

The Southland queen. Vol. II, No. 8 December 1896

Beeville, Texas: The Jennie Atchley Company, December 1896

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The_____ SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

BEEVILLE, TEXAS, December, 1896.

THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

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OUR 1896 CATALOG

now ready for distribution. Send in your name at once for catalog, samples of the new foundation, and those superb sections, and while you are about it ask for a late copy of **Gleanings in Bee-Culture**.

56 5th Ave., Chicago.

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Syracuse, N. Y.

STREET.

The Southland Queen.

Monthly.	Devoted to the Exchange of Thoughts on Apiculture.	\$1.00
Vol. II.	BEEVILLE, TEXAS, DEC., 1896.	No. 8.

Winter once more; two months of—check up in work.

Friday, November 27, our honey season for 1896 came to a close, by a brisk north wind, and mercury falling a little below the freezing point.

Messrs. Hufstedler Bros., formerly of Clarksville, Texas, have arrived with a car of bees, and household goods. They are well pleased with the country so far.

Willie is now in Dallas, in the northern part of this state, selling his fall crop of honey. He will also load a car with bees, for Mr. J. Lawrence, who is moving to Beeville with his bees.

Our weather is nice again, and our queen rearing goes on nicely. The frost has been sufficient to kill most vegetation, but we have thousands of drones, and our hives all heavy with honey, which makes the rearing of queens go easy.

We have just had a most pleasant visit from that pioneer beekeeper, and apicultural benefactor

—A. I. Root, of Medina, Ohio. As strange as it may seem, we could almost recognize Mr. Root's voice, from the acquaintance of twenty years, reading his writings, although we had never seen him.

A. I. Root is one of the most pious, up-to-the-mark, Christian "yankees" we have ever met. To say that we enjoyed Mr. Root's visit is putting it too mild. He says that ours are the first large apiaries that he has seen for a long time, perfectly free from paralysis and other diseases. Mr. Root expressed himself as being well pleased with this country, and was surprised to find that we had such a factory, and such extensive bee yards.

Mr. Root left for Arizona on Wednesday, the 9th Inst., his 57th birth-day, for a visit with his brother, who lives at Tempe, Arizona.

From Mr. Root, we learned many short cuts in business, even if he stayed only three days. He expects to make us another visit in the near future. We are always glad to throw our doors wide open to such people as A. I. Root.

Bee-Keeping in the South.

BY L. STACHELHAUSEN.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 164.]

The Hive I Use.

It is an old saying that the bees carry as much honey into a nail keg as the best improved hive; especially is this true in our Southern climate, where it is not cold enough that bees would suffer at any time, by too much room. But the hive must be constructed in such a way that we can easily detect if anything in the condition of the colony is not in order, and that we, without delay, and with as little work as possible, can bring the colony to the proper condition again. The hive shall also permit the harvesting of honey in the desired shape and quality, with the least possible work of the bee-keeper. For the South this is the most important point. In other climates the hives have to answer some other demands; for instance, the best form and condition for wintering; in our Southern climate it is sufficient to keep out the rain. and to give shelter against wind. A single-board hive with a rainproof cover is all we need, but the form, and frame construction, are of the most importance, as far as easy and quick manipulations are concerned. When I commenced bee-keeping, in Germany, I used

the Berlepsch hive, and a modification of it, called the Dathe hive, also Gravenhorst's hive, and for experiment, a few others. The first year in Texas I made some Dathe hives; they did not satisfy me, for our locality, and, 1880 and 1881, my bees were transferred to Langstroth hives. The construction of these Langstroth hives was in some respects different from those commonly used: some of these hives I have still in use, and I will briefly describe them. I used the Langstroth frame exactly the size A. I. Root manufactured them, and what he calls, now, the all-wood frame, and used ten frames in one body. The beespace is 1/4 inch, half of it on top, and half on bottom; I do not think this important, but it would be lots of trouble to now change the bee-space to the top only. The bottom board is loose, and has about the same construction 25 those A. I. Root sells with the dovetailed hive. In fact, the hive is nearly the same as the dovetailed, except the dovetailed corners, and according to my experience they are no better than the lapped, or halved corners. A. I. Root claims that these corners successfully resist even a California sun. but it seems our Texas sun has more power.

• I produce mostly extracted honey, and tier up two or three stories high. The first two or three

seasons in Texas we had very good honey crops, and I found that taking out the frames, brushing off the bees, and carrying the frames to the honey house for extracting, and back to the apiary very slow work, so I hardly could keep pace with the bees; they filled the combs faster than I could extract them. I studied how to improve this manipulation. In 1882 I read Chas. Dadant's little book, "Extracted Honey," which recommended shallow extracting cases. Before this. I tried to lift off a whole story with frames and honey, after I had smoked down the bees as much as possible. But I could not drive out the bees sufficiently, and the bodies were too heavy to lift, so the shallow supers seemed just the thing for me, and I at once made a few for experiment. From the shallow frames, I expected the bees could be driven down by smoke; the supers are much lighter, and could be easily lifted from the hive. To lose no time in correctly spacing the frames, and to keep them from moving in carrying from and to the apiary I fixed a simple selfsdacing device on the two rabbets of every case. To get these supers not too heavy, I decided on 5 inches outside height of frames; the combs of a Langstroth frame just filled two of these shallow frames. For many years I used these shallow extracting supers to

my best satisfaction. When the conical wire escape got public, it helped a good way to get the supers free of bees, by my setting up a pile of supers and covering it with a roof on which were attached two wire cones, for escapes. Since some years, I use boards, with Porter's bee escape, and take the honey now with less than half the work I had to do before by taking out frame by frame. At first, these supers were used in combination with the full sized Laugstroth hives as brood chamber, but very soon I wished to exchange frames from the brood chamber to the super, and vice versa, so I used two of these supers as a brood chamber as soon as 1883, ane since this time I changed every year some of my full sized Langstroth bodies to shallow cases. So my hive consists of one, two, or more bodies 5¹/₄ inches high, with 10 frames just as long as the so called Simplicity frame, but only five inches deep.

Cutoff, Texas.

[CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.]

Among our Correspondents.

Finding Black Queens.

By W. C. GATHRIGHT.

Written for The Southland Queen.

