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## **Rocky Mountain bee journal. Vol. 1, No. 11 December 15, 1901**

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# The Rocky Mountain Bee Journal.

*A Monthly Journal De-  
voted to the Interests  
of Western Beekeep-  
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Cents per Annum  
in Advance.*

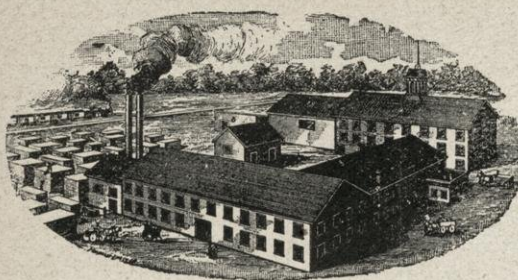
DECEMBER.

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*Boulder, Colorado.*

*Vol. 1. No. 11.*





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# The Rocky Mountain Bee Journal.

*For Colorado and the Great Inter-Mountain Region.*

VOL. I.

DECEMBER 15, 1901.

No. 11.

## **A GREAT CONVENTION!**

***Colorado Beekeepers Hold  
the Largest Meeting in His-  
tory of Their Organization.***

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Colorado State Beekeepers' Association was held in the Hall of Representatives, State Capitol building, Denver, Colorado, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18, 19 and 20th, 1901.

The average attendance exceeded that of any former session, and proved the wisdom of selecting so large a hall as the meeting place. The honey producing sections of the state were all represented excepting the far southwest, which includes Montezuma county and the valley of the Dolores river. The attendance at the evening sessions taxed the seating capacity of the hall of the solons to its utmost. The entire session was a school of instruction to both beginner and adept, the best of fraternal feeling prevailed throughout, and at its close, each member congratulated the other for the good time they had enjoyed.

Every feature of the program, excepting the addresses by E. R. Root and a paper by Mr. Jouno, was executed as advertised. Those unable to be present had prepared papers and sent them to the secretary, by whom they were read to the association.

The exhibit of bee products, while not large, was very creditable. There was case after case of honey, rivaling the

snowy summits of the Rockies in whiteness, that ought to grade away above extra fancy; there were numerous bottles of extracted, some of it water white and thick as jelly, and some of it that ye scribe sampled was of superfine quality. There was honey vinegar, colorless as water, that beat an Indian as a hair lifter—and there was, also, honey metheglin. We may be in error (if so, won't some one please correct), but we believe this latter is a "jag producer," and ought not to be exhibited as a product of the bee industry. Some choice cakes of wax were shown that looked rich as the yellow metal that seams our hills. Several frames of bees were also exhibited.

The programme was interspersed with fine music, furnished by such artists as S. Francis (an active young beekeeper), of Erie, and some pupils of the Denver School of Music, whose names we are unable to learn.

One unadvertised feature of the meeting that attracted considerable of interest, was the measurement of bees' tongues, by Prof. C. P. Gillette. The longest tongue measured was that of a Caucasian bee, which showed the great length of 27-100 of an inch.

Among the distinguished visitors present from other states were a Mr. Lewis, of the G. B. Lewis Co., bee supply manufacturers, of Watertown, Wisconsin, and W. Z. Hutchinson, editor of the Bee-Keepers' Review, of Flint, Michigan. In a conversation with the writer Mr. Lewis stated that Colorado is his firm's best customer, which is a glowing tribute to the magnitude and importance of the bee

industry in Colorado. Mr. Hutchinson expressed himself as greatly pleased with the meeting and the cordial, fraternal spirit manifested toward each other by Colorado beekeepers. His camera is his right hand assistant upon an occasion like this, and with it he "took a shot" at the meeting as it was lined up on the east steps of the Capitol building—the result of which, we hope in due time to present to the readers of the JOURNAL. After the close of the meeting Mr. H. visited beekeepers at Loveland, Longmont, Boulder and Denver, starting on the return trip to his Michigan home, Monday, November 25th.

Mrs. America J. Barber, who is revered by all beekeeping Coloradoans as the Sage of the Dolores, was eagerly inquired for by the press reporters. It was stated in the News that she was the most extensive beekeeper in the world. This, of course, was an error, but certain it is that she is the absolute queen of 250 colonies, and is probably one of the most extensive woman beekeepers in the world.

#### *Proceedings of the Convention.*

The meeting began promptly on time with President Aikin at the gavel. The programme was opened with prayer by Rev. Craft.

Question No. 1. "How can old covers full of checks and cracks be repaired?"

This query brought out a number of good suggestions. It is well known that the variously devised board covers in the East, however well they may be seasoned and painted, will, in time, check and split in this arid climate, causing them to leak like sieves. One remedy proposed was to cover with eight or ten ounce ducking and paint. Put the paint on thick and press down the ducking real hard into the paint, then paint over that one or two good coats. Such covers have been in use over half a score of years in the apiary of J. B. Adams, at Longmont, and are still serviceable. It was also suggested that Neponset roofing paper would

do as well and is probably cheaper than the ducking.

Question No. 2. "What is the best kind of a cover for this climate? What is the cheapest?"

