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JANUARY 1892.



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UNIONVILLE, MO.

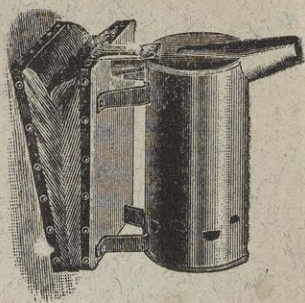
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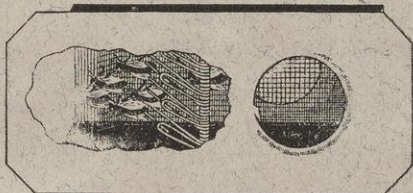
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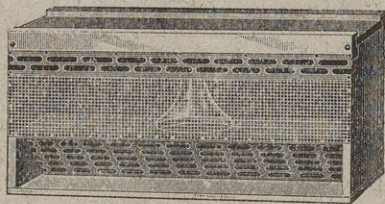
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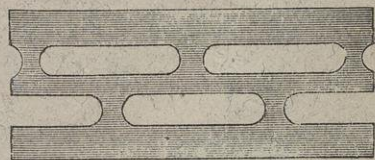


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PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.

VOL. II.

UNIONVILLE, MO., JANUARY 1891.

NO. 1.

SEASONABLE TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

Introducing Queens Early to Prevent Swarming.

Spring Feeding.

Introducing Queens.

Which is Best, Put Sections on Before or After the Bees Begin to Whiten Upper Edge of Combs.

Is it Advisable to adhere to Standard Sizes of Hives, etc., When Another Size May Be Better.

Communications.

NEW TOPICS FOR STUDY AND EXPERIMENT.

BY G. W. DEMAREE.

Good hives and good fixtures for apiary work will always engage a reasonable portion of the energies and talent of bee-keepers. But too much time and talent has been wasted on worthless patent hives and doubtful so-called improvements in hives and fixtures on which no patents have been taken out. In the past eight or ten years there has been a booming craze on the matter of inventions, as pertains to bee hives. If it was not too serious a matter to laugh at, the glaring crankosity brought to light in some of these so-called inventions would be sufficient to convulse with laughter the more

sober part of the bee fraternity. Some of the freaks of these mania stricken inventors might be used as potent evidence of their insanity. But I am glad to know that this state of affairs is growing beautifully less every year, and bee-keepers begin to turn their attention to more important matters pertaining to the apiary and apairy work. I have often wondered how many bee-keepers have thought seriously of the problems that must confront thousands of bee-keepers in the future. There are thousands of localities in this great country of ours in which bees never perish except by starvation. In my own locality, no colony of bees ever became extinct except from queenlessness or starvation. In such localities the increase of the bees under the old system of management, is without limit. After the great bee epidemic of 1869 which swept away nearly all bees in Northern and Central Kentucky, I commenced with a single colony of Italian bees and increased them in the natural way to seventy colonies in a few years, and did all I then knew how to suppress increase during the last year or two.

If I should follow the advice so often given, viz: "Take just one prime swarm from each colony," where would the transaction end? There would be no limit. In my own locality and thousands of other places, bees have no market except for breeding stock and the demand for that purpose grows less every year. These facts make it clear that some plan must be resorted to to control the increase of the apiary and keep it in bounds. If I possess the facilities to manage 50 colonies of bees this year, I do not wish to be forced to manage one hundred the year following, *ad infinitum*. Those persons who operate in severe climates and lose a part of their bees by long, severe winters, consequently there is some sale for bees to supply those who lose more severely than themselves, may get along without a plan to control increase. But many others cannot. I believe the time will come—in fact, it has already come in my apiary—when apiarists will govern the number of colonies in their yards as fully as the dairyman governs the number of cows kept in his stables, and I hold that until this is done, bee keeping stands on a very crude basis. I am much gratified to know that my NEW PLAN of controlling increase by the transferring of the brood to a position above the queen excluder, puts increase entirely under my control, though I am not so conceited as to believe that my plan may not turn out to be a crude beginning in the right direction. Most discoveries are per-

fectured in that way. But there is one consideration that must necessarily commend my new method of controlling swarming, and that is, it requires but one single manipulation of each colony. The manipulation may be applied just before swarming time and it may be deferred until the swarms issue and are hived back. The manipulation consists of moving all the combs containing brood from the brood chamber except one comb that contains some eggs and unsealed brood. This comb, with the queen, is left in the brood chamber and the rest of the space is filled up with empty combs. A queen excluder is now adjusted on top of the brood chamber and the combs of brood go in a super over the queen excluder. If the manipulation is deferred till the swarm issues, the operation is exactly the same except that no brood or eggs are left in the brood chamber. If for any cause you wish to change the queen, you may remove her at the time you perform the above described manipulation and graft a maturing queen cell into one of the combs in the brood chamber, and you will have a young laying queen in place of the old one in due time. All these operations are performed without the slightest disturbance in the hive. These strong double colonies are managed just like any strong colony. Plenty of room is given them to store surplus honey by "tiering up" as fast as they need the room. It is a real pleasure to work with these giant colonies, fairly throb-