On page 142 of SOUTHLAND QUEEN, Mr. Whitfield gives his method of finding black queens,

which reminds me of my own experience with them when I lived in Mississippi, five years ago. There, it was almost impossible to keep Italians pure, as there were so many black bees in the woods. I introduced the first Italian queens into the county (Lafayette) so far as I was able to learn. I spent many long hours hunting out black queens, and in some colonies it seemed almost impossible to find their queens; as soon as the hive was opened they would begin a stampeed, and get off the combs, and sometimes get out on the ground in front of the hive. When they acted this way, I found it best to close up the hive and let them go back and get settled. The next day, when all was quiet, I would place an empty hive in the place of this one, having set it to one side. ' Now, I would place a queen excluder over the entrance of the empty hive, and a whole sheet of zinc on top, and an empty body on top of this. Now take out each frame of bees, and shake every bee off into the top story; the bees, hearing those at the entrance, will just tumble over each other to get in the brood chamber, and in a very few minutes the queen_would be seen trying in vain to get through. I tried getting them through the excluder at the entrance only, but it takes them too long to get through, especially on a hot day. The above plan is

quick and thorough. Try it.

After reading the October, supplement, I was forced to conclude that the majority of Texas beekeepers were opposed to giving any flattering testimony in favor of the Golden bee hive.

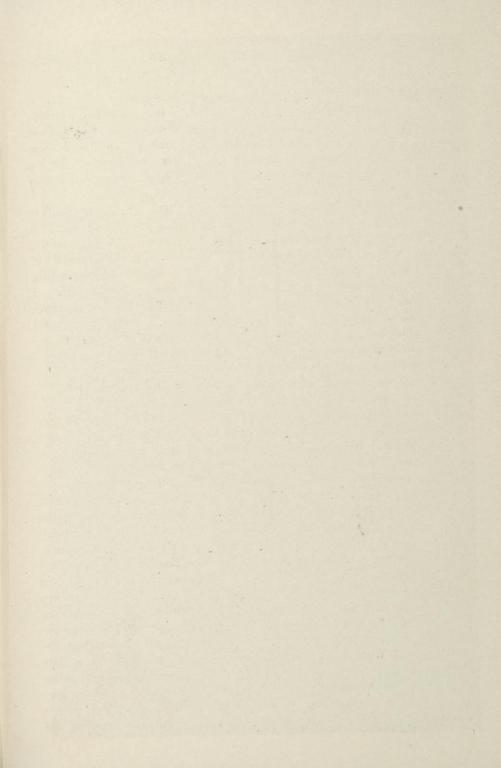
I would like to have Judge Terrell give an article in SOUTHLAND QUEEN on "Spring Management." There is so much difference of opinion in regard to spreading brood, stimulative feeding, etc. I know Judge Terrell to be a practical bee man, and this is a good time to discuss that subject.

Dona Ana, N. M.

At a South Carolina Fair.

So The Southland Queen.

I have been so busy I have not had time to write you. I visited our state fair, and carried bees, hives, honey and queens for exhibition; I had three opponents, but I took half the premiums. I took premium on best colony of Italian bees, premium \$5.00; also, premium on best all purpose bee hive, \$5.00; also premium on best Italian queen bee, \$2.50, or \$12.50 in all. I sold the most of the things I had on exhibition. I handed my card to lots of people who were interested in bees. I have some orders sent me since I got home, lots of bee-keepers said they were going to send me their orders next spring; I think my trade will be considerable more next year than it has





been. I now have an order from a man in Savannah, Georgia, for two colonies of bees, and two hives ready for the bees to be hived in; that is over 200 miles from me. I had sold all my nice honey before I concluded to go to the fair, or I should have come out better.

A. P. LAKE.

Batesburg, S. C.

[Glad to note your success, and commend your course to our many readers.—ED.]

A Wonderful Honey Plant.

BY DR. W. M. STELL.

Written for The Southland Queen.

The picture on the opposite page is one of Mexico's grandest plants, and is far superior as a honey producer of any known plant in the world; it is known here by the name of "Amolle" and is a family or species of the Maguey, Century or Agave plant.

This is an evergreen, semitropical, succulent plant, that grows on the south side of the mountains; the leaves are heavy, thick, smooth and stiff, green in color, measuring four inches in width at the base, five to six feet long, narrowing to the point, channelled upon their upper surface, the flower-stem stands erect, growing to an average height of eighteen feet, with about ten to twelve feet of this covered with yellow blossoms, about three inches long, that bloom about the first of April and last the entire month.

This plant is used a good many ways; I will only tell of some important usages. By cutting a hollow place in the head, it will fill up with a very sweet, delicious water (natural juice); this water taken from the heart of the plant, and after the fermentation of twenty-four hours, is ready for use, and is a national beverage of a temperate kind called Pulque. Nature requires the plant to be milked, when the liquor is ready to flow for the use of man, else the superfluity of juice will cause the growth of a large flower-stem from the center. When the pulque is first extracted, before the process of fermentation sets in, it is sweet and scentless, and in this state is preferred by the beginners of the drink. The old topers scorn the drink at that age, calling it "the babies' drink."

The city of Mexico has a population of 350,000 and at least 250,000 use pulque in preference to water or any other drink; no drink has a stronger hold on any nation than this on the Mexicans; it is estimated that 75,000 gallons of it are daily consumed in this city. The following is taken from the "Modern Mexico," a statement made by Hon. Sebastian Camacho, president of Ayuntamiento:

"There is a daily introduction into the City of Mexico, of 700

barrels of pulque, each weighing 540 kilograms, making a total of 378,000 kilograms, a kilogram being 21-5 pounds, making the aggregate 831,600 pounds of pulque, which pays a duty introduction at the rate of \$2.99 per barrel, amounting, daily, to \$2,093., making a total of \$763,945 a year. There are 786 "pulquerias" or pulque shops in the City of Mexico, which pay, according to their locality, by squares, in the following manner: Thirty-four in the first sqare pay, each per month \$30.00, 147 in the second square pay, each per month \$16.00, 608 in the third square pay each, per month \$10.00. In the year of 1895 the product of the municipal revenue, extra from the introduction tax. from this drink amounted to \$111. 958.69."

