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## **The California apiculturist. Vol. 1, No. 1 February, 1882**

Oakland, California: Apicultural Pub. Co., February, 1882

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# THE CALIFORNIA

# APICULTURIST

VOL. I. NO. 1.

FEBRUARY, 1882.

TERMS: \$1.00 PER YEAR.  
IN ADVANCE.

## Our Workers.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

BY G. M. REID.

ONE of our greatest lawyers is said to have attributed his success to the fact that he always came into court with his case well prepared, his plans for the attack or defense fully matured, more than to anything else, for courts don't wait for meditation or preparation.

It may be said, with equal truthfulness, that the bee-keeper who makes a real success is the one who commences the business fully prepared, for bees don't wait for preparation. When the time for work and swarming has come, it would be well for every bee-keeper to decide before the working time begins just how much he intends to increase his bees during the season, and complete enough hives for their reception before swarming, so that it will be necessary to do nothing more than place the hive and shake them in, (if he depends on natural swarming), for bees don't always wait for hives to be nailed together; and besides, hives which have been hastily knocked together while the bees are hanging on the bush, are almost, always out of square, and have crevices both at the top and bottom—a tempting bait for robbers. The frames also generally go in and out of such hives with a jerk, being ever after a nuisance both to bee-keepers and bees, for I have always found it an ugly job to alter a hive thus hastily constructed while the bees are in it. Another preparation, which should be made early in the season, and

which most bee-keepers pay too little attention to, is the rearing of early queens. A little forethought would quickly convince any intelligent bee-keeper of his error in neglecting this. Suppose a hive has become queenless, or has been divided and left to "manufacture" their own queen from the larva, or from capped queen cells. In the former case, it would take 3 days at least for the queen to hatch from the larva; 5 days more would elapse before she went on her wedding tour, making at least 20 days before they have a fertile queen. A good queen will lay 2,000 eggs a day in the swarming season. In each hive for the 20 days there would be a loss of 40,000 bees—more than enough for one swarm. Or, in the latter case, each stock would be at least 11 days without a laying queen, making a loss of 22,000 bees for each stock, or almost enough for one swarm. Besides, if a hive of bees without a queen build any comb, it will be drone comb, thus giving a surplusage of drone comb in the brood chamber, while if the bees had a young queen, they would construct nearly all working comb. All this loss is caused by beginning the season unprepared.

Then let every bee-keeper begin the season by being prepared with hives, and plenty of queens to take the place of those that may die, and also to supply divided colonies when necessary.

Los Angeles, Cal.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### HONEY MARKETS; BEE-KEEPERS, SUSTAIN YOUR JOURNAL!

IT is a source of great satisfaction to know that we are to have a journal in California devoted to the interest of "Bee Culture," and to

encourage an industry destined to develop into a trade of immense worth to the counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino and San Diego.

Great interest should be taken by every apiarist to sustain such a journal, and make it what it might and should be. The outlook for a better market for honey has improved. We will no longer depend on San Francisco as the only outlet, but look to eastern centers of trade, where we will find a reasonable demand for California honey; and then, too, Europe will receive the immense quantities of California honey she raises, direct from the counties already mentioned. But in order to secure and develop a trade in eastern and European markets, the apiarian should never send an inferior article from his apiary, unless it was first branded as such. It pays in the end to establish a good reputation as a honey producer.

With many well wishes for the APICULTURIST, I am

Yours most respectfully,  
Los Angeles, Cal. J. H. B.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

### BEEES AND HONEY IN NAPA COUNTY.

### CHEERING WORDS FOR THE "APICULTURIST."

EDITOR APICULTURIST:—I am glad to learn that the CALIFORNIA APICULTURIST is about to be started. I have just secured my bee literature for 1882, but am willing to lend my mite to securing something in the way of a journal devoted to apiculture, adapted to the Pacific Coast, and, I hope, not devoted to private interest, but to the production of the best and purest honey in its most inviting shape and quality, best apiarian implements, and the develop



ment of the honey resources of our State to the interest of its producers. The honey interest in this part of the State is at a very low ebb at present. The general impression is, that the honey is not so good in quality as that of the southern part of the State, and that the moth worm is more troublesome. To look at many of the hives in use, one need not be astonished. The idea prevails, that anything will do to keep bees in, and the more swarms one has the better they are doing at the business; but later, the moths get the best of them, and the honey has a bad taste. The time is passing when "bees work for nothing and board themselves." They will do better with assistance from *humans* at the proper time, and *humans* will be better satisfied, after having been assisted by the experience of those that give the *facts* of their experience, through the different journals devoted to that specialty. I am taking three eastern bee magazines, yet hail the birth of the *California infant*. Although we have no dearth of eastern bee literature to choose from, still there has always been a call for something on the subject, adapted to the wants of this coast, which I trust the CALIFORNIA APICULTURIST will fill.

