful colonies, as well as the infected ones, to a secluded canyon two miles from the rest of the apiary.

"Give the poor sick fellows a chance for their lives," said Ben. "Besides, the experience we get in curing them may be valuable to us hereafter."

"But you must not forget that the bees are not sick," replied Bob; "it is merely that their houses are not healthy. We will give them new quarters and a new start, and then they will be all right."

"Did you notice that four out of five of these colonies were swarms which came from Sage Canyon, where they have foul brood so bad," said Ben. "I mistrust the honey which was in their honey sacs was foul, and as we gave them combs immediately, instead of forcing them to consume the honey in making wax for new combs, they must have emptied the foul honey into some of the cells, and the larvæ being fed with the honey containing the germs of the disease became infected."

"Correct, my wise and philosophic brother," said Bob; "and I expect we gave a diseased comb to the other colony, or else they got punished because they were so wicked as to rob their neighbors."

The boys put four of the five colonies into empty boxes, and kept

them shut up for two days, in order that they might consume all the honey which remained in the honey sacs. All of the combs which contained brood they put in the fifth colony, which they placed at some distance from the other colonies, and when the most of the brood was hatched out they intended to transfer that colony.

The four starved colonies were then put upon clean foundation and fed plentifully with honey, and when they were sufficiently strong in brood and stores, they were returned to the apiary.

The other colony was now treated in a like manner, and the infected hives and frames were burned, together with those combs that were foul; but the honey and wax of those which seemed to be clean were thoroughly boiled, and it was resolved to feed back the honey to the colony, keeping the bees isolated and see if the boiled honey would carry the infection back again to the colony. One of the hives and the frames were washed thoroughly with a strong solution of concentrated lye and given the bees for a home, "just as an experiment," as Bob said.

While they were burning the infected combs and hives in a house of wire cloth, so as to make sure that none of the bees should taste the forbidden fruit, a neighboring bee-keeper came by.

"Phew! boys; burning up the foul brood; eh? This reminds me of the scrape neighbor Jones got into. Did I ever tell you of that?"

"No; do tell us, Mr. Lovegrove," said the boys, who dearly loved stories, as most boys do.

"Well, as nearly as I can recall the affair, it was thus," said Mr. Lovegrove, seating himself upon a stump near by:

"You see Jones had a number of bees, and thought he knew how to hive them and rob them as well as any other man, and what more did a bee-keeper need to know. But one day Jones was in town and met Smith, who invited him to attend a bee meeting that was called for that afternoon, and as Jones had a curiosity to hear what the bee sharps had to say, he thought he would go along with Smith to the meeting. It so happened that they were discussing foul brood, and Jones sat listening with open mouth while they

described the horrors of the fell disease; and he examined the specimens of foul brood which had been brought to the meeting, and listened to the foul brood sharps until he concluded he knew as much about it as anybody.

"When he went home he looked through his hives and marked six that he concluded had the disease, and must be destroyed. But he did not wish to have his neighbors know his bees were diseased, so he thought he would wait until evening and then burn them up, bees, combs, hives, honey, and all. So he dug a big pit, and poured into the hole two or three cans of crude petroleum and then waited until dark.

"In the mean time along came a Jew pedler, and asked if he could stay all night. Jones said 'Certainly,' and offered to keep him for a very curious silk purse which the pedler kept his money in. The Jew gave him the purse and Jones slips out of the house and puts the infected hives in the pit and lights the petroleum, and to get rid of the dead body of a dog which was lying near, he tossed that into the pit also. Soon out comes the Jew pedler, and holding his nose he says, 'Mien Gott, Jones, what for you make such an awful smell, I can't stand this.' 'Nobody asks you to,' replies Jones; 'there's the road if you don't like things here;' for he felt grouchy over his work. So at last the pedler picks up his pack and starts down the trail to another house, but he loses his way and finally strikes a railroad near morning, boards a train and goes off up to San Francisco.

'Jones' neighbors saw the fire and smelled the awful odors that were wafted up the canyon, and some of them asked him next day what he was burning. Jones looked guilty, but stuttered out that it was 'nothing much.' He was then asked about the pedler, who said he was going to stay with Jones over night, and Jones told them he had gone to Brown's to stay the night.

"Did you buy anything of him?" inquired one of the neighbors. 'Not a thing,' said Jones.

"Now when they found the pedler had not been to Brown's, nor had even been seen since he went to Jones', and when they remembered the fire and the awful

smell of the burning stuff, it began to be whispered around that the pedler had been made way with; and when Jones was away one day, Brown, who hated him, went and dug in the pit where he had burnt the hives, and found the charred bones of the dog, and thinking they were the bones of the murdered pedler he had Jones arrested, and when Jones was searched and the purse was found in his pocket well filled with twenties, there was little doubt of his guilt. Of course Jones told his story, but he was not believed, and it would have fared badly with him, if a merchant who had just returned from the city had not sworn he saw the pedler at Bakersfield when he was coming down. So Jones got clear, but he resolved ever afterwards to let the bees clean up their own foul brood, or else invite his neighbors to the burning."