This plant grows eight years before maturity, the outlay on each plant for cultivation up to maturity is calculated at about \$2.00 and the return is from \$7.00 to \$10.00. according to size of the plant. Its producing life is about five months, and each plant is supposed to yield from 125 to 160 gallons of liquid within that time. It is a regrettable fact, in the pulque shops, this wholsome beverage is made intoxicating to a maddening degree upon some characters by the addition of "Marihuana" a juice of the "Jimson" weed (Datura Stamonium). It is said that Xochitl, a Toltec woman, revealed to her race in the eleventh century, the method of extracting from the pulque plant, the drink which has been ever since, both the delight and curse of the Mexicans.

Stronger beverages are made by roasting the heart and put through the process of fermentation and distillation; a few wine glasses of this will make one "rich" instantly, and cause him to say many funny things, for I tell you it is stronger than the best "Kentucky bourbon'' that can be found, this is called Mescal or Teguila; the very best quality of vinegar is made from the sweet water, that sells for a fair price. The leaves are fibrous but contain a great deal of fleshy matter, from which a good qulity of oil is expressed and is used extensively on the table; the pulp of the leaves is used also in taking out greasy stains in the clothing; fibres of the older leaves are used many ways; bruising and macerating in water, seperates the pulp from is fibres, this pulp contains a gum-resinous principle, and acrid volatile oil; a tincture can be prepared, which is an excellent laxative, diuretic and emmenagogue. The large fibres are made into ropes, carpet mats, bridles, shawls and blankets; the more delicate fibres are made into thread, which are worked into laces of most beautiful designs, also, writing and wrapping paper

is made from this same fibre. The ends of the leaves terminate into a fine, stiff point, which is used for pins and needles; the root of this plant is used extensively for washing, instead of soap-the women mash the root and rub the clothes with it, in water, which gives off a beautiful foam, that cleanse the clothes quite readily. The new, tender flower-stem, when about two or three feet high, is roasted before a hot fire, and is very palatable, resembling roasted sugar cane, but tender, very sweet and delicious. After this stem has matured and died down, it is used in building houses and for fire wood; the ashes contain many medical virtues, and is a very active cathartic. Dying down to the head causes a peculiar disease of the plant, and in the centre of the head are found some thirty or more large grub worms, called "Gusano de Meguey," that measure two to three inches in length, and one inch in diameter, these, when placed on a broiler with a little salt before the fire for five minutes. make a most savory dish that was ever set before a king, they are delicious as oysters, and sweet as the marrow in the bone; this plate is always in demand in the City of Mexico, and is far superior to our shrimps and crabs.

Last but not least, as a honey producer, Amolle has no equal, the stem having twelve feet covered

completely with bell-shaped flowers, holding half its capacity of Nature's sweet nectar. By actual count a stem, of ten feet, contained 20040 flowers; say that each will produce ten drops of honey. I am safe in saying that each plant, during its period of blossom, will produce no less than fifteen pounds of honey. I have seen the ground literally covered with this nectar, and great puddles caught in hollow places in the rocks.

My bees were four miles from this plant, and they averaged 90 pounds of comb, each, during the month of April; one hive produced 120 pounds of comb honey. I intend to move my bees nearer this plant another year, to see what they can do.

I noticed in the American Bee Journal that Mrs. Sallie E. Sherman stated that she had bees that moved eggs from one hive to another. I rather think she is badly mistaken, if bees will do it once they would do it again, which would save us of a great deal of trouble and deaths of many swarms. I made the same statement one year ago, and after a little experiment, found it to be a great mistake. If Mrs. Sherman will put a good, strong, queenless swarm in a new hive with the frames filled with foundation only. compelling the bees to draw it out, which they will do nicely in three or four days, and then wait for the

bees to steal an egg or two from another hive to raise themselves a mother queen, she will wait an awful long time, when a bee gets an egg in its mouth, it is good by egg. I have had much trouble in trying to raise a queen in queenless colony, as they would eat the eggs as fast as I put them in. Neither will a queen leave her hive to examine the apiary with intention of laying a few eggs in the queenless hive. I am trying to cross an Italian queen with a drone lightning bug, whose workers may be able to see to work day and night. If I should succeed in this undertaking, will exchange a pure "Electric Queen" for a queen that was stolen in the egg from another hive, by the bees themselves; or, will make the same exchange for a non-swarming queen.

Wish some good reader of THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN would tell me, through its columns, how to make Metheglin.

Jesus Maria, Mexico.

Southern Text Books Needed.

BY E. Y. TERRELL,

Written for The Southland Queen.

For many years I have fealt the need of a book, or journal, devoted to apiculture, exclusively for the South. Not that I would pluck a laurel from our gifted Northern writers, for I have been able to produce tons of honey for many

years in succession, by reading A B C of Bee Culture, by A. I. Root; Cook's Manual of the Apiary; and The Honey Bee, by L. L. Langstroth, but many things contained in their books are not worth reading by a Southern apiarist; such as chaff hives, wintering in cellars, and out-door wintering: also diseases of bees-foul brood. etc., that we know nothing about. Feeding bees, as laid down by our Northern writers, is calculated to mislead the novice, in this country, and cause him to fail. The experienced apiarist can feed his bees at will, but the novice in the South. where we have almost perpetual spring, and bees fly about twothirds of our winter days, who undertakes to follow the plans laid down by our Northern writers, (that know nothing about this climate) is sure to fail. I feel assured that THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN will fill this long fealt want, and every Southern bee-keeper will subscribe for, and support the QUEEN. I don't think the OUEEN will tread on anybody's toes; she is too young and modest. Maybe some of the older ones will turn up their bristles at our SOUTHLAND QUEEN, once in a while, but we are here, and have come to stay. The class of apiarists that take the Northern bee journals, and have learned their A B C's from them. cannot afford to drop their subscription, neither can they afford

to slight the young OUEEN, and the books above mentioned we cannot do without. I have been taking Gleanings for fifteen years; I don't read all that is published in Gleanings, but I find many valuable articles in Gleanings that are worth more than the subscription price. I don't think we should have any selfishness about our young industry; the field is too wide. I know from observation, and fifteen years experiance, that nectar (honey) goes to waste in this country from year to year, far beyond the calculation of the casual bee man, that might be saved and utilized if our farmers knew how to manipulate bees. I believe if all the nectar that goes to waste in this country could be saved it would be worth as much as the cotton crop, and it could be done, if the farmers would pay the same amount of attention to apiculture that they do to raising field crops. I received a copy of the Pacific Bee Journal, a few days ago; I think it is very nice and interesting reading. I will subscribe for it, if for no other reason, the editor is a "free silver crank."