bing with the pulsations of life and yet pushing ahead their work with no inclination to break their unity of working force. Any number of queen cells above the queen excluder does not effect the unity of the brood nest below the queen excluder. When experimenting in the direction of my NEW system of transferring the brood above the queen excluder, "theory" taught me that extensive "tiering up" gives an excess of unfinished sections, and the practice confirmed the theory. Hence, when taking comb honey at the end of the season, I apply my system of feeding back to have the uncompleted sections finished in marketable shape. I have written a number of articles for the bee periodicals explaining my method of feeding back liquid honey to have all my unfinished sections completed, but I do not have room to even touch on the system here. An entire article hardly suffices to cover the ground. I can only say here that the practice of the system is a great success in my apiary.

—*Christiansburg, Ky.*

Friend D., bee-keepers are beginning to realize the importance of proper manipulation of their bees. Every colony in an apiary run for honey that is not in condition to gather surplus, cuts down the supply from the balance, or, in other words, reduces the yield the amount it takes to carry this weak colony through the winter. Our apiary, of less than 50 colonies, produces from two to four times as much honey as another within a quarter

of a mile of it, having double the number of colonies. Mr. Doolittle says the flowers will bloom in vain unless you have the bees ready for them—a very true saying. The beginner seems to think a "patent hive" all that is needed to secure a crop of honey.—[Ed.]

THE STATE ASSOCIATION.

ITS UTILITY AND ADVANTAGE.

BY G. P. MORTON.

MR. EDITOR:—You have requested me to write on the utility and advantage of our State Association. I will proceed with the subject as it presents itself to me.

In "utility" our Association is a great educator if we will attend. It brings together the bee-keepers in a social and happy way; each one brings with him his successes and reverses, and these things are compared and discussed; the successful are congratulated, and the less fortunate are encouraged to try again for success. I hope no one will expect to learn all that there is to be learned about bee-keeping by attending one session of the association. If I had stopped at that point I would say the organization is not worth its cost. I have attended every meeting of our State Convention, and now can say that I have received my very best information from that source. Besides the information gained, the social exchanges we meet with is an item not to be despised by any means. I have formed acquaintances in our meetings that are peculiarly pleasant to me, and I have good reason to believe there

are others who feel the same way towards me. In these meetings we discuss subjects the most important to our profession; recommend and adopt the best hives, fixtures, bees, &c., &c.; denounce frauds and teach our members how to detect them.

There are two classes of bee-keepers who detract from the development, usefulness and success of our organization.

The first are those who think they know enough about bee-keeping; would not add anything to their stock of information if they were to attend, and the cost would bring no return. Suppose one of this class stays at home, saves \$5 in expenses and three days work, worth \$3, and by so doing makes a mistake next year that will cost him \$50 or \$100; what has he gained by this line of action? A mistake, to this extent, can very easily be made. From bad wintering, loss of queens, use of clumsy, cast-away hives that cannot be manipulated, or from excess of swarming. To this class I kindly suggest that they better come in with us and get the advantage of our school.

The second class mentioned are those just beginning in bee-keeping who feel like they don't know enough about bee-keeping to go to a convention; that they would not be noticed or would be laughed at if they ventured to say anything.

Now, my dear friends, you never made a greater mistake in your lives than this. Come right along to our next convention meeting and we will make a special class

for you as we did at Sedalia, and appoint some one competent to teach you, and mark what I tell you, before you get through reciting the first lesson every bee-keeper present will slip into your class to help you out if you need help. Come in, then, brother beginner, and be with us at our Warrensburg meeting in April next, and receive, without cost, information that to withhold does not enrich us, nor giving impoverish us. Your president, all the executive committee, and every member of the association I know will do everything possible to make the Warrensburg meeting a grand success. And the proprietors of Pertle Springs Pleasure Resort have promised to do more for us than we could ask to make our spring meeting a success. We want to welcome 5000 bee-keepers to this meeting, that will leave 5000 at home to take care of the bees and do up the chores. Will you come? We will wait and see.
Prarie Home, Mo.

DOUBLE TOP BARS TO PREVENT BURR COMBS.

BY W. S. BELLOWS.

This subject may be a little out of place for this time of year, as I presume not many are bothered at present with them, but I am one who likes to be on time and if anything a little ahead and not have to wait to dust my cup out before I can catch the flow, for it makes one a little late, and not get it more than half full, and do not know of a subject that has attracted any more attention the last year

or two than this, and while there are several kinds of frames, have thought best to try one of my own, which may not be original, it is, at least, with me, as I have not seen anything of the kind and have tried it two years with very satisfactory results when the brood frames were spaced properly which should be $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch apart, that is, for me. Now for a description of the frame. As I will have to illustrate with words, I will take a Simplicity brood frame, as more are acquainted with it than anyother I know of.