"That is a capital story, Mr. Lovegrove," said Bob. "But I think foul brood is like the itch; it is no disgrace to catch it, but it is a disgrace to keep it after you have it and know it. I think the Legislature ought to devote the taxes raised from assessing bees for the next two or three years, to pay a foul brood inspector, who should be given power to eradicate the disease by destroying every infected hive he finds, and in that way we might get rid of it."

"Doubtful, doubtful my boy; these hills are full of wild bees, many of whom may be diseased, and if they get weak and are robbed, into our apiaries comes the disease again."

"Still I think we could eventually conquer it," replied Bob; and, dear readers, I think so too.

*(Concluded in our next.)*

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### SUPERIORITY OF THE ITALIANS.

E. GALLUP, SANTA ANA.

I PROPOSE to give the readers of the APICULTURIST some directions, that they may be able to judge between the pure Italians and those of doubtful purity. To begin, we have at least two parties who advertise imported queens exten-

sively, and ship them all over the country. Those queens never saw Italy. Again, parties who received said queens found fault because the progeny was not up to their expectations. They were informed that there were black, and, consequently, hybrid bees in Italy.

We every now and then have writers inform us that there are black bees in Italy. Now, I take such statements for what they are worth, and no more. The Italians have their distinct workings. The drones from an imported queen are on the smallish order, and many of them so coal black and destitute of hair, that they fairly shine, while hybrid drones are almost invariably large, light colored and quite hairy. The workers are strong fliers, carry the point of the abdomen well up, instead of bent down like the blacks, especially when loaded. Both queens and workers are darker than American bred, and some of them are quite dark or leather-colored, yet on close examination, we find the distinct markings. In handling, the Italians invariably cling to the combs, and if carefully handled, the queen can frequently be seen depositing her eggs, while holding the comb in your hand. You can set a card of brood down outside of the hive with the adhering bees and they will cover and protect the brood, and it is a very rare thing that a bee falls off the comb, either young or old. They are never tumbling off and crawling all over the ground, running up your pants, etc., like the blacks.

If you wish to find a queen you can find her easily. The bees never run all over the hive, both inside and out, like the blacks, deserting their brood, etc. Sometimes, of course, young queens will try to hide, but I mean laying queens. In poor seasons, when the blacks starve the Italians will breed; store honey and you frequently get a surplus. The brood is kept more compact in the comb, hatches out more regular and the queens are far more prolific, taking the entire season through, than are the blacks. In fact a poor season tells the superiority of the Italians in a very marked degree. The Italians, in a properly constructed hive, I consider perfectly moth proof. It is a very rare thing indeed that we ever find a moth worm among Italian brood, while it

is quite a common occurrence to occasionally find one even in the brood nest of the strongest black colony of the apiary.

*(To be continued.)*

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### HONEY KNIVES.

B. PENCILINGS, SANTA BARBARA.

WELL, the thing has hatched at last, and verily, how it does grow. When "the Queen" of the Pacific flies out may she be impregnated with gentleness and truth and her workers, if not quite the number, may they have the right ring.

Well those boys at Las Flores, how they do pitch in, what a graphic description they give of the modus operandi of extracting, and those huge knives. I have seen them down there, but could not devise what they meant. Those boys might handle such (I am not criticising), but I think they certainly would be a little too heavy for a lady to handle all day, who I find are the best and smartest at that business, and that even the Bingham knife is most too heavy. We don't use warm water, so it don't take so much iron. Just bear with me one moment on this knife question. It is not so much the cutting of the knife that does the damage, it is the knife dragging the honey, and the honey drags the cell, so the least surface you can get next to the honey the better, I think you can't accomplish this any other way than on the Bingham principle. I see that a mason's trowel is proposed. That may be better, from the fact that it is much thinner than the Bingham, and needs less bevel on the under side, and the face being wider, it would carry more cappings. When using the knife, we simply draw it across a wooden bar to clean the honey off. You can take any common knife and bevel the under side, or even turn the edge a little to one side by rubbing it over a smooth piece of steel, and you can uncup without warm water, simply because you turn the flat of the knife away from the honey.

Our honey crop in this section is very light, and a good many are discouraged. A few of us are hopeful and wish the APICULTURIST success.

# OUR VICE-PRESIDENTS' REPORT FOR 1892.

WM. MUTH-RASMUSSEN, INDEPENDENCE.

AS Vice-President for California, of the N. A. B. K. S., I hereby send you my report for this state, as far as I have been able to make it out.

Owing to unfavorable atmospheric conditions in the spring, and in some localities to a total lack of rain during last winter, the flowers throughout the state have failed to yield an average amount of honey this year. In the southern counties, which is the principal honey producing part of the state, the season is regarded as nearly a complete failure, but few bee-keepers securing part of a crop. Mr. E. Gallup writes me that the amount of honey is all guess work. Others positively refuse to give any estimate of the honey crop. Owing to the failure, many bee-keepers are discouraged and seem to take no interest in the matter, wherefore I find it difficult to make out any report, which will be at all satisfactory. Several bee-keeping counties have not yet been heard from. Some place the average of honey per hive, at 25 lbs.; others at 40 lbs. It is impossible to form any correct idea of the true amount. But few give the quantity of wax produced; it will probably all be made into comb foundation. Much of the honey reported as "comb" is produced in large boxes, or even whole upper stories, without any idea or means of placing it on the market in a saleable shape.