Cameron, Texas.

Bees Eating Fruit.

BY ENGLISH B. MANN,

Written for The Southland Queen.

When keeping bees in Louisiana some years ago, a gentleman who

had a lot of choice peach trees, complained that my bees were ruining his crop of peaches. It was useless to try to convince him, by any argument that I could use, that it was impossible for them to cut through the skin of the fruit. So, having a lot of peach trees in my bee yard, I thought I would satisfy myself in regard to what did the mischief. The peaches were carefully examined several days. I could not find any bees attacking them and was just going to give it up as useless, when I noticed on one tree where the bees were, the peaches were riper than others, and the bees were flying around. On careful examination. with a glass, I found a small puncture in the skin of several, but failed to see any thing that could have done it but the bees, which soon had made the puncture bigger and spoiled the fruit. At last, just as I had about concluded that I had been wrong, and that the bees were the culprits, I found a small brown insect, which I believed to be some species of the Curculio. A visit to my friend's orchard soon convinced him that the bees, after all, were not responsiable for the damage. Since then I have noticed minute punctures on my grapes, similar to those on the peaches, and I believe that the same species of insect is to blame for that, although I have not actually observed them at work on grapes as I did on peaches.

BEE PARALYSIS.

Up till some two years ogo we suffered badly from the above, but to having a bad season in '95, from the disastrous freeze in the early spring, our bees were weak in the fall and contrairy to our usual custom, we removed all the extracting supers early in the fall. The empty combs, in defalt of an air tight room, were put in empty top boxes and piled ten and twelve high. Paper was pasted over the joints, the top box was empty and had an inch hole bored in one side, then the smoker was charged with rags and sulphur, and the fumes were blown into this pile of hives through the hole in the top boxes (we found the year before that blowing the sulphur fumes into the bottom of the pile was not successful in keeping the moths out), the frames were fumigated at three days intervals, twice after that, and two or three times seven days apart, and out of 3,000 or 4,000 combs thus treated, we did not lose one per cent but, to our great delight, found that after replacing our sulphured combs (many contained both sealed and unsealed honey) on the hives, that we had not a case of Bee Paralysis to trouble us that spring.

The year '96 is almost gone; the question now is, have you all done any thing for your bee journal?

The Warfare of the Soul.

I stood by a beautiful river, Whose waters were swift and clear; As I gazed on its moving masses, Two vessels were drawing near.

The one on the right was gliding down Without an effort, it seemed. [tide, And scarcely a ripple appeared on the As bright in the moonlight it gleamed.

The one on my left was ascending the Its sides were dank with spray; [stream, It struggled and strained in every part,' As it plowed its upward way.

I saw the passing ships go by— I watched them pass from sight; They passed, and left me musing thus, In Luna's silvery light:

Shall my life be as the drifting ship, Whose level is lower and lower, And thus, shall I idly drift away, Till I reach the eternal shore?

Oh, could I, I'd be the ascending ship; I'd upward work my way. I'd stem the tide of the swiftest stream, And rest not, till the close of day.

But my life has a stronger tide to stem, Than the one yon ship moves in; It daily, and hourly, presses me down— Man's tendency to sin.

Oh God! why hast thou made me thus? Two natures are within; One longs for the pure and holy, The other covets sin.

There is constant warfare in my Soul, And which, oh, which shall win? The higher, loving holiness, Or the lower, loving sin?

This war was waged before me; Was waged, and the victory won. 'Twas won in lone Judea's desert, And the victor, God's holy son.

The power that there conquered evil, I remember he offers to give. By it only, I'll win the victory, And my better self shall live.

I'll take him as pilot of my ship, Who calmed the angry sea; [stream, And then shall my ship ascend the Whatever the current be.

-J. L. CRUIKSHANK.

THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

Another South Carolina Letter.

BY L. B. WHITTLE.

Written for The Southland Queen.

I commenced bee-keeping in 1881, with a frame hive of my own get up, 13 inches square, two stories or two sets of frames 8 inches deep. This done well, but I soon found this could be improved. So next spring I purchased from Mr. Levi Thrailkill, four old fashioned stands, for which I paid \$9.00. I soon learned that father Langstroth had made a life-time study of the honey bee. This put me to a world of inquiries; step by step I made progress in this industry. Two years after, I had my first attack of hemorrhage of the lungs; this of course made me think my time had come to leave my wife and children, the bees, and any thing else that I chanced to have. But, to my surprise, I still lived, and of course my bees became more and more the pets of myself and family. Oh, how Providence does provide. I can safely say that bee-work and honey are the best lung restoratives on earth.

I soon found my bees all on frames, of the Langstroth hive; this made me proud of my success.

Oh, how we should love to travel in the way our old fathers have trod, may God never stop blessing old father Langstroth, who gave his life a ransom for the honey bee. I have caused many, though full

of prejudice, to begin to open their eves in this almost lost industry in South Carolina; some people begrudge to give one credit for a good thing. But I am thankful to know that old father Langstroth left something that no unthankful person can condemn. Though he may improve on them, let him strive to that end. I used to hear the old pastor of our Church say, that it was easy to know when we had passed from death unto life. by the love we had for the brethren: so it is with a bee keeper-when he has the tact he will study them and love them. I am so glad that Mrs. Jennie Atchley called it a school, and that I have found the way into it, I don't think we could engage in any other school for a tuition of only one dollar a year, that we could learn half so much, so let us hustle and get in before the doors are closed.

I am in no wise ashamed of the honey report I had last year, which was 120 lbs. comb honey to the one hive, besides, I drew eight frames for queen breeding from them. I also sold to one of my neighbors, Mr. E. R. Mabus, a full sister to her, the mother of which I purchased from Mr. B. F. Yackey, of Pennsylvania, which has made still more honey this year, than I made last year to the stand. Mr. Mabus did not give them any more attention than the rest of his bees.

Batesburg, S. C.

THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.



MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEV, - - EDITOR. — Assisted by — Willie, Charlie and Amanda Atchley. E. J. ATCHLEY, - BUSINESS MANAGER.

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Entered at the Post Office at Beeville, Texas, for transmission through the mails at second class rates.

BEEVILLE, TEXAS, DEC., 1896.

Must we offer apologies for being late again? We will do so without waiting for a reply. Over-work is the cause of our tardiness. A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all.

