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“THE BESTO” BEE

VOL. 2

DENVER, COLORADO, APRIL, 1924

NO. 2

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

Actions speak louder than words. This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Colorado Honey Producers' Association, which is now one of the oldest if not the oldest, strictly co-operative producers' associations in the United States. During its entire existence it has been under the same manager. It has never repudiated a debt, and its goods have an enviable reputation wherever honey is sold. * * * Your association is in a healthy condition, notwithstanding the vicissitude of the past few years in the honey world. * * * Read and ponder the accompanying financial statement, and give your association your full and loyal support.

THE MARKETS

Comb Honey in our territory is practically sold out. With the exception of a little in outlying districts the same is true of extracted honey produced by our members. There will be little or no honey of any sort carried over into next season by our members. Nor will there be surplus of any big amount carried over in any part of the United States.

The wax situation is not so hopeful. Great quantities of beeswax are being imported into the United States, with no duty to pay. Porto Rico and Hawaii sent in over 47,000 pounds last year, and other countries 3,571,000 pounds. Much beeswax is consumed in making candles for religious worship, and with business conditions of Europe so depressed, our market there is badly curtailed. In Russia where the Greek church has been practically wiped out, little wax is now used. With no tariff on wax most of the surplus of foreign countries comes in direct competition with our own.

Your association continues to accept wax at 23 cents cash or 25 cents in trade, delivered in Denver. Owing to the high price of coal and labor, there is now no money in shipping slumgum long distances for rendering.

Our Annual Meeting

C. H. P. A. Holds Profitable Two-Day Session at Denver

The Annual Meeting of the C. H. P. A. was held at Denver March 4th and 5th, 1924.

Should we attempt to give a full report of everything that transpired at this meeting, it would take up this entire number. So we will confine ourselves to the space reserved for this purpose, giving the financial report, the result of elections and just enough of the discussions to make those who were not with us realize that they missed something by not being present. Considering the poor crop of honey and the cold wave and snow storm prevailing during the meeting, the attendance was as large as could be expected. The first day was set aside for the business to be conducted at this meeting, but there were also some good discussions mixed in to keep things lively. The managers report showed that the volume of business during the past year was satisfactory. The light honey crop mostly caused by unfavorable weather conditions during the main honey flow, naturally meant less supplies purchased and less honey sold; however, the deficit of the previous year was wiped out and a surplus of \$2260.35 will be available for paying a partial dividend on stock.

ASSETS

Merchandise on hand as per inventory	\$24,596.60
Honey and beeswax	8,954.46
Machinery	3,422.01
Store and office fixtures	2,804.47
Store and office supplies	1,172.98
Accounts receivable	19,866.54
Bonds	3,131.38
Cash at bank	9,315.12
Cash at store	38.65
	\$73,302.21

LIABILITIES

Capital stock	\$37,080.00
Building fund	1,131.61
Accounts payable	30,830.25
Undistributed surplus	2,260.35

\$73,302.21

Beekeepers located in the territory north of Denver, along the Platte river, suffered heavy losses in bees during the spring of 1923. Examination of the pollen in the comb of affected colonies by the U. S. Bureau of Entomology showed the presence of Arsenic in sufficient quantity to kill bees, as the prevailing winds carry the smoke of the city over this territory it looks as if smoke was the cause of the bees dying. Ores containing arsenic are said to be handled by a Denver smelter. Reports on last season's honey crop were already made by us in "Thebesto Bee," prices on carlots of extracted ranged from 8½¢ to 9½¢ per pound f.o.b. loading point. Prices of comb honey in carload lots sold by the

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Association were \$5.00 per case for Fancy, and \$4.50 per case for Choice, f.o.b. Denver. Other Western Shippers sold in some instances \$1.00 per case below these figures. Bulk comb honey has received some attention last season, owing to short honey crop in the Southwest there was a limited sale for such; however, Texas crop prospects are good now and very likely the local supply will fill this demand at prices that could not profitably be met by outsiders. We suggest to stay with the production of comb honey in sections.

Beeswax has been in light demand and prices are lower than usual, heavy importations of wax from other countries is the principal cause of low prices. It is doubtful if there will be a change for the better very soon.

Prospects for a honey crop throughout the Intermountain region are good, the ground is filled with moisture, and the prospects for a yield from Sweet Clover are good. Reports received so far indicate that where colonies had good Queens, plenty bees, and good supply of honey, the wintering loss has been light.

Membership in the Association shows a satisfactory gain. Losses by death are as follows: Geo. Dudley, P. C. Molholm, W. G. Lindza. Only four members have gone out of business during 1923. The Manager presented a tabulated report on the Bee supply and Honey business of the Association for the past fifteen years, which created considerable interest. A discussion on the liquifying of honey in the comb brought out some interesting experiments which indicate the feasibility of the plan. The election of a new Board of Directors was held in the afternoon of the first day of the meeting. The following seven members were elected to constitute the Board of Directors for the year: George Miller, Littleton, Colo.; C. H. Wolfe, Greeley, Colo.; Frank Rauchfuss, Denver, Colo.; L. W. Howsam, Denver, Colo.; F. G. Rauchfuss, Englewood, Colo.; Harvey Whitacre, Fort Lupton, Colo.; Wm. Lindenmeier, Jr., Fort Collins, Colo. Soon after being elected the new Board elected the officers from among their members: George Miller, president; C. H. Wolfe, vice-president; Frank Rauchfuss, secretary-treasurer.