J. D. ENAS.

Napa, Jan., 1882.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

#### OURSELVES.—WILL CHINAMEN KEEP BEES IN CALIFORNIA.

EDITOR APICULTURIST—*Sir*: I have just received yours, stating that you propose publishing a California bee journal and ask me to send you something for its columns.

I hail this news with delight and I will send you something for the next number.

The want of such a journal has long been felt by the bee-keepers of this State, and now that they are to have one all to themselves, they should stand by it, aid it by subscribing to it, and also give their experience through its columns.

No doubt it will be unselfish and have no axe to grind; that it will be conducted on pure principles and to the best interest of bee-keepers. If it does this, long may it prosper.

The bee business ought to be prosperous in this State, and no doubt it will be if the products of

our apiaries are not brought into competition with Chinese bee-keepers. Nearly every branch of agriculture on this Coast is being taken hold of by these vampires on white civilization. So far they have not, to my knowledge, attempted raising honey to any considerable extent in this State; and may they *never* do so. What think you, Mr. Editor, on this subject? W. A. PRYAL.  
N. Temescal, Cal., Jan. 20, '82.

[We shall at all times conduct this journal on "pure principles and in the best interests of the bee-keeper." We "have no axe to grind" and are not, in any way, interested in the manufacture or sale of apiarian supplies.

The Chinamen are too much of cowards to attempt to handle bees, so we have no great fears in that direction. We wish all other occupations had as many stings about them as ours has, if such stings would be the cause of keeping off the Mongolian horde. Thanks for your kind words.—ED.]

[Written for the APICULTURIST.]

#### MOVING BEES.

BY N. LEVERING.

WE are often asked the question, as to how bees should be prepared for moving. We would advise covering the hives with coarse sacking or other coarse cloth—this will admit plenty of air. The cloth may be put on with small slats laid on top of the cloth and nailed to the top of the hive, the heads of the nails should project one half inch above the slats, so that in case of hot sun the covers may rest on the heads of the nails so there will be a free circulation of air underneath. If they are to be moved a long distance, the frames should be secured by small nails driven through each end of the top bar. Should there be combs filled with honey, it should be extracted, especially if the honey is not capped over and the weather warm, and distance long. If the colony should be very strong it would be well to divide them, especially if they should be confined in the hive over twenty-four hours, and the weather warm. Bees when confined to the hive in transportation, generate more than the ordinary amount of heat, and if the bees are crowded will cause the comb to melt down and the bees to perish in their own

sweetness. The entrance of the hive should be closed with wire cloth. Great care should be taken in handling the hive, and not jolt or jar them more than possible. To move bees in box or log hives, invert the hive and cover the bottom with coarse cloth as before named. They should be transported in an inverted position. If by railroad, on an open or platform car.

[For the APICULTURIST.]

#### THE OUTLOOK IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BY R. TOUCHTON.

OWING to the extreme cold and dry weather, and the scarcity of pollen producing flowers, especially in the mountain aparies, and unless stimulating feeding is practiced and artificial pollen furnished (graham flour is very good for this), many colonies will come out very weak in the spring.

Many bee-keepers are getting discouraged on account of no rain, but a few are more hopeful. They say, we have had the best seasons when the rain held off 'til late, but however this may be, we are *all* getting anxious for rain, and should it keep dry for another month it will be policy to reduce the number of colonies; select the *best* colonies containing the *best* queens and into these put all the honey from the others. In this manner a bee-keeper may carry through the cream of his apiary, without expense, even though they gathered no natural stores.

