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Vol. 2.

MAY 1, 1897.

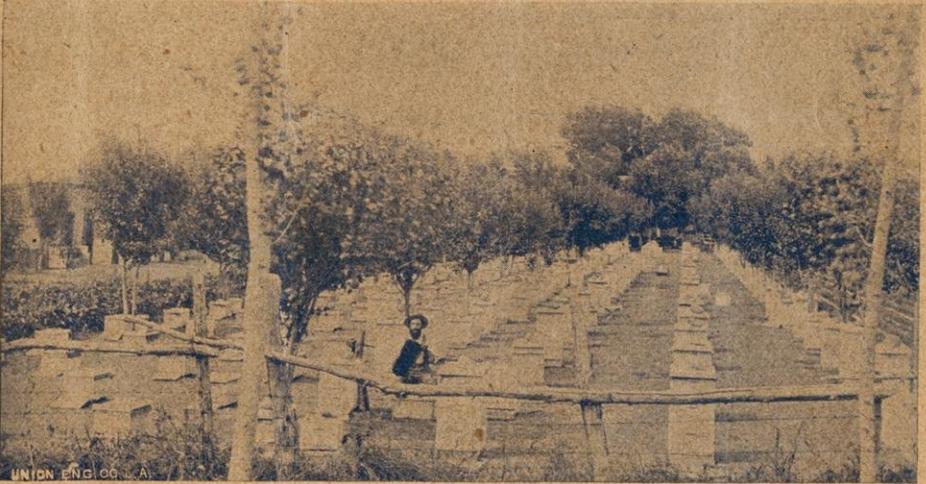
No. 5.

The Pacific.. Bee Journal.



Monthly Illustrated, Devoted to the Profitable Improvement in Apiculture, Especially on the Pacific Slope. Price 5 Cents, 50 Cents per Year.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.: U. S. A.



A NEW MEXICAN APIARY, MANAGED BY SIGEL BRAUTIGAN

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The Pacific Bee Journal.



Devoted to the Profitable improvement in Apiculture, especially on the Pacific slope.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

B. S. K. BENNETT AND JAMES R. SNOW,
365 East Second Street,
LOS ANGELES, - - CALIFORNIA.

B. S. K. BENNETT,
Editor and Business Manager.

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WE are done with Hybrids and Blacks, that starve to death, while Italians are gathering more than they consume. Our large mountain apiaries are sadly decreased in number, for the want of Italian queens. The calls for queens were so numerous last year, we had no queens to spare for our own apiaries. In fact, we did not think it worth while to re-queen on a dry year, such as '06 was. Hence, a loss for the Italian; we did have made surplus honey, while other bees were being fed.

There is a moral in this for, in a good year, such as '07 promises to be, with its fifteen inches of rain, it is an assured fact that Italians will gather twice as much as other bees will; and all this from a change of queens, which can be made at so nominal a cost. Surely a good business investment.

For rearing queens, we are using the Alley plan, having cells built out on the populous colonies. We destroy all smooth, deformed and small cells and queens, as we are working for a reputation.

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Honey Market Reports.

The quotations in this column are based, as near as possible, on the grading adopted by the North American, and are the prices that the commission men get, and on which the commission for making the sales is figured. The grading rules referred to are as follows:

FANCY.—All sections to be well filled, combs straight, of even thickness, and firmly attached to all four sides, both wood and comb unsoiled by travel, stain or otherwise; all the cells sealed except the row next to the wood.

No. 1.—All sections well filled, but combs uneven or crooked, detached at the bottom, or with but few cells unsealed; both wood and comb unsoiled by travel, stain or otherwise.

In addition to this the honey is to be classified according to color, using the terms white, amber and dark. That is, there will be "fancy white," "No. 1 dark," etc.

Dealers are expected to quote only those grades and classifications to be found in their market.

SAN FRANCISCO.—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 10@11; No. 1 white, 9@10; fancy amber, 7; No. 1 amber, 6@7; fancy dark, 5@6; No. 1 dark, 4@5; extracted white, 5@5½; amber, 4; dark, 2½@3. Beeswax, 24@25. Demand not active for honey or wax. Stocks light.

LOS ANGELES.—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 7@8; No. 1 white, 6@7; fancy amber, 5; fancy dark, 5@6; No. 1 dark, 4@5. Extracted white, 4@5; amber, 4; dark, 3. Beeswax, 21@23. Honey crop light, but no honey demand. None selling. All filled up on comb.

CINCINNATI.—*Honey.*—No. 1 white, 12@13. No. 1 amber, 11@12; No. 1 dark, 10. Extracted amber, 5@6. Beeswax, 22@25. Demand slow.

KANSAS CITY.—*Honey.*—No. 1 white, 13; No. 1 amber, 12; No. 1 dark, 10. Extracted white, 6; amber, 5@5½; dark, 4@4½. Beeswax, 25.

CLEVELAND.—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 11@12; No. 1 white, 11@12; No. 1 amber, 9@10. Extracted white, 6@7; amber, 4@5. Beeswax, 20@21. Beeswax is still scarce, and would sell readily at quotations.

CHICAGO.—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 12; No. 1 white, 11; fancy amber, 8@9; No. 1 amber, 7@8; fancy dark, 8@10; No. 1 dark, 7@8. Extracted white, 5@7; amber, 4½@5; dark, 4@5. Beeswax, 25@27. Stocks light.

PHILADELPHIA.—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 8; No. 1 white, 7; No. 1 dark, 5@6. Extracted white, 5@6; amber, 4@5; dark, 3½@4. Beeswax, 25. Market dull on honey; beeswax in fair demand.

ST. LOUIS.—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 11@13; No. 1 white, 10@11; fancy amber, 9@10; No. 1 amber, 8@9; fancy dark, 7½@8; No. 1 dark, 6@7½. Extracted white, in cans, 5½@7; amber, in barrels, 3@3½. Beeswax, 23@23½. Extracted honey especially slow; as a rule it goes to bakers and manufacturers. Little new honey coming in.

MINNEAPOLIS.—*Honey.*—Fancy white, 12@13; No. 1 white, 10@11; fancy amber, 10@11; No. 1 amber, 8@10; fancy dark, 6@7; No. 1 dark, 5@6. Extracted, white, 6@7; amber, 5@5½; dark, 4½@5. Beeswax, 22@25. A better demand has prevailed, but actual trading is light. Comb honey cleaned up. A good outlet for good grading and crating in comb honey.

HONEY BUYERS.

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I refer with pleasure to Editor Bennett as to our own integrity, and the value of **Yellowzones**.

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Wants more readers too bad to have the publishers carry so great a load. Won't you take a little more interest in us, as we are trying to do all we can for you, and trying to give you big values for only 50 cents a year. Please subscribe and renew.

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LOS ANGELES, CAL.

THE PACIFIC BEE JOURNAL.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE IMPROVEMENT OF APICULTURE ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

Published by B. S. K. Bennett and James R. Snow, 365 E. Second St., Los Angeles, Calif. 50 cents per year.

VOL. 2.

MAY, 1897.

No. 5.

Pacific Gems.

BY B. B. BEES.

A carload of honey was shipped from Tulare to Chicago a few days ago.

John G. Corey this week shipped two carloads of bees to Honby, near Saugus, for pasturage.—*Santa Paula Chronicle*, April 9.

R. W. Stevenson, who started an apiary on his Highland place about a year ago, with twenty-five hives, has now in working order forty-two hives of bees.—*San Diego Advertiser*, April 17.

The Lumber Company report sales of bee hives and materials in large quantities. The prospect for a big crop of honey has awakened the bee interests in these parts, and many new people are embarking in the business.—*Escondido Advocate*, April 16.

W. T. Richardson returned Tuesday night from Los Angeles, where he attended a meeting of the Bee Keepers' Exchange. A resolution was passed at the meeting making the Cutting Packing Co. of San Francisco selling agent for the Exchange—subject, however, to a satisfactory agreement.—*Santa Paula Chronicle*, April 16.