W. H. Pridgen, of Creek, North Carolina, writes us under date, December 9, 1896, that his stock of queens and bees have carried off the blue ribbon at Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri fairs. Hurrah for the Tarheel queen breeder!

Thomas G. Newman, Manager of the Bee-Keepers' Union, has sent to us his criticism of the constitution of the new Union. This, we would be glad to publish, but we could hardly do so without publishing the constitution, and, Dr. Mason's cross criticism. At this stage of the game we believe it best to keep out of what turns out to be an unnecessary controversy between man and m—en.

That photo of the members of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association, present at the Lincoln convention, found on first cover page of December 3rd American Bee Journal, is good. The A. B. J. deserves great credit for showing the pleasant faces of all the bee-keepers present, and they look like life itself, or nearly so, if one will look at them long enough. We wish the North American—no, the United States Bee-Keepers' Union would take a Southward flight some time. We had in mind to give you readers the photos, and a write up of other bee-keepers, this issue, but space forbade us, saying what ought to be said about them and we hold them until our January issue.

By special invitation, a happy party assembled at the residence of, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Best, five miles southeast of Beeville, and partook of a sumptious birth-day dinner. It was the thirty-sixth birth-day of . Mr. Best, and we should call it one of his "best" dinners. The table was loaded with many good things, and all enjoyed the day in a way that would be hard to forget. Those present were: Rev. and Mrs. W. M. Gaddy, Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Word, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Atchley and daughter, Amauda, Mr. and Mrs. Swanson, Mrs. Olney Robinson, Miss Maggie Riggs, Miss Clara Cook, Mr. J. W. Grav, Mr. Hatfield of Arkansas and "Grandma" Cannon. A good portion that were prsent were beekeepers, and we had a nice time. May peace, pleasure and happiness abide with the Best family.

We note that since the advertisement of Geo. T. Wheadon & Co. appeared in our paper, Bro. York has been giving the QUEEN some free advertising, when before that, he refused to advertise free, even by mentioning the QUEEN in his paper, but if it goes to damage the

QUEEN he sure gives all the free advertising necessary, and more too. He says, see how smart we are, in making editorial mention of Wheadon & Co. We do not claim to be smart atall, as we know we only have ordinary sense, and the very mention of what the A. B. J. had done was enough to put people on their guard, and that is why we used it. At the time we inserted Wheadon & Co's. advertisement, the A. B. J. had said nor done nothing to condemn them. and as it looked like that Bro. York was making a terrific onslaught on commission men generally, especially those of Chicago, we did not know but he was fishing for the job of handling all the houey himself, and using such bait as that to catch it with. Well, Bro. York is in a position to do the bee-keepers a great amount of good, in the way of handling their honey, and helping them sell their crops to best advantage, and he ought to do it, but no use to run others down to accomplish it. If any of our readers lost honey by shipping to Wheadon & Co., caused from reading the advertisement in our paper, let us know what the amount was and we will replace the honey. We do not wish to have any of our readers, or any one else caught through this paper, and we will avoid it if possible, and when such a thing does occur from our carelessness, we propose to make it good, and we think that is enough.

THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN.



LESSON NUMBER 17.

There is one question that I wish to ask in the QUEEN, and as I term it a very important one, I will first ask the teacher to give her views, and then we want to hear from all the readers of the QUEEN on this subject. The greatest demand is for comb honey. Let us try to adopt some plan whereby we can secure all our surplus in sections. Section honey is selling right along in our market at 15 cents, while extracted is barely bringing 10 cents at retail.

(53.) How is the best way to get all our surplus honey into the sections?

W. R. GRAHAM.

Greenville, Texas.

(53.) Now, Bro. Graham, we think it would have been best for vou, as "the comb honey man" of Texas, to give your opinions along this line, as well as your experiance, as we are satisfied that you can answer your own question a little better, likely, than any one else. There might be several ways to do this; our honey flows are of so long duration here, that all the plans laid down in the journals and text books are wide from the mark. If our flows came in only at certain times and then lasted for only a few days, as it does in some of the northern states, then we might practice W. Z. Hutchinson's plan, and get all, or nearly all, of our surplus into the sections. His

plan is to hive the swarms on starters in brood nests, and contract the room space so as to compel the bees to store the surplus all above, in the boxes, using a wood-zinc queen excluder to prevent queens from going above. When our flows last from three to four months at a time, we would soon have no bees to gather the honey if we practiced this plan here. The swarm, while it lasted, would likely store a crate of sections, but, where would the bees come from to gather the next crate, if the queens were corralled off on a limited space, and not allowed to keep up the strength of the colony? We have tried at several different times to give colonies all frames of solid sealed brood at the beginning of the honey flow, and this would for a time force the honey into the sections, but, just about the time the bees begin to hatch out freely, they began swarming preparations. Then the operation had to be performed again, or out went your bees. We have a few times tried hiving them back on empty frames, on the old stand, and have in this way got nearly all our honey in the sections. If a person has nothing else to do but to play with a few colonies, it is not very hard to make them store all, or nearly all, of the honey in sections, but, when an apiarist has his or her hands full, all play is put away and a turkey-trot raised to get around to all that must be

them run their own course, and put on and take off sections as fast as filled. If the bees swarm, hive them on the old stands, and leave only one cell to hatch, putting the old queen off in a nucleus will cause the honey, for a time; to go into the sections. After all this monkeying with the bees, we have found that any plan that we have vet tried interferes with a constant force of bees for the whole season. and the bees that were let run their own course would come out ahead. Let us hear from others on this subject, and give us your real experience in the matter, as no theory is needed here.

(54.) Give me your experience, and in absence of experience, your judgment of the adaptability of the Adel bees to your climate.

(55.) Do they work in sections readily, and do they cap their honey white?

(56.) Do they swarm as readily, or as much as the Carniolans are reported to do?

(57.) How do you think they would do in Dadant's modified hives—as long as the Langstroth and as deep as the Quinby? I will watch the columns of the QUEEN for your replies.

F. W. WINN.

Ft. McPherson, Ga.

(54.) I think the Adels will do all right in your climate, and likely do as well as in any country. Our experiance with this race of bees is limited. as we only tried two queens, and found by actual test that they were a mixture of Italians and Carniolans, and we have that cross often.

done. Then, the best way is to let to use in our honey yards. We do them run their own course, and not call them Adels, but we think put on and take off sections as fast they are the same as the as filled. If the bees swarm, hive Adels raised by Alley. It was them on the old stands, and leave the Alley queens that we tried two only one cell to hatch, putting the of.