Bees located on lowlands and near streams will fare better, but even these would probably require feeding, unless we have more rain. Of course it would pay, where one has sufficient means, to feed all good colonies through a dry season, even if it required 50 lbs. to the colony, for in a good season this colony would produce from 200 to 300 lbs. of surplus honey—a big profit compared with the investment. But for those with limited means it is best to save the *few* and the *best* and save all good worker combs, then in a good season they can easily breed up to the original number. We hope no such catastrophe will overtake us this year, but 'tis well "in time of peace to prepare for war."

Santa Paula, Ventura Co.,

Jan. 22.



## Our Extractor.

[FROM LOS ANGELES EXPRESS.]

### THE SONG OF THE BEE.

WITH dreary hum,  
I go and come,  
Like flitting, fairy maiden;  
And come and go  
Where zephyrs blow,  
With flowery incense laden.

In hermit glen,  
From haunts of men  
Afar I seek my treasure;  
And revel long  
Where beauties throng  
To list my tender measure.

By fount and spring,  
On wayward wing,  
Each fancy bright pursuing;  
Amid their bowers  
I seek the flowers,  
And trance them with my wooing.

With thrill of bliss  
Bright lips I kiss,  
Nor dream of faithless wronging;  
And hour by hour,  
From flower to flower,  
I tell my tale of longing.

O'er hill and lawn,  
From rosy dawn,  
Till sunset's lances quiver,  
I flit and sing,  
And sip and cling,  
Like lover fond forever.

And all day long,  
With ceaseless song,  
I drift o'er flowery meadows;  
And sing and dream,  
And flash and gleam,  
Till fall the twilight shadows.

ALBERT F. KERCHEVAL.

### FAINT HEART NEVER WON, ETC.

WE extract the annexed from the *Beekeepers' Exchange*, and though the editor is "lecturing" Eastern apiarists, still we think that his remarks are, at this time, quite in place for our California brethren:

"Temporary adversity must not, however, discourage us, but should brighten our understandings and increase our powers to cope with difficulties. Small returns for last year's crop of honey, followed by great and widespread mortality during winter, succeeded by a short honey crop, are discouraging indeed, and will tend to decrease the number in the business. This fact of itself should prevent any one from discarding the business if he has an investment of experience and capital. While we, as a fraternity, have suffered loss

and discouragement, we have great reason to thank the father of mercies for the blessings we do enjoy.

From our retrospect we judge that we have no reason to despond, for in such general prosperity it must be 'an ill wind that blows nobody any good.' The great secret of prosperity is a rigid economy, that lives within its income and avoids getting into debt. Therefore, if your income has been small, study economy, and be sure to lop off all unnecessary expenditures for luxuries, and things that can be dispensed with, but be assured that to begin economy by stopping your periodicals is a very mistaken one, and one that will result in greater loss than profit. For, in this age of rapid progression, the man who does not keep well posted will certainly lose more than the trifling sum required to pay for a few periodicals. But these remarks may not be received in the spirit of candor that actuated them, therefore we ask you to accept so much as you believe to be true.

Let us forget the past, except to profit by its experiences, and make our plans early and with deliberation, for the future; and not only plan early, but be sure that we put our plans into tangible form, *i. e.*, make all needed preparations during the winter, or before the bees require attention, for we should all know that when the bustle of summer is upon us, we have no time to make hives, boxes, cases, etc. We doubt not, that failure to have all needed materials in readiness, entails more loss than any other single cause. Then too hasty preparation means additional expense, poor goods sometimes, and very often trouble. We are well qualified to give this advice, as from our relation to bee-keepers, we know the amount of tardiness that is indulged in."

### YOUNG JONES' DISGUST FOR BEES.

MYRON Jones was a first-rate young fellow in his way. For some reason he became suddenly enamored with the idea that he would make an excellent bee keeper, and accordingly set about engaging in the business in a very enthusiastic manner. He purchased a few colonies and arranging them in line so as to give the appearance of order and a well regulated apiary. He next proceeded to examine them, when,

on opening a hive, the occupants thinking their rights assailed, went sharply for our enterprising young novice, who quickly repelled the attack by drawing back his foot, encased in a huge stogy, which he brought up against the side of the hive like an old time battering ram against the gates of Jerusalem, hurling the hive several feet out of line. "Lie there you little devils," shouted he, "and let that teach you some sense."