Mrs. James C. Fisher will testify that the sweetest honey wears a sting. Thursday evening, while eating honey, she was stung on the tongue by a concealed bee, and in a few moments that member was so badly swollen as to protrude from the mouth and threaten suffocation. A doctor was summoned and administered to her relief.—*Tackfoot (Idaho) News*, April 10.

Mr. Smith, the bee-man, who lives near town, is short on fingers, the result of a contact with a buzz-saw. He was at Rider's planing mill yesterday afternoon. He occupied a position near the saw, so near in fact that the ends of blocks sawed off piled up between him and the saw. Collins, the conductor of the saw, called his attention to the aggregation. Mr. Smith reached around to sweep the blocks away. His right hand struck the saw, and when he withdrew it two fingers were gone.—*Phoenix (Ariz.) Republican*, April 14.

We have heard of two swarms of bees selecting the same place to alight for a new home, but U. G. Edgar's bees break all records. He had fifteen swarms in the last week, and seven of them selected the same tree, and one was not willing to wait until he could hive the previous swarm, but all wanted to get there at once. Mr. Edgar says anyone who will come and take them can have the bees.—*Fresno Republican*, April 15.

Hiram Harris, the bee grower, states that the honey raisers in the vicinity of Albuquerque have reason to expect a superior season in this industry, the bees having quite a stock on hand and with plenty of water in the river, which means an abundant alfalfa crop, the prospects for a large supply of honey are bright. Albuquerque always offers a good market for this product, besides Kansas City and points even further east.—*Albuquerque (N. M.) Citizen*.

LONDON, April 15.—After inquiries directed to the postoffice departments of nearly every country within the postal union, the government has finally declined to amend the regulations by admitting live bees to the mails. The inquiries in question have developed the fact that live bees in wooden or tin boxes with small air holes are allowed in the mails of nearly every country. This government takes the ground that in this country, the mail bags are extensively transferred by apparatus to and from railway trains in motion, and that in the event of a breakage happening to a consignment of live bees, the creatures would almost certainly escape into the mail bag and produce unpleasant results to the mail clerks.

J. Kuhner, whose Eagle Eye ranch is but a few miles from Lakeside postoffice, is a rancher of considerable independence in these days of canned corn and meat and various other imported necessities of life. With his home-grown poultry and pigs, Mr. Kuhner says that his table is supplied with fresh meat; a well-kept garden produces an abundance of vegetables, 70 stands of bees are busy storing sweetness, and sufficient wine is made for home use. "My ranch," says Mr. Kuhner, "furnishes everything for the table with the exception of flour, sugar and coffee." Must be a very productive ranch or a very scientific rancher—probably a well-balanced combination.—*San Diego Advertiser*, April 17.

OBTAINING LARGE YIELDS OF HONEY.

BY W. A. H. GILSTRAP.

WE ALL wish large yields of honey, and are quite apt to tell others of any large amount obtained from one hive or one apiary. Those getting small returns are generally very quiet. I shall draw largely on the reports of others to prove my assertions as to the best methods of reaching this large, sweet conclusion.

There are several requisites to a large yield. We must have a strong colony of industrious workers, housed in a comfortable hive; proper temperature, with ample room; either a strong honey flow or a moderate flow for a long period, and I might say water, wind, etc., should be favorable.

The working force should not only be kept strong during the honey flow, but should be kept storing honey as much as the general welfare of the colony will admit. Every beekeeper should study his range and the habits of his bees by the light of his experience, honey season, books and papers and talk to other beekeepers. This is necessary to make any rule fit your case.

If you make a mistake, let it be having too much stores. If you rob your bees of their stores, which are needed to run them through till next season abundantly, your next crop is not likely to be heavy—it surely need not be expected. In the mountains of this State it will often pay to spread brood. By some hook or crook they must be made strong. On an alfalfa range they will get strong and probably swarm before the honey flow. To keep them strong until the close of a long season, honey should be kept from the brood chamber, with the extractor, early in the flow.

Don't raise many drones. You can prevent it by the queen excluding metal, or by having plenty of worker comb. The excluding plan (restricting the queen throughout the season) will prevent the queen producing all the workers she likes at the proper time, and you can never get a record-breaking yield.

(Please understand, this article is especially for extracted honey with a three months' flow, or more).

By contracting the brood chamber at the proper time, your honey crop is largely increased. Sometimes bees do a very good contraction business by storing honey in the brood nest. Caging or removing the queen does the same. Each plan has advantages; but the two important points gained either way are to increase the field force (less nurse bees being required after the contraction) and less idle bees to feed to next honey flow.

The largest crop of honey I have heard

of in the San Joaquin Valley, from one hive, was that produced by J. F. Flory, Le-moore, Cal., about the year 1881. It was 666 pounds, from a "Long Idea" hive. I believe the largest record for one hive in the Northern States was made by G. M. Doolittle, in 1877, and was 566 pounds. See *Gleanings*, page 317, 1890; Long-Idea hive. Largest apiary record was reported by H. Petersen, Wattle Flat, N. S. W., Australia, in *Gleanings*, page 866, 1894—48,000 pounds of honey from sixty-three colonies; spring count, increased to 120. Seven hundred and sixty-one pounds, or a little over, is what I figure the average on spring count. Long-Idea hive again. From this it seems bees store honey readily *behind* brood, as well as *above* it, and these long, one-story hives are very favorable to great brood rearing—hence the big records.

We must also have ample room to store honey. My experience proves this, and I could give proof that sixteen-L. frames are *far* better to store honey in than ten-L. frames.

You should have enough room just over, or just behind, the brood, that they may store honey to their heart's content. Of course, there is a possibility of too much room—but no likelihood of it with good honey flow and strong colony.

Ventilation or shading, or both, should be practiced enough to keep the bees comfortable and at work. In many localities, a stick one-quarter or one-half inch thick stuck under the hive lid gives sufficient ventilation in the sunshine.

Be sure and give your bees proper attention at the right time.

CARUTHERS, Fresno Co., Cal., April 8, '97.

BEST WEATHER FOR HONEY.

BY JNO. G. COREY.

THE MOST favorable weather for rapid honey gathering depends greatly upon the location, both as to altitude and distance from the ocean. Apiaries inside of fifteen or twenty miles from the coast are annoyed by foggy and cloudy weather, and often, when all other conditions are favorable, pass through the entire honey season, securing only a part of a crop. The middle locations, or those occupying districts not so much under the influence of fog, nor of too great elevation, and when pasturage is abundant, appear to suffer less from adverse weather than the locations above mentioned. Apiaries located over 1,000 feet above the sea level are almost free from the fog coming up from the coast, but suffer at times from the heavy winds from the desert region, that dry up and nearly, if not entirely, cut off the honey yield. To sum up on the different locations, I should say, in lo-

cating near the ocean, that clear and hot weather are the most favorable for honey yield; the hotter the better, as it does not get too hot in this district.

For the middle locations, when fog prevails on the coast, it modifies the temperature and keeps the mercury below 100 degrees, which is most favorable; then even up what is lost in the coast district, and add the product for this locality.

The higher altitudes have more clear weather than the coast and middle districts, their seasons being nearly a month later than the coast and nearly the same for the middle district. The weather becomes more settled in July and August and, as a rule, has less interruptions than the lower districts. Clear sky and warm weather, ranging from 80 degrees to 100, with abundant moisture, generally produces a fair yield of honey. Frost sometimes appears when the honey plants are young and tender, and lessens the yield.

THOMPSON, Los Angeles Co., Cal., March 19, '97.

THE BEST BEES FOR COMB HONEY.

BY A. B. MELLETT.

WELL, if I thought that the present kind of weather (March 19) was going to last much longer, I should say that a little tin bee, with an alcohol lamp heater inside of her, would be just about right.