Take out the thin comb guides and instead put in one made V shape and $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch on top and nail $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch below top bar through end bars, this leaves a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch space for bees to pass from one side of comb to the other, then take $\frac{7}{8}$ in. square block $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick and place in center between top bar and comb guide and nail the two together, this strengthens the top bar and makes it the same as one that is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch wide, and you are not bothered with a lot of devices to keep the oil cloth off of brood frame, for it may lay right down on them and the bees have their runway and are not obliged to come from the corners to center to get over, as they are compelled to do with any of the center devices that is now made. This brood frame stops burr combs as effectually as any that I have tried. Should be pleased to have Bro. bee-keepers try the frame next year and report success. It is not a patent frame, anyone is at liberty to make them for them-

selves. We did not get any honey in this section of the country except honey-dew, and that is a poor grade. As this is the third poor honey year here the amateur bee-keepers are getting disgusted with the business, and are killing bees and melting comb into wax and saying there is no money in the business.

If this does not find the wastebasket may come again.

Ladora, Iowa.

[Friend B.—Your top bar is not new and a good many bee-keepers use just such a frame. We have had very good success with solid, thick top bars. We have no use for the enamel sheet cover for our brood frames. Everything in our yard has a bee space on top and a flat wood cover.—Ed.]

A SWARM OF PUNIC BEES.

A DREAM BY A SUBSCRIBER.

A few days ago it was a surprise to us to see a swarm of bees passing over, headed to the south-east. They were flying rather slow and spitting a great deal of propolis. They were too high to bring them down with a Smith pump; someone suggested shooting into the crowd would bring them down. So a gun was discharged into their midst, but this had no effect in checking their course, only a few that we were fortunate in hitting. On examining these we found they were shiny black bees. One of the little workers was not quite dead, she revived for a short while and said: "Around the world in one summer, on our way back to Africa." The

question was asked why not stay in America? "Oh!" said she, "next year they want to begin breeding us with yellow bands like they did our sisters of Carniola; this we will not stand." At this point the light of life flickered out. After a moments thought it revealed to us that these were the noted Punic bees trying to escape from being changed to another color. Question, where did these Punics' (?) come from?

[In a private note accompanying the above the writer remarks that America's climate has the wonderful power of turning black bees to yellow, and that he is expecting the "Yellow Punics" to make their appearance soon.—Ed.]

A BEGINNERS' DEPARTMENT.

SPECIAL JOURNALS, &C.

BY E. R. GARRETT.

Under the head of "Special Journals," friend X. Y. Z. gave us a splendid article in the November number. I think it was in answer to what I had said regarding a beginners' department. I had been talking with my neighbors about bee-journals and told them they would learn more about their bees and hence be better able to care for them by taking and reading a bee-journal, and knowing that the beginner is all at sea with his journal, while knowing nothing of the first principles of apiculture, I felt inclined to ask for them a beginners' department, and I am satisfied that if my idea of such department be carried out, it would

be beneficial not only to the beginner, but also to the advanced student. I do not advocate a journal published alone for beginners, but only a department; and this does not do away with the text book, in fact, the text book is indispensable for in it the details of the apiary work are fully explained; in the journal these may be modified so as not to give the beginner the impression that we are "stuck on him," for after all we are interested in the beginner only as it is to our own interest to be so.

When we begin to advise beginners, it is surprising to see how little the "teachers" know. I notice an article headed "Notes to beginners on handling bees," in which the writer advises the beginner to move several of the center combs closer together so as to give sufficient room to take out the first comb from a full colony of bees. This is not a good plan; the combs should not be pressed too close together, there is danger of mashing bees and of hurting the queen which might be between two combs. It is not a quiet way to handle bees by pushing the combs so close together, it is calculated to irritate the bees. In taking out a frame he says raise it about six or eight inches, then bring it down with a sudden stop, and repeat the operation several times to shake off the bees. Now if I was a bee and a beginner would treat me that cruel I would sting him as deep as I could. A better way to handle bees is to have a ten frame hive with eight or nine frames in it and

at one side a division board, then the beginner may lift out this board and drawing a comb a little from the others, lift it up with ease and quietness; thus one by one the frames may be taken out and set back without exciting the bees. Now suppose you take out a comb that is full of honey, raise it six or eight inches then bring it down with a sudden jerk, and right here the beginner will gain some experience. I would use a brush to get the bees off the comb and not use it roughly either; a slight touch will suffice to drive them off while roughness would cause them to to fight. In the absence of a brush a leaf is good.

I was somewhat amused that any one should say bees are controlled by habits. I have seen men controlled by habit and go home in a weaving way—the cow-boys say he had too much “bug juice”—but the bees don’t gather that kind of “bug juice. The idea of some bees striking it rich while others work on less productive plants, some gather honeydew, others clover, and others much less productive finds, fall short and at last have to beg from door to door while their neighbors are living off the “fat of the land,” seems rather strange since I have have had honey-dew and clover stored together in the same section by the same bees. No, the difference is, some bees are habitual honey-gatherers, while others are habitual do-nothings.