Foul brood is reported very prevalent in some parts of the state, but I have no statistics in that regard. In this, Inyo County, there is no trace of it, as far as I have been able to ascertain.

I regret very much not being able to send a better report from this state, particularly as last year was a poor honey season, and this one might have been, and was in the early spring, expected to be a good season.

If, after mailing this, any further reports should arrive, I shall forward them to you in care of Mr. C. F. Muth.

Hoping you will have a pleasant time at the Convention, I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

## REPORT FOR CALIFORNIA FOR 1892.

Locality.	Number of Bee-keepers.	Number of Colonies.				Pounds of Honey.				Pounds of Wax.
		Italian.	Hybrid.	Black.	Total.	Comb.	Extracted.	Strained.	Total.	
San Diego Co.	39	.....	.....	.....	4,220	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Los Angeles Co.	160	.....	.....	.....	7,500	.....	.....	.....	220,000	2,000
San Bernardino Co.	3	.....	.....	.....	400	.....	.....	.....	75,000	.....
Ventura Co.	46	.....	.....	.....	1,500	.....	.....	.....	33,200	100
Santa Barbara Co.	6	.....	.....	.....	865	.....	.....	.....	3,750	100
Kern Co.	348	.....	.....	.....	250	.....	.....	.....	1,000	100
Alameda Co.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inyo Co.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Napa Co.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total reported to date	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,735	23,800	228,000	4,750	331,550	2,200

(For the APICULTURIST.)

## WHY ARE DOLLAR QUEENS NOT THE BEST?

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.

I SEE by the APICULTURIST, page 78, that Mr. I. B. Rumford has an article on "dollar queens," in which he says he can "see nothing so far against them, but rather much in their favor." As I rear queens of different grades and care not which I sell, I will try and enlighten Mr. R. wherein "dollar queens" are inferior. The reason of their inferiority is in the way they are reared, and not in the honesty or dishonesty of the dealer, for if a party desire to be dishonest, he is not necessarily confined to dollar queens. All know that under the

swarming impulse as good queens are reared as can be by any plan; but I have yet to hear of the man who claims that any of the means employed to force the bees to rear queens, give better queens than those reared by natural swarming. They claim, and what they try to prove is, that queens reared by these means are just as good, not better. Now we have men who are our most practical honey producers, E. Gallup, A. Grimm (deceased), J. Heddon, etc., who claim that queens reared by natural swarming are far superior to those reared by any of these forced methods, and I am proud to say I am with that number. Queens are reared under such circumstances by the bees going deliberately at work to prepare a large cell on purpose for a queen, and always at a time when they are gathering both honey and pollen. They start from the egg, and this large cell is supplied with an abundance of food as soon as the larvæ appears. This supply is kept up till the cell is sealed, so much so that I have repeatedly seen a lump considerably larger than a marrow-fat pea, left in the cell after the queen emerged. A queen thus reared is the highest type of perfection, as to producing bees for business, and if she is from good stock and mates rightly, will prove a valuable acquisition to any man. If whether she mated with an Italian drone or not was the only question arising, why such a queen was not as good as a tested queen, I should say take the risk of her mating wrong and buy all such queens. But "where the shoe pinches" is in the fact that such queens cannot be reared for one dollar; hence a dollar queen is not as good as any. Well, if "dollar queens" are not reared so as to be of the highest type of perfection, how are they reared? Years ago, when queens were first reared in other ways than natural swarming, and when \$5 or more was charged for an Italian queen, parties were careful to rear them under conditions as near in accordance with natural swarming as possible, so that all queens sent out should be as good as might be. To this end Adam Grimm and others labored assiduously, for the price was sufficient so they could afford to do so. Well, our friend A.

(Continued on page 108.)

# The California Apiculturist

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE

APICULTURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

AT OAKLAND AND LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA.N. Levering, - - - - - Editor  
W. A. Pryal, Associate Editor and Manager

Terms of Subscription:

\$1.00 per annum.....in advance  
.50 for six months....."

BUSINESS OFFICE: OAKLAND, CAL.

Any person sending club of three will be entitled to an extra copy (like the club), sent to any address desired. Sample copies free to those who can use them to advantage.

Remit by either money order, registered letter, express or bank draft, to the Apicultural Pub. Co., Oakland, Cal.

All business communications, etc., should be sent to the office at Oakland. Articles for publication should be sent to the Editor at Los Angeles, Cal. P. O. Box 1088.

Duly entered as second-class matter.

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SECTION BOXES.—Mr. Newton Levering, of Orofino, Siskiyou Co., Cal., writes us that the honey crop in that portion of the State will be moderately good. He wishes to know where to buy section boxes and the price of the same. Will some manufacturer of section boxes, etc., advertise through the columns of the APICULTURIST and give the desired information?