But as we expect and hope that the weather will warm up eventually, I will say that for an all-around worker for comb honey, give me the California hybrid every time.

The Carniolans are a very promising bee for comb honey but, as far as I have been able to learn, they have not fulfilled their promises to any great extent.

My experience has been almost wholly with the aforesaid hybrids and an apiary of almost pure Italians, which I hybridized as soon as possible, as they did not cap their honey white enough, or smooth enough, to suit me. Then again, at this altitude (about 2,200 feet above sea level) they had a way of using up all of their stores early in the season, raising brood, and would then all starve to death if, owing to bad weather, there was a break in the honey flow early in the season.

The California hybrids have been bred for so long a time in this State that they may well be called a race of bees by themselves, and it is very difficult to fool the little Hybrids on the seasons, the weather, or the honey question. With me they are of a more even disposition than the Italians. I do not find them more troublesome to handle, and very seldom find an ill-tempered colony among them, while, with

the Italians there was a colony or two that were always ready for a fight.

If hybrids are bred in one yard for a long time without any new blood being introduced, they are liable to run down and become small and black; therefore, I find it the best way to "lift" them a little with a few good hybrid queens raised on this coast, or Italians from some responsible queen breeder. The so-called hybrid queens that I have had sent from the Eastern states were not to be compared with the queens raised in my own apiary.

In a good season I find that I can make, on an average, 200 pounds of comb honey to the colony, counting all that get ready for work reasonably early in the season, while many colonies make a record of 300 pounds or more. The best that I ever had a single colony do was 425 pounds of comb honey, in one pound sections. That was a colony of hybrids, and I had only eleven three-quarter Langstroth frames in the brood nest; but the queen kept them nearly all full of brood until quite late in the season.

I do not believe in keeping a very large number of colonies in one place. One hundred and forty colonies is the largest number that I have ever had in one yard, and I usually keep the number nearer one hundred.

ACTON, Los Angeles Co., March 19, '97.

CALICO, CAL., March 30, 1897.

EDITOR BEE JOURNAL.

I AM interested in an apiary near Summit, in the Cajon Pass, in the mountains north of San Bernardino, Cal. The elevation is about 3,500 feet above sea level. We are sometimes troubled with dry years and late frosts. We have good land and water to irrigate it, and propose to raise honey producing plants in order to prevent loss in bad years. Personally, I have no practical knowledge of the business, but am anxious to make it a success. I see by your journal that the advertisers and correspondents call attention to many honey producing plants, among which are the following: Buckwheat, sweet peas, white sage, black sage, sweet and crimson clover, broad Windsor beans, cassia trees, spur clover, etc. I would be much pleased to hear from some of our practical beekeepers through your columns, as to the planting and care of these and other honey-bearing plants, especially at the elevation at which we are located; the best season of the year to plant; the period during which the honey flow of the different plants exist, etc. With a reasonable knowledge of these conditions, I do not see why it is not practicable to fortify against loss by failure of the native bee feed, Respectfully,

A. R. RHEA.

BEE KEEPING IN UTAH ON THE INCREASE.

BY JOHN B. FAGG

BELIEVE the first bees that were brought to Utah were in frame hives. I cannot give the year, but it was along in the '60's. I think I remember in '71 they were selling at \$40 per colony and honey was fifty cents per pound, and very little to be had at that. It was only those who were well off that could buy bees in those days. I bought my first colonies in '78, and paid \$8 per colony. I had very indifferent success with them the first few years; then I went into the business, and put in most of my time at it, doing very well with them for a few years. Then I went into the steam saw-mill business and let my seventy-five colonies of bees out on shares; got thirty-three colonies back at the end of two years and lost about \$500 in the mill business. The next spring I had three colonies left. I have about forty colonies now, in good condition.

From the best information I can get, I think there are about 3,500 colonies in Salt Lake county; 4,500 colonies in Utah county; 4,000 colonies in Weber county, and 2,000 colonies in Cache county. It would not surprise me if there were 50,000 in five years from now. I should think there are about 20,000 or 25,000 in the State, and believe that Grange county is the best for bees, according to report. I should say the bees produce \$100,000 worth of honey annually. There are from six to ten carloads shipped each year, and I believe there ought to be twenty-five or thirty shipped, and there will be in the near future. Beekeeping has been neglected in the past, but people are getting interested in the business, and begin to see there is some profit in it; but it has taken nearly thirty years to find it out.

There are many places in Utah where the apiarist could make a good thing out of bees yet, for a man can raise three or four tons of honey a great deal easier than he could raise enough produce to fetch the same amount of money, especially where land is dear. Instead of having to have twenty acres, he could get along with five, which would only cost one-fourth as much.

Bees are worth about \$3.50 or \$4 per colony here, and honey—comb, about 8c or 9c per pound, and extracted, 5½c or 6c per pound. So, you see, it is different to what it was twenty-six years ago.

I have handled from 150 to 200 colonies a year. For several years my average has been from 45 to 75 pounds per colony. I have never kept track of many single colonies, all through, but the best I remember was 140 pounds extracted and 80 pounds of comb, making 220 pounds for the season, from one colony. I have several seem-

ingly good colonies that did not produce a pound last season; but last year was the poorest season, in Salt Lake county, that we have had for many years, although bees did well in Utah Valley, sixty miles south of Salt Lake City.

This has been a hard winter for bees. We have eight or ten inches of snow on the ground, where I live, at present, and it snowed last night a little.

EAST MILL CREEK, Salt Lake Co., Utah, March 12, '97.

TARE ON EXTRACTED HONEY.

BY W. A. H. GILSTRAP.

WE HOPE to soon have more honey than we can eat, and we ask what we shall do with it. "Sell it," some might say. That is good if any one will buy all you take to market, but no dealer has yet done that in this part of California.

Only a few years back you could take your choice between shipping your honey to a San Francisco firm or selling to Porter Bros. & Co., who were our only honey merchants in this part of the San Joaquin Valley. In either case we had to give not only cans and cases, but part of the honey, to get the dealer to buy the balance of the honey. Some of us kicked at this plan, but Porter Bros. & Co.'s agent told us the universal tare in the East was *seventeen* pounds per cases and cans, and they must exact that. We all used coal oil cans and cases which weighed *fourteen* pounds.

Mr. J. F. Flory brought the matter to the notice of the Central California Beekeepers' Association in August, 1894. He believed they should pay for the cans and all the honey, and we give the cases. Finally he worked a resolution through for twelve-pound tare on the case (which was supposed to give the dealer no chance to object), and the extracted honey men of the Association all struck for the twelve-pound tare for awhile. But we lost the strike.

Since that time we sent Mr. Flory to represent us at the California Beekeepers' meeting at Los Angeles, where he worked the twelve-pound tare resolution through.

In 1895 I used new cans and cases, cases with partitions, and was surprised when Porter's man said the cases were *double*, and the tare was nineteen pounds! They weighed, cans included, just fifteen pounds.

In order to test the truthfulness of the dealers and see where we stood, I wrote to many dealers throughout the union, and a synopsis of their report was published in *Gleanings of Bee Culture*, June 1, 1896, and in *Rural Press* and in the farmers' department of the San Francisco *Weekly Examiner* about the same time. Nearly all these replies showed that honey is sold full net weight, both comb and extracted. Extracted honey is tared what cans and cases weigh; comb honey is tared only for cases.

Merchants tell me they buy nails and groceries that way.

Why should we give a few pounds of honey with each package, when we know the dealer sells that same honey in the Eastern markets?

Last year we succeeded in lowering the tare in several instances. Last month our association took a stand for full net weight, and I have heard the California Beekeepers' Association did likewise. I hope I am correctly informed. There is no use of us trying to sell the package but, if we work competition for all it is worth, we surely can sell all our honey, if each producer makes the proper effort.

CARUTHERS, Fresno Co., Cal., April 8, '97.