Appleton City, Mo.

[Friend G.—We cannot agree with you, the space in a journal is

too small to give the information he wants and then he ought to have it all together so if he is desirous of learning he can study the entire book instead of having to wait a whole year and getting it a small piece at a time and then possibly not what he wanted to know. There is a book in preparation in our own state expressly for these A. B. C. bee-keepers at the low price of 25c. There is sometimes writers who try to instruct beginners who need some instruction themselves.—Ed.]

REPORT.

FROM FARMER VALLEY NEBRASKA.

IMPORTED QUEENS NO BETTER THAN
THE AMERICAN.

BY CHARLES WHITE.

I received a sample copy of the M. B-K. last evening. Please receive my thanks for the same. It is a splendid bee journal—one that the bee-keepers should feel proud of, especially the southern bee-keepers. By the way, the Southern Department is very interesting to us northern bee-keepers, especially during the winter season to know that some of our brothers and sisters can watch their pets gathering pollen and honey, if we cannot our own.

The season just past has been very fair here for honey, especially those that cared well for their bees. Some that were not looked after swarmed too much. I weighed my hives as I placed them in winter quarters and they ran from 56 to 86 pounds to the hive. Our honey is mostly hearts ease, but very fine

flavored and of a light amber color. Most of the bees are Italians and I think we have as fine Italians in Nebraska as it is possible to get anywhere. A great many fine queens are brought here every season. The bee-keepers find that it pays to infuse new blood in their bees as well as in other stock. I would like to tell Brother Urban about my luck (?) with imported queens. I received seven at different times without seeing a live bee, and only one live queen, and she only lived about two hours—then died. I came to the conclusion the cage was the fault, and to test it I made a cage to suit my notion and mailed a queen to the breeder in Italy, with instructions to send me a queen in the same cage if the one I sent him arrived in good order. He sent the cage back with the finest queen in it I ever saw, and wrote me the queen got there all right and 25 live bees with her. There were 20 live bees with the queen he sent me. The best way to have them sent is by express, unless my cage proves as good as it promises. The best way, when there is only one or two imported queens wanted, is to send to some reliable importer for them. It is very hard to get an imported queen that will raise very light bees, and one that will is hard to buy. I can't see as they gather any more honey than the American Italian. As a general thing, the bees are large and very quiet. I believe before ten years more we will be sending queens from here to Italy for breeding purposes.

SHOULD BE PUBLISHED.

BY S. F. TREGO.

December M. B-K. to hand. I notice on page 144 that Mrs. Milton Cone has found a commission merchant in Kansas City who handles adulterated honey. Now that this man is so bold as to mix this bogus honey and then not even attempt to deny it, would it not be well to have his name published that bee-keepers might not send their honey to him, and he might by this means be induced to handle none but pure honey. I do not see that publishing his name and business could be called libel, as it would be nothing but the truth.

NUCLEUS HIVES—I have read your article on this subject on page 154, and will say that the way you use those small frames they ought to work all right, but I think I prefer three to five L frames. First, they are regular size, saving the bother of a lot of small frames and combs. Did you ever have those small frames “flop” out of the large one while handling? If not, you are more careful than I am. Second, these strong nuclei will gather enough honey to pay for a colony of bees if properly managed in a fair season, and, third, two or three of these nuclei will make a colony by fall and some of the best will be strong enough to winter alone and come through in good shape, which is quite an item with a queen breeder who is rushed to fill orders for choice queens early in the spring for breeding purposes.

This is the way I form nuclei: I

take a strong colony that has been queenless two or three days and drum them into the upper part of the hive. I have a lot of nucleus hives prepared with one frame of brood, one of honey, one empty comb and the rest of the space is filled with sheets of foundation, except in case of a three frame hive, which will be filled with the combs above mentioned. Now I take a quart cup and dip it full or nearly so of bees and quickly pour them into a hive and close it up bee tight, but give plenty of air. I put the hives where they are to stand and the next morning introduce a virgin queen and release the bees at sundown the next day. The old hive is left with one or two frames of brood and comb of honey and the case filled up with comb or foundation and a virgin queen given to it. The brood and honey taken from this hive are used to make up another lot of nuclei. By a plan which I tried last year of keeping the virgins caged over a full colony until they were a week old, I can get most of them to lay in three to five days after they are introduced, and by letting each one lay quite a lot of eggs before being shipped, the nuclei gain in strength very rapidly. I agree with you that full colonies are the cheapest for cell building. I have been experimenting along this line and have had as many as 60 good cells built in a colony at once. Some of these cells were two inches long and all of them had royal jelly left in the cell after the queen hatched out. But, mind you, these were

colonies being crowded on from 16 to 24 frames. Such colonies can be kept up only by having good queens.

Success to the M. B-K.—or PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER. That is a better name.