On the morning of the second day the following resolution was presented: "It is the sentiment of the members assembled in convention at Denver, March 5th, that owing to the present situation on beeswax they feel that manufacturers of Bee comb foundation in this country should have due regard for the welfare of American Bee culture and manufacture foundation out of pure American beeswax only." The motion carried unanimously.

Windbreaks for apiaries: plans and cost figures for erecting same brought up a good discussion which finally drifted into providing watering devices for bees. One party reported that one

apiary had used 25 gallons of water per day during warm weather when no nectar was coming in.

The date and place for holding our next Field Meeting was left for the decision of the Program Committee. Lack of space prohibits our mentioning other discussions except one item that should be brought to the attention of western comb honey producers right now.

East vs. West

Does Western comb honey granulate sooner than Eastern? This question has never been satisfactorily answered. It is about time that a fair test should be made, to determine the truth. Untold damage has been done to western comb honey producers by the circulation of the claim that western comb honey granulates quickly. Having shipped considerable comb honey during the past 25 years, we contend that a well produced article of western comb honey will compare favorably in point of slowness of granulating with that produced in the more eastern states.

By corresponding with Mr. E. R. Root, president of the A. I. Root Company; Dr. E. F. Phillips, in charge of Bee Culture at Washington, D. C.; and with the cooperation of Mr. B. F. Kindig, president of the American Honey Producers League, the following contest has been arranged for: Mr. Kindig will request comb honey producers of the more eastern states to prepare cases of 12 sections of comb honey for this contest. These will be sent to Dr. E. F. Phillips to be kept under observation for a sufficient length of time to come to some definite conclusion relative to this granulation problem. For the Intermountain region of the West, Frank Rauchfuss, manager of the Colorado Honey Producers Association is to arrange for the collection of 12 section sample lots to represent the west, and send these to Washington. Comb honey producers of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado who have the reputation of western comb honey at heart are urged to write to Frank Rauchfuss for particulars which will promptly be furnished. It is up to all of us to show the rest of the country that we produce comb honey fit to take its place with the best anywhere. WRITE TODAY and let us put this thing over in true western style. Yours for success,

THE COLORADO HONEY
PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION
Frank Rauchfuss, Mgr.

HONEY IN BREAD

The Denver Bread company, which makes a specialty of bread made with honey, goes even further in featuring honey in its advertising by using an attractive picture composed of a cut loaf of bread, a brick of butter and a section of comb honey. The firm has been using large space in the Denver dailies besides attractive space in color on bill boards. Here's hoping their enterprise brings them good returns.

WINTERING CONDITIONS

In Northern Colorado bees are wintering fairly well. Due to the storms and bad roads it has been impossible for many beekeepers to get over their bees except in the home apiaries. This makes an extended report of wintering conditions in general impractical. Most members whose bees are liberally supplied with stores are finding little to complain of. Many colonies are running short of honey, however, and must be closely watched from now on to guard against starvation. Money spent for sugar and honey wherever needed from now on will return to the owner many, many times their cost next fall. It isn't sufficient that your bees have just enough feed to ward off starvation. It's "plenty of feed in our hive" that counts when the honey crop is gathered.

The beekeeper who saved an average of an extra frame of sealed honey for each colony in his apiaries last fall is in luck now. It takes backbone to do that when the crop is short and cash scarce, but it pays.

Every beekeeper knows how much better it is to feed good sealed honey than to feed syrup—when it can be had. For those who must buy sugar to feed this spring, the association is prepared to supply the finest grade of white, well-sealed, liquid comb honey in half depth frames, from apiaries that are healthy and free of foul brood, at a price that, dollar for dollar, will be found cheaper than sugar syrup. If interested, write the manager.

But whatever you do, don't neglect the bees. If they starve, you have nobody to blame but your own carelessness.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Yes, we're celebrating. Our anniversary price list is in the mails and you've doubtless received yours. It isn't such a big affair, but it's bright and snappy, and fairly complete. Also it's paid for! You'll note that many items are priced lower than last year. This pleases all of us.

Eight-frame hives are 15c lower. Comb honey supers are lower. Hoffman frames are lower. Queen excluders are lower. Sections are 50c less per 1,000 than last year. Peterson capping melter is lower. Some other items take the downward trend.

Several new items are listed. A two-stem steam uncapping knife, where the steam runs thru and back again without fouling the honey, is a big improvement. Several Colorado beekeepers have used a similar one of their own design for two or three years and find it excellent. The new standard fluted honey jars are featured also. E. W. Atkins and Kenneth Hawkins' new book, "How to Succeed with Bees" and Jay Smith's new queen rearing book are also listed.