THE DAIRY.

The prime object in management is to keep the cows in a good healthy condition.

If a cow loses her appetite, try a change of food. Mashies are good for either sick cattle or horses.

Buy good cows to give plenty of good milk. It will enable you to buy more good cows, if you are a beginner. Use the curry-comb on the cow if she is dirty. She will look better, feel better, and the milk will be better.

A good milker appoints his time morning and evening, and milks at those times, week days, Sundays and holidays. He washes his hands and keeps himself clean; he says very little to the stock, except in quieting them; he has a cover to his pail, and strains his milk carefully.

When we figure the cost of feed and place against it only the selling value of the milk or butter, omitting to consider the skimmed milk or buttermilk, we omit a factor of much importance, and one that has much to do with the question of profit.

It hardly pays to use dogs to drive a dairy cow. Animals are not wholly incapable of recognizing kind treatment. They may not have a soul, but they have an instinct which guides them. Don't be in a hurry in driving your cattle for, on reaching the milking lot, you will find them panting and quite exhausted. The result will be something like this: The loss of a quart of milk per cow, besides inflicting upon each an injury, which subsequently appears.

POULTRY YARD.

Gather the eggs at regular intervals. The hen ought to be in the best laying trim just now.

Turn your scraps of vegetables and other edible scraps into eggs; but do not over-feed your fowls.

Notes From Our Factory.

Carload Orders.—We have now got our business in such shape that we are receiving and filling carload orders for goods, on short notice, which has been heretofore impossible with our small factory force and insufficient machinery. Our factory is now in a position to fill carload orders in from one to two weeks' time. We have sent out, the last two months, six straight cars of goods, beside a large number of small shipments. We have received our car from the East and are shipping, this week, a car of goods to Klauber Wangenheim Co., of San Diego. The car contains sections and separators, of Eastern make, a large amount of bee supplies, Hoffman self-spacing frames, pattern slats and section holders, bee smokers, uncapping cans, section presses, foundation mills and dipping tanks, and fourteen of the different sizes of Cowan reversible honey extractors. These latter goods are all made by us and are giving the greatest of satisfaction, as well as being very low in price.

We are, this year, successfully meeting Eastern competition, and are demonstrating that home product in bee supplies is comparing very favorably, in workmanship, with Eastern goods.

* * *

Brood and surplus foundation making is an art in our factory. We have our melting tanks separate from our dipping tanks. For dipping nice sheets, the wax should be 150 degrees temperature, and the boards smooth and pointed at the edges and bottom. The boards should soak in salty water; the tanks for cooling the sheets should be large, and water cool. When boards get hot, they should rest, as the wax sticks. Let the sheets, as they are taken off, lay flat and even; then, after dipping, they should season a day or two before rolling. In rolling, first make your flour paste, by mixing flour and water to a light batter; place on stove and let cook while you stir in hot water, making a thin, slippery batter; this put in pan, under rollers of mill, so that rollers will run in batter. Now take a cake of soap, make a suds, and "soap-suds" the rollers; then have a pan of salty water, 90 degrees, for sheets. Put in fifty sheets, let them get thoroughly warmed; roll; start sheet in quick. Never turn the mill back; guide sheet with roller; if sheet curls, feed slower. In getting sheets started readily from the roller the best thing to use is a soft rubber comb.

To remove the scabby formation on the legs of fowls, mix two parts of lard to one of kerosene oil, and apply thoroughly.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Lost copies of the BEE JOURNAL seems to be quite a regular occurrence lately. Why it is, we are at a loss to account, though every month we place the matter before the postoffice officials. We will gladly mail to our readers any number that have missed them upon their request.

* * *

NEW UNION READY FOR BUSINESS.

General manager, Hon. Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa. Board of Directors—Ernest R. Root, Medina, Ohio; Rev. E. T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.; Dr. C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ill.; W. J. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.; E. Whitcomb, Friend, Neb.; C. P. Dadant, Hamilton, Ill.; Geo. W. York, president; E. Whitcomb, vice-president; A. B. Mason, secretary.

The union's object is to promote and protect the interests of its members, to defend them in their lawful rights, to enforce laws against the adulteration of honey, to prosecute dishonest commission men, and to advance the pursuit of bee culture in general. Membership fees, \$1. Join the Union Beekeepers; they are working a glorious cause.

* * *

Friends, I've slighted our paper this month, for I did not know what "went in" until all was set in type, proof read and final proof handed me for sanction. Hope you will all excuse me this time, for I have been in charge of the supply factory on an average of fifteen hours a day, and at this writing am completely "fagged out." The call for honey extractors, foundation and and hives has really exceeded our expectations. We were behind quite a little, though now are up with orders; at present we are putting in new machinery for our comb honey shipping case.

* * *

We have just received a few samples of *Drawn Comb* from the firm of Root & Co. of Medina, Ohio, which was sent us for comment and trial, the samples are beautiful imitation of the natural comb, in fact, many who have seen the samples refused to believe that they were made by man, so light and frail are they, the cell base is flat, the walls are said to be 5-1000 of an inch thick, while 3-1000 is the natural thickness; the comb with cells 3-16 deep, runs about 9 feet to the pound. We will send these samples on application to beekeepers for trial and comment; test them and in time it takes to complete the comb, see if time is saved, then eat the comb, and sample a section of natural comb honey and report.

We fear that this drawn comb will be an aid to adulterators, as we have heard of

thick honey mixture placed between two sheets of wax representing cappings, and thus sold for comb honey, if comb is made. We believe it would then be an easy matter to fill with honey and cap by machine or bees. Fellow apiarists let this drawn comb receive your attention, and if meritorious of success, let us aid the enterprise; but on the other hand, if it will result disastrously to honey production, let us loose no time in downing it. Test these samples, and while you do so, watch them as if they were dollars to the cell.

* * *

The honey harvest does not at present look very encouraging, the dry north winds have effected the exposed hills to a slack in moisture, though from what we can glean (being as we are thoroughly in touch with the field,) the sages are not injured, and only the high north slopes are affected; these north slopes are not at any time much on the yield. The season while not a big one, will be fair, short, but heavy for the time, and if a shower comes as at present indicates, will not be disappointing, so let us be fully prepared, and fully stocked to catch the drops of nectar.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FOR THE JOURNAL.

Is it common for a colony to swarm without leaving a queen? I have had three swarms come off this season that left no queen, and two of them no sign of a queen cell. My Bennett queens have done more swarming than gathering honey. Some of the other colonies have supers nearly filled while they have scarcely entered them.

E. L. T.

[It is a common occurrence for colonies to swarm and leave no queen in the hive; in fact, this is natural; but to leave no queen cell only occurs on after swarms, starved out swarms, or swarms going out with their virgin queen, here the apiarist's knowledge is called upon to introduce a queen, queen cell or frame of eggs. Bennett's queens probably are having a holiday, as they don't swarm at Bennett's apiary, difference in locality is probably the cause. Still a colony that will swarm is better than one that will not, for often the swarm produces more honey than the original colony would, and you still have the old colony to work on. But these new swarms require attention for best development.—ED.]

Dry earth sprinkled daily under the roosting perches of the fowls acts as a deodorizer, and preserves and increases the value of the manure.



CHAPTER VI.