> (55.) A cross between the two races makes a fine bee for gathering honey; they cap their honey white, and seem to enter the sections as readily as the pure Carniolans.

(56.) We have not had any trouble with their excessive swarming.

(57.) I think they would do all right in Dadant's modified hives, if your honey seasons would justify as large hives as that. Mv experience is that the location of an apiary has more to do with the kind of hive than the race of bees. If you have a climate that opens up warm, in the early spring as a rule, and long steady honey flows during the spring and early summer months, you had better use large hives for any kind of bees you keep. If your breeding season is short, before your honey flows begin, you can get just as good, or better results by using smaller hives, say the 8-framed hives, taking frames of the Langstroth pattern. In our climate we need large hives for best results, is my experience, as we have a long breeding season before our harvest comes, and we can have a two story, 10-framed hive full of bees by

when if we only had a few weeks breeding season before the flows, we could do as well with smaller hives. I think the Adels will give excellent results, in your locality, if your pastures are good. Try them and let us know how they come out.

(58.) How many colonies could you increase to, and get them all up in good shape for your first honey flow, from one good strong colony in the spring, looking to Nature for all the feed?

(59.) What was your average, per colony, the past season?

(60.) What would I likely get for extracted honey by the ton.

I am thinking of moving my bees to your locality, as they have not paid any thing here for some time. Your reply, in school, will greatly oblige a friend. T. W. WHEELER.

Hylton, Texas.

(58.) I can take one good strong colony of bees here, the 1st of February, and have three good, strong colonies from it ready for our first honey flow, which begins honey season, or the cells were not about the 1st of April. I can do this in ordinary seasons, and look to nature for all the honey to build from. I will divide the colony into three parts, and give each a. good laying queen, and by our This brings something to my mind first honey flow I can have three good, strong colonies, ready to catch our April crop, but if takes a tear down queen cells that have good colony to begin with, and been brought from other colonies, good management to do it.

honey the past season, but Willie sources. I have often tried to preshad one out-vard that he run for erve some cells over night in a

April 1st, ready to reap the crop, honey, and his average was a little over 100 pounds per colony, consisting of both comb and extracted.

> (60.) Extracted honey usually brings \$100.00 per ton, delivered free on board the cars.

> (61.) Last season I killed ten black queens, for as many colonies, and kept all their cells torn down, and gave them cells from my breeder and they tore them down. I gave them cells the second and third times, and they were promptly torn down. Some of them developed laying workers, but I finally succeeded in requeening them by giving combs containing eggs, but I lost the use of all ten colonics, as they did not store a pound of surplus honey. What was the cause of their tearing down the

> (62.) If I raise a lot of queens in a queen nursery, how can 1 introduce them?

> (63.) How soon after the young queens hatch should they be introduced? J. W. GREGG.

Gazelle, Cal.

(61.) The cause of the bees tearing down the cells given them was likely on account of a bad far enough developed, and the cells given, gave a different scent, and were torn down much the same as a queen would have been balled, had she been let loose with them. that I have often thought about, and it is this: I believe bees will much in the same way that they (50.) We did not run much for will kill queens brought from other queenless colony where I had cells under way, (when I happened to have a lot just at night, and had no time to insert them), and, to my surprise, I have had them all torn down, and their own cells kept untouched. If you will give cells that are just about to hatch (yes if the young queens have begun to cut out it will be better), it will nearly always prove a success.

(62.) When you raise queens in nurseries, the best time and plan is to drop them right down among the bees just as soon as they hatch, and nine times out of ten they will be accepted, if your colonies have been queenless three days, or till they have become satisfied that their queens are gone.

(63.) If I was running nurseries now, I would give the cells just as the young queens were hatching, and then I would not calculate on losing one out of ten. It is a pretty hard matter to introduce virgin queens after they are old enough to run all over the hive, and "squall" as though they wanted to fight. Their actions are at once taken notice of by the bees, and if the queens do not run and dodge about quick enough to keep out of the way of the bees, they will at once kill them. I can take a virgin, that has been hatched only a few minutes, and drop her right in where there is a laying have, but, with proper treatment queen, and many times the bees will accept her, and 'the young

queen will supersede the old one. Or, I can remove the old queen and turn a young, downy virgin loose, in her place, and often have them accepted. It is the actions of the older virgins that cause the bees to kill them. For many reasons I like the plan of introducing virgius as soon as they are hatched, and I do not like to cage them, in the hives, as it seems to give them a set back, as a rule, that they never get over.

ly spoken of in your paper. If the Cyprians are a better race of bees for honey than the Carniolans, I want them, as it is the best bees that I am looking for, and I wish you would tell me about the Cyprians.

ROBT. P. LANCHESTER. Hagerman, Idaho.

(64.) As a rule, the Cyprians are better bees for honey gathering in this locality, than the Carniolans. The Carniolans would likely be just as good if they did not swarm so much, but, about the time they get under good headway they swarm, and keep swarming till the honey season is over. The Cyprian bees are somewhat like Italians in color, and they fly faster. or get about quicker than Italians or Carniolans. The Cyprians are said to be the most vicious bees we ours are no worse to handle, or sting, than Italians or Carniolans.

^(64.) Do you think the Cyprians are an improvement over the Carniolans?

I have been raising honey for some years, and using the Carniolan bees. I notice lately that the Cyprians are high-

We think the Holylands and Cyprians are both better bees for this climate than the Corniolans. The Cyprians and Holylands are much the same in color and qualities, and in honey gathering, but, the Cyprians run to yellow muchfaster as a rule than the Holylands. I would not like to recommend the Cyprians too highly for other countries until they were tried, but for this country, we are sure that they are better than Corniolans. Better get you a queen or two and try them before you invest much in them.

Convention Report.

Southwest Texas Bee-keepers' Association.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 179.]

Afternoon, Second Day.

The Convention was called to order at 1:30 p. m., and after the usual opening ceremonies, the program was taken up.

A paper, by J. O. Grimsley; subject, "The best bees."

THE BEST BEES.

Editors of bee-journals, and others known to be informed on the various branches of apiculture, are asked numerous questions, from time to time, in regard to all the different features of the industry, and I am convinced that the most common question asked, is: "Which are the best bees?"