This question was largely answered in the replies to No. 1. Slate covers were condemned because so easy of breakage. In some cases they had been broken by hail stones. A plain board covered with old stove-pipe iron made a cheap and effective cover. A flat board with a 2-inch rim on the under side to provide a dead air space covered with ducking or Neponset roofing paper, was considered good; provided of course, that it was kept well painted, and it is much cheaper than the complicated covers sent here by the eastern manufacturers.

Question No. 3. "What is the best method of killing ants, both in the apiary and honey house?"

There are two kinds of ants in Colorado that pester the apiarist—the almost invisible red ant that gets into the honey after it is cased and stored in the honey house and the large red ant that throws up great mounds, and attacks the heavily laden bees that fall on the ground in the apiary. One plan suggested in answer to this query is to pour coal tar into the hill and set it afire. Bisulphide of carbon was not generally recommended because of its great cost and the difficulty of applying it effectively. Another way is to dig them up, hill and all, and dump them into the creek or throw them on a burning brush heap. Moth balls scattered among the cases of honey had been used with perfect success in getting rid of the little red ant. Powdered chalk is chemically fatal to ants and has been used successfully to destroy the ants that infest the honey house. Another method recommended is to bury a wide-mouthed empty bottle in the center of the hill. Have the top of the bottle even or a little below the surface of the hill. They get into it, but can't get out. This keeps them so depopulated they can do no harm.

If a wide mouthed bottle is good, a glass fruit jar ought to be better, and a little honey in the bottom ought to stimulate their getting in.

Mr. J. S. Bruce, of Montrose, not being present, Mr. Rhodes read his paper on  
GRADING HONEY.

"'Grading Honey,' the subject assigned me by your committee, is so important that, I had hoped it would be handled by older members who have had more practical experience.

I shall speak of comb honey only. The grading of comb honey is so closely related to the entire field of production that, I shall not attempt to write a comprehensive article. Assuming that we have a first class article in the house, the question is, grading it for color, beauty of build and weight, so as to get the best returns for the product.

The first essential of grading I believe to be honesty of purpose, but an attempt to grade by any of the established rules has always brought us many difficulties. I believe that we on the Western Slope have grades of amber honey that are not found on the East Side, and the term "slightly amber," in the Colorado grading rules was a source of constant trouble to me in attempting to follow those rules. We have a decided amber grade of honey that always has clean, white cappings, and all buyers have taken it as No. 1 honey when buying by weight, and yet I fear our rules would make it No. 2.

Up to the past season I have been making a case of honey of even color and allowing buyers to grade it, and after convincing them of honest, careful packing, I have been very much pleased with their liberality in grading cases.

The past summer I tried to grade by the Colorado rules, and sold by the case for the first time, getting a substantial advance in price over former sales, and I will say that careful work and care in cleaning and packing, with honest facing, with or without rules for No. 1 and No. 2, will bring good rewards for the labor ex-

pected, but I was especially impressed with the value of weighing cases and being able to guarantee weights and sell by the case."

In the short discussion that followed the reading of this paper, the paper was generally approved, and it was explained that the wording of the rules "slightly amber," was intended especially to meet the needs of the beekeepers of the Western Slope.

This was followed by a paper by F. L. Thompson on "A Summary of the Recent Discussions on Breeding."

In the discussion of this paper it was developed as the sense of the meeting that along with the lengthening of the bees tongue an effort should be made to improve the physical qualities and proportions of the bee in all respects. Especial emphasis was put upon the improvement of wing power and lengthening the life of the bee. It was believed that much could be accomplished along these lines by judicious selection in breeding, but that the greatest and most substantial advances would come after some certain method of controlling the mating of queens and drones had been discovered.

After the conclusion of the discussion of Mr. Thompson's paper, Mr. V. Devinney, of Edgewater, asked for the experiences of members with the linden tree in Colorado.

In reply, Mr. Moon, of Golden, said that he planted 100 of them some years ago, but they died down to the ground every season and made no substantial growth.

Mr. J. B. Adams, of Longmont, said there were three or four linden trees at Longmont, and they died down each season.

Mr. M. A. Gill, of Longmont, did not think the tree was needed in Colorado—that the alfalfa bloom gave his bees all the nectar they could gather. He did not believe linden would produce honey in this arid climate.

Mr. W. P. Collins, of Boulder, replied



that there were several linden trees in his city, three to six inches in diameter, that were growing, thriving and yielding honey. He thought lindens should be planted instead of the down producing cottonwoods, a tree that he did not think much of and which he characterized as not fit for kindling wood.

This latter statement brought a hurricane of protests from many members, who spoke in praise of the cottonwood as a pollen producing tree.

President Aikin, of Loveland, believed that a good basswood pasture would be of great value to his locality as its time of bloom would fill the gap between the first crop of alfalfa and sweet clover.

A member spoke of the great fertilizing value of sweet clover. Said it was not a pest to the intelligent, progressive farmer, but one of his most valuable assistants. It was this agent whose leavening and fertilizing power had redeemed the adobe soil of Utah and transformed that once desert waste into fertile garden tracts.

Mr. T. Lytle, of Manzanola, in order to establish an intelligent basis for a comparison of honey yields, moved the association that 100 pounds per colony be adopted as a full yield.