—*Swedona, Illinois.*

Friend Trego, We shall ask Mrs. Milton Cone to enquire into this adulteration business and find out more about it. We have had no trouble with our small frames falling out, and we have extracted from them some. Now when our small nucleus hives get strong enough we run them into regular sized hives. The trouble with us is we have been short of combs and bees. If you should have to feed a lot of large nucleus colonies you would wish they did not have so many bees. We want every colony in our yard to pay its way if possible, and when there is a flow of honey, and we have the nucleus colonies to spare, we run them into regular frames and put in working order to gather honey. We would not tolerate any system of small frames that we could not make up in regular sizes.—[ED.]

PLANTING FOR HONEY.

BY OTTO J. E. URBAN.

Many bee-keepers will say "what is the use of planting for honey, when the prairies and the forests abound with wild flowers that furnish all the nectar our little pets can possibly gather?" Yes, you are right, friends! But there is an IF, and a big one at that, in the matter. IF the prairies were not

turned under and the forests rooted out and turned into farms, yes, then we might have plenty of pasturage for our bees always. Every year that comes brings about extensive changes in the surface of the earth. Hundreds and thousands of acres are yearly turned under by the plow and bee pasturage is played out where the plow is once put to work, with but few exceptions. Here in the south where white clover don't grow, we have nothing on our cultivated lands that yields much honey. In some seasons, the cotton bloom yields a nice clear nectar, but is very uncertain. Taking all things into consideration, it might be time to think about planting for honey. My hobby in this line is honey yielding forest trees. I have tried quite a number of the small plants and weeds, horehound, catnip, spider plant and others; also, buckwheat and alfalfa. They all are good, provided you can have enough land planted with these plants. I have thrown them all aside and come back to my old favorite, the forest tree. At the head of honey producing forest trees, of course, stands the basswood. Years ago a nurseryman discouraged me in planting basswoods, he saying he had tried them and found that they died out in a few years. Since then I have learned better. The bottoms of the Brazos River are full of wild basswoods. My friend, J. W. Echman, of Richmond, Texas, who lives near the Brazos River bottoms, keeps nearly three hundred colonies in one yard and he says he is not overstocked. Mr. Root says:

"Our trees were planted in 1872 and in 1877 many of them were bearing fair loads of blossoms. A tree that was set out about 10 years ago, in one of our streets, now furnishes a profusion of blossoms almost every year." Now, brother bee-keepers, why can't we do the same? The expense is very small. Young trees can be purchased of Geo. Pinney, of Evergreen, Wis., at a very low price, if bought by the thousand. The labor don't amount to much, either. The total expense should not exceed \$25, and this small investment will become a little gold mine in course of time, and the best of it is, it lasts not only one or a few years, but it will be here for our children and grandchildren, and will ever increase in value as time passes by; provided, you plant your trees in a suitable location. The basswood needs a low moist place but I would not plant it in swampy places. As a general thing, swamps have a hard subsoil, which the roots of the tree cannot penetrate. Any low place where other timber grows will be good for basswood. I shall try to plant, for an experiment, about ten acres in Basswood, next fall. This ten acre block is prairie land, and I will report from time to time how I succeed. This planting was originally intended to have been done last fall, but I could not do it on account of the severe drouth we had all fall. It was too dry to plant anything. The next best tree for Texas is the Wild Clima. It grows in our river and creek bottoms and an the prairies luxuri-

antly, and yields a clear nectar, which, after being evaporated by the bees, makes a nice straw colored honey of good, mild flavor. This tree will grow on any heavy, black soil in Texas. I don't know now it will do on sandy land. I have seen it on black and mixed land only. There is a number of other trees yet that will grow in Texas as well as all through the south, such as honey locust, tulip tree, and many others. The willow should be planted along all streams and ponds, as it blooms very early and helps bees to get started early in the spring. All such trees will help our bees along, require but little work to start them off and as they grow up and spread their tops we can begin to thin out and use the timber for very many purposes. What a blessing would a twenty or twenty-five acre grove of fine forest trees be on a prairie farm after the trees are large enough to cut a part of them down to use for fuel. It saves the farmer many dollars and did not cost but a trifle. Nearly every farmer has spots of waste land on his farm which would add to his income if planted with forest trees. I would never plant anything for honey alone, as it takes at best one thousand acres of pasturage for an apiary of 150 to 200 colonies.

—*Thorndale, Texas.*

Friend U., at the present rate our forests are being cut down the basswood trees would soon be valuable. Scientific men say planting trees is the only remedy for the drouths that have visited us the past few years. Bee-keepers should look after this and encourage everyone to plant basswood, or any honey bearing trees. Once they get them blooming they would not require any further attention.—ED.

ITALIANS THE BEST.

BY L. B. SMITH.

In the year 1882 I learned my A B C in bee-culture, and of course I had to try several different styles of hives and about all the different races of bees that are bred in the United States.