There are those just starting in the business, who want a new bee, mainly for a change. The desire for a change, the wish to reach an imaginary standard, prompts the novice to reach out after something his neighbor hasn't got, something he has not seen, and when the "new bee" is introduced, he feels that he has the best going, let it be from the North or from the South. This state of affairs exist until he gets himself worked into the harness as a practical apiarist, then, seeing that his "new bee" doesn't winter well, breeds out of season, or lacks in some other material point, he sits himself down, and, after reading cataafter catalogue, and logue bee-journal after bee-journal, he finds that an apiarist of long experience recommends the Imported Italians, another of equal experience names the Golden or American bred Italians, another the Carniolans, another the Cyprians, and so on. Each of these give plausible, even convincing reasons why the particular bee of their choice is better, in all respects, than any other. Then what is to be done?

The question, "which are the best bees," coming from the lips of an American citizen, is, or might be compared to the question, "which has the best climate, Cuba or the United States?"—it depends upon the fancies o' those interested.

When the Carniolaus were first being introduced into the United States, and even now, the statement that they were hardy, and would prove to be the best winterers, was one of the strong points in their behalf, because they came from a cold country-Carniola being on the 46th parallel, or the same latitude as central Minnesota: the cold in Carniola being even more severe than we have in the same latitude in the United States. At first thought this point is a good one, but let us see the effect, or rather the result of experiments. Bringing Carniolans to a climate like this-about 281/2 degrees north latitude, we find that they are not checked in their brood rearing by our mild winters, to an extent that is in keeping with the surroundings. We find, then, that breeding out of season is the serious objection to this race of bees. Remove that objection, and we would certainly have an ideal bee, color excepted. Then, with these characteristics, the Carniolans may be the best bees for most northern localities; in fact. I believe they are so considered.

While we, of the South, find fault with the Corniolans, the people of the North find equally as serious objections to the Cyprians and Holylands. The Cyprians are from the 35th degree north latitude, or about the same as north Texas, central Arkansas,

and south line of Tennessee. The Holyland, or Palestine bees are from the 31st degree, north latitude, or about the same as Bell Co. Texas. To come plainly to the point, I am of the opinion that for the North we need a northern bee: for the South, a southern bee. Thus, for all the northern states we might not be wrong in naming the Carniolans, and for the southern and Pacific coast states. the Holylands. But, we have a wide gap to fill, then what shall it be? By referring to an atlas, we find that the Italians are from about the 44th degree, or just two degrees south of the Carniolans, but the climate of that portion of Italy being about the same as the central states, we can, and I believe I would recommend the Italians for that part of the country.

201.

But, let our recommendations be what they may, we can't satisfy the curious. Besides, the Italians have two very serious objections, from a comb honey standpoint. They are slow to enter the sections, and do not cap their honey white. But. to the honey producer, and not the fancier, these objections can both be overcome by introducing German blood, which, doing away with two serious objections, brings about another, that the novice is by no means pleased with; they will sting-regular long rangers. Yet, should the work be thrown an experimental station, upon

I am confident that a strain of hybrids could be produced that would not only enter the sections readily, and cap their honey snow white, but would be reasonably easy handled, and after a time be bred up to a uniform color. Careful breeding is the only way by which the honey producer can hope to secure an ideal bee. I am convinced that we have not, at this time, an all round, general purpose bee, and in order to succeed, we must look at the surroundings, consider the effect of the climate; and then after getting the bee best adapted to the locality, breed it up to a standard in keeping with your ideas.

There is room for improvement, if undertaken in a practical, common sense way.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

The committee on permanent organization made their report, recommending the organization of the Association as a permanent institution. On motion and second, a committee on by-laws was appointed, and asked to report without delay.

BY-LAWS.

We your committee on by-laws for this Association, recommend that the following be adopted to govern the same.

Sec. 1. This organization shall be known as the South Texas Bee-Keepers' Association, and shall hold its meetings annually, at such times and places as said Association may select by a majority vote of its members.

Sec. 2. All white persons who are interested in apiculture are eligible to membership in this Association.

Sec. 3. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary, and the Secretary shall be exofficio Treasurer.

Sec. 4. Each member of this Association shall be required to pay a membership fee of of 25 ets., and such dues or assessments as shall be hereafter determined upon.

Sec. 5. The officers of this Association shall be elected by a majority vote.

Sec. 6. THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN shall be adopted as the official organ of this Association.

Sec. 7. These by-laws may be amended at any meeting by a majority vote of the Association.

> F. R. Graves, G. F. Davidson, G. W. Hufstedler, Z. H. Osborne, T. M. Cox.

The by-laws were unanimously adopted and the committee discharged.

The election of officers was then taken up, which resulted in electing G. F. Davidson, President; E. J. Atchley, Vice President; and J. O. Grimsley, Secretary. Queries, number 13 and 14 were discussed at some length, without arriving at any thing definite on either.

"The ups and downs of bee-keeping" was opened by Dr. J. N. Long, and followed by Hon. F. R. Graves. Limited space prevents the reproduction of these speeches. They were very interesting; in fact one of the best features of the convention.

A resolution of thanks was tendered T. M. Cox for his service as stenographer, and for the interest taken in our Association.

The following resolutions was offered by C. I. Swann:

RESOLVED:—That the thanks of this Associatian be hereby extended to the people of this community for their interest in this Association; to the various committees for their earnest work, and especially to Mr. and Mrs. Atchley for their untiring devotion to bee culture generally and particularly to the interest of this meeting of the Association.

Unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

The place of next meeting was then considered. Beeville and Floresville were put in nomination, and, after one of the liveliest discussions of the Convention, Beeville was successful, by a small majority. G. F. Davidson and F. R. Graves were untiring in their

efforts for Floresville, but with C. I. Swann as a champion for Beeville, that place could hardly fall short of victory.

After Prayer, and singing "God be with you till we meet again," the convention adjourned, to meet at Beeville, on the first Wednesday and Thursday in November, A. D., 1897.

AFTER-THOUGHT.

Mr. J. Lawrence, of Dallas, who came in after the Convention adjourned, says he has a "kick" to offer. We had "resolutions of thanks," and now, Mr. Lawrence offers his "resolution of kicks," which he hopes to present at next meeting. He says the Texas Associations pay the hotel bills of those in attendance, and he don't think it right that they should do that much, and not pay their railroad fare also.