After a spirited discussion the motion was put and lost. It was objected to on the ground that when an apiary reported a certain percentage of crop, that the production of that apiary in bulk or number of pounds would immediately become public property, which information in the hands of the general public would work to the detriment of honey producers. In other words, it was parading the inside facts of our business before the world, which is poor commercial tact, to say the least.

Next came Secretary Working's paper advocating some radical changes in the constitution of the association.

Mr. Working, by request of the association, briefly explained the plan by which the suggestions in his paper might be placed in operation. His aim was to give

all localities, through their local organizations, and in proportion to their numerical strength, representation and participation in the business management of the state association. This plan would build up strong local organizations and put the state association in direct touch with and responsive to the needs of every locality in the state.

Question No. 4.—“Is tar better than paint for bottom boards?”

Some of the members reported that they had tried tar for bottom boards and liked it better than paint, but the majority were of the opinion that ordinary paint was good enough, as they had never had any trouble with bottom boards rotting. It was the covers that gave them the most concern.

#### TUESDAY SESSION.

Mr. Drexel of Crawford, not being present, his paper was passed for the time being, and the paper of ye humble editor called for, who was slated to give some

#### ADVICE TO BEGINNERS.

“This was to be a paper of advice to beginners, but I feel that it will be incomplete, and fail of its intended mission, if it is not, also, a paper of advice to those who ought not to begin. As the latter class far outnumber the former, I propose to dispose of it in advance, and hang out a few danger signals that no one of ordinary comprehension can fail to interpret.

It is a mistaken idea that bee culture is a lazy man's road to wealth and affluence. It requires hard study, hard work and unceasing activity the year around, to be successful. The same amount of capital, brains and energy invested in any other occupation would yield as good or better returns. If love of ease and the luxuries that gold will buy are the overmastering passions of your life, do not seek bee culture as a means of gratifying them, as failure all around would be the inevitable result.

If you have other business that absorbs your time to such an extent that you can-

not devote the time and study to bee culture necessary to conduct it along scientific lines,—in other words, if you can only make it a side issue, then, most emphatically do I advise you to let it alone. While bee culture sometimes combines profitably with horticulture, poultry culture, and other rural or semi-rural pursuits, still, I believe that specialism in any of these occupations will yield the best financial returns.

Unless you can accustom yourself to being stung, it will be useless for you to embark in the bee business. It is possible to put on a rigging that is sting proof, but no practical apiarist would think for a moment of working in such toggerly. Stings are unavoidably of daily occurrence when working in the apiary, at least that is my experience, and one becomes so accustomed to them as to become almost immune from their effects. On the other hand a great many people suffer intolerably from even one sting. To such apiculture offers very little inducement as an occupation, no matter how dearly they may otherwise love the work, or its results.

To revert now to the advice to beginners, I wish to preface what I may offer under this heading by saying that I do not pose as a sage, or lay claim to the wisdom that will allow me to speak authoratively upon any subject connected with bee culture. I am only a beginner myself, in the investigation and pursuit of scientific bee culture, and would much rather this subject had been assigned to some one riper in judgment and older in practical experience.

We will assume that our would-be beginner is naturally qualified for the occupation of an apiarist and is desirous of entering upon it as a life work.

My first advice to you would be to procure a good text book on bee culture and subscribe at once for as many of the leading bee journals as the state of your exchequer will permit. Do this right away and study them assiduously until next

spring. That will enable you to have mastered thoroughly the theory of modern beekeeping, queen rearing, grading and marketing honey, etc. What you now lack is the practical experience, and that is, by long odds, the biggest and hardest lesson you will have to learn. The best way to gain this is to apprentice to some practical apiarist. Learn all that he can teach you, and when competent to manage an apiary alone you can begin to think about embarking in the business upon your own account.

On the other hand, if you desire to enter into the business, at once, for yourself, after having spent the winter in study and preparation, at the beginning of spring, purchase not to exceed five or six colonies of bees. Be sure that they are Italian bees and that they are in movable comb hives and on standard Hoffman-Langstroth frames. Read your books and journals and manage your bees according to the directions they will give you. In all cases do all the work yourself. Seek the advice if you like, of older beekeepers, but do not employ them to do any of the work for you. You need the experience, and you may be certain that you cannot get it vicariously, or in the sweat of some other man's brow. Follow the beaten path that has lead others to success. When you have made a success along that line, there will be time enough then for you to diverge in search of other and better methods. Perhaps I should be more specific.

I would advise you to produce comb honey. This year, and for several years past, extracted honey has ruled low in price, and the tendency is for it to go still lower. Comb honey finds a ready sale, is more profitable, and it requires less work to produce it. I would recommend that you use the 8-frame hive, with the standard 24-pound super, using the scalloped  $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$  sections. Unless you are a good mechanic and have some machine tools, it will hardly pay you to make your own hives. Better buy them

anyhow for a year or two, and in all cases buy all your inside hive furniture. Home-made frames and section holders are more of a nuisance than you will be able to realize until you have stocked your apiary with them.

Procure at the outset a good strain of Italian bees, or, better still, purchase them of some successful apiarist of your acquaintance, as he will be pretty apt to have good stock. Pay no attention to flaming advertisements of long tongued queens, superior stock, etc., until you have made a success with the common stock. The so called superior stock doubtless possesses merit, but it will not pay you to bother with it until you have at least mastered the common branches of apiculture.