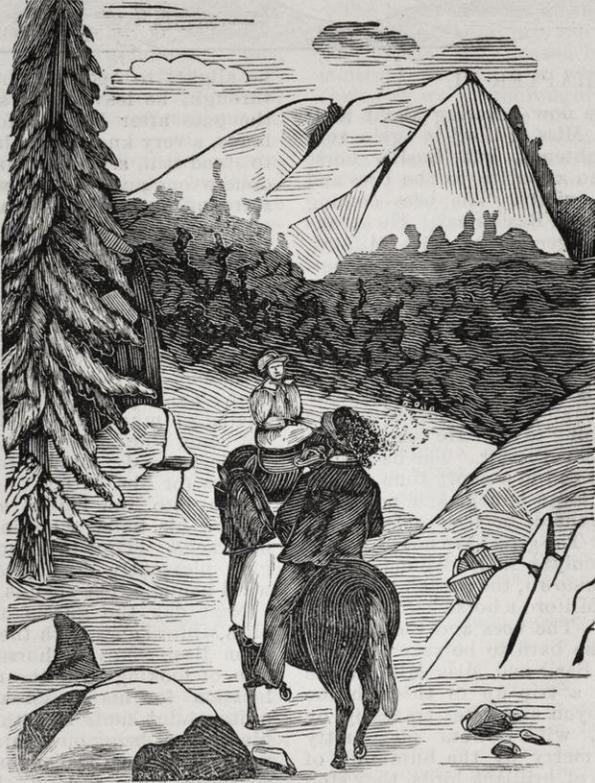
THE bees are now hovering about their heads and Miss Milford is again very much frightened, but Basil's horse seems to pay no attention to the bees and walks on very quietly. The bees coming still closer, light on Basil's hat. He speaks words of encouragement to Miss Milford, and then telling her that she can feel perfectly safe with the horse and get home all right, decides to dismount and walk as he wishes to try and bring the bees home with him. So quietly slipping off from the saddle, he takes his stand to allow the bees to light. The girls, after going quite a little distance ahead, stop their horses to see what Basil is going to do. He takes off his hat and holds it in the air. The bees seem perfectly gentle and in a short time are all clustered in a large bunch, and now that the bees have lighted, he feels safe in proceeding home. The girls have not forgotten him and keep only a little distance in the lead. After sundown, they reach home, to find that Miss Milford's horse has just gone into the barn. The bees and the hat are in a hive at the barn to be taken care of the next day. Basil and Miss Milford the next day take a trip up in through the picturesque canyon and, after traveling by graceful ferns, wild flowers and pretty shrubs, made merry by the humming of bees and songs of brilliant birds, they stop at a lovely brook for lunch. After lunch they get into an argument as to whether or not Miss Milford could find her way home. But the argument, although begun as a joke, brings on a quarrel, with the result that Basil rides down a short distance and hides himself and horse in a natural arbor, and waits for her coming. Basil's horse hears the step of the other horse before Miss Milford appears to view, and sets up a whinner. Basil is discovered, but Miss Milford is angry and does not speak. "I did not mean to leave you," says Basil but, as she does not answer, they are both silent for quite awhile. Finally, nearing a gate,

he alights to open it. Leading his horse through, he leaves him standing, to shut the gate after Miss Milford passes. The horse, a very knowing animal, well trained to stand still, seems to think that Basil had done wrong and, to show what he could do, starts off on a walk to leave Basil, who increases his speed, but the horse also walks faster, until man and horse get into a run 'round and 'round Miss Milford's horse. She stops her horse to see the fun, and has a good deal of amusement at Basil's expense, who, getting tired, gave up the chase. Now it was Basil's turn to be out of humor, but his horse turns and looks him over, nodding his head, and seems to be having as much fun as Miss Milford, who not being able to control her laughter, slips to the ground. Basil, seeing that it was useless for him to try to catch his horse, jumps into the ladies' saddle and rides toward his horse, who does not stir out of his tracks. Thus they mount, and go jogging pleasantly down the canyon, homeward bound. The spell is broken.

Next day the guests are leaving, and Miss Milford goes with them. In the afternoon Basil takes his horse, with the intention of looking over the ranch for a good location for his model apiary and, after quite a hunt, finds something that will suit him well, it being on a branch road off the main travel of the canyon; the location a southeast slope of land, about twenty feet above the road, the country around being covered with bee forage and large amounts of black sage. All of a sudden he hears a shout and, looking up, discovers two dark-complexioned men coming toward him. They both have firearms, and look as though they had been hunting. On coming within speaking distance of Basil, they step apart and quickly raise their guns to their shoulders, taking deliberate aim. Basil recognizes these as part of the Gypsy band whom he had turned the Giant bees of India upon in the capture of Nellie Comlin. "Throw up your hands!" is the order that greets Basil and, having no firearms about

him, he can do nothing but comply for, to mount the horse might mean certain death, and they might kill him anyhow for not obeying, where, by being captured, he might stand some show of escape. One man keeps him covered while the other, laying his gun on the ground, produces a rope from his pocket, with which he binds Basil's hands. The other man then comes forward to help Basil to mount. They then tie him to the horse. They now lead Basil's horse down into the brush, where Basil discovers two horses tied. The men

near the camp fire. The men of the camp then hold a council. Basil, overhearing some of the conversation, gathers that some are in favor of killing him right there, while others are in favor of asking a ransom, and still others are arguing hard to place him in a bee cave that they know of down in Mexico. The supporters of the bee cave idea finally win, and, most of the Gypsies wishing to go through Mexico, and the idea of the awful death they could inflict upon him, lead them to finally agree upon a trip to Mexico. Basil is put into a



do not say a word but, leaving Basil still in the saddle, they tie his horse up and, going a short distance away, they seat themselves upon a rock and have quite a long conversation. Basil now recognizes one of the men as the big Burly in the Gypsy camp, whom he believes to be the Gypsy chief; but darkness soon covers them and his captors untie and mount their horses, leading Basil between them. They then proceeded down the mountain and, after many hours' journey, they come into the Gypsy encampment. Basil is taken off his horse, his feet tied, and he is laid on the ground

tent, without food, that night. Next morning the camp makes preparations to move. Basil is now well taken care of, placed into a covered wagon and, after days of monotonous journey, and not being allowed to leave the wagon, they finally make a stop toward evening; and then Basil is removed and placed once more upon the ground, where he sees that the camp is pitched under the protection of a bluff. The country is covered with queer looking trees, and Basil reasons rightly that he is on Mexican ground.

Next day he is led up into a small can-

yon, with all the Gypsies following. There has not been an opportunity for him to escape at any time during the trip, and he feels that he must make some desperate effort to escape, but can see no avenue, as all the Gypsies, some twenty-five in number are surrounding him. He supposes that they are now taking him to the bee cave, though, remembering their fear of bees, he cannot think how they can possibly put him into the cave, and he feels there is no use resisting until he sees all of their plans. The Gypsies come to a halt and Basil, looking in the direction that they are looking, discovers, a little way up the hillside, a cave in the solid rock, the aperture of which seems to be filled with bees, constantly passing back and forth. The entrance is large enough to admit a man. Basil now sees a couple of men bearing rifles, and he has some idea of the way they contemplate putting him into the cave. They release him of his fetters and the big, burly chief commands him to walk up and enter the cave, or that, if he refuses, the men bearing rifles will kill him instantly. Seeing no way of escape, and feeling sure that there will be a way of escaping such a terrible death, easier than facing the fire of these Gypsies, he walks slowly but steadily toward the cave. On coming close to the entrance he hears a report, and the bullet strikes in front of him, on the side of the rock just above the opening and, realizing that he has no time to lose, he steps quickly to the mouth of the cave, where he is greeted by a perfect volley of angry bees, for the shot from the rifle has disturbed them, and they must take vengeance on some one. He staggers, claps his hands to his face to keep off the angry bees, and he hears a sound of laughter going up from the Gypsies below. Being now very desperate, he gives one glance into the cave, and thought at the same moment of running. Then, again, he hesitates, and comes to the conclusion that he had rather risk his life with the bees than with those sure-shot Gypsies, remembering their first bullet that had brought him down in the attempted first capture of Nellie, and he makes a plunge into the cave, and falls—down, down, down.