The bees, however, taught our novice some sense, for he immediately sold his pets and gave up bee keeping in disgust.—*Ex.*

### SMALL PACKAGES FOR HONEY.

Mr. Jones, of Ontario, Canada, says that small packages of honey sell best in that country, especially when in tin cans. He uses five sizes, holding from two ounces to five pounds. He sold five cent packages best at the fair at Toronto. The small cans brought in larger orders. At home he sold 15,000 lbs., and at the fair 30,000 lbs. He believes that small packages prepare the way for large ones.—*Ex.*

[We find that in the Oakland market, tin cans holding from one to five pounds, are in greater demand than honey in frames, or in glass bottles or jars. Customers like to see the honey drawn from a large tank into these small pails. At first they buy a pail, and like it so well that they come back in the course of a few days and ask to have the can refilled. Those who use considerable honey in their family, send a tin vessel to their grocer, and have him return it filled. By doing this, they find that they can obtain more honey, as the merchant can afford to do this, he saving the price of a pail or can.—*Ed.*]

### THE FUTURE OF THE HONEY MARKET.

MR. T. G. Newman, of Chicago, gave an address before the last meeting of the Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Society on the above subject. He said he had given the subject a great deal of thought, and believed the market, to be developed, should be kept constantly supplied. He thought that extracted honey is

(Continued on page 6.)



# The California Apiculturist

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE

APICULTURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

AT OAKLAND AND LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA.

N. LEVERING, - - - - Editor.

## Terms of Subscription:

\$1.00 per annum.....in advance  
.50 for six months.....“

Any person sending club of three will be entitled to an extra copy (like the club), sent to any address desired. Sample copy free to those who can use them to advantage.

Remit by money order, registered letter, express to Oakland, or bank draft on San Francisco, payable to order of Apicultural Pub. Co.

All business communications, etc., should be sent to the office of publication at Oakland. Articles for publication should be sent to the Editor at Los Angeles, Cal.

Advertising Rates on last page.

Entered at Oakland Post Office as second-class matter.

## Editorial.

### SALUTATORY.

IN taking the editorial chair of the CALIFORNIA APICULTURIST, it is but proper and right, that we spread out our chart before the apicultural world, in order that the fraternity may know what course we propose to follow.

The great necessity for such a journal on this coast, to disseminate apicultural knowledge, build up and advocate the general interest of this pleasing branch of science, has long been felt, especially so since apiculture has assumed a prominent position among the industries of this country.

It will be our object and aim to advocate every interest and measure calculated to advance this important branch of industry. When its interest is attacked, we shall fearlessly defend it with the sword of truth and the shield of justice. We will endeavor to make it a light for the novice, that he may ascend upward and onward in this path of science, and learn "how doth the busy bee."

We will advocate every new improvement and advancement made

in this department, that we regard essential to its interest. We shall denounce all humbugs and impositions that are being so extensively practiced upon the fraternity. We will endeavor to call around us the most brilliant lights in the galaxy of apiculture, that their light may reflect through the columns of the APICULTURIST upon the bee-keeping world, and render its popularity unsurpassed by any journal of like character in the universe. This will be in keeping with our State, which is unsurpassed by any country in the world for the production of honey, both as to quantity and quality.

Our new enterprise will not only be an important auxiliary to every apiary in this State, but to all those in similar climates the world over. Our columns will be open for free exchanges of opinions, *pro et con*; but not for the publication of exaggerated accounts of the country, or in apicultural pursuits, or anything that will mislead or harm any one; but we shall act upon the principle that TRUTH IS MIGHTY. Our best efforts will be made to make the APICULTURIST a standard of authority upon the subjects of which it treats, so that the experienced as well as the novice may rely upon it with implicity.

Now having outlined our course, which we hope will be acceptable to all, and with hat under arm, we make our best bow, mount the tripod, and like the "busy bee," gather rich treasures from various fields, and store them in the columns of the APICULTURIST, from which all may draw, and be happy and prosperous.

### THE SEASON OF 1881.

THE year 1881 has been another year of defeat to the apicultural interest in California, and scores another for "blasted hopes." Yet we trust the results have impressed some wholesome admonitions upon the apirist, that he will

not weaken his bees by early divisions before swarming time. Colonies thus formed are, in an unfavorable season, reduced in stores and numbers, so much so that they cannot recuperate sufficiently to survive the season, and are consequently lost, as the past season has demonstrated.