Your half dozen colonies will increase just about as fast as it will be safe for you to enlarge your operations. One thing, especially, you must guard against, is your enthusiasm. That will rise like an ocean tide at the harvest of your first crop of honey, and you will want to buy all your neighbor's bees, and then some, but don't do it. You will reap disaster, if you do. Grow into it, and you will come out all right.

And lastly, I want to advise you, as your first duty, to join your State Bee-Keepers' Association, and when your honey crop becomes too large to dispose of at home, join the Honey Producers' Association and market your product cooperatively through that channel.

I want to impress upon you the advantage and necessity of cooperating with your fellow beekeeper in every possible way. Beekeepers must cooperate with each other in every way that can revert to their mutual advantage, or get left. That is the naked truth of the matter, tersely stated.

Cooperation is the great fact of the twentieth century. It is the beginning of a better, juster and more Christian civilization. It behooves us, as beekeepers, to fall in line and thus be in perfect ac-

cord with the spirit of the new time."

The convention being moved by the spirit of mercy and charity, the aforesaid paper was not subjected to the scorching criticism that it deserved, but was quite generally approved. Some exceptions were taken to advising the beginner to start with the 8-frame hive, as it required an expert to be successful with it.

Question No. 5.—"Is cold water paint as good for hives as best oil paints?"

This was answered by a chorus of "noes."

#### "A GOOD HONEY HOUSE.

This was the subject upon which Mr. Lytle discoursed as follows:

"With the assignment of this topic came a note saying it was desired to embrace a combined workshop and honey-house, to be constructed at moderate cost. This last requirement carries limitations not always easily overcome.

If the bee-keeper is expert with tools, as all should be, one large item of cost can be saved; but if he is not, it is simply a question of cost of materials and labor. Of the materials costing the least, good adobes, well laid and plastered outside and in, furnish a thoroughly serviceable building, and in many ways desirable. Groute and concrete are also good and not very expensive to make. Still, I presume, wood will be used in the greater number of cases, and therefore I shall speak more fully of it as a material for such purposes.

My experience does not cause me to look with much favor upon makeshifts. It is better to avoid them where possible, as they are the dearest in the long run; and few can plan out really good devices of that character. Instead, use good materials, exact workmanship, and then care well for the structure.

I will not try to outline a plan and specifications for such a building in this article, because conditions may demand variations and individuality be a controlling factor, but rather note the things

which, to me, seem necessary in all such buildings.

And, first, make a good foundation, either of stone, concrete, or brick, so carefully built that not a crack or crevice remains to allow the entrance of any pest. The floor joists should be made straight or slightly crowned and built into the foundation wall, which should be carried up flush with the top of these joists. The upper ends of the joists should be notched to receive a 2x4 sill flush with the upper edges of these joists and the outer line of the frame-work of the building; and upon this sill erect the frame of the building. I should have this frame of two by four lumber, machine dressed on all sides to size, the studding spaced to receive a super easily between them. Over all secure horizontally two layers of good building paper, the inner one smooth calendered, well lapped, and inner edges pasted down snugly. Side up with good quality of drop siding, carried up flush with top edge of rafters. Cover over the paper on rafters with sheeting, and finish roof with a good grade of shingles. No cornice is needed. The rafters will project the same as if a cornice was designed. The roof sheeting will extend over these projecting ends and at the end of the building, giving sufficient cornice effect.

I can not impress upon you too forcibly the need of a good floor. It should be strong, firm and of such lumber as will wear smooth, and should be covered as occasion requires with some good floor dressing. Nothing will pay you so well as a floor that can be readily kept clean. In fact, I am convinced that where sections are cleaned and extracting done, a floor covered with sheet metal well nailed down would be very desirable. If there is anything that to me seems more necessary than another in beekeeping, it is cleanliness, and nothing more disgusting than the floors of some honey houses. I would really not care to eat honey coming from such places.

I presume you would want me to tell how much room I would want for, say, a 200 colony apiary. Well, a twelve by fourteen-foot work room, an eight by twelve foot extracting room or section-cleaning room, and a twelve by thirty-foot storage room.

Of course you will have doors and windows and roof peak ventilators, screened and provided with bee escapes to suit the needs of the building.

In presenting this paper, I do not feel that all has been said, but rather that it may be the basis of a discussion drawing forth from others the good features they have for years, perhaps, practiced."

Mr. Thompson:—Most honey houses are made too small, and I am glad that Mr. Lytle emphasized the need of having plenty of room.

Mr. Foster:—One important feature in the construction of a honey house would be provision for heating. Candying of honey may be retarded by keeping the temperature just right.

Mr. Aikin:—Fire protection is a very important consideration. Make your honey house as nearly fire proof as it is possible to make it. This will make heavy insurance bills unnecessary. I would build of metal and other non-combustible material. That, also, would render it mouse and rat proof. It, also, should be constructed with a view to the saving of labor in handling honey, etc.

The hour set for consideration of the question of "Priority of Rights to Bee Pasturage" having arrived, the discussion was opened by Mr. Gill, substantially as follows:

Opinions differ as to when a field is fully occupied. When it is, the one who first occupied it should have the exclusive right to it, undisturbed. Common business courtesy ought to regulate that question and settle it justly. I would as soon take a team and haul away a portion of a brother's apiary, as to go in and overstock his field, thus robbing him of

[Continued next month.]