## Editorial.

### THE APIARY FOR NOVEMBER.

THE directions given in the October number are quite applicable to this month. Weak colonies should be looked after, and where strong colonies have an abundant supply of honey, a comb or two may be taken from them and be given to a weak colony, every protection should be given them against cold. The skunk will now pay his nightly visits to the bees, which may be known by the earth being scratched out in front of the hive, and by marks of his claws on the front of the hive, where he has been knocking at the door, as it were, to see if any one was at home. He should be treated on such occasions to strychnine, placed on a small piece of meat, or on a little comb honey, which might be better, as the meat might be eaten by some domestic animal. These pests are more detrimental to an apiary at this season of the year than at any other time, as bees are breeding less now than at any other time of the year, and consequently are less able to spare any of their numbers.

All hives should have good covers that do not leak. Leaky hives during the rainy season are quite detrimental to the colony, as the young brood are often subjected to a cold bath, that is attended with fatal results, while the bees are not unfrequently chilled to death. The careful apirist will see that his bees are kept dry.

### THE FAIR A SUCCESS.

THE late Sixth District Agricultural Fair was a grand success in point of interest and finances. Up to this writing the exact amount of clear profits is not known, but is safely put down at \$1,000. This is the first fair, we are informed, that has ever been held in Los Angeles

county that has paid expenses. Its success is doubtless owing to the good management of R. H. Hewitt, Secretary and Superintendent. The apicultural department was a decided success, better than the best display ever made at any previous fair held here, taking the failure of the honey crop into consideration. Much of this fine display was owing to the indefatigable exertions of our enterprising friends Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Pleasants, and W. W. Bliss, who never pull back, but whose motto is "Onward and Upward." As superintendent of this department we tender them our hearty thanks for their active co-operation, and trust that their good example may stimulate others on similar occasions to "go forward."

Space will not permit us to notice all the different exhibits in the apicultural department. The display of honey was good, both of comb and extracted. The prize comb honey exhibited by J. E. Pleasants was greatly admired by all. The golden colored bees, with their retinue of golden banded workers, were the center of attraction, while inquiry into their nature and habits was no less interesting to the curious.

The display of beeswax was fine. Miss Ella R. Ballou (Black Eyes), of Halfmoon Bay, San Mateo Co., carried off the premium on wax—or, rather waxed the older bees.

Mrs. M. F. Richie's display of honey-preserved fruits was good, and captured the merited premium; while Mrs. Dunsmore captured the cash premium for excellent honey cake.

The extensive display of W. W. Bliss is deserving of special notice, but our space will not admit of it; but suffice by saying that the comb foundation exhibited and manufactured by him is not surpassed.

All premiums are now being promptly settled. The creditable display made in the bee department we trust will stimulate to a better exhibit another year.

## DISTRICT CONVENTION.

THE minutes of the Convention will be seen in another column. Though the session was short, many questions of importance were discussed and much business accomplished.

J. S. Harbinson, of San Diego, read a paper touching upon many points of vital importance to the apicultural interest of southern California. We hope to be able to present it in full in our next issue. He referred to the importance of taking steps at once to memorialize Congress to pass a law similar to the timber law, whereby the settler may acquire a title to government land by planting a specified number of acres of the same in bee feed-trees, flowers, etc. Such an act, if it could be secured, would be very applicable to the rough mountain lands, and would insure the occupation of them, whereas they might never be settled and remain barren mountains as they now are. The passage of such a law would cause the barren wastes to bloom as an Eden and flow with sweetness as a Canaan. Apiculture would soon become more reliable and assume a more important position among the industries of the country.

Mr. Harbinson was appointed a committee of one to draw up a memorial for public signature.

The members of our State Legislature should be interviewed upon this subject and urged to present the matter to Congress at as early a day as possible, as we believe that it will meet with general favor.

THE APICULTURIST is meeting with general favor every where, where it has put in an appearance. We hope to make it more attractive and useful another year by keeping it up to 16, and perhaps 20 pages. In order to do this successfully, apiarists every where must aid by their subscriptions and influence to build it up.

## In Council.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

AT two o'clock on the afternoon of October 18th, a number of bee men were present at the appointed place, but no regular meeting was held during the day.

The subject of shipping honey, the most suitable package for the different markets, and the crop of the different parts of Southern California, was fully discussed by those present. The subject of the different races of bees was then brought up.

Mr. Harbinson thought that the Holy Land bees were very good, but preferred a cross between them and the Italians to either race in its purity, and that the Holy Land bees were very uneasy when there was no honey to be obtained from natural sources, consequently they were more apt to rob and were not a very good bee for a poor year.

A few other subjects of interest were discussed for a short time. Some of the members having important business to attend to, the meeting adjourned until 9 A. M., October 19th.

Some of the members being on the awarding committee, there was no meeting held at the appointed time.

At half-past one the meeting was opened in due form. President Pleasants in the chair. The books were then open for the reception of new members. The following joined the Association: D. S. Given, Los Angeles, M. H. Mendelson, Newhall, A. W. Osburn, Los Angeles, and M. F. Ritchie, of Florence, Los Angeles County, was elected an honorary member.

The President read his address. Mr. Levering moved that a vote of thanks be tendered the President for his able address, and that it be placed on file with the Secretary.

Motion carried.

The election of officers being next in order, Mr. Levering moved that the same officers be re-elected. Carried.

A paper on different subjects was read by Mr. Harbinson, for which he received a vote of thanks from the association. It was moved by

Mr. Levering that Mr. Harbinson be appointed a committee of one to draft a memorial embodying the main object of this paper. Carried.