What has been the cause of the failure of the honey crop in the past year, when flowers were so plentiful? is a query to many. The simple solution of the problem is that the flowers failed to secrete honey, notwithstanding they presented as fresh and vigorous an appearance as in former years when the secretion was abundant. The only reason we can give for this non-secretion is that of the cool state of the atmosphere during the time of flowering. Our observation has been that during the seasons of 1877, '79 and '81, which were total failures in many places, and a general failure to a great extent the world over, during the early part of the working seasons of these years, and while the principal honey plants were in bloom, the atmosphere was unusually cool; cool winds prevailed during the entire honey season, thus drying up or preventing the secretion of nectar in the flowers. The season of 1880 was a partial failure, there being about a half crop. There was not so much cold wind that year as the two previous years.

Warm weather is essential during flower-bloom for the secretion of honey. If a record of the weather was kept, and an examination of the flowers made during the different stages of the atmosphere, the above statement would be apparent to the observer.

The Apiculturist will be enlarged, and improved as demands and circumstances require—liberal patronage will insure this. Then swarm out in the sunlight of your prosperity and settle on the APICULTURIST.



## PLANT FOR THE BEES.

WE are under many obligations to our friend, W. Neaves, of Cold Water Cañon, for a quantity of mignonette seed, which we will sow in and about our apairy for the benefit of our little pets.

Mr. Neaves has induced all his neighbors to raise more or less of this excellent bee feed by donating the seed to those who will sow it. This is certainly proper and commendable, and should be imitated in every neighborhood where bees are kept. If it were, Apiculture would be more of a success than it now is. "Go thou and do likewise."

Since the above was written, we found the annexed in the *American Bee Journal*, and as it sustains our position on this subject we commend it to the consideration of our readers:

"We have not had the room and time for extensive planting ourselves; but so far as our personal experience goes, we are satisfied with the feasibility of the plan. We believe that it will pay in a financial point of view, and in the more settled districts is destined to become the chief corner-stone for profitable bee-keeping."—*Indiana Farmer*.

To which the editor of the *A. B. J.* adds:

"Yes, it is destined to become the chief corner-stone for profitable bee-keeping; there can be no doubt of it in the minds of reflecting, *practical* men. If it will pay to have bees work on basswood or white clover for a week or two, how much more profitable will it be to give them *continuous pasturage*, from which to gather honey from spring till frost? This is self-evident, and settles all controversy! By all means, plant for honey. There are many good honey-producers, but none are better than sweet clover—and none *can* give a more continuous flow of honey from June till after it too cold for the bees to fly."

"First bees in rocks their habitation sought,  
Or hollow trees their wondrous structure wrought,  
'Till man a more commodious mansion gave  
And called them from the woods and dreary cave."  
—*Bromwich*.

## Editor's Portfolio.

**Our Exchanges** will be with all the leading bee journals in the world, so that we will be able to gather items from various fields.

**We wish** to publish a Local Convention Directory. Will the secretaries of the various associations in the State, forward us the time and place of meeting of their societies.

**All who** receive this number of the APICULTURIST will not only subscribe for it; but will get his neighbors to do the same. Like the busy bee, let each one contribute his mite in building up the storehouse of knowledge and experience, and you will draw from it ten fold. Try it and see if it is not so.

**Read all** the advertisements in the APICULTURIST. They are men who manifest a willingness to patronize and help build up an enterprise that will be conducive to the general interest of Apiculture. They are men worthy of your patronage and confidence.

**What we want** in Los Angeles is manufactories to manufacture bee keepers supplies of every character, and at as low prices as they can be obtained elsewhere. There is no locality in Southern California more favorably situated for that business than Los Angeles, as it is in the heart of the best honey producing portion of the State and of the world, for that matter.

**Send us** the names of bee keepers who would be likely to subscribe for a bee journal. If you send us a list of your neighbor bee keepers who would likely take the APICULTURIST we will send each one of them a sample copy. We want 2,500 subscribers by the first of April. To all who subscribe by the first of March, 1882, can have our journal for one year by sending us only seventy-five cents.

**Eminent Bee-keepers** throughout the State, as also many elsewhere, have promised to contribute to the present volume of our journal. So, subscribe now and obtain the writings of these renowned apiarians.

**Sometimes** we may happen to send two or more copies of the APICULTURIST to one address. To all who may receive such will do us a favor by handing the extra copies to some person in their neighborhood who is interested in bees or honey.