Basil, not returning home that evening, the family become very uneasy, but think that he will surely return next day; but not receiving any word from him, they all start out in different directions to search and make inquiry. Although neighbors, friends and detectives, as keen as hounds, are doing all in their power to find the missing man, no clue to Basil's whereabouts can be obtained. Several months roll by, and the search has finally been abandoned by the discouraged relatives. But one day word comes from the Comblins that Nellie had suggested that possibly the Gypsies

had taken revenge for the capture and rough treatment they had received at Basil's hands, and, upon investigation, it was found that the Gypsy band had disappeared from the country about the same time that Basil had been missed. With this clue to work from, the detectives were once more put on the track, and the news finally came that the identical Gypsy band were located down at the lower end of Mexico; but that Basil could not be found, nor any trace of him, and the detectives, though loth to give up the interesting hunt, were compelled to discard the clew, although the Baytons kept a man to track them for months afterward.

Basil, after his fall into the bee cave and, after a long series of unconsciousness, finds from the light above that he is in a large chamber. He hears the sound of running water and, being very weak and thirsty, strikes a match which he finds in his pocket and, by the light, finds the water. A good drink helps to restore his strength. He now finds that the wall up to the opening, from one side, is not very steep, with something like steps cut into it, and he climbs up so that he can see out of the opening. The hum of the bees is deafening but, he being back some distance, the bees do not discover him. He sees the comb honey from the roof of the cave in great quantities over his head, which does not seem to have any bees on it. As he is very hungry, he reaches up, takes down a large chunk of the delicious nectar and, sitting down, proceeds to devour it. He now makes many efforts to get out of the cave but the bees force him to retreat each time, being so numerous, and seemingly of an angry disposition.

After two or three unsuccessful attempts, he goes back into the cave and, taking down more honey, he eats until he is satisfied. Then, taking off his coat, he wraps several large combs of honey in it, for fear that when he does get out he may be far from the habitation of man, and will need something to eat before he reaches civilization. He then lays down and falls into a deep sleep, from which he awakes about sundown, much refreshed and, realizing that when the bees are quiet he can pass them without trouble, he waits for darkness to appear. He then crawls forth from the cave, but it is too dark to make any headway in traveling and, as the nights are warm, he finds he does not need his coat, and going up into a sheltered nook, he waits for morning. At the dawn of day he takes up his luncheon of honey and, going to the top of a hill, takes a bird's-eye view of the country and discovers, in a south-easterly direction, a settlement, though many miles away.

After a hard day's jaunt and many mishaps in traveling through the hills, Basil

comes on to this settlement he had spied in the morning. On entering the village he is taken for no little curiosity, and soon has a gathering of poorly-clad Mexicans about him. After a mixing-up of the Mexican and English languages, Basil discovers a man approaching that evidently understands what he is endeavoring to make plain to his crowd of listeners. He, after a short conversation, understands Basil's position and, being more pleasant than the average Mexican, expresses a desire to aid our hero, and forthwith invites Basil to accompany him, and taking him into an adobe building close by, proceeds to make him as comfortable as is within the power of these unsociable people. Basil has set before him a meal of Chili that is somewhat extra hot for the digestive organs of an American, though that does not receive any careful attention from Basil, who is ready for anything that could best be set before him. After appeasing his appetite, he inquires of his Mexican friend as to what part of the country he is in, and finds that he is in the village of Pueblo, some few miles west of the city of Victoria. But upon inquiry as to what direction was California, or as to any of the cities Basil had been acquainted with, his companion could not inform him, and as this man was the only one in the village that knew anything about our language, Basil was somewhat lost, but upon being informed that there were a few Americans in Victoria, was somewhat reassured of the fact of being able to find his way home. Next day, with the directions from his new friend, he proceeds in the direction of Victoria. Arriving there, he soon finds a very pleasant-looking American, whom he engages in conversation as to the best route to California. He was informed that his best plan would be to proceed to the coast, and work his way around the Horn to the Pacific coast. This would be the most advisable way, his friend told him, for one in Basil's position, without money, for, to be sure, the Gypsies left him none.

Basil soon finds a party that is going next day to Tampico, and is very kindly invited to take passage with them.

Upon arriving at Tampico, which is a two days' journey from Victoria, Basil finds he is on the coast, or rather, the Gulf of Mexico, and, after looking through all the vessels in port, Basil finds one upon which he can make his passage by working his way. Becoming acquainted with the captain, he finds him to be a very pleasant American.

[[The vessel was about ready to start as Basil reached it. The captain informs him that their destination is San Francisco, in the State of California; so that he thinks

now surely he will soon be home, as the vessel is a steam schooner.

The ropes are thrown from the wharf. Basil is directed to haul in one of them, and gladly proceeds to carry out the instructions. After executing a few orders the crew is called off to dinner, and on going down into the cabin Basil discovers that the steamer, that had been so quiet at the dock, was seemingly loaded with people who were more or less roughly dressed, and that many were Americans. Astonishment was no name for Basil and he resolved to find out what was going on, so, picking out rather a good-natured American who was one of his helpers on deck, he tried to gain the desired information; but the boy did not seem to be able to aid him any, as it was as much a mystery to him.

After about five or six days on the water the boat hoave too at the landing of a seemingly newly constructed village, and after a little inquiry, as Basil was bound to know where he was, he ascertained that this boat was a filibuster, landing troops to the Cuban army, which had been boought all the way from Texas. Soon there appeared on deck, from the land, a man dressed as a lieutenant, and after surveying the new arrivals carefully, and giving directions about unloading some large boxes marked "hardware," he made the inquiry as to whether or not there were any bee keepers among the recruits. Basil, not thinking, informed him that he was one, and without further adieu the lieutenant orders our hero to accompany the men that were leaving the vessel. Upon this Basil remonstrates, asking the captain for protection, but as the captain informs him that he is in sympathy with the Cubans, he will do nothing for Basil, so our poor boy is compelled to join the band of earnest looking men, wending their way to the little village high on Cuban soil.

[CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

Tom Cunniff, the tinner, is turning out some very large galvanized iron honey tanks for H. L. Thomas, of Murrieta.—*Riverside Enterprise.*

The Beekeepers' Review

Has several points of superiority. 1st. It gives the reports of the Michigan Experiment Apiary—gives them each month, as soon as possible after the work is done, while they are fresh and of newsy character, and can be of some benefit. 2d. It gives Hasty's monthly three-page review of the other bee journals. 3d. F. L. Thompson, a practical bee keeper and thorough linguist, reads twelve of the leading foreign bee journals, and, each month, furnishes the gist of what he finds in them that is valuable. There are other points of excellence possessed by the *Review*, but these three are to be found in no other journal. The *Review* is \$1.00 a year. Ask for a sample, or send 10 cents for three late but different issues.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON,
Flint, Michigan.

CONDENSED REVIEW OF BEE JOURNALS.

Chalk, in keeping ants from extractors, is very effective. This Mr. Pierce, of Mururundi, Australia, practices. A line of chalk the ants will not pass, "Though," says Mr. Pierce, "the chalk line must be renewed often."

* * *

Gleanings in Bee Culture, under date of February 15th, tells of G. M. Doolittle and Dr. Miller locking horns on comb fast to separators, causes and how to prevent. Mr. Doolittle claims that the narrower the section, the more numerous are the brace combs at the bottom, where foundation is used, but does not claim that reducing the width of the section has more to do with the brace comb nuisance than the setting of the hives level or slip shod method of putting in foundation. The trouble with the bees drawing out one side of the foundation more than the other, thus curling it, causing it to be fastened to the separator, is accounted for, first, by weak colonies; second, by too much surplus room at first. He also claims that the field workers do not deposit their load of nectar in the cells of the surplus apartment.

* * *

The *Southland Queen*, of Beeville, Texas, says: "The outlook is very promising for a good honey season in this state. Beekeepers are up and about their business."

