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## The Southland queen. Vol. III, No. 3 July 1897

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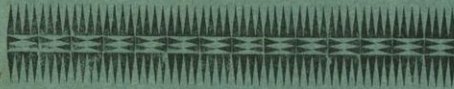
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The 

SOUTHLAND

QUEEN.



BEEVILLE, TEXAS,

July, 1897 

# PRIDGEN'S QUEENS

## THE BEST!



I PURCHASED two queens from Mr. Pridgen July 23d, 1896, which I introduced all right, but the untested one got lost soon afterwards.

I introduced the breeder to a colony or hive, containing about one quart of bees and not exceeding two pounds of honey. The fall was not propitious at all, but she built up fast and her bees gathered enough honey to go through the winter on, as I have not fed a single bit up to date. Her hive now sits in the midst of 33 colonies of blacks, hybrids and thorough-bred 3-banded Italians. Her bees have completed seventy-four 1-pound sections, spring count, and are now in as fine a condition as any hive in my apiary. She is absolutely the **finest queen** in our county, as I know of no one else that has any of Mr. Pridgen's queens in my section of country. I would not take One Hundred Dollars for her to-day, and if I want a reliable queen after this I assure you I am not afraid to give Mr. Pridgen my order. My queen will doubtless sell many queens for Mr. Pridgen during the coming year, as she is one among the finest honey gatherers as well as pleasing to the eye.

E. R. MABUS, Batesburg, S. C.

When you wish Queens like the above send to

W. H. PRIDGEN, Creek, Warren Co., S.C. Draw Money Orders on  
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Write to THE SOUTHLAND  
QUEEN for her  
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# The Southland Queen.

Monthly. Devoted to the Exchange of Thoughts on Apiculture.

\$1.00

Vol. III.

BEEVILLE, TEXAS, JULY, 1897.

No. 3.

WE learn that North Texas is having a good yield this year, and an old-time honey crop is looked for.

WE have just had the biggest rains of the season, which will, we think, insure us a full crop of honey.

THE demand for queens keeps up right along and has not fallen off to date, July 2, as heretofore. We are prepared to send them out promptly.

WE have just received a shipment of sections and extractors from The A. I. Root & Co., and orders will be promptly filled from now on through the season.

WE have just caught up with orders and the factory is resting today. All orders for hives, shipping cases and supplies will go promptly. We have had a busy season, and we feel a great relief by being up once more.

WE show our readers the pleasant faces of E. R. Jones and lady, of Milano, Texas. These folks are

the kind of people that it is a pleasure to meet. Mr. Jones is President of the Central Texas Bee-Keepers' Association.

BRO. GRAHAM, of Greenville, Texas, writes us that his health is improving, and that he expects to be at the Cameron meeting. We are glad to receive the news of his recovery.

WE failed to get the half-tone of C. B. Bankston in time to accompany his sketch last month, but we let the face of the dry, joking, but jovial, good queen breeder appear in this issue. Mr. Bankston is one of those fellows that is always in good humor, and liked by all that know him.

THE demand for sample copies of the SOUTHLAND QUEEN is so great that we are unable to print a sufficient number of each issue to last until the next one is ready. In future we shall try to issue enough copies to last a month, and if we have to send you a copy a year or more old you may know that late ones are out.

## COMB FOUNDATION.

—  
 AN ABLE ARTICLE ON THE NEW IN-  
 VENTION—WHAT WE ARE TO  
 EXPECT FROM ITS USE.

[BY L. STACHELHAUSEN.]

When this number of the *QUEEN* will be in the hands of its readers an article on the management of swarms would be out of season, so I thought it would be just as well to discuss some of the questions of the day and continue the description of my management of the apiary later on.

The most important question of this kind is: What will we have to expect from the new artificial comb called by the inventor and manufacturer "The Weed-Root drawn foundation"?

Nearly half a century ago the late Baron Berlepsch said, "Give me all the empty comb I need and I will make the devil dance bare-footed," meaning he would be able to secure a honey crop never dreamed of before. At that time it was the opinion of advanced bee-keepers that bees needed at least 10 pounds of honey to produce one pound of wax, and, what is of more importance, that bees can fill eight times as many combs with honey as they can build new ones during a good honey flow. At present many bee-keepers do not agree with this opinion. Since then, to produce artificial comb has been the main problem, but for a

long time it could not be satisfactorily solved.

Quite unexpectedly this problem was solved in an indirect way by Houschka, who invented the honey extractor. By this invention it was no longer necessary to melt the combs or destroy them in any way to get the honey out of the combs. The combs were saved and returned to the hive, so every bee-keeper could accumulate a sufficient number of empty combs for the honey crop and could preserve them from one year to another. The invention of comb foundation is a progress in the same direction. The idea was, if we can't produce real artificial combs we can at least give to the bees the material for building comb and induce them to build worker combs when they would otherwise have built drone combs. The importance of foundation in our present method of bee-keeping is too well known to say anything more about it.

At last P. Warnstorf, in Germany, succeeded in manufacturing a real artificial comb with the normal cell depth. The first artificial comb of this kind was produced in Germany about five years ago, but the cell walls were a good deal heavier than those of natural comb, like Schulz's combs mentioned in *Gleanings* by E. Root. It is plain that such combs are useful for extracting purposes or in the brood

chamber, but could not be used in producing comb honey. These artificial combs are in use in Germany. The reason why this invention, like many others, is not utilized in the United States is because the leading journals and manufacturers prefer the production of comb honey in sections and have very little sympathy for the wants and wishes of the producer of extracted honey.