**The Kansas Bee-keeper** was to be changed from a four-page newspaper to a 20-page magazine with the January issue. As we have not received any number of this journal for some months, we are unable to try it in "Our Extractor" this time.

**The first** number, of the present volume, of the *American Bee Journal* is before us in its improved form. Bro. Newman is working like a Trojan to keep the *Journal* in the front rank of bee journalism, and he deserves much praise for his ambition. Long before we knew what the style and form of the *A. B. J.* of this year was to be, we decided to have the APICULEURIST as you now see it. Readers, we have not taken Bro. Newman's paper for a model; but how much the two look alike—a sort of strange coincidence. Still, we would not be ashamed of having taken such a veteran as a copy.

**We have** a number of contributions which we have to lay over for our next issue. Some are on subjects that are in this issue. Another reason for letting them go over is, we have not space for them all. We hope those friends who have favored us with these articles will not feel slighted, for we are glad to have them, and will use them in future issues. Kind friends, try and help us make our journal large enough to contain all your contributions.

**The Bee-keepers' Exchange** has come to us in its new dress, and it makes a very creditable appearance, indeed. Messrs. Houck & Peet seem determined to make the *Exchange* one of our best bee publications.

**Stings.**—The poison of a bee sting may be forced out by pressing the barrel of a small key firmly for a minute over the wound. No wound or swelling will result.



(Continued from page 3.)

to become the staple for the masses, and that comb honey, being higher priced, would be used more by the rich, although it was but little, if any, better. The market may be extended almost indefinitely, if properly managed. A few years ago the bee-keepers of California were producing more than could be sold at home, and the price became very low. By sending samples over the country, the demand became so great as to leave no honey for the use of the producers themselves. California honey is now in demand everywhere. A proper working up of the market had accomplished this. He expected to see the time when honey would be sold at the door of apiaries, instead of going through the hands of dealers. He strongly advised every honey producer to develop his home market, and cited instances where great good had been done it. Our foreign market for honey is developing fast, and was destined to be very large. Wherever honey is introduced, it sells afterwards on its merits. Honey must be put in marketable shape, and this is rapidly growing to be the case. He thought that a bright future was very near.

When honey can be sold at the door of every apiary, it is a staple. Men will look the country over, buy the honey, and all will be sold and distributed. Honey is good to keep. It is not perishable. It can be transported to foreign markets.—*A. B. J.*

#### GOOD TIMES AHEAD.

WHETHER bees died in the long-ago, or not, is of little concern to us while we have such abundant proof that they do so now. If with our new and improved methods of getting a hundred-fold more honey than formerly, and can increase our stocks ten-fold more rapidly, we have increased the mortality of the bees, let us endeavor to lesson it by the proper protection of our stocks, than by returning to the old unprofitable times, when the bees were quieted by the fumes of sulphur, and the hive was opened with a meat axe. Renewed courage comes to the apiarist by renewed prosperity of the bees. Honey brings fair prices and colonies of bees are in demand at living rates.

Many who were discouraged by losing all, are anxious to try again, while as many amateurs as usual are trying their hand at the business. To the man who has faith in bees, the outlook is really encouraging, and if my predictions are verified, he who will now continue in the business of keeping bees, or enter this field, will reap a reasonably rich reward.—*G. W. Neihardt, Orland, Ind., in Bee-keepers' Guide.*

#### NATIONAL BEE-KEEPER'S SOCIETY

##### WHY NOT MORE HARMONY?

TIME and again, from all accounts our national convention has become a rather meagre thing, although the journals have done all in their power to keep it up. We look upon it as being almost fruitless. We have often compared our National Bee-keepers' Convention to the agricultural interest of the country, and see the difference. With the bee-keepers one-half to nine-tenths of them seem to have an axe to grind, too many having a personal interest at stake. A class of bee-keepers have been so jealous of each other that it destroys the interest of any society or institution. This green-eyed monster, jealously, is some of the fruits produced by patent bee-hive men. They, or some of them and their friends, have kept up a broil through the journals for years. There has been a fling at some one nearly all the time. This man has interfered, or that one has done so and so, and from these things many bitter remarks have been made until its seeds of discord have been so deeply rooted that peace and harmony will not, in this generation of bee men, be made. Could the bee-keepers of this country meet in one convention harmoniously, how pleasant it would be to meet with them. But that time is not near by, nor will it be, we fear, very soon. Our national convention is a meagre affair to what it should be, taking into consideration the large number of journals published. We think the time is not distant when we will see every state in this country, that is a honey-producing state, that will support a home paper, and that a weekly.—*A. F. Moon, in American Bee-keeper.*

[FROM GLEANINGS.]