POISON HONEY.—Dr. W. M. Stell still claims that honey gathered from mountain laurel or any other poisonous plant is poison, and will produce the same symptoms after eating it as the true alkaloid. "In my article on poisoned honey in the August number of the *Queen*, I stated that the milk from goats feeding on the laurel bushes contained no poison whatever, as far as I could discover, but on receiving a letter from Mr. Chestnut, assistant in the Agricultural Department at Washington, asking me to observe more closely about the goat's milk, as he thought the milk should be effected, I purchased a goat and young kid; the goat was given laurel leaves, and after being starved for about two days, she consumed some of these leaves the milk from her had a peculiar taste, the kid refused to suck, the milk boy drank the milk, which he vomited in a few moments, complaining of slight pains in the stomach and the head; on the third morning, the goat was found dead, stiff and abdomen tightly swollen, and I opened the stomach and found laurel leaves masticated, and a greenish fluid, bitter in taste, which proved that it was a substance of the leaves which caused death. The same experiment was tried on rats and mice and proved fatal. There are many

kinds of mountain laurel that are more or less poisonous."

* * *

The *Beekeepers' Review* for February has an article from Dr. A. B. Mason, on the "Failure of Amalgamation and the Plans and Prospects of the New United States Beekeepers' Union." "I believe I was and am still opposed to amalgamation," says Dr. Mason, "unless it can be accomplished without in any way injuring the efficiency and usefulness of the union. The work was begun at the wrong end; what was done by the N. U. is insufficient to what it is proposed to do under the working of the constitution of United States Beekeepers' Union. Had the thousands of dollars that has been spent in protecting a few beekeepers in their rights to keep bees in the cities and villages been used in preventing the adulteration of honey, as the U. S. B. K. U. proposes to do, every bee-keeper on this continent would have been benefitted. As Dr. Miller, of California, says: "I expect to become a member of the U. S. B. K. U., amalgamation or not, because we need this special line of work; then work for a law against adulteration; then use it by collecting evidence and allowing the public prosecutor at the work. The Union should see that it is done, and a few cases will 'settle their hash'" To protect bee-keepers and their rights to keep bees in one city or village in a thousand is a good thing, but to protect thousands of honey producers, and hundreds of thousands and perhaps millions of people against the adulteration of nature's most precious sweets—honey—is a much better thing."

* * *

An editorial in the *Bee-Keepers' Review* of January has this to say about foundation with deep cells: "The A. B. J. announces that Mr. E. B. Weed, with the A. I. Root Co. has succeeded in making a foundation with high walls, from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in depth, and considerable enthusiasm is exhibited."

I am the last one to oppose or throw cold water upon anything that promises true progress, but I feel that a most earnest warning ought to be given regarding the use of such foundation. We all know that the eating quality of comb honey has not been improved by the use of comb foundation. Much has been the complaint about the "fishbone" in comb honey. Comb, natural comb, is of a light, friable nature—like the feathery, new-fallen snow. Once this snow has been melted, it can never be restored to its former state. It may be frozen again, but it will be hard and solid; it will be ice. Of course, nature can evaporate the water, and form it into snow. In a like manner, once comb has been melted into wax its character is changed. It is no longer comb, but wax. Another simile has been used by Mr. Bingham, viz.: that "but-

ter is butter, but melted butter is grease;" so comb is comb, but melted comb is wax. Comb foundation of the lightest, most fragile type is bad enough; foundation walls one-half inch deep will be abomination. Unless I am greatly mistaken it will be as great a blow to the sale of comb honey as has adulteration to the extract market. At least let us try this thing most cautiously. I fear, too, that unscrupulous men would use this product, even if it did injure comb honey. Let us be careful what we do in this line.

I would not assert that artificial comb could not be made, having walls as thin as those of natural comb, but they would still be of *wax*; and comb honey having such a product as its base would be little else than honey "done up" in tough, leathery, "gobby" wax—not comb honey, with its delicious, fragile, toothsome, flaky comb.

* * *

The *American Bee Journal* for March 11th has an editorial on "Slovenly Honey Marketing:" "While on South Water street a week or two ago, we saw at a honey commission house a part of a shipment of some 700 pounds of comb honey that had been sent in just as it came from the hives, *supers and all*. It had not been removed from the supers—simply lifted off the hives and shipped to market. Well, it was a splendid piece of slip-shod beekeeping. The honey was of fine quality, but, of course, it was scarcely salable at any price, while, if it had been removed from the supers, the sections nicely cleaned and put into neat shipping cases, it would have brought at least thirteen cents per pound.

"Of course, no reader of a bee paper would be guilty of such a careless, shiftless way of doing things. But, no doubt, that same beekeeper, had he been invited to subscribe for a good bee paper, would have said he couldn't afford it; and yet he could afford to lose a number of dollars on a small shipment of nice honey, just because he didn't know *how* to prepare it properly for the market! "Where ignorance is bliss" it may "be folly to be wise," but it is immensely more *profitable* to have the wisdom."

[Seems strange that such a thing should happen in this, the 19th century, with all the wise ones we have to advise us. The damage of such work can never be estimated, and as there is something like this going on all the time, we think it would not come amiss for every beekeeper to make it his business to post his neighbors about the packing, crating and marketing of honey.—Ed.]

* * *

"The importation of Apis Dorsata, the giant bee of India, received no encouragement at

the Lincoln convention of the North American Beekeepers' Association, last October. In fact, a strong resolution *against* their importation by the government was passed unanimously. This resolution was presented by Mr. L. D. Stilson, the secretary of the Nebraska State Beekeepers Association. We were quite a little surprised when he arose and read it, as it was the first intimation we had that any such action was contemplated at that meeting.

After the convention was over, our most eastern contemporary saw fit to berate several of the prominent members for favoring the passage of a resolution that they believed was all right; he even went so far as to accuse us and several others of originating the resolution, and that it was upon their suggestion that the matter was brought up for discussion. But to further show the facts in the case, we take the following from the *Nebraska Beekeeper*, written by Mr. Stilson himself:

"I have been reading with some interest the discussion, pro and con, of the action of the Lincoln convention in regard to the importation of Apis Dorsata. Now, I wish to say that I think but one or two gentlemen knew that such a resolution was thought of until I read it and moved its adoption. As to the why I feel opposed to the importation of Apis Dorsata by the general government at this time and in the manner asked for by the Ontario County Beekeepers' Association, I will say:

"First, I do not think it is a bee that would do us any good. A score of years ago we had in our employ a bright young man. A year or so later found him on his way as a missionary to Africa. Three or four years pass along and he revisits his boyhood home and parents in our town. While here he described animals, insects and bees as found in that far-off land. Although not particularly interested in Apis Dorsata at that time, yet from his descriptions, and those read later, I think they may be identical, or nearly so, and I at present believe worthless to us, other than as curiosities."

Now, gentlemen, instead of growling, and throwing stones and slurs at "Root, Miller, York or Mason," who *did not* introduce the resolution at the Lincoln convention, throw them at some one out in the Pacific ocean. If Root or Miller or York had needed Apis Dorsata in their apiaries, like gentlemen, they would have inclosed a \$10 bill with a well-provisioned queen-cage to some agent or missionary in far-away lands, and had Apis Dorsata queens to sell before the government agent could pack his gripsack ready to start. Whenever we have learned that Apis Dorsata is *anything desirable*, it will get here.

HONEY PACKAGES.

BY E. H. SCHAEFFLE.

I WAS formerly a druggist, and to this may be due my effort to have all packages look as inviting as possible. In comb honey there can be but little improvement over the way it is generally put up. Given a white section, scraped perfectly clean, that has been so packed that the honey cannot mash or mar, and it is simply a question of quantity. I first put my comb honey up in full two-pound sections, but when I came to sell them I found everybody offered me "two-bittee" (twenty-five cents), and declined to pay me the thirty cents I asked.