A communication was received from Mr. S. N. Wickoff and read by the secretary, for which he (Mr. Wickoff), received a vote of thanks, and it was ordered placed on file with the secretary.

A report of San Diego County was then handed in by Mr. Harbinson, and was as follows:

4,680 Cases Comb Honey, net,	262,080 lbs.
Extracted Honey.....	226,000 lbs.
Value of Honey.....	\$46,139.60.
Wax.....	3,860.40.

Total Value.....\$50,000.00.

The report of the committee on the protection of bees against foul brood received, and the committee discharged. The committee on new Constitution and By-Laws reported that they had never met. The committee was given till the next annual meeting to report.

The subject of foul brood was then taken up and discussed by those present, each one giving his experience and belief as to its origin.

The financial affairs of the association, were reported as follows:

To Stationery.....	\$ .10
To Postage.....	.35
To Printing.....	1.00

Total Expenses.....\$1.45

## RECEIPTS:

By Membership, Four New Members @ 50c.....	\$2 00
--	--------

Still in the Treasury.....\$1.55

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to meet during Fair week, 1883.

W. W. BLISS, Secretary.

WHAT HIVE TO USE.—In another part of this number Mr. Ercanbrack wishes to know which is the better hive, the Harbinson or the Langstroth? Our reply is that the H hive is intended for comb honey alone, and is very good for that purpose. We, however, prefer the L style, for general purposes, as it is more convenient for extracting and still good for comb honey. The size we use is 15x16x11½ inches, with frames 10½x12 inches, and is two stories high. This we find a very convenient hive. In the April issue of this paper, Mr. Muth-Rasmussen gives a description of the hive he prefers.

## In the Field.

### SOME CALIFORNIA HONEY PLANTS.

J. C. NEVIN, LOS ANGELES.

THE "wild alfalfa," so common on the hills and in the canyons, belongs to the bean family, and is scientifically known as *Hosackia glabra*. There are two other species of the same genus very similar to this, especially *H. juncea*, which is more likely to be found along the coast than farther back. The manner of inflorescence makes these plants to continue opening fresh and abundant flowers, so long as the season will at all favor their growth, and consequently valuable to your industry.

The "sumach," I believe, bee men reckon next in order of usefulness. It is *Rhus laurina* of botanists, and is a full brother to the poison oak. The very abundant clusters of flowers, which have a fleshy disk within, calculated to secrete nectar, afford the bees a fine opportunity for their work.

It may seem strange that so useful a shrub should have such undesirable relatives. But our poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*), I am told, is worked on by the bees more or less. Its scanty supply of flowers will not be so universally attractive as the sumach. So with *Rhus aromatica* (not the eastern plant, whose crushed leaves are sweet scented, but variety *trilobata*, commonly called "small-leaved poison oak," or "stinking hazel," of which the flowers appear before the leaves, and which eventually is plentifully covered with dense clusters of scarlet berries). It is as poisonous to many persons as the large-leaved form. The sumach itself even affects some people unpleasantly.

The "poison ivy," or "poison oak" of the east, is *Rhus toxicodendron*, and is closely allied to the large-leaved poison oak of this coast.

It may be of some interest to note that *Grindelia robusta v. rigida*, commonly called "gum plant," is said to be a good remedy for the poison oak affection. It is a plant about two feet high, and may be known by its pale bluish-green color, stiff stem and branches, with rigid coriaceous sharply toothed

leaves and large heads of yellow flowers, the involucres of which are often plentifully covered with a clear glistening gummy secretion, much as though wet with a copious dew.

I presume a poultice made from the crushed leaves and flower heads, or a strong decoction made by boiling the whole plant in water, would be the best way to apply it.

I might add, for general information, that the family or order to which these poison oaks belong, is it the *Anicardiaceæ*, or *ashew* family, and to it belongs also our ornamental "pepper tree," so called, although it has nothing whatever to do with the true pepper. The botanical name is *Schinus Molle*. The common name is given on account of its leaves being so full of glands containing an aromatic resin, and its seeds being so strongly pungent.

## Our Workers.

(Continued from page 105.)

I. Root, of Ohio, proposes, after a while, to rear queens for \$1 each, and such queens are to be mailed as soon as laying, the purchaser to take his chances of safe arrival, and as to being purely mated; but aside from these two risks the purchaser is to have as good queens as can be reared. Well, this all sounds very pretty, but we soon find that he advises rearing queens by taking a frame of eggs from the colony, saving the queen you wish to rear queens from, place it in an empty hive, set it on the stand of any colony, and the returning bees from the field would rear "lots" of good queens.

Next, friend J. H. Nellis, that champion dollar queen raiser, "shouts" on August 20th, "from now out is the time to rear the best of queens," and to have them still better we found he used a 4x6 nucleus box for that purpose. Let us look a moment at how these queens are reared as compared with our natural queen. These bees of improper age for queen rearing, at an improper season of the year, and in improper surroundings as to hive, etc., find themselves without a queen, and a queen they must have. They wish a queen as soon as possible, so begin to remodel one or

more worker cells, and get food prepared in their stomachs (long unused for such work, as they are now field bees instead of nurses), thus rearing a queen in a small cell and on scant food of poor quality, and we find that after the queen emerges from the cell that the cell is licked as dry of food as any worker or drone ever licked theirs.