You'll enjoy looking at our Anniversary catalogue and price list. And you'll be pleased, member or non-member, with the goods you order from it. If you haven't received your copy, write for it.

LEAGUE DOING THINGS

The American Honey Producers' League, in spite of many handicaps, is functioning to good purpose, and demonstrating its right to "a place in the sun." Among some of its accomplishments are the standardization of honey packages, reduction of freights on honey, a fine Honey Recipe booklet, a booklet of laws affecting beekeepers (now on the press,) progress toward uniform foul brood laws, practical advertising of honey, popularization of honey, and several others. A number of equally important projects are under way.

Membership in the League was opened to beekeepers everywhere in the United States and Canada, by action of the national convention held in Chicago on January 24 and 25. Heretofore only members of affiliated organizations could join the League, but anyone interested may now become an active member by sending One Dollar to the secretary.

NEXT FALL'S FAIRS

Beekeepers will do well to plan on an exhibit for the Mid-West Horticultural Society at Waterloo, Iowa, next fall. This is more than usually a worthwhile fair, and their apiary department is specially important. There are nearly \$650 in premiums allotted to honey and bee products. Our suggestion is that you make up your county exhibits, sending the best of them to the state fair at Pueblo; then send the entire state premium winning exhibit to Waterloo. Details can be had from Prof. Paddock of Ames, who is sponsoring the beekeeping end of the fair.

CARLOTS OF COMB HONEY

It sounds big for a member to have shipped a whole car of comb honey of his own production in one shipment, but financially it seldom pays. As a business proposition it usually pays much better to cooperate with other members, and make up cars as fast as they are ready, or to meet the demands as to grade, color, etc., of the waiting customer. When buyers are willing to pay association price, they all too frequently demand an assortment of grades and quality that the one-whole-car member cannot supply promptly; hence, if he is unwilling to ship part of his honey along with some other member's, he is apt to miss out on that particular sale, to his disadvantage. It pays to cooperate in this as in other respects, and thus enable your association to supply the customer with any kind of assortment that he demands. This also applies to some extent in the shipment of extracted honey.

CROP PROSPECTS

Everywhere in the intermountain region the ground is full of moisture, and honey plants are showing their heads in an encouraging way. Along the Eastern Slopes of the mountains dandelions are blooming freely, and fruit bloom bids fair to yield heavily enough to encourage heavy brood rearing if the weather is mild. Sweet clover generally got a good start last year, and in most localities is better than the average. All roadside plants should come along fine. It is up to the bee man to see that his colonies are in good shape, then to have plenty of storage room in the way of extra supers and hive bodies to care for a big crop. Note: The time to get storage room is NOW—not next August, when you can't possibly do it.

E. W. Atkins and Kenneth Hawkins have just published a 96-page booklet, "How to Succeed with Bees," that combines a great deal of practical information in small space. The book is well written, easy to understand, and gives definite instructions, clearly stated, rather than dealing in generalities. The price, 59 cents, postpaid, is in keeping with its size, but far below its practical value. The book ought to be in every beekeeper's library. For sale by the C. H. P. A.

Messrs. Atkins and Hawkins are at the head of the promotion and sales force of Lewis, of "BeeWare" fame.

MARKING QUEENS

Ever have trouble finding your queens? Well, your trouble's over. Mark 'em with paint. The credit for this new wrinkle belongs to that noted Austrian beekeeper, Alois Alfonsius, now with Dr. Francis Jaeger, of the University of Minnesota. Mr. Alfonsius uses four colors of harmless paint: red, yellow, green and white, with one of which he lightly brushes the thorax of his queens, and thereby is not only able to "spot" the queen without waste of time, but by using a different color each year he can tell at a glance if she is one, two or more years old. Simple enough when you come to think of it, and practical as well.

GEORGE R. DUDLEY GONE

Mr. Dudley, one of our members, was formerly of Denver, but latterly lived at Dexter, N. M. He passed during February, while in Denver.

The Association recently received an inquiry for bee supplies from a beekeeper from Cairo, Egypt. Quite a long way to ship, but we feel complimented, just the same.

Get your order in early for supplies. And don't overlook the bargain sheet that came with your catalogue. You may find some item listed that you can use and save money on the buy.

FOR SALE NOTICES

High-class Caucasian Queens for sale after June 1. Untested, \$1.50; tested, \$2.50.

Package bees, without combs, or queens, three-lb. pkgs., \$4.50, f. o. b. Denver. Nothing but invert sugar used in provisioning cages. Address Herman Rauchfuss, 3100 So. Acoma St., Englewood, Colo.

FOR SALE—My business having outgrown the following items, they have been replaced with larger equipment and are offered for sale at bargain prices: two-h. p. upright boiler, complete, like new; Simplex four-wheel trailer, fine order, Ford wheels, new rubber. Attaches to any Ford car, easily hauls 1,000 lbs., Cost \$135. Sell for \$25.00. Peterson Capping melter, good order, sell for \$10.00. C. H. Wolfe, Greeley, Colo.

FOR SALE—1 share C. H. P. A. stock. J. R. Funakoshi, Rt. 1, Box 45, Ft. Lupton, Colo.