So, too, with the extracted honey. It must be either 25c, 50c, 75c or \$1. The "even change" was what the people wanted and I found, must have, if sales were to be effected readily. To accommodate them I changed the size of my sections and jars, so that now I can always hand them out a package that requires no change. My two-pound section I have cut down to one and three-quarter pounds, and it goes, without a single kick, at 25c. My one pound section weighs about fourteen ounces, and sells at 15c, or two for 25c, while my pint Mason jar sells for 25c, a short half gallon at 50c, ten pound can at \$1, and the regular five gallon can at \$5. These are all retail prices. The Mason pint jar holds too much to retail for 25c, as the retailer wants a profit of 10c on each jar, and it is not possible to give it. In consequence he buys the refilled bottles of glucose, that hold about one-half pint, at \$1.50 a dozen, and sells them for 25c. I am open for a square package with panel sides, that will hold twelve liquid ounces, and I *don't* want the quantity blow on the side. I want it to be flint glass, packed one dozen in a case, as the Mason jars now are.

Perhaps you say these are trade secrets. Well, suppose they are. I am in the business for what there is in it. The merchants would not buy a full two-pound roll of butter, and the dairies were compelled to put their product up short, though they were only paid for the actual net weight. So with honey. The glucose mixer gives a certain size and quantity, at a certain price, and you must do as well by the merchant or he will give you the "No, thank you," every time. So, too, with the consumer. It's: "My; two-bits for that? why, I can get it for 15 cents, or two for a quarter, at the stores. Humph! I guess not."

I would like to see a package that would hold twenty-five or fifty pounds, net. Our five-gallon can is too heavy to handle, while a *twenty-five* pound can could often be sold to a customer who won't buy *sixty-two* pounds.

I am running about 150 stands, about equally divided between comb and extracted. I look for a very good season this year. The fruit was killed the past two years by a late frost, and in consequence, we have the back fruit spurs to blossom this season, in addition to those formed last year. Then, too, it has rained without any intermission to speak of, for the last three months, and every plant ought to bloom this year.

MURPHYS, Calaveras Co., Cal., March 10, '97.

PROFIT IN BEES.

BY W. D. FRENCH.

PROFIT in bees may be derived in various ways, according to conditions in seasons, and the adaptations of their keeper to that especial line which he may pursue, depending largely on those who operate them. As an illustration, a person who never saw or worked with bees, would be likely to make no profit, while with those experienced in such matters, other conditions being favorable, success would crown their efforts.

The ways in which profit may be derived, are divided into three parts:

First—Increasing colonies for the market.

Second—Queen rearing.

Third—The production of honey.

Increasing the stocks for the market is a point upon which I desire to speak, and which may be diagnosed, according to my methods, thus:

Confine your bees to the brood nest, and gather in your swarms; very easy.

Another method, which is an infringement on the second proposition, is to rear queens scientifically, and build your colonies by the nucleus plan.

Rearing queens is generally understood by our best beekeepers, being the method as practically taught by G. M. Doolittle.

The third proposition, the production of honey, in which nearly all of us are interested, especially in that feature which relates to profit, and it is now simply a question of time when the realizations of our beekeepers, especially those who are engaged in the production of honey, will be established to their satisfaction, and this branch of apiculture will be operated on a basis of profit.

The beekeepers of California have shown their competency to produce honey in favorable seasons, and are now trying to demonstrate their ability to produce *honey for profit* by organization. Therefore, in summing up this question of profit in bees, it may be well to acknowledge the fact that those who produce honey for profit should at once become members of the California Beekeepers' Exchange.

FOSTER, San Diego Co., Cal., April 8, '97.

WHAT UTAH BEEKEEPING SHOULD BE.

BY E. J. LOVESY.

FRIEND BENNETT,

PACIFIC BEE JOURNAL:—

YOURS inquiring in regard to the bee industry in Utah received. In reply I would say, that the bee industry is considerably behind what it should or might be. This is true to some extent, both as regards proper management of the bees, as well as a lack of a proper union of interest among our beekeepers, such as should exist, for their own interest and self preservation. Still, the beekeepers are the best organized of any industry in the State, and it is also the best paying industry in the State. It produces a revenue each year, of considerable more value than the entire amount of capital invested in the industry, thus making, we believe, for the amount of money invested, the most profitable pursuit. While there was an excellent honey flow in some portions of the State last year, in other localities, the yield was not as heavy as usual, owing to the excessive amount of rain, which washed the nectar out of the blossoms. We received reports from different parts of the State, giving averages, ranging from 25 to 160 pounds to the colony, Spring count. Proper management, or the lack of it, was one of the principal causes of these extremities, while, owing to the conditions named, the bees did better in some locations than in others. Still, nearly all of our practical beekeepers reported a success last year. Many of them produced over a carload of honey each. One county reported a yield of nearly one-half million pounds.

I have kept no record of my bees since 1894, with the exception of the best colonies. In that year's Spring count they averaged 132 pounds, the five best colonies giving 1,500 pounds. The best single colony gave 430 pounds. In 1895 I manipulated my best colony so that I obtained six new colonies and a little over 500 pounds of honey. This old queen is the most remarkable one that I ever owned or heard of. She is now four years old, and the product from her so far has been sixteen new colonies direct and about 1,400 pounds of honey. The compound increase of the new colonies I have kept no account of. From my best colony last year I got three new swarms and 325 pounds of honey; and those colonies are all strong now. We find that one of the mysteries of beekeeping is that, while some colonies build up and do wonders, others in the same apiary fail to do anything. Our rule is to requeen all such colonies that fail to build up in the spring. There has been a great deal of snow and rain here the past winter, till the mountains were literally packed with it. This,

of course, will give a great supply of water for irrigation, and if we have moderately fine weather with abundance of water to pour over the soil, everything grows in profusion. Under these conditions about double the amount of all kinds of crops will grow to the acre that can be grown without irrigation and, as the plants are vigorous and full of nectar, the bees have a booming time gathering the honey. Under these conditions, the alfalfa or lucerne is our principal honey plant. Of course, we have many others, such as sweet clover, white clover, Rocky Mountain honey plant, (or clover, as it is sometimes called), catnip, mother-wort and others; and while the prospects are encouraging, of course it is impossible to tell just what the results will be. Our beekeepers feel hopeful.

Dreary winter has gone at last, and spring, gentle spring, is with us once more. The bees are humming and the birds are singing, and all nature seems to be putting on new life. But in regard to the season's harvest, we will inform you later.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, March 15, '97.

The *Australian Bee Bulletin*, under date of January 28th, 1897, tells of dense honey, and how it was gotten from the comb. The honey was so thick that nothing above melting point of wax would allow its being slung out in the extractor. The combs were uncapped, and what honey would come out was extracted; the honey that would not come was cut from the comb and extracted with the sun extractor.

For Sale or Exchange.

Notices under this head at one cent per word.

FOR SALE—Fifty colonies of hybrids, bees, in new, painted, one-story Heddon hives. \$3 per colony. MILO SMITH, Long Beach, Cal.

WANTED.—Bees in old boxes, or barrels, or old hives. Bee King, care P B J.

EXCHANGE—Good gold mine in Southern Oregon to trade for a bee ranch and bees in Los Angeles or San Diego counties. Address, W. A. Johnson, Santa Monica, Cal.

WANTED.—Beeswax. See page 19.

WANTED.—By an experienced apiarist, a position in a bee ranch and apiary. Address, Miles Parker, Pomona, Los Angeles Co., Cal.

**GOLDEN
ADEL
ALBINO.**

TEXAS QUEENS. Dr. Gallup of Santa Ana, Cal., says they are the best he has in his yard. J. D. GIVENS, Lisbon, Texas. Box 3.

Convention Notice.

Secretaries please keep us posted as regards to future meetings in the States.

THE Central California Beekeepers' Association will hold a meeting at Hanford, the first Wednesday in June, when officers of the association are to be elected, and when an effort will be made to change the Constitution and By-Laws. Invitations are extended to the Brother Beekeepers to come. Bring your wife and