Is it any wonder that a friend should write us, that out of nine "dollar queens" seven did not live six months and only one a year. To make the prospects still poorer for the rearing of good queens by this method parties now warrant safe arrival, and pure fertilization of such queens, and if you take a dozen you can have them at 75 cents each.

In face of all this our friend Rumford asks "why are dollar queens the best?" Oh! consistency thou art a jewel. The question is not honesty or dishonesty, which tends to "lower the quality of our queens," but it is this "scrimping process" which the dollar queen traffic compels all those engaged in it, to use in order that they can keep in the business and not become bankrupt. Were it not well that we stop and think whither this thing is tending?

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### GALLERIA CEREANA, BEE MOTH.

R. B. ROBBIN, BLOOMDALE, O.

NOTICE by letters published in your journal, that many people on the Pacific slope are having trouble with the bee moth. There is, perhaps no other pest that is so grievous to bee-keepers, both East and West, as this same bee moth.

The following, if strictly adhered to, will be found to be of great value as a specific, or remedy: Keep all stocks strong in bees, so as to completely cover all combs. Remove all combs from the hive that the bees cannot so cover, hang them in some secure place until needed. All hives should have close fitting joints in their construction, all frames or inside furniture should be so arranged as not to make a pest house. This can be easily done by having all spaces in the hive not intended to be occupied by honey just  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch, this gives the bees a chance to pass to every nook and corner of the hive, and if the stock is strong and healthy little or no trouble will be experienced.

[For the APICULTURIST.]  
**THE REASON WHY, ETC.**

C. F. MUTH, CINCINNATI, O.

HAVING quite a number of good friends among California bee-keepers, I have taken pains in introducing California honey into our market; and if I did not succeed in finding for it a ready market: it was not because I was not impressed with or convinced of the good quality of the honey produced in your State, but because honey produced this side of the Rocky Mountains could be obtained for less money, and our people were more accustomed to its flavor.

Carloads of comb honey sent here from your State have never been profitable to shippers, because several carloads would be shipped to different commission houses at the same time who would run down the prices in order to effect sales. Paying cash for what I got, I lost money on every carload, which was no inducement for future purchases, as a matter of course. A limited quantity of comb honey will always sell at a good price, if choice. But comb honey will remain a fancy article.

The increase in the demand for extracted honey is very encouraging, and has by far surpassed my expectations. It is worth the most money, and our people are not long in informing themselves in regard to the matter.

Aug. 24, 1882.

## Editor's Portfolio.

GOOD'S SHIPPING CANDY.—This candy has elicited nearly as much discussion the past season as the "dollar queen" controversy, and undoubtedly it has been of more practical importance. From the evidence given by Messrs. Hutchinson, Newman, A. I. Root, Carroll, Good, and others, we should conclude that the candy was par excellence for provisioning queens for a long journey. In conversation with Mr. Corey, not long since, the associate editor of this journal was informed by that gentleman that he had received a dozen or more queens from Mr. Good that were shipped in "Good's" candy cages,

and that every one of them arrived safely. We had a queen, or rather two of them, from Mr. G., but they were dead when received. We do not attribute their death to the feed, but to the way the cages are constructed.

GENERAL STONEMAN.—Our State too has gone the same way the majority of the States of the Union have. Our Governor on and after the eighth day of January next will have come from San Gabriel, Los Angeles county, where we have several subscribers. We are not informed whether the Gen. takes the bee business or not, but we know that he is largely engaged in the growing of grapes. Should the viticulturists make another attempt at this session of the Legislature to pass an anti-bee-keeping law, we hope that Gov. Stoneman will do what is fair and just. We should think the apiarists could have no better man to try their case than a man who has been where bees and grapes grow the thickest.

OREGON BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION.—From the *Williamette Farmer* we learn that quite a number of persons interested in bee culture attended the preliminary meeting called for the 25th of October. An organization was effected, constitution and by-laws adopted, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year: Dr. J. W. Morris, President; A. Warner, Vice-President; E. E. Charman, Secretary; A. F. Miller, Treasurer; J. D. Rusk of Clackamas, M. V. Ensley of Yamhill, and T. L. Riggs of Multnomah, were chosen as an Executive Committee. The first annual meeting of the newly-formed society will be held November 22, 1882, at 10 o'clock, at Oregon City.

A CALIFORNIA WATERMELON.—We have received some of the seed of a watermelon raised by N. Coachen at his bee ranch, near the Chaunga Pass in Los Angeles Co., which tilted the beam at 100 pounds. It was of most excellent quality—the variety not known. He has many more that will run from 75 to 100 pounds. Really young Nick beats old Nick raising melons and bees. We hope to be favored with an article from him on this successful manipulation of bees.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.—Our Monterey County correspondent suggests that the honey resources, etc., of each county of this state be written up as concisely as possible and published in these pages. The idea is a good one, and we would be pleased to have a correspondent in each county give such an article concerning apicultural adaptabilities of his county, as well as a brief notice of the other industries carried on therein. These articles will be eagerly read by our Eastern readers and will be the means of increasing our population.