#### CALIFORNIA AS IT IS.

CALIFORNIA has more diversity of soil, climate and products, than most States; a combination of favorable circumstances makes it yield in places, at times, the largest trees, the largest grapevines, pumpkins and mustard, that the world knows of; also the largest yields of honey and increase of bees. It also does the most *unaccountably* mean things; defeats you when you were positive of success. I have kept bees here in California for six years. My best yield was an average of about 300 lbs. to the hive, and a little more than doubling my stock. (I always credit the old stock with the surplus from their swarms.) Two other seasons I did nearly as well. The past season yielded nearly nothing; two other years I got nothing, lost half my bees, and had plenty of bother. I think but very few in Southern California, with the same number of bees, have done better than this. Previous to 1877 I think there had not been so many failures, and we hope there will not be so many in the future; yet I do not know but we must have, to prevent being overrun with bees. With a few bees in a good spot, plenty of empty combs, the owner hitting on the best management for *that* year, extraordinary things have been done. Quite a number have increased from 1 to 10 in a season. Our deputy sheriff, on whose word I can entirely rely, told me he had increased from 1 to (I am almost *sure* it was) 30 in a season, nearly all good for winter. You see, if he had 15, he would only have to double to get 30.

R. WILKIN.

San Buenaventura, Cal.

Bees suggest all that is beautiful, fragrant and delicious in the floral universe. Hence bee-keeping has been termed the "poetry of agriculture." A flower without a bee to sip its nectar and rolic in its pollen, hints too broadly the *quasi* bliss of "single blessedness." Types of toil, symbols of frugality, models of government—with Flora propitious, how extravagantly provident, and how cheerfully they fill our dish with a "Benjamin's mess" of their delicate fare.—*Ex.*



[For the APICULTURIST.]

**IMPROVE YOUR BEES.**

BY E. GALLUP.

[The following timely advice was received too late to be put in "Our Worker" Department.]

If you are commencing the publication of a bee journal on this coast, let it be for this coast as much as possible; the great trouble East is to know how to winter bees; and the great trouble here is to learn how to summer bees; for I hold that if we know how to summer *our* bees properly in a dry season they will be self-supporting even in our poor seasons; our bee-keepers in this country are as a class considerably behind the times. They have taken no pains to improve their stock or to get them into splendid condition. A stock of bees can be improved as well as any other stock—of this there is not the least particle of doubt. They can be kept so as to give but a small profit in a good season and in a poor season they will starve. Every practical bee-keeper knows that some stocks in a good honey yield will store large quantities, while other stocks yield but very little. Now all can be brought up to the best standard. Perhaps I can give the best and plainest explanation by telling just how I proceeded two years ago. I took a stock of bees in miserable condition, and as soon as I could in the spring, I superceded every worthless queen in the apairy. By raising all my young queens from the best workers and most prolific mothers; for I hold that it is a poor policy to keep a worthless pueen in the apairy any longer than it is absolutely necessary. Then I took out all drone comb from the breeding apartment of every hive, but two that I wished to raise drones from and we should be just as careful about our drones as we were about raising our queens. Then we sent off and got an imported queen, for we should be careful to introduce new blood into our apairy; every year or two, as they will run out, if we do not guard against it. By managing my bees on the above plan, I more than doubled their capacity for profit and to-day they are in as good condition as the very best apairy in the land. I examined fifty stocks near here a few days ago, and any one of my stocks will aver-

age more bees, honey and brood to the stock, than any three of the fifty.

I have visited quite a number of apairies lately in company with a young gentleman from Canada, and he found mine in such excellent condition, after seeing the others, that I had no difficulty in disposing of them to him in preference to all others that he had seen. My business is such that I either had to sell out or move them 100 miles; now I shall have to begin over again.