The first tried was the native, or black bee, of course, but they proved so cross at my hands that I concluded I would try the Italians, so sent and got a colony of that race. Imagine my delight, dear reader, when I went to the express office and found my colony of beautiful Italians there ready for me, the first I had ever seen. They proved much superior to the native, or black, bees, in many respects, but seeing so much said then about Cyprians and Syrian bees, I thought I must try them (by this time I had learned the art of introducing queens) and accordingly sent and got some queens of the new races. I soon found all the good traits of the Italians exaggerated in the Cyprians except that of amiability, but that I could manage them anyway by that time, so I set to work and Cyprianized my apiary. I thought then and still think they are the best workers of any bees I have tried; but after two years trial I gave them up in disgust on account of their stinging. The Syrians I found about the same as the Cyprians except perhaps they were not quite so cross. I never had but one Carnolian and her bees were so much like the native bee in all respects that I discarded them. I have not tried the so-called Punicas as yet. The Italian bee and the dovetailed hive are good enough for me at present.

—*Lometa, Texas.*

Progressive Bee-Keeper.

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Unionville, Missouri.

ONLY 50 CENTS A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Advertising Rates made known on Application.

E. F. QUIGLEY, Editor.

The *Missouri Bee-Keeper* is a thing of the past; but in its stead appears the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER. The principal reason for the change of name was that too many persons thought it purely and wholly a magazine for the bee-keepers of Missouri, to the exclusion of matter from other states. Progressive means moving forward; and that we may take a step in advance in advocating the latest and most improved methods as pertaining to apiculture, as far as our magazine is concerned, we have with the decrease of the *Missouri Bee-Keeper* dropped the old volume and number, and this January issue begins Vol. II, No 1. Subscribers, however, will receive the full number of papers paid for, and the same can be said of unexpired advertising contracts. In this connection it is well to state that our list is a paid up one, and none were induced to become readers by the offering of premiums or a chance in a lottery enterprise. The many words of praise and commendation from various parts of the country have been very gratifying, and in the future, by devoting our whole time to this magazine and the apiary, it shall be our aim to make the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER one of the

best, if not the best apicultural journal published in the United States.

Editorial roastings have been quite frequent during 1891 and we venture it will be of a lasting benefit to bee-keepers generally.

We have lost faith in the statements of "a few" bee-keepers. We thought once they were all right, but things that came to light lately has shaken our faith.

Bro. Newman caught the same artificial comb outfit that we did only they did not tell us they were expecting to put artificial comb honey on the market. See our comments elsewhere.

The Bee-Keeper Club List comes to hand for 1892, published by E. H. Cook, Andover, Conn., containing a list of all first-class papers and magazines at reduced rates. Everyone should send for a copy; it may save you money.

Our bees are wintering very well now, although one month ago it looked discouraging. A large part of their stores is honey dew. We see no difference between those wintering on honey dew or good honey. Will report later.

Are you ready for the coming season. Better have more supplies than you need than have to order more by telegraph, as we have known some to do. The bee-keeper that has everything ready before the season opens is generally the one that secures a crop of honey. The bees and flowers will not wait for you, so get ready in time when you are not so busy.

A new book is to be out soon called "The Amateur Bee-Keeper." It is published especially for the beginner with from one to five colonies. We will soon have books for all branches of apiculture. No one can complain of lack of information on this subject.

Selling bees to neighbors is the most unsatisfactory deal a bee-keeper can make. Usually they expect you to look after them and expect a large amount of honey every season. Of course, they all don't, but we dislike to sell any one near us for above reason.

We stated that the Missouri State Bee-Keeper's Association had 106 members. Dr. Miller remarked: "Pretty good for Missouri." The Dr. has been called upon to explain by a lady member of the association. You had better be careful doctor, this lady is a hustler.

We should be pleased to hear from our subscribers. Tell what part of the BEE-KEEPER you like best, what change you would like made, etc. We want to make a journal for our subscribers and a little help from you would be of much benefit to us in deciding our future course.

ARTIFICIAL HONEY COMB.—A man in Kansas City, Mo., lately wrote us, asking what we would give for $4\frac{1}{4}$ sections with combs made of pure wax, with cells $\frac{5}{8}$ deep, to be put on the hive for the bees to fill up and seal over. We wrote him we didn't think it advisable to use it "if it could be made." We did

not ask him if he wanted his pay in advance, but supposed he did. It would be very hard for anyone to make comb, and if they could of what use would it be to bee-keepers?

A new feature added to the Review, and to us a very pleasant one, is that of accompanying nearly all articles with a portrait of the writer. How pleasant this will be. After reading an article we have often wondered how the writer looked. We think there are many more that will be pleased with this arrangement.

A larger surface and thinner combs will be more popular in the future than in the past. Mr. J. A. Green, Dayton, Ill., is working on the problem of 10 cent sections. He proposes to put six in the space occupied by four regular 1 lb. sections now. It is our opinion that the seven to the foot is narrow enough, and think there will not be enough extra sold to pay the apiarist for the trouble. But we may be mistaken.