EARLY in October Mr. J. G. Corey, of Ventura county, paid our Oakland office a visit. We are sorry that the gentleman did not call earlier in the day, as we would have been able to have shown him more attention than we did. Mr. Corey, as is well known, is one of our wide awake apiarists, and is a practical writer on bee topics, as will be seen by reference to his articles in former numbers. We trust our friend will continue to give our readers more of his interesting talks. We all appreciate them.

N. A. B. K. CONVENTION.—At the last meeting of the National (?) Convention the following well-known apiarists were chosen the officers for the coming year: D. A. Jones, of Beeton, Ontario, President; A. I. Root, Medina, O., Secretary; C. F. Muth, Cincinnati, O., Treasurer. Our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Wm. Ruth-Rasmussen, has been re-elected Vice-President for this State. It was voted to hold the next annual session in Toronto, Canada.

QUEER FREAKS.—What can the matter be that politics have changed so this Fall, and that the National Bee-Keepers' Society of the United States has been *voted* out of this free soil. We do not intend to discuss purely political questions in this journal, but we feel like discussing that Cincinnati business.

WHEN your communications do not appear right away in these pages, do not think that it is consigned to the waste basket. Often there are others ahead of you, whose articles are more timely and better suited to the present wants of bee-keepers.

**A PHUNNY THING.**—The honey extractor is often called a honey slinger, and on that account is one of the most useful machines a bee-keeper can have. But lately another slinger is developing itself so successfully that it is now doubtful whether a progressive bee-keeper can well do without it. We mean the *Phunny Slinger*, otherwise called the *Bee-Keepers' Exchange*. See "ad." in our advertising columns.

J. C. D. McFARLAND, of Oska-loosa, Iowa, writes us that he started with one colony last spring, from which, with the increase, he has taken 500 lbs. of honey, and asks if we can beat that? Yes, we can just double that, friend Mc. We know of one apiarist who took 1,000 lbs. from one colony and its increase. During a good season we have known some small apiarists to average 500 lbs. to the colony. We hope for that good time to come again.

GUST MURHARD, of Portland, Oregon, writes us that they are about organizing a bee-keepers' society at that place and wishes to know if they can make the APICULTURIST their publishing medium. Certainly, friend M, the columns of this paper are at your service. We will be glad to publish any communications of interest that you may send. Will also be pleased to receive a huge list of subscribers from your section.

THE *Bee-Keepers' Instructor* has ceased to exist. We regret this, as it was, under Bro. Thomas' management, one of our best conducted journals. Two gone this year already—the *N. E. Bee Journal* and the *Instructor*. What has become of the *American Bee-Keeper*? Why, Bro. Harrison, we thought you were climbing up so nicely. Hope you haven't tumbled down, too.

NOT THE AUTHOR OF IT.—The following from Mr. W. W. Bliss, under date Oct. 25, is self explanatory: In reply to your query as to whether I have written any other report than the one I sent you, published page 97, October number, I answer NO. The one published in the *Semi-Tropic* is none of my writing.

WE call attention to the card of Merrill & Babcock, which appears in this number. They keep first-class goods and are first-class men. Honey cans and other bee-keepers' supplies are a specialty with them.

FISH & BAGG are ready to supply bee-keepers and the rest of mankind with choice groceries at low prices. Pure mountain honey, as pure as the nectar of the gods, is one of their specialties. Bee-keepers remember them.

READ our offers to agents and subscribers, and avail yourself of their benefits. During the fairs will be a good time for agents to canvass. Write to the APICULTURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY for terms.

BEFORE you subscribe for any papers read our clubbing list. We can supply any of the San Francisco weeklies for from 10 to 25 per cent. less than the publisher's price.

A SMOKER FOR ALMOST NOTHING. For eight subscribers sent to us by one person we will send one of King's large smokers, as illustrated in our last number. For six, we will send a smaller smoker.

UP TO the present writing, there has not been rain sufficient to lay the dust near Los Angeles, while in the eastern portion of the county there has been rain sufficient to wet the ground six inches or more. Our turn next.

APIDEA is the genus to which the honey bee belongs, hence the Latin apis, a bee, apiary, apiarian, etc. Apis is a prefix to denote the kind or species of bee, as apis melifica, the black bee, apis luguriennae, the Italian or Lugurian bee.—*Corr. Am. Bee Journal*.

MANAGEMENT OF SECTION BOXES. As the flow of honey slackens off, take from colonies with more sections than they are likely to finish, and put them in place of full sections removed, contracting the room for surplus honey, if necessary, so as to have all the sections finished as soon as possible. Beginners are apt to add boxes as long as the flow continues, and at the end of the season have a large number only partially filled, which must be kept over or extracted.—*Indiana Farmer*.

SEND US the names of your neighbor bee-keepers, as we wish to send them a sample copy of this paper.

SOME naturalists have estimated that a queen will lay from 70,000 to 100,000 eggs in one season. This number, though it appears fabulous, is much exceeded by other insects. The female of the white ant lays not less than 60 eggs a minute, which makes 3,600 an hour, 86,400 a day, 2,419,200 in a month, and 211,449,600 in a year, if she laid every day. *Corr. Am. Bee Journal*.