A short time ago we received the news that the A. I. Root Co. had found a way to produce artificial combs of wax very nearly as light as the natural combs built by the bees. Everybody would think the whole bee-keeping world would yell out "Eureka!" because the long searched for point is attained at last. But no; the new comb received quite a different welcome. Some call it an adulteration and others a fraud. Queer people, these bee-keepers! Of course, it is nonsense to talk about fraud or adulteration and it is not necessary to discuss the matter any more. Some people are against progress and we never will convince them. But how can we explain the opposition against such an interesting, if not important and valuable, invention? It is the fear some people instinctively feel if any new invention comes up that it will ruin the small producer, cut the price of products and cause over-production. What have we to

expect in this respect? Early in the spring I received from the A. I. Root Co. a sample, about two square inches, of the new drawn foundation. The same day I cut a hole in a brood comb and fitted the sample in it. The other day it was fastened by the bees. The side walls were gnawed down somewhat, and the bees had strengthened the outer edge of the cells like they always do when building new combs or accepting extracted combs. The queen had laid no eggs in these cells and refused to do so for some days. Afterwards the cells were used for breeding all right. So I know that the new foundation is accepted by the bees the same as extracted comb. We can reason now for what practical use this foundation will be.

In producing extracted honey a careful bee-keeper, if he does not increase the number of his colonies, can keep a sufficient number of empty combs and a quantity of drawn out foundation before or during the honey flow, so that I think he will have use for the new foundation only in exceptional cases, but they will prove very valuable then. In early spring, before the bees can build combs or draw out foundation, the new comb may be of advantage in the brood chamber to spread the brood. Experience will show how much value the new foundation will

have for this purpose. Later in the season I think it is better to use the old foundation with the so called round cell walls. For new colonies and swarms I prefer starters to foundation and foundation to empty combs, consequently I would never use the new foundation for this purpose. I am of the opinion that we already abuse the foundation in this respect. The main purpose of the new article is for the production of comb honey.

Lately the question was discussed in bee papers: "How much extracted honey can be produced as comb honey"? The answers are quite different. While some say twice or three times as much and more, others think they can produce exactly as much comb as extracted honey. Of course, if this were true we would have no use for the new foundation. According to my experience we can give no definite answer. In a very poor season I can get a few pounds of extracted honey from some colonies, while I would not get any comb honey in sections at all. In very good seasons the difference seems very small. The following observations will explain this. If the honey flow is very good and the colonies strong I sometimes use full sheets of foundation between extracted combs in the extracting supers. I always found them worked out by the bees at once, filled with honey and capped

at the same time as the other combs. In a moderate honey flow this foundation is neglected by the bees for some time. The cells of the neighboring combs are prolonged, and afterwards you will find the foundation drawn out more or less and filled with honey, but the cells do not have the normal depth. These observations make it reasonable that under very happy circumstances the same amount of comb as extracted honey could be procured. But the production of comb honey in sections has some other difficulties for bees. They dislike to work in the small chambers formed by  $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$  inch sections and separators. I think with larger sections,  $1\frac{5}{8}$  in. wide, and no separators more honey could be secured.

Some years ago it was recommended to have the foundation drawn out by the bees before the honey flow and to use these drawn combs in the sections. My experience with these combs is that, like the old bait combs, they are very valuable in a moderate honey flow and to induce the bees to start work in the supers, but during a good honey flow, when the bees have already started to work, I could see no difference, the foundation is worked out at once.

If we take all this into consideration, my opinion is that the new foundation, if it will not cost too much, will be very valuable in

many cases, but I doubt if it will revolutionize the production of comb honey or have any influence on the price of the same; so the fear of ruin by the small producer is surely without reason.

We have to consider another objection against the new drawn foundation. Some prominent beekeepers think it will cause more so called "fish bone" in comb honey. The new foundation has no heavier midrib than the extra thin old style foundation though the cell walls are said to be a little heavier than those of the natural comb. E. Root says that according to his observation bees work over the side walls and gnaw them in the same manner as the natural comb. Who ever has observed how bees build combs and work out foundation will surely doubt this statement. We see that the outer edges of the cells are always stronger at the cell walls than elsewhere. This strengthens not only the comb and gives the bees a sufficiently strong foothold while walking over the combs, but here, too, is accumulated the material for prolonging the cells out for forming the cappings. When the bees cover a comb they never use a comb without this strengthened edge, and if the temperature is too low for them to secrete wax, they gnaw off a part of the cell wall to form this edge. The working of the wax is always done in the

same way as a sculptor works clay. It is entirely impossible that bees can gnaw anything from a wall with their manibles. For bees to gnaw an object they must get it between the manibles. This is the reason why the midrib of any foundation is never changed in thickness by the bees. If E. Root has observed that the cell walls of the new foundation were thinner after the bees had the foundation worked over, it was because they had gnawed off a part of the cell walls and worked them over in the way described above. If the cell walls were thinned out to the bottom of the cell, it would be proof for me that the bees had gnawed off the whole cell wall, but then the new foundation would have no advantage over the old. But I know that bees do not do so. Bees have no objection to strong cell walls; they accept the Schulz comb and old combs in which the cell walls are quite thick by the accumulation of the cocoons. The bees are not able to remove them except they remove the whole comb and build a new one. This is another proof of my assertion that bees can not gnaw off anything from a straight wall. E. Root further says, that the foundation had a quite different appearance after the bees had worked over it. This is the same with every foundation, and is caused by saliva which the bees always brush



over the wax when they commence to work it. This saliva dissolves the wax and gives it that opaque, roughened appearance. It softens the wax and makes it easier to be worked and stretched. By this preparation with saliva the wax loses the hard condition we observe in melted wax and gets the appearance and condition of newly built natural comb.