## The ROCKY MOUNTAIN BEE JOURNAL.

H. C. MOREHOUSE, Editor and Pub'r.

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BEEKEEPERS, as a class, are fraternal. They believe in sticking together and helping one another.



GOD save the Colorado State Beekeepers' Association from ever being ruled by a state board of figure-heads!



THE State Horticultural Society has our sincere sympathy in its having to struggle along under the incubus of a partisan board.



THE LONE STAR APIARIST is the cognomen of the latest prospective addition to the bee journal family, which is to begin its career at Floresville, Texas, on or about January 1, 1902. Announcement to this effect has been received from its editor, Louis Scholl. It will be a dollar monthly, and while its home will be in that great "Southwest Texas bee paradise," it will not be limited to that field, but will reach out to the whole world. Mr. Scholl is not unknown to the literature of apiculture—his name will give the new journal prestige from the start. The JOURNAL welcomes the new-comer to the arena—not of rivalry and competition, but of co-operation in the upbuilding of our industry.

## ILL-ADVISED ADVICE.

It is very true, as Bro. R. C. Aikin says, in the American Bee Journal, "there is an epidemic bee fever in Colorado." People by the scores are rushing into the bee business without one iota of regard, or a single forethought, as to their capability or fitness. Indeed, few stop to inquire what constitutes a competent, working knowledge of the business. It has been noised about that Mr. ———, (a specialist) made five or six dollars per colony out of his bees the past season. That is enough. To a certain class of minds such information is highly inflammatory. It opens in the perspective of their disordered fancy a royal road to wealth without labor. "Bees work for nothing, board themselves and pay their keepers princely salaries"—is one of their favorite maxims. These people are the "rainbow chasers" of every community, and, of course, they will have to try bees.

The extraordinary demand for bees thus created has sent prices skyward, but this rather stimulates than deters investment in that kind of property. What does six or seven dollars per colony amount to for an institution that will return 100 per cent on the investment in a single season?—they reason to themselves. We are informed that one party, entirely inexperienced, has bought 200 colonies, paying seven dollars per colony, and will undertake to run them alone next season. His nerve is certainly to be admired, but—it's too bad that he did not consult some beekeeper friend, whose kindly advice would have saved him the vexation and loss that lies in the near-by future.

Recently, some of the Denver dailies undertook to boom the bee business by grossly exaggerating the profits to be derived from it and advising all their country readers to engage in it as a swift and easy way to get rich. Very foolish advice, indeed, yes, even criminal, because if followed in the promiscuous manner in which it was given, great disappointment and loss would be the general result.

To advice of this character (and volumes of it have been given), may be credited the "epidemic of bee fever" that is sweeping over Colorado.

Another error is in assuming that there is room for an army of new beekeepers to develop in Colorado. There is a natural limit to the profitable production of any given locality. When that is reached, any further crowding will result in positive loss. That limit is already reached in many localities; in such localities it would be suicidal for new beekeepers to embark in the business.

This is not written to discourage beginners, but to correct some popular misconceptions that often lead beginners into the commission of very disastrous errors. Beginners should start right, or else not start at all. They should be content to start on the ground floor and grow to the heights they would attain. The pinnacle is a mighty slippery place to make a stand without having had the experience of climbing to it.



How beautiful the world if the Golden Rule were the only law enacted for the government of mankind,



COMPETITION is but another name for commercial war—war as cruel, relentless and un pitying as was ever waged upon the field of carnage.



THE Colorado Association will have an opportunity to change its vote favoring a revision of the foul brood law before the next sitting of the legislature, and it ought to do it. The law is not an ideal one, we will admit, but it is infinitely better than what might be left of it if it were to go through the legislative mill again. A supplementary act should be asked for, allowing no bees to be imported across the state line until a clean bill of health from an official bee inspector can be shown.

### **SAME OLD LIE!**

Editor Stahl, of the Farmers' Call, in an address on "Good Advertising Mediums" before the National Agricultural Press League, in Kansas City said: "On my vacation in Michigan last summer, I got some real honey—the real sweet kind, with the comb that chews up real beeswaxy. It was so good that for three months after I came back I tried to get in Chicago, some honey, but I could not find it. Of course every grocery store had what it said was strictly pure honey, in the nicest looking combs—too nice looking; it was plain that it was all manufactured. A few days ago my grocer told me that he had some real honey this time. I was certain of that too as soon as I saw it. I have worked with bees and know the ear marks of their handiwork and that comb was just irregular enough, imperfect enough in places, to fool me. I bought two pounds. And when I got it home and took a mouthful, the honey was not sweet—it was a poor grade of glucose; and the comb melted in my mouth—it was paraffin."