### ERRATUM.

Since looking over the first forms of this issue, we find several typographical errors. On the first page the article on the Queen Traffic is by G. W. Demaree; that on the Moth is by R. B. Robbins. On page 109, in speaking of General Stoneman, read instead of "takes the bee business, takes to the, etc." We presume that there are other mistakes, as the paper was made up in a hurry; they will be corrected in the next issue.

### MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE

1883.

- Jan. 16 —Eastern N. Y., at Albany N. Y. E. Quackenbush, Sec'y, Barnesville, N. Y.  
Jan. 16-18 —Northeastern, at Syracuse, N. Y. G. W. House, Sec'y, Fayetteville, N. Y.

[In order to have the above list complete, secretaries are requested to send us full particulars of future meetings.]

### OUR CLUB LIST.

CHEAP LITERATURE. TWO PAPERS FOR PRICE OF ONE.

	PUB. WITH- OUT	PAPER.
American Agriculturist, monthly, (The Standard of America.)	\$1.50	\$2.25
Farmer's Review, weekly, (The business farmer's paper.)	1.50	2.25
Vick's Monthly, (devoted to flowers and richly illustrated.)	1.25	2.00
Rural New Yorker. (In our opinion the most distinctly modern and handsomest of all the weeklies, and seed premium.)	2.00	2.75
Cultivator and Country Gentleman, (The man who once has taken this paper would as soon think of doing without his front door as failing to renew his subscription.)	2.50	3.00
Farm and Garden, monthly, (only equaled by the American Agriculturist.)	.50	1.25
Prairie Farmer	2.00	2.75
Scientific American	3.20	3.50
Fruit Recorder and Cottage Gardener	1.00	1.75
Williamette Farmer, (Oregon.)	2.50	2.75

### BEE PAPERS.

American Bee Journal	2.00	2.80
Bee-keeper's Magazine	1.00	1.75
Bee-keeper's Exchange	1.00	1.90
Bee-keeper's Guide	.50	1.40
Kansas Bee-keeper	.60	1.40

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BEE-KEEPERS, subscribe for your paper.

BE PARTICULAR to give your post office, County, State and name, when writing to this office.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS EXPIRED when you see a **✂** opposite this paragraph. You are respectfully requested to renew.

IF OUR readers, in answering advertisements, will mention that they saw them in the APICULTURIST, they will oblige both advertisers and us.

A HAND stamped here, with index pointing to this paragraph indicates that your subscription has been received, and will date from this issue.

MISSING NUMBERS.—These will be promptly sent if subscribers will notify us of the fact. Occasionally, through irregularity of the mail or otherwise, papers become lost. We gladly supply such lost copies.

SAMPLE COPIES.—Persons receiving this paper, marked "specimen copy" on the wrapper, will please consider it a respectful invitation to send us \$1 for a year's subscription, provided the paper pleases them. Any person who sends us three subscriptions, at \$1 each, will get the paper a year free. We send no papers to subscribers who do not pay in advance.

REMITTANCES to this office may be sent at our risk, if forwarded according to the following directions, viz: by P. O. money order, bank draft, or cash sent in registered letter. When none of these means can be had, we will receive postage stamps, but prefer the above, or coin or currency. One, two and three cent stamps we can use in limited quantities. In sending stamps, do not send them all of one denomination. One and two cent stamps are preferable.

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### RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Per one column .....	\$8 00 per month
" half " .....	5.00 "
" fourth " .....	2.50 "
" eighth " .....	1.50 "

No advertisements to count less than one inch, unless inserted 3 or more times.

Advertisements for three months, 10 per cent. less than above rates. For six months, 15 per cent. less than above rates. For one year, 20 per cent. less than above rates.

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Merrill & Babcock are now importing direct from the East, and are selling the following goods at the lowest figures:

Ranges, Cook Stoves, Heating Soves, Oil Stoves (best in use), Wood and Willow Ware, Agate Ware, Tinware, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Silverware, Dog Collars, Kitchen Ware and Bee-Keepers Goods.

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Made from pure wax cut in sheets to suit, per pound, 35 cts. Or if wax is furnished, then only 15 cts, per pound.

Address, J. MADORY,  
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Every Bee-Keeper needs a good text-book as well as a periodical. To enable him to procure one at a reasonable figure, we have decided to club them with the APICULTURIST, at the following rates, postpaid:

	WITHOUT APICUL- TURIST.	WITH THE APICUL- TURIST.
Cook's New Manual, in cloth ..	\$1.25	\$2.00
" " " in paper ..	1.00	1.75
Quinby's New Bee-Keeping, in cloth, 1.50		2.10
The A B C of Bee Culture, in cloth, 1.25		2.00
" " " in paper, 1.00		1.75
The Bee-Keepers' Text Book, in cloth, 1.00		1.50
Bees and Honey .....	.75	1.60
The Dzierzon Theory, in paper ..	.15	1.10
Wintering Bees, in paper .....	.15	1.10
The Blessed Bees, flex. cloth ..	.75	1.50
Honey as food and medicine ....	.06	1.00
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