From this theoretical standpoint I do not expect more "fish bone" with the new foundation than with that used at present, but further experience will prove who is right in this respect.

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## CELL BUILDING.

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### A PLAN TO SECURE GOOD CELLS— STRONG COLONIES.

I have been experimenting some this spring to determine on the easiest, best and most satisfactory way to manipulate and prepare bees for cell building to secure uniformly good cells, and as it is a subject that many seem to be interested in, I will give the plan I prefer for the benefit of those to whom the idea may be new. In the first place the idea is to have as many bees of all ages as possible. To accomplish this select a populous colony, put on a queen excluder, then a second story, which fill with combs of as nearly all sealed brood as possible from

other colonies. Ten days later shake the bees off of the combs and remove all queen cells therefrom. Then set the body containing the queen on a stand near by, and the top one in its place. One day later give a batch of cell cups prepared with larvae so young that it will not hatch before the twelfth day, to the queenless part. On the fifth day or about the time the cells are sealed, place the excluder over the cell builders and put the body containing the queen above. When the cells are removed set the queen off, wait a day and repeat the operation, and if as large cells and queens are not secured as ever were seen from natural swarms it can be put down that something was wrong somewhere.

When the second lot of cells are sealed and every time thereafter, remove two combs of honey and add two combs of brood from nuclei or other colonies, placing one on each side of the cells. Whether the bees are gathering from the fields or not, feed the part containing the queen a little each evening while it is off, as it will have no field workers, and feed the cell builders whether, the queen is on or off, all the time unless honey is being stored. The combs of honey or syrup taken from such colony are just right for nuclei, and the best way I know of to feed them.

The two last combs of brood

given should be examined every time a batch of cells is removed, as well as when the cups are given the next day, for queen cells and remove them if found.

If one should only want to rear one batch of cells and then form nuclei for them, a second story put on when the cells are sealed and filled with combs of brood, instead of placing the queen over them, will give combs of honey; brood, cells and bees all together, ready when the cells mature, to form nuclei, and the hive containing the queen can be placed back in its former position when the nuclei are formed. The old bees will return and everything will be about as it was before, except that sixteen or twenty combs of brood have been used, eight or ten nuclei formed and queened, and everything going well. In these cell building colonies is a good place to preserve drones.—W. H. Pridgen, Creek, N.C., June 23, 1897.

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Never allow a swarm of bees to remain long after settling; hive them as soon as possible.

Don't forget to put the swarm in place of the parent colony, setting the latter close by the side of the swarm.

To delay in putting on surplus boxes may cause a colony to swarm that otherwise might have been content to remain throughout the season without swarming.

## OUR ONTARIO LETTER.

—  
RANDOM NOTES—A POOR SEASON  
—SHORT SKETCH OF A SUCCESSFUL APIARIST.

A sunny south often to our mind suggests leisure, luxury, and easy times, extracting in the shadow of immense cypress umbrellas for six months in the year, then a retreat to the broad prairies to refresh ourselves in the gentle oscillations of the hammock. Never wearying our brain with noting the mercury in its sure but slow decline to its icy winter quarters, or trying to detect and capture that insatiate ogre "spring dwindle," in whose rapacious maw thousands of colonies have disappeared, leaving not a vestige—only a lonely remnant to sing a requiem. But thanks to our scientists who, in their close research, have answered many questions and solved many problems, until our annual loss, once thirty or forty, even fifty, per cent. is now reduced to an average of three or four per cent.

In the spring of 1896, with a steady warmth and early flow of nectar, one pint of bees with a good queen seemed to pull through without attention. But in 1897 how different. Our bees get one mild day then two or three days that fairly decimates them. It is only strong colonies that survive. Under the attention given bees ten years ago our loss would have been

heavy but with the present close, skillful treatment the loss may be light on the whole. Last season the honey harvest was the best ever known in Ontario, and with it the long anticipated tumble in prices came.

Ontario has many distinguished names in her directory of apiarists—men of talent, merit, worth and, above all, honesty. Among them we will mention one who has quietly won his way to the front rank as a practical and successful bee-keeper.

Mr. M. B. Holmes commenced in 1882, a swarm coming to him in the harvest field. During the first six years from that colony and their increase he harvested 11,000 pounds of honey besides making considerable sales of bees. Eight years ago he rented his valuable farm of 160 acres, near Delta, and moved to Athens, where he has since acted on the council board, and class leader and Sunday school superintendent in the Methodist church. In the meantime he ran his apiary in this place, and in 1896 his honey harvest averaged 135 pounds to the colony with an increase of about 50 per cent. He keeps up his fine stock by importing a number of queens each year. He is a vice-president of the Ontario B. K. A. Mr. Holms enjoys the respect and confidence of all who know him. Mrs. Holms is a benevolent, gentle and unassum-

ing lady, financially independent in her own right.

In this locality willow and tag alder bloom April 20, wild plum May 10, wild and tame currant and gooseberry May 15, dandelion May 10, apple bloom closes about June 1, forest bloom, except linden, about July 15, from 10th to 15th of June alsike clover will load the air with rich perfume—a fine source of No. 1 honey. Temperature last few days, 45 to 50 deg.—W. S. Hough, Brockville, Ont., Canada, June, 1897.

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#### DON'T.

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In apiculture, as in many other things, it is nearly as important to know what not to do as what to do and how to do it, therefore I bring together a number of "don'ts" which I think will be appreciated all round:

Don't use any old section boxes or crates.

Don't let the wind blow your hives away.

Don't expect bees to thrive in a non-ventilated hive.

Don't discard old reliable queens for untried new ones.

Don't spread your brood nest until you know how.

Don't delay manipulating your bees until hot weather.