I always advocated *strong*, powerful stocks for profit, when writing for Eastern bee journals; and that will hold just as good on this coast as anywhere that I ever kept bees. And in order to keep them up we must have prolific mothers, extra good workers to keep up the supply of honey, etc. I have seen 400 stands of bees by count, when there was not to exceed 25 out of the 400 that was worth keeping. We must keep a constant watch and keep weeding out all worthless queens from the apairy, if we expect to keep one stock up to the standard of productiveness. And right here we will say that it will pay any bee-keeper to Italianize. In a real good season you may not notice a great difference, but in a poor season the Italians come out ahead every time, providing we have the genuine. Good queens are cheap enough now.

**MAXIMS TO BE OBSERVED.**

There are several important points to be observed by the novice in bee-keeping:

1. Do not rush unadvisedly into the business like a horse in battle, and paw your way through blindly.
2. Let your motto be, "That which is worth doing is worth doing well."
3. Acquaint yourself with the nature and habits of the bee, by reading some good book on bees.
4. Get two or three colonies of Italian bees, and manipulate them in accordance with the given rules.
5. When you have learned to handle these successfully, you may take charge of more.
6. Always bear in mind that the key of success is in *strong colonies*.—*Corr. Semi-Tropic California.*

**Cage for Mailing Queens.**—Let the inside of your cage be  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 3$  inches. Run melted candy on the bottom of one end for one inch in length and one-half an inch deep. On top of this place a flat sponge, well saturated with honey. Tack this to the bottom with a wire nail, so that the bees can pass on top of it, insert the queen and about thirty bees; wrap the cage closely with tough, thick paper; now perforate it on the end and both sides, just enough to allow a very little air to enter, and your queen and attendants will go to the ends of the earth safely by mail in cold weather.—*B. K. Magazine.*

**Bee-keepers in Council.****THE LOS ANGELES ASSOCIATION'S MEETING.**

**T**HE Los Angeles Bee-keepers' Association met January 21st, 1882, at the office of C. N. Wilson. The President called the meeting to order and the minutes of the last monthly meeting were read and adopted. The Chairman of the Committee on State Organization reported progress, and a draft of Constitution and By-Laws for the State Association was submitted by J. W. Wilson. The president stated that he had corresponded with several of the leading apairists of the state in reference to the formation of a state association, and the measure had met with approval as far as heard from. The question of "How to keep bees?" was discussed. Sugar beets, sorghum and grapes were proposed. Mr. J. E. Pleasant thought that bees located among the willows would make honey enough to live through the season, and stated that orange growers were of the opinion that bees were an advantage in the orange groves, fertilizing the blossoms so that seedling trees have a tendency to produce larger and better fruit, resembling the navel variety, as may now be seen in the orchard of Mr. Wolfskiil in this city. Adjourned to meet at same place the third Saturday in February.

C. N. WILSON, Pres. F. E. L. MARSH, Sec'y.



## Publishers' Notices.

Be particular to give your post-office, county, State, and name, when writing to this office.

Publications to which we send this number of the APICULTURIST, with an x before this notice, will understand that we are willing to exchange with them. If you place our journal on your exchange list, please send us a marked copy of your paper, and we will then add yours to our list.

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## Index to this Number.

### OUR WORKERS—

Practical Suggestions.....	1
Honey Markets.....	1
Beekeepers Sustain your Journal....	2
Bees and Honey in Napa Co.....	2
Hail! to the "Apiculturist".....	2
Ourselves.....	2
Will Chinamen keep Bees in Cal?...	2
Moving Bees.....	2
The Outlook in Southern California..	2
Improve your Bees.....	7

### OUR EXTRACTOR—

The Song of the Bee (Poem).....	3
Faint Heart Never Won, etc.....	3
Young Jones' Disgust for Bees.....	3
Small Packages for Honey.....	3
The Future of the Honey Market... 3	3
Good Times Ahead.....	6
National Bee-keepers' Society—Why Not More Harmony?.....	6
California As It Is.....	6
Bees.....	6
Maxims to be Observed.....	7
Cage for Mailing Queens.....	7

### EDITORIAL—

Salutory.....	4
The Season of 1881.....	4
The "Apiculturist".....	4
Plant for the Bees.....	5

### EDITORS' PORTFOLIO—

Our Exchanges.....	5
Opening for Apair Supplies.....	5
Stings.....	5
Etc., Etc.....	5

### Bee-keepers in Council

The Los Angeles Associations' Meeting.....	5
--	---