This is the gentleman who advocates spraying trees when in bloom, and we have no hesitancy in saying that if he does not have any more accurate knowledge of agricultural advertising or spraying, than he does about the adulteration of honey, his advice is not worth the paper it is written on in either case. We have read a great many wild, random statements about honey adulteration, but for a manifestation of downright, unadulterated ignorance, the above takes the cake. It does not contain even a hint of the truth, and is a slander on a large and growing industry. "I have worked with bees and know the earmarks of their handiwork." Shades of Langstroth and Quinby! it must have been a long time ago. Combs of "paraffin!" He never saw a comb of honey in his life that was made of paraffin, and more, he never saw a pound of manufactured comb honey. If he did, here is a chance to make some

money. He can get \$500 for a single pound of it. A. I. Root, of Medina, Ohio, who is thoroughly reliable, and good for all he promises, has had a standing offer of a thousand dollars, for several years, for a single pound of such honey. Now, "put up or shut up!" Think of a man who knows enough to edit the Monthly Blatter, of Scroggsville, to say nothing of an up-to-date agricultural paper, getting off this stale, dead, rotten, and long since buried slander on honey, before a lot of intelligent agricultural editors and publishers. Why! the very thought of it should drive him to sack cloth and ashes, and an abject apology to the whole bee fraternity. Unscrupulous mixers adulterate extracted honey with glucose, but they do not and cannot manufacture comb honey out of paraffin. Not much. Next!—Modern Farmer, St. Joseph, Mo.

Every member of the beekeeping fraternity will thank Bro. E. T. Abott for his vigorous refutation of this ancient falsehood. This lie is so old and has been dead so long that it actually smells rotten, but the unsavory odor does not prevent some ignoramus from trying to resurrect it occasionally.

THE moth worm is reported to have made its appearance in the Arkansas Valley—an eastern importation.

THE Arkansas Valley Beekeepers' Association is a vigorous organization recently launched at Manzanola. Its central principle is a good one—"No member shall trespass upon the reasonable rights of a brother beekeeper."

IN Colorado and many other parts of the arid west a light honey flow induces swarming, while a heavy flow stops it. The philosophy of this is not readily apparent, and if any of our readers have discovered the reason of it, or have a

reasonable theory, we would be glad to have them present it.

THE classes organized and co-operating and helping each other in every possible way—the masses unorganized and competing and fighting for the crust. This the condition of the world today. Brother beekeeper, don't you grasp the necessity of joining your state and local associations?

COOPERATION is the antithesis of competition. It is the Good Samaritan abroad in the business world, and as a force in society is constructive rather than destructive. It means to join hands with your brother, and help him, instead of kicking him down the toboggan slide to financial ruin. It is the Christ principle applied to the economic relation of man to man.

The success of the Colorado State Beekeepers' Association has been largely due to the efficiency and excellence of its officers. There never was a better presiding officer than ex-President R. C. Aikin; the association realized this, and Mr. Aikin could have held the office indefinitely, had he have so chosen. The mantle of the retiring executive could not have fallen upon more capable and worthy shoulders than the president-elect, J. U. Harris, of Grand Junction. Mr. Harris is well versed in parliamentary law and his whole souled, open hearted manner will win the love and respect of the association in no less degree than that bestowed upon his predecessor. The unanimous re-election of Secretary Working was not only a good move for the association, but an involuntary expression of its appreciation of his services. Mr. Working is a tireless and efficient worker for the association and no better judgment could have been exercised than continuing him in that office.

**BY CASE OR WEIGHT, WHICH?**

The method in vogue in Colorado and other Western states, of selling comb honey by the case, instead of by weight, was the subject of a severe criticism by the R. A. Burnette Co., of Chicago (honey commission merchants) in a recent issue of the American Bee Journal. This was accompanied by an editorial in that journal endorsing the position taken by the Burnette Co. We feel that the criticism is unfairly made, and that the motives of the Colorado Association (originators of this system) have been misrepresented. From the article of the Burnett Co. we quote:

"It may be conceded that some, if not many, of our expert bee manipulators can get the bees to store in each section a given quantity, filling each section with no more or no less, than is contained in all the neighboring ones; now if this were the case generally, the use of scales might well be abandoned; but if it takes the bees longer to put 16 ounces of honey into a section than it does 12, and a correspondingly longer time to put in 12 than it would nine, is it not reasonable to infer that some man less scrupulous than his neighbor would manage it so that he could get a little less honey in the section, and thus a greater number of sections filled in a given time by the bees than his neighbor could? He would then be able to get as much money for the number of sections as his neighbor produced, and having produced a fourth or a third more filled sections, he would be that much better off financially than his neighbor; and the purchaser would have that much less honey for an equal sum of money; therefore, it would be only a little time before a case of 24 so-called one-pound sections, instead of weighing from 22 to 24 pounds, as was supposed to be the case at the beginning of this method; we soon find that the cases, while containing 24 sections, in many instances weigh from 17 to 19 pounds."

"Although this method of selling

honey in any quantity has not been in vogue more than three or four years, already we find a 24-section case to weigh nearer 19 to 20 pounds than 23 to 24; yet there are some producers in a collection of a thousand cases of comb honey, whose cases weigh from 23 to 24 pounds, while others run from 17 to 19 pounds, there being no apparent difference in the grade of honey when viewed through the glass exposure, but there is, when sections are compared with one another, a noticeable difference in the thickness of the comb."

"The desire that is so prevalent to excel our neighbor in getting the best of a bargain, is so constantly in mind that this method of selling honey by the case without reference to the net weight of the contents is a great temptation to a moral nature not overly strong."

"Our purpose in the foregoing is to call the attention of the bee-keepers to this subject; especially when we find that organizations of beekeepers in some instances are advocating the abandoning of weighing their honey and selling it by the case."

Commenting upon the foregoing the editor of the American Bee Journal says:

"We agree entirely with them. In our opinion there can hardly be any valid reason advanced in favor of selling honey by the case to wholesale dealers or to retailers."

"We hope that beekeepers will see that it is to their best interest to deal squarely, and not encourage a kind of buying and selling that cannot well be defended as honorable and upright. Gains gotten by any other than straight dealing can be only of temporary benefit. The firm or individual whose policy is even tainted with deception, or by what is known as 'smart dealing,' has its days already numbered."

The Colorado State Beekeepers' Association has adopted the following standard of weights per case in the grading and classification of comb honey:

No. 1. "Cases of separated honey



to average 21 pounds net per case of 24 sections, with a minimum weight of not less 20 pounds for any single case; cases of half-separated honey to average not less than  $21\frac{3}{4}$  pounds net per case of 24 sections, with a minimum weight of  $20\frac{3}{4}$  pounds for any single case; cases of un-separated honey to average not less than  $22\frac{1}{2}$  pounds net per case of 24 sections, with a minimum weight of  $21\frac{1}{2}$  pounds for any single case."

No. 2. "Cases of separated honey to average not less than 18 pounds net per case of 24 sections; cases of half-separated honey to average not less than 19 pounds net per case of 24 sections; cases of un-separated honey to average not less than 20 pounds per case of 24 sections."

Thus it will be seen that the objections of the Burnette Co., as to short weight, fall flat. The lightest weight of sections admissible in the No. 1 grade is 14 ounces, so we fail to see where the 9 and 12 ounce sections can get in. Under our rules light-weights are sold as culls, and every beekeeper is anxious to avoid producing them.

The common practice all over the country in retailing comb honey is to sell by the section, and not by weight. The retailer likes to buy by the pound, but invariably sells by the section, and is thus enabled to make more than a legitimate profit, and it comes out of the producer. We fail to see the injustice of compelling the retailer to purchase by the piece, so long as he sells by the piece, especially when the weights are guaranteed, as in the case of buying of members of the Colorado Association.

As the language stands, the remarks of the A. B. J. plainly infer the charge that the object in selling by the case is a dishonest one, but we are charitable enough to believe that such a meaning was not intended. There are dishonest people in every calling in life, and those among beekeepers who desire to be dishonest will find ways to accomplish their trickry,

whether they sell by the case or weight.

Selling by the case is growing in favor and where all parties are disposed to be fair and honest there has been no trouble nor cause of complaint. It is a matter that rests largely upon individual honor and self respect, and the same is true throughout all the business world.

Under the Colorado rules we grade by color, finish and weight, and when a case of No. 1 or No. 2 is offered, we know, if it is graded correctly, how it looks and the least it can weigh. We base prices upon the minimum weight only. The advantage, if any, accrues to the buyer, and the slight loss to the producer, if any, is much less than the cost of weighing.

The Burnett Co. is one of the few thoroughly honest and reliable commission houses in the great inland metropolis and their opinions are entitled to serious consideration, but the system of selling comb honey by the case is too well grounded in Colorado to be discarded at their simple behest.



ACCORDING to the press dispatches an entire car load of glucose honey from California was dumped on the Chicago market the other day. The character of the stuff was promptly detected, and the consignee was given the choice of selling it under a true label, or shipping it back. He chose the latter. The stuff was labeled "pure clover extracted honey."



It is extremely unfortunate that the honey industry has to suffer so often from the malicious misrepresentation of incompetents in positions that give weight and influence to their words among the uninformed. The latest fulmination of this order is from no less a personage than Special Food Commissioner Jones of Illinois. The statement he recently gave out to the press and sent flying over the country on its mission of falsehood, libel and prejudice, is to the effect that all perfectly white comb honey (fancy and No. 1) is

produced by feeding glucose, and only that with brown coloring around the cells (travel stained) is pure honey. Aside from the harm they do and the prejudice they create against a blameless industry, such statements make us tired. The fact is, it is impossible to feed glucose to bees. They won't carry the vile stuff into their hives. Comb honey cannot be adulterated with it. Colorado produces annually many car loads of fancy white comb honey, and no viler falsehood was ever uttered than to say this product is glucose. Perhaps Commissioner Jones is not so culpably to blame for his criminal ignorance, as is the vicious political system that placed him in the office to blame for allowing "influence," rather than competency, to dictate his appointment.



### *Experimental Work.*

During the past season we were enabled to test several methods of introducing queens.

Several queens were introduced by taking the frame of bees and queen from a nucleus and setting it in a queenless colony. No loss in any case, although one colony to which a queen was introduced in this way, had laying workers.

Perhaps, forty queens were introduced by the paste-board-candy plan, using the Miller introducing cage; two queens lost; one in a small colony having laying workers, the other in a colony which had been long queenless.

The tobacco smoke plan was tried on perhaps a half dozen queens, at different times during the season, with uniform success. We followed W. Z. Hutchinsons directions in some cases, and in others we omitted the second smoking, with no difference in results.

In the introduction of virgin queens the tobacco method was very satisfactory, while the plan of inserting cells in nuclei was a failure, owing to the cool nights. For the arid region we strongly favor hatching all queen cells in nurseries upon

the Swarthmore plan, so that the bees have access to the virgins through queen excluding zinc, and such queens, in our experience, are surpassed by none.

E. F. ATWATER.

Meridian Idaho.



### *A Good Plan for Gathering Honey Statistics.*

During the last few months the writer has been working on a scheme to get reliable reports on the yield of honey throughout the country, and now calls for all honey producers to help the matter along. It will not cost much and is worth many times its cost. We are bound to succeed if we make the proper effort—all make it.

Each beekeeper is requested to write to his representatives in congress, also to both senators, requesting them to work for an increase in the appropriation for the department of agriculture, to be used for statistical purposes. The statistician wants to keep us posted on the honey crop, but this increased appropriation is necessary to enable him to do so. Congressman J. C. Needham, with whom I am acquainted, informs me that it is uncertain when the agricultural bill will come up. That makes prompt action on the part of each one who reads this very important.

There is no question that under modern conditions it is better for the farmer that his crop should be known, both as to quantity and quality. Please act at once.

W. A. H. GILSTRAP,

Grayson, California, Dec. 12, 1901.



### **HONEY MARKETS.**

DENVER.—No. 1 comb honey \$3.00 per case; No. 2 \$2.75. White extracted at 7 and 8 cts. Beeswax 24 and 25.

COLO. HONEY PRODUCERS' ASS'N.

1440 Market St.

CHICAGO.—The honey market is of a slow nature with little change in price of any of the grades. At this season of the

year many of the retailers have laid in a supply sufficient to carry them over the holidays.

Choice grades of white comb honey 14½ to 15 cents; good No. 1 13½ to 14 cents; light ambers 12½ to 13 cents; dark grades including buckwheat 10 to 12 cts; extracted white 5½ to 7 cents; amber 5¼ to 5¾; dark 5 to 5¼; the scale of prices varying according to flavor, body and package. Beeswax steady at 28 cents.

R. A. BURNETT & Co.

## HONEY QUEENS.

Law's Long-tongue Leather Queens. Law's Improved Golden Queens. Law's Holy Land Queens.

Laws' queens are the standard bred queens of America. The largest honey producers use them and praise them. Law's queens go everywhere, and can furnish you a queen every month in the year. Four apiaries. Queens bred in their purity. Prices October to April; Tested or untested, \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5. Breeders, none better, \$3.00 each. Address

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## GOOD FARM PATENT FOR SALE.

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Car lots or otherwise Will send man to receive when lot is large enough to justify and pay highest market price in cash. Address, stating quantity, quality and price desired at your station.

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Finest in the World.

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## COLORADO AGENCIES.

Colorado Honey Producers' Association, Denver, Colo.  
Grand Junction Fruit Growers' Association, Grand Junction, Colo.  
Robert Halley, Montrose, Colo.  
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# Great Clubbing Offers. ❁

My friends, how many of you are reading some of the many, most excellent magazines of the day? If you are reading none, you are missing a most excellent treat. Perhaps you regard them as luxuries. Possibly they are in some instances. They certainly help fill out our lives, and give us broader views. They are like windows that allow us to look out over the wide-world. This life is not wholly one of dollars and cents—at least it ought not to be. Enjoyment, pure and simple, enjoyed just for the sake of enjoyment, is desirable and beneficial. To many there are few things that are more enjoyable than the bright pages\* of a really good magazine. To those who wish to give the magazines a trial, and to those who are already reading them, I can offer some of the lowest clubbing rates that have ever been offered. Here is a list of the magazines, together with the regular prices at which they are published:

Review of Reviews . . . . .	\$2.50	Cosmopolitan . . . . .	\$1.00
Current Literature . . . . .	3.00	Leslie's Popular Monthly	1.00
New England Magazine . . .	3.00	The Household . . . . .	1.00
Leslie's Weekly . . . . .	4.00	Good Housekeeping . . . .	1.00
North American Review . . .	5.00	The Designer . . . . .	1.00
Success . . . . .	1.00		

If you subscribe for one or more of these magazines, in connection with the Bee-Keepers' Review, I can make the following offers:

Success, and the Bee-Keepers' Review, for only	.....\$1.75
Success, and any of the above \$1.00 magazines and the Review for only	2.50
Success, and any two of the above \$1 magazines and the Review, only	3.00
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Success, Current Literature (old) and the Beekeepers' Review only	4.00
Success, the New England Magazine and Beekeepers' Review for only	3.00
Success, Review of Reviews (new), any \$1 magazine and the Review	3.50
Success, Leslie's Weekly and the Bee-Keepers Review for only	.....3.75
Success, Review of Reviews (new), Leslie's Weekly and the Bee-Keepers' Review for only	.....4.75
Success, North American Review (new), Review of Reviews [new], and the Bee-Keepers' Review for only	.....5.00

Magazines will be sent to one or different addresses as desired. New subscribers to the Review will receive the rest of this year free.

**W. Z. Hutchinson,**

**flint,  
Michigan.**

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