Don't neglect your bees during haying and harvesting.

Don't use a single-walled hive or take it even as a gift.

Don't winter your bees a second time on the same honey.

Don't let your brood chambers become clogged with honey.

Don't be afraid to have bees fill the section boxes chuck full.

Don't imagine you know all there is to learn in apiculture.

Don't overstock your apiary with more bees than you can care for.

Don't put your best honey in crates with the second-class honey.

Don't let your bees hang out in festoons all over the front of the hive.

Don't wait until the bees are ready to swarm before manipulating them.

Don't increase your plant until you have an apprenticeship on a small scale.

Don't sit down expecting the bees will give you a surplus; they won't do it.

Don't buy any new implements until you know how to use the ones you have.

Don't, for pity sake, invent a new hive until you have tried all those now in use.

Don't put on the market any poor honey; keep that for home use and to feed bees.

Don't think that the country is overstocked with honey or that yours will glut the market.

Don't spend large amounts for new varieties of queens, but buy

a few from some reliable queen breeder and try them for yourself; try to raise a few each season.

Don't be afraid to try new kinds of queens. You may find one just suited to your wants and pay you big.

Don't rush your honey off to market; sell in your locality at reasonable prices; build up a home trade.

Don't sell your honey at any price; it is worth a dollar a pound in spring to stimulate the bees to activity.

Don't expect a crop of honey every year, or look for as good results from one kind of bees as from three or more.

Don't set your hives too thick in the rows. Leave an avenue of at least 10 feet between rows and 4 feet between hives.

Don't ship your honey to commission merchants; that will stop them from sporting kid gloves and driving fast horses.

Don't expect to get the highest prices for your honey if you put poor, unfinished sections in the center of your crate.

Don't cultivate the friendship of your supply dealer too deeply. Never get in his debt, you are then in his power, and likely, as some do, he will call you a humbug or swindler in his bee trade journal, he never admitting that his implements proved to be the cause of your calamity.

## BIG SNOW IN JUNE.

I thought I would drop you a line to say that the snow is all off now and that bees are breeding up fast. The spring was unusually cold and late. I could not get my bees out of the cellar till April 18, then it came off cold, snowy and frosty right along, so that the bees could not fly but four days in May. On June 4 it snowed 19 hours and froze up with 4 inches of snow on the ground. The mercury went down 18 deg. below freezing, and on the 5th of June water pumped into a tub at noon froze over during the afternoon.

Bees did not build up well, they consumed all their stores and had to be fed, even those that had 80 pounds in hives in the fall. June 13 it warmed up and since then they are spreading brood fast. I do not look for much this year as it is now so late and no swarming will commence before July 10 at least. Cold weather sets in again about September, making a very short season. Some seasons we have a fall yield in August. Hope we may this year.

The Cyprian queen you sent me wintered all right and has a rousing colony, but the bees are so cross. I cannot open the hive at all without getting fifty stings in a second. If all your bees are like these I pity you all. I should like to send you a queen to show you

what gentle bees are. Say, are the girls as cross down there as these bees? If so, I am quite near enough. I am working sixteen hours every day to get my bees in-to shape to make the most of the season when it comes.—E. A. Morgan, Chippewa Falls, Wis., June 23, 1897.

[FRIEND MORGAN—It seems to us that your summers are all winter, and you must be up and doing to get a crop of honey in such short time. We have gentle bees, too, but Cyprians are cross as a rule. The girls are not "Cyps" down here.—ED.]

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 BEES DOING WELL.
 

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The bees arrived last Monday and all seem to be in good shape except one cage, in which half the bees were dead, but the queen was alive though very weak. I introduced them and on Wednesday I thought I would look at the weak one and found her dead in the cage. The others are all right. There was one that was still in the cage, but the bees had taken out all of the candy so she could come out if she wanted to. I will take her out in the morning if she is not out by that time. Bees are doing very well in this country. The honey crop is going to fall short of what was expected in the spring. I have about 75 pounds

to the colony, spring count. My stands are all double but they are still swarming. If my bees prove to be first-class I will give you another order next spring.—J. M. Crutcher, San Luis Rey, Cal., June 5, 1897.

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### SURPLUS HONEY.

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TAKE OUT AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE—BEE TREE CUTTING.

In the last week of May I got a swarm of black bees from a live oak tree that was found and marked as a bee tree five years ago, but not cut on account of its size and hardness. The bees were in a limb about a foot in diameter having a six-inch hollow.

The swarm was a new one, having all new comb with the second lot of larvae still unsealed. The hollow was clear of all old comb and debris, proving that the tree must have been abandoned by the swarm occupying it when first found and then taken up by the the one living there when it was cut. There were about a hundred bees in the swarm that had two plain yellow bands. I know of no Italian or other race within twenty miles of where the tree was cut. To-day, July 2, there appears to be more of the yellow banded bees, but the most of them have only one band.

June 29 I tore up two barrels of bees, in one of which the bees had

dwelt in peace for six consecutive years and in the other for two years. Each contained about 75 pounds of honey; the first white and tender, the second yellow, black and tough. The combs of each came within three inches of the bottom and had from six to ten inches of empty combs; the first only a small swarm, the second a large one. If these were early, prime swarms they evidently built and filled their combs the first season and their owner gained nothing but increase, which was not wanted, by keeping them two and six years respectively, and if the tree had been cut last year the cutters would probably have gone home empty handed. This year about 10 pounds of honey and three frames of brood were obtained.—Geo. Mott, Campbellton, Tex., July 2, 1897.

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It is not good policy to allow a colony to swarm more than once. Second swarms are not profitable, and they cripple the old parent stock so that it will do but little all summer.

Gatesville Messenger: Two or three swarms of bees have possession of the Baptist church at Speegleville, and they make it exceedingly warm for saint and sinner alike. It seems they have come to stay, as all efforts to dislodge them have been futile. The woods are full of bees trees and dozens of swarms pass over every week.

## E. R. JONES.

SKETCH OF A WELL-KNOWN AND  
GENIAL TEXAS APIARIST.

I was born near Paloma, Adams county, Ill., 16 miles from Quincy, March 30, 1863, and came with my father to Texas in January, 1879, mother coming to us the following September. She died May 4, 1880, leaving father and me alone, as I had no sisters or brothers. All the education I have was received in a district school before I was sixteen years old. After mother's death, the family being broken up, I became reckless for a boy, and for four years I sowed and reaped. Meantime father sold the farm and bought another. In October, 1884, I came home and went to work on the farm, father and me keeping bachelor's hall.

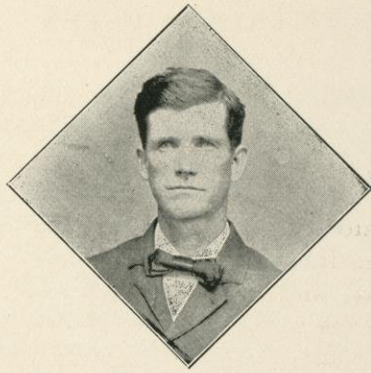
My father kept bees in Illinois, but mother being sick most of the time, he was kept busy keeping the wolf from the door, consequently the bees were neglected.

My bee-keeping career began in June, 1888. The woods were full of them, everybody was finding bees trees and I got a little curious to know if I could not find one, so I went out one Saturday evening and found two. "The jig was up" then, I was in the woods every time I had an hour to spare. I found six in all and bought two. After cutting them down and saw-

ing out a section where the brood was, I set each near the tree it was cut from so that the bees would fasten the comb that had been broken and enable me to move them home; but somebody who did not ask a very high price for their honesty, appropriated three of them, the "web worms" got another and I went through the winter with four.

Meantime I read everything I could get hold of pertaining to bees; made eight hives, each holding eight frames,  $11\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{4}$  inches outside, and supers to match; transferred early in the spring and secured about 400 pounds of honey in shallow frames and increased to eight. The next year I got about the same amount of honey and increased to 16, bought an Italian queen, ABC of Bee Culture, Production of Comb Honey, and various other literature pertaining to apiculture. I tell you I had it bad and have got no better fast ever since. I have laid down on the grass at the side of a hive and watched the bees as they went to and fro, imagining I could see an inquisitiveness in their countenances as they would observe me lying there.

I have never kept more than 35 colonies at one time as my locality is not considered very good for bees. I have never had an entire failure, neither have I had any very large yield; have run my bees



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C. B. BANKSTON.

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MR. AND MRS. E. R. JONES.

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mostly for comb honey. Three years ago I began transferring to dovetailed hives and now have most of my bees in eight and ten-frame hives and a few in shallow frames. In different ways I have done considerable experimenting ever since I began the bee business, and at various times have kept a few colonies of nearly all the different races of bees. I also got a small stock of supplies and have kept up the supply business in connection with my apiary.

Father and I kept bachelors' hall a little over seven years, when I became fully convinced that a life of that kind was not worth living. After the usual preliminary agreements, I was married to Mrs. Eliza Ellen Padgett, since which time we have been blessed with three children and had the misfortune to lose our only boy.

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#### HUTTO DOINGS.

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Well, I want to tell you about the drawn comb sections that I spoke of in my last article as being left untouched when other sections all round were completed. I concluded to move them with the rest of the super to another strong colony. Four days after I examined them and found all the super complete except the drawn comb, it being about three-quarters done. I think I will have them on exhibition at the Cameron meeting.

We have had a fine honey flow here for some time and it still continues. Commenced taking out honey May 19 and have to date 2,500 pounds of section and 3,500 pounds of extracted honey. Am sure we now have at least 2,000 pounds in our extracting hives, and about 2,000 sections from half to three-quarters done, and still the flow continues.—O. P. Hyde & Son, Hutto, Tex., June 10, 1897.

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#### HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

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In reading the journals of late the above question has come up in my mind a great deal, for it really seems to me that a great many contributors to the bee journals, (and many of them otherwise good writers and editors, too,) have overdrawn on their actual experience, have expanded their imagination, and even borrowed from the world of fancy to get material to construct a hideous, threatening monstrosity floating in the neutral waters of future apiculture. I do not want to be misunderstood in the least, and if you will wait just a minute think I can put you on your guard so you will not misinterpret me. The thing that has caused the most of this speculation is the probability that a deep cell foundation will be perfected and manufactured. But this is not all that has been written about speculatively. Other subjects have had

their share of it in proportion as they were considered important, but the first one mentioned is all I shall attempt to say anything about at present, or rather anent the spirit displayed in many of the articles written on the subject.

If a thing has no good in it and we can see harm then, I say, stamp it out by the quickest and surest method. But is there one that has proven its good or evil? If there is, let us give him or her audience until we can prove it ourselves. This premature war on something that only exists in anticipation, looks to me as if editors and writers had run out of subjects to talk about and had to trump up something. Conversely, it seems that when an inventor extols the advantages of his to-be-invention prior to its birth, he or she is trying to take an undue advantage of the public by biasing it before it has any chance to investigate.

I remember coming home alone from one of the neighbors one night when I was a boy. It was pretty dark and the gentle summer breeze was blowing softly and everything was pleasant. But somewhere on the road I took the wrong path and knew no better till I thought it took me a long time to get home, when I looked about me and behold, all things were new. I wandered on and on, quit the road, took my course and came to a strange fence. I climbed over

and surveyed the inclosure by lying down on the ground to get the advantage of the skylight. I outlined a house, barn and orchard, but surely I had never seen them before. I got outside and started down the fence badly bewildered. I heard a rustling in front of me; my heart flew in my mouth and my hat started up. I stood my ground till I swallowed my heart pulled my hat down, steadied my nerves and started on with my eyes open all around. I heard it again and saw it, too, right in front of me. There it was; a huge monster threatening my life and brandishing its war club in a demon-like manner. Did I run? No, I couldn't; but it took both hands to keep my hat from following Elijah. I stood speechless, waiting for the fatal blow, when the breeze increased a little and I discovered it was something hanging from a fence stake. Feeling relieved from a horrible fate, I advanced to see what it was, and found it was a gourd vine that had grown up on the inside and overhung the fence stake. Yes; and I remembered there was a gourd vine growing in the corner of father's lot, and a gourd grown fast in the fourth crack from the ground, and a large stump in the next fence corner. I looked, and there was the gourd fast in the fourth crack, the stump in the next corner. Now the gate was

only four panels further on and I was not long in finding it. That demon-like gourd vine was all that enabled me to recognize my own home.

But what has all this talk about ghosts and gourds got to do with "How much do you know" or the deep cell foundation?

Directly it has nothing to do with how much you know, but it makes a first-class illustration of how much you don't know about the deep cell foundation. Let us not get too hasty in condemning a new thing, nor over zealous about the prospective acme of perfection.

Is the deep cell foundation a demon or a friend? Let us hold our ground and investigate it thoroughly and then act accordingly.

You may ask, what do I think of the new foundation? To answer that question places me in an awkward position, as the bee-keeping fraternity has mutually granted to Dr. Miller a copyright on "I don't know," but I do not think they will be so unkind as to charge a royalty for being in the same boat as the doctor, when I say "I don't know."

Now a few words about what I know. I have never been able to use foundation and produce as brittle, tender comb honey as that produced without foundation. I can tell just how much of a starter was used in securing a box of

comb honey with eyes and mouth both shut, if you will put it on a plate and give me a knife, unless it was built on something much finer than Dadant's extra thin. I never use anything but extra thin in my sections.

Can it be capped with a hot iron? Well, you will have to excuse me again. I had some unfinished sections last summer that were nice, and I wanted to save them for this year. I made a leveller to set over a lamp but did not like its work. I bent the blade of an old case knife at a double right angle so it would cut off the cells about half an inch down flush with the edge of the section, then warmed the blade and it did splendid work. Sometimes it would get a little too hot and in leveling down the comb it would leave two or more cells capped over, so that the capping had to be removed with a penknife. A few days after I was reading in some of my journals of the possibility and impossibility of capping honey without the aid of bees. I laid down my paper immediately and said, "I'll try my knife right now." I warmed it a little more than I did for leveling, took a section of unsealed honey and tried it. I succeeded in capping about one-third of the surface by going over it several times. Then I tried leveling an unsealed section by cutting through the honey. After several trials I capped twenty-one cells at one stroke, cutting right through the honey. I can box more honey by using foundation than without and the nearer full sheets the faster it is drawn out and filled.—E. R. Jones, Milano, Tex.



## OUR SCHOOL

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....INSTRUCTOR....

Mrs. Jennie Atchley.

### LESSON 24.

(8) Can you tell me anything about the honey plants in this vicinity? Give the time of blooming of the honey plants in this state.—Jno. Semmens, Kansas City, Mo., July 2, 1897.

(8) We are not acquainted with the honey plants of Missouri. Would refer you to John Nebel & Son, High Hill, Mo., who is most likely well posted on honey plants in your state. Also the editor of the Progressive Bee-Keeper, Higgsville, Mo., who can likely post you on the honey plants of Missouri.

(9) I am wanting to go into the bee business, and if it will not be asking too much, will you please give me some information. I have very little capital and wish, if possible, to get work, either in your apiary or some other one, so as to learn something of the business, and as soon as possible to start in myself in a small way. Am aware that times are hard and work very scarce, but if possible to get such a position I would work for small pay and probably take most of it in bees and supplies. I am an operator by profession but out of work, and wish to start out in this business for myself. I have had

about a year's employment in an apiary supply factory in Littleton, Colo., which has since been closed down. I wish to start in the business for I have a natural liking for it. Do you think I can get such a position. I think and trust you will help me in this way if possible.

(9) We do not need any help just now, but will look out for you. We insert your letter in full for your benefit, and if any one reads this that is desirous of having help, direct a card to us for the address of the above party. We will assist you in getting a place, and if you were here at our bee meeting next November think you might find a person that would give you work.

(10) Many thanks for copies of the QUEEN. I have read them through from first to last, even the ads. Some articles I read several times. My eight colonies are moving along very nicely, except one that seems to breed slowly and is not very strong. How much honey will a good hive make in your county? At what price do the two kinds sell there? How many colonies could my wife and I handle with profit? Would Victoria or vicinity be a good place for an apiary? I expect to go into the business after this year, and when I move I want to go to the best place for bees. Please send me a catalog. Have you ever seen or tried an Acme hive? What do you think of it? I am anxious to use the best hive consistent with economy, but \$5 seems to me to be

very high for one hive. Would it pay me to ship my bees when I move, or sell and buy again? What price will you have to pay for bees in your section of country? I may seem to ask many questions, but I am intensely interested and wish to learn all I can.—W. H. Long, Jr., Greenville, Tex.

(10) Bees ought to gather fifty pounds of honey per colony for each good swarm, spring count. Comb honey will bring 7 cents and extracted 5 cents per pound. It depends entirely upon how strong and stout you and your wife are as to how many colonies you both can manage. If you are fully posted on bees and the locality in which you keep them, and also familiar with the blooming time of all the honey bearing plants, you two ought to manage 200 colonies. Victoria is said to be good for honey, and we have seen some very rich bees in that county. We have not, as yet, tried the Acme hives, but from Mr. Teft's description and experience with them should not wonder if they were good hives. A great deal depends whether or not it will pay to shift your bees. If you are going to hire a moving car and you can't sell to advantage, better move them. Bees are worth from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per colony here. We are glad to help you out by answering your questions.

(11) A party who wants three

queens wishes to know which is best for honey—the yellow or golden bees or the three-band Italians? He wishes the best for honey, regardless of cost.—Jas. L. Montgomery, Americus, Ga., June 10, 1897.

(11) This is a pretty hard question to decide, as some of the largest yields reported come from the golden bees, and those in yards where hundreds were kept. Others do not like them, though we do not see any difference in the two to speak of when all things are equal. If you have good queens, either will gather large crops of honey if it is to be had.

(12) Please find enclosed 35 cts. in postage stamps, for which send me three back numbers and three months' trial trip of your paper.

What should I do when a young queen does not lay after eight or ten days time has expired? So far as I can tell she is a perfect queen in every respect. Will she lay drone eggs in worker cells if there is no drone comb in the hive? Are the Holyland bees as peaceable as the Italians? In sending for queens to different breeders isn't there a danger of getting old ones?—Geo. Hargadine, Ashland, Ore., June, 1897.

(12) If your young queens are perfect, as you say, the remedy will be a honey flow. Likely you have no honey coming in at the time your young queens ought to begin to lay. If they do not begin laying as soon as honey begins to

be gathered, kill them and give frames of brood and eggs from other hives. Your queen will not lay drones in worker cells if she is perfect. If she does lay drones in worker cells she is not all right. Some times a fairly good queen will lay a scattering drone in worker cells. No; the Holylands are not, as a rule, as peaceable as Italians. Yes; often tested queens may be old, and such may be sent out unless you ask for a young one. However, we think all queen breeders will take care not to send queens too old for use.

(13) As I am a novice any information you could give will be appreciated. I have the SOUTHLAND QUEEN and your Lessons in Bee-Keeping. I bought two colonies of bees and they are said to be Italians. What are the true marks of pure Italian bees? The bees have been hanging out in front of their hives for two months and have not had a swarm yet. From the first hive I got fifty-three pounds of honey and the second only twenty-one pounds. Why this difference? If you will give me light on this I will be thankful. Lee Elder, Biloxi, Miss., June 8, 1897.

(13) The best way that I know of to tell pure Italian queens is by all the workers showing three yellow bands. Some Italians that are pure do not show the third band only when full of honey. The difference in the yield is likely due to

one queen being more prolific than the other, or the second colony may have had a bad start on account of stores or from some other causes, but when all things are equal a colony that gathers more honey than the others is due to the queen being superior and her stock better honey gatherers. This is the key to successful honey producing. If we could have a good queen in each colony that was from good stock for honey, we could secure enormous crops in good years.

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#### ANSWERS FOR ALL.

To cover a number of questions by different parties, all amounting to about the same thing, we would say: The best package for extracted honey in this country that we have yet tried, is the 60-pound screw top can. The best width of sections to give general satisfaction are the one and seven-eighths inches wide. We think the Cowan extractor (2-frame,) is the cheapest by \$2.50 each than the old Novice. That is, the Cowan is cheaper at \$10.00 than the Novice at \$7.50. We have not tried the Dauzenbaker hives, but we are not stuck on so many changes anyway; had enough of that long ago. Nearly all parts of Southwest Texas are good good for honey. North and Middle Texas are having fine crops this year.

## PROSPECTS FOR 1897.

I have a great demand for honey and have sold out all I have on hand. I cannot keep enough on hand the demand is so great. My bees are doing very well.—T. G. Morgan, Boyce Rapids Parish, La.

There is but little white clover in my vicinity, but I know of localities not far away that if I had my bees there they would easily gather 100 pounds to the colony from the white clover which is more abundant than I have ever seen it.—E. T. Flanagan, Belleville, Ill.

I am pleased to say that this has been a good honey year. We are having a fine flow in this county, and my bees have plenty of honey and are gathering fast. They have done extra well.—T. A. Elliott, Hagansport, Franklin, Co., Tex.

Bees are booming; hives full of wild tobacco honey. Some have filled their sections three-quarters full. Mesquite, horsemint and cat claw begin blooming soon. I look for an abundant honey crop. Have hived 10 swarms to-day. Extracted 5,000 pounds honey.—Gust. Kunke, Ballinger, Tex.

The best honey flow we have had in nine years. Colonies are in prime condition, storing from 5 to 7 pounds per day. I have

colonies that have 100 pounds in the hive now and every drop was gathered in three weeks. It is from horsemint and as white as water.—E. R. Jones, Milano, Tex.

Change my postoffice address from Hannibal to Colorado, Tex. You see I'm in the west where the atmosphere is pure, sky clear and unclouded, and a genial, healthy and invigorating climate. The summers are long and pleasant, winters short and mild. Where the little bees can gather pollen and sweet nectar fully nine months in the year. Our main honey plants are fruit bloom, mesquite, cat claw, besides other shrubs and flowers in abundance. And I want to say right here that I am not the only one who has found this favored clime, for honey at this place is getting as cheap as moonshine on the plains. Now I am in Colorado City I will tell you how I got my bees here. I used my lightest hive, tacked on a light bottom, crowded the bees into the smallest space, putting two queens in some with a division board between, put a quilt on them, tacked a honey board on top and screened the entrance. Had 20 queens in 13 hives. They were three days caged and lost one queen. Talk about coon hunting! I never saw bees want to fight so bad in my life as those when I released them. A. J. Crawford, Colorado, Tex.



# THE Southland QUEEN.

Published Monthly.

E. J. Atchley, Editor and Business Mgr.  
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Mrs. Jennie Atchley, Ed. and Manager  
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BEEVILLE, TEXAS, JULY, 1897.

WE will give two months' subscription for each February, 1897, number of the SOUTHLAND QUEEN that is returned to us in good order. We are out of that issue and have had several calls for it lately.

WE call our readers attention to the advt. of W. H. Pridgen on second page of cover. In the address S.C. should read N.C. (North Carolina).

THE heading to O. P. Hyde's article in the June number should read, "It will not prove a boon to honey producers," instead of "It will not prove a bar, etc."

WE are sorry to learn of the misfortune of our friend R. E. Thrift, of Georgetown. He broke his leg a short while ago and is not able to be out yet. Hope he may soon be well again.

OUR farmers and people generally, are killing out the rabbits of this country by corralling them and slaughtering them with clubs. These pests have become quite numerous and do great damage to growing crops of all kinds.

WE are still flooded with letters of inquiry about this country. Our special number describing this section is exhausted and we really have no time nor space to rehearse it. We will hand all such letters of inquiry to our most reliable land agents for reply. Please bear with us in this as we are doing the best we can for you. For the benefit of our subscribers will say that we consider this a fine bee country.

OUR weather at present is so very warm that it will be risky to send queens out by mail during the next two months. Some of our nuclei have been melting down lately.

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OUR June flow of honey is coming, so it seems, in July this year. This is brought about by the cool late spring. Our flowers were all blighted and ruined in April, right when we ought to have had a big flow on.

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BEES are now gaining some. We had the worst April and May on bees that we have ever seen in this country. In all our experience we never had so many young bees hatch out with imperfect wings as was the case during these months. The excessive cool nights were the cause. The bees had bred up early and had more brood than they could cover or care for, and it suffered.

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HUNDREDS of cars of melons have been leaving this country for northern markets during the past month, also garden vegetables of all kinds, more especially beans and tomatoes. We think that the right kind of gardeners could do well here raising early and late vegetables for northern markets. In fact those that are up and doing are getting along nicely at this business. We need more of it as the country is undeveloped in this line.

WHEN you come to the Bee meeting in Beeville, first Wednesday and Thursday in November, bring along samples of all the grades of honey you have secured this season. Bring that which has been gathered from different sources, as we wish to get the names of all the honey plants that furnish the surplus of this State and the quality of each. We are having cuts made of the various honey plants of this country and intend to publish them for the benefit of our readers so that they may acquaint themselves with the honey flora of this country. Don't forget to bring samples, good and bad, and as near as possible the time gathered and from what source.

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AS AN occupation bee-keeping is making progress in many desirable directions. True there are a few yet who try to belittle bee-keeping by giving the impression that anyone can keep bees and succeed without experience and labor, and others who think the experience of able men should not be presented. All this we are leaving behind us, and we are standing upon a broad and liberal platform. This industry is being recognized as a wealth-producing power of the country. The study of the life history of the honey bee has thrown open to scientific men some of the most beautiful laws of

nature, in that way increasing reverence for the creator of all things, who has set these laws in force.

THE thermometer registered 108 deg. in the shade yesterday, July 7, and to-day has the appearance of being just as hot. We are hauling bees all this hot weather, and with few exceptions have not broke any combs down. Our wagon, which was made especially for hauling bees, is very easy and springy.

## Texas Conventions for 1897.

### 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.

### Central Texas Bee-keepers' Association.

Meets at Cameron, Texas, July 16 and 17, 1897. No hotel bills to pay. S. D. HANNA, SECY.,  
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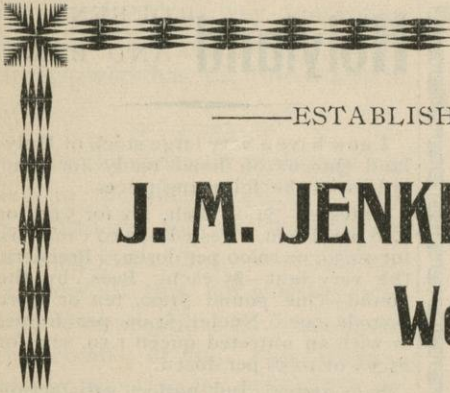
Office over  
First National Bank, BEEVILLE, TEXAS.

## The Bee-Keepers' Review

for December, 1896, contains a double page illustration of four out-apiaries located near Flint, and managed by one man for comb honey, with almost no help. A portrait of the owner, and a description of his methods are also given. There is also a fine picture of bees secreting wax and building comb made from a photograph taken by the editor. Mr. Taylor has a long article on hives. There is the review of foreign journals by F. L. Thompson; Hasty's three-page review of the American journals; the usual extracts and editorial comments, etc.

The Review is \$1.00 a year, or 1.25 for the Review and the book, "Advanced Bee Culture;" 1.75 for Review and a fine tested queen—the queen to be sent early in 1897. New subscribers get the December issue free.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.



—ESTABLISHED 1884.—

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DEAR SIR,—Have used the Conqueror 15 years. I was always pleased with its workings, but thinking I would need a new one this summer, I write for a circular. I do not think the 4-inch Smoke Engine too large. Yours,  
January 27, 1897.

W. H. EAGERTY, Cuba, Kansas.

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