Bee-Keeper Associations should always try to have the reporters with them at all their meetings and furnish them with all the copy they will use. Mr. A. N. Draper mentioned this matter in Gleanings of Jan. 1. At our state meeting last fall at Sedalia there were two reporters there and by the aid of members gave a good report of the meeting. These were copied by several other papers of large circulation. If bee-keepers would look after this matter they could

do considerable toward educating the public.

We want agents in every county in the U. S. to secure subscribers for the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER. If you can get one new name send it in. Write for club terms.

If queen breeders expect to get their queens mated to select stock, they must see that the bees around them are of good stock. Queens will mate with drones from an apiary one-fourth mile away ten times to one from drones in the same yard with them. We shall adopt a new system next season of getting our queens purely mated. The trial last season was very satisfactory. Breeders of five-banded bees will have to be very careful about their drones. Our experience is that nine-tenths of the queens sent out from five-banded stock does not produce more than three-banded bees.

BEE KEEPING FOR PROFIT.

Dr. Tinker's New Hand Book. It gives his new system of management of bees complete, telling how to get the largest yield of comb and extracted honey and make the industry of bee keeping a profitable one. The work should be in the hands of every progressive apiarist. It is well illustrated. Price, post paid, 25 cents. For sale at this office.

If you have not already done so write us for prices on you price lists for 1892. We guarantee absolute satisfaction as we keep only first-class workmen. Our prices will be found all right.

The Southern States.

CONDUCTED BY

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,

Floyd, Texas.

Read Otto J. E. Urban's communication on planting for honey.

* * *

Let us all hold up our heads and live in hopes, for that is our only chance.

* * *

Well, I thought I would give you a bran new start off for the new year, but the grip has such a hold on me I will have to be hasty.

* * *

PRICE OF HONEY—At DALLAS; extracted in barrels and kegs, 6 and 8 cts.; white comb, 1 lb. sections, 15 to 18 cts. Beeswax scarce at 25 cents.

* * *

Here comes a question I would like answered through this journal. "Why do we seldom, if ever, find a drone laying queen in natural swarming?"

* * *

Don't forget that springing bees is the trouble in Texas, not wintering. Mice will do great damage if the entrance is large enough to admit them.

* * *

I have now got moved and will soon be set up in my new quarters. My breeding yards will be farther out on the lone prairie and a long way from other bees. Remember my offer of one tested queen early for \$1.25. To get the use of my nuclei for queen rearing is why I make this special offer. My post-

office is now Floyd, Hunt County, Texas. My money order office is Greenville.

* * *

I would like to exchange untested Italian queens in March, April and May for empty combs in Langstroth frames, not too old. Any amount; all speak at once if you wish.

* * *

Somebody keeps asking "Does Bee-Keeping Pay as Well as Farming." I say yes, and better too for the amount of capital invested, for the farmers are all behind and down in the mouth—cotton so low.

* * *

After the introduction of Italian bees, we find cotton to be one of our best honey plants in northern Texas. It just about fills the place of red clover in the north-eastern states after the Italians were introduced.

* * *

My bees are wintering finely. We had a good rain on Dec. 15, the first of any note since May, so you can judge whether we were getting dry or not. Our best honey plants, such as horse mint and broom weed, are up and growing nicely. A few more winter and spring showers insures us some honey in 1892.

* * *

Was not that convention report nicely gotten up in the M. B-K. By the way, can't we scare up a convention somewhere in Texas this spring? I believe we could revive our north Texas convention if we would only try. It seems that after the death of Judge Andrews

our convention died away. Where has B. F. Carroll got to anyhow? Wake up, brothers and sisters, and let us have a convention.

* * *

Remember my postoffice is now Floyd. I will get your letters from the old office just the same, but they will be delayed one day. Look out for an article in February on Spreading Brood Starting Queen Cells in early spring. This will be our principle article for February.

* * *

As so many friends in northern states have made inquiry about cotton seed, I will here state that I will send you a small package by mail for 5 cents to pay postage and packing. One friend way up in Indiana says he can succeed in making cotton bloom in his garden.

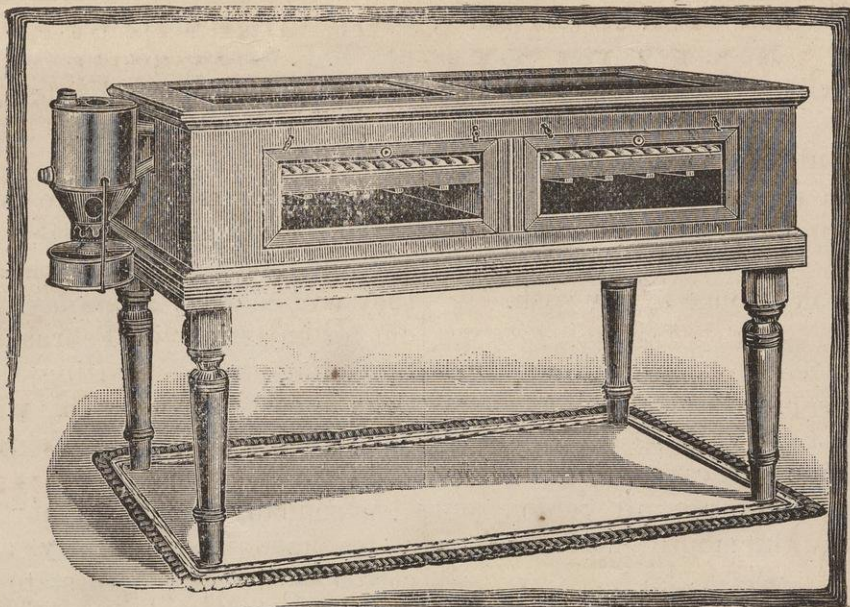
* * *

Friends, I shall send you that are not subscribers a sample copy of this issue of the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER. Please read it and consider our loving pursuit, and give us aid by sending in your subscription at once, and, also, tell us how many colonies you have, etc. We will be glad to hear from you.

CLUBBING LIST.

We will send the Missouri Bee-Keeper one year with

<i>American Bee Journal,</i>	<i>\$1.35</i>
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<i>Bee-Keeper's Review,</i>	<i>1.35</i>
<i>Bee-Keeper's Guide,</i>	<i>.85</i>
<i>Canadian Bee Journal,</i>	<i>1.15</i>
<i>American Bee-Keeper,</i>	<i>.85</i>
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CHAMPION INCUBATOR.

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tested and tried. Many improvements have been added to the machine, and as now manufactured by the Famous, Mfg. Co. it will no doubt meet with success and give the highest satisfaction wherever introduced. Those who intend to buy incubators and brooders should not fail to address the company for a descriptive catalogue of the Improved Champion.

MARKETS.

ST. LOUIS.—Honey.—Fancy white clover honey, 1 lb. sections, 16@17c; good, 14@15; other grades good white, honey 13@14; dark, 11@12; broken comb, 7@9; extracted, white clover, cans, 7@8; dark and amber, in barrels, 5@5½. Beeswax, 24.

W. B. WESTCOTT & Co.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dec. 21.

KANSAS CITY.—Honey.—Honey is moving rather slowly. Choice white comb is in fair demand at .50; dark, 10@12; extracted, white, 7½; dark, 5@6. Beeswax, 23@25; light supply.

CLEMONS, MASON & Co
Kansas City, Mo.

Dec. 21.

CHICAGO.—Honey.—Fancy white comb honey selling quick on our market at 16c. Other grades slow sale, 13@14. Extracted slow sale, 6½@6½. We attribute the low price of sugar and abundance of fruit as the cause of the poor demand for extracted. Beeswax, selling 26.

Dec. 19.

S. T. FISH & Co.,
189So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

DETROIT.—Honey.—Comb honey continues to sell at 12@13c, with an occasionally fine lot at 14c. Extracted, 7@8c. Beeswax, 25@26.

Dec. 22.

M. H. HUNT,
Bell Branch, Mich.

Three Back Numbers of the REVIEW FOR 10 CENTS.

One of the numbers is that of Dec. 1891, containing 8 extra pages (36 in all) 7 half-tone portraits of leading bee-keepers, illustrated description of the best self-hiver known, choice bits of information gathered at the Chicago convention, and a most instructive and interesting discussion of "Remedies for Poor Seasons." It is the largest and best number of the REVIEW. These numbers are offered at this low price that bee-keepers may be induced to send for them, and get acquainted with the REVIEW: its editor knowing full well that such acquaintance will prove of mutual benefit. With the numbers will be sent a list of the special topics that have been discussed, the issues in which they appeared, and the price at which they may be obtained. The REVIEW is \$1.00 a year. The book, "Advanced Bee Culture," is 50 cts. Both \$1.25. The REVIEW for 1892 will be better, brighter, and more "crispy" than ever. All new subscribers for 1892 will receive the Dec., 1891, issue, free. Address,

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Lane, Franklin Co., Kansas.

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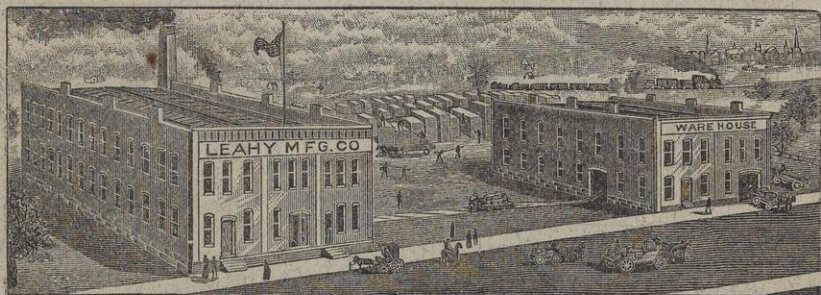
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