J. O. GRIMSLEY, SECY. Beeville, Texas.

Mr. James H. Davis, of this city, who has made the study of bees a specialty, has at last succeeded in designing a hive that is absolutely a "non-swarmer." The queen never enters the sections, nor are the bees required to pass through perforated zinc or any other obstruction. Mr. Davis has the hive in use, and the bees in it make nice white honey at any time the weather is warm.—Danville, (Ky.) Tri-Weekly Advocate.

California Items.

BY ISAAC N. SWETNAM.

Written for The Southland Queen.

Perhaps some of the readers of the QUEEN would like to know something of Monterey county, California, and its resources.

This county lies on the Pacific coast, and is bounded on the north by the bay of Monterey and the county of Santa Cruz; on the south by the county of San Louis Obispo. From the northern to the southern limit is about 140 miles, and from the ocean to its line with San Benito county is about 40 miles. Along the coast south of the Monterey bay, the country is very rough, but well watered by numerous mountain streams. Many of these streams abound with beautiful trout, which pleases the eye, and makes many a camper happy throughout the summer. Salmon or "steel heads" also enter these streams during the winter freshets, some of them weigh as much as twenty pounds.

There are settlers living along the coast, and are generally engaged in dairying, stock raising or honey producing. In many localities the black sage grows luxuriantly, from which the busy bee gathers the whitest honey, with a flavor that, I think, cannot be surpassed. The manzanita, with many other rich flowering plants, abound along the coast.

The climate is quite mild, being very little cooler in the winter than in the summer. No snow, and very seldom any frost, near the coast; inland is much cooler in winter and warmer in summer, and not so moist. The beautiful vallev of the Salinas river lies inland, from twenty to twenty-five miles. is very fertile, forming one of the richest vallies in the country. It is noted for the production of the sugar beet, fine potatoes, wheat, oats and barley. The valley is about 100 miles in length, and, in places, over fifteen miles in width. Salinas City is situated on the Salinas river, about twelve or fifteen miles from the bay of Monterey. It is a town of about 5,000 inhabitants, and is the county site. There will be erected, next summer, at Salinas, one of the largest sugar factories (for beet sugar) in the world.

The city of Monterey is situated on the bay of Monterey; has about 3,000 inhabitants. The city of Monterey is noted for having, at one time, been the capital of the state. It is also quite a resort for pleasure seekers. Fishing and catching whales, is carried on successfully at Monterey. Pacific Grove, Oak Grove and Seaside, are growing towns, on the bay, near Monterey.

For fear I may become tiresome I will close for this time. Monterey, Cal.

1896.

Texas Conventions for 1897.

Central Texas Bee-keepers' Association.

Meets at Temple, Texas, Feb. 5 and 6, 1897. No hotel bills to pay. S. D. HANNA, SECV., Temple, Texas.

Texas State Bee-keepers' Association.

Meets at Greenville, April 7 and 8, 1897. No hotel bills to pay. W. H. WHITE, SECV. Blossom, Texas.

South Texas Bee-keepers' Association.

Meets at Beeville, first Wednesday and Thursday in Nov., 1897. No hotel bills to pay. J. O. GRIMSLEY, SECY. Beeville, Texas.



MURDERED!

We have killed high prices. Give me a trial order and be convinced that good queens can be reared for **50 cts.** each. Untested, 50 cents; Tested, 75 cts. Golden Italians, 3banded Italians, and. Silver-Gray Carniolans, all the same price. Best of references given.

C. B. Bankston, Chriesman, Tex. Burleson Co.

hat Jennic Atchley had queens for sale? If you didn't know it before, you have no reason to doubt it now. Write to The SOUTH-LAND QUEEN for her P. O. Address.



Recommends Itself.

Our Foundation needs no recommendation among those who have used it, and as it is given up to be superior to all makes, we only ask a trial order, which will give you a chance to become a customer. Honey, bees-wax, veils, "Langstroth on the Honey Bee," and general bee-keepers' supplies. Write for catalogue.

CHAS. DADANT & SON, Hamilton, Ill.

Mississippi Hive Factory.

Your orders solicited on hives and supplies; 5 per cent discount till Dec. 1st. Root's Dovetailed hives at Root's prices. Frames with slatted comb guides and thick top bars. Dixie hives at 10 per cent less than Root's prices on Dovetailed hives.

Patronize home enterprise. Money Order office, Byhalia.

W. T. Lewis, - - - Miller, Miss.

Bargains!

Prices of Dovetailed Hives and Sections reduced. We keep a full line of

The A. I. Root Co's

goods in stock, and can fill your orders promptly. We have made a specialty for the last 12 years of raising a select strain of

Italian Queens.

Your wants in this line, we can also supply. Send for

36 Page Catalog

free. Japanese Buckwheat seed for sale.

JOHN NEBEL & SON,

High Hill, Mo.

DEC.

One Prairie Queen Free WITH EVERY ORDER.

Lovers of Bees as a rule are Lovers of Flowers, and we want every Lover of Bees, therefore, to read the following **special offer**. Until March 1st, next, we will give every reader of this Journal an opportunity to get 5 hardy rose bushes, monthly bloomers, for \$1.00, and 1 Queen of the Prairie rose free with each order. This special offer includes 1 White, 1 Pink, 1 Crimson, 1 Red and 1 Vellow rose, or customers may have their own selection; have them all white or red, whichever is most preferable. Add 10 cts. to pay postage. We can ship these roses with safety any time after Feb. 1st, as we dig them in fall, and keep them in cellars during the winter. Orders will be filled as received; first come, first served. To the first 15 parties ordering, we will add two extra rose bushes free, in addition to the Prairie Queen; to the next 10, we will add one extra rose bush. Mention The Southland Queen when sending your order for these roses. **Highland Nursery Company, Rochester, New York.**



1896.



ROOT'S GOODS. DADANT'S FOUNDATION. BINGHAM SMOKERS. HIVES and SUPPLIES.

Kept in Stock by **The Jennie Atchley @.,**

Bingham Perfect Smokers, Cheapost and Best on Earth, Patented 1878, 1882 and 1897

> Now is the time to begin to prepare for the uext season. It is best to order early, and then you will have plenty of time to get in shape for the harvest when it comes.

VOVIER

Beeville, Texas.

Our 1897 catalogue will be ready in a few days, giving full instructions in bee-keeping. The fact is, it is a complete book on bee-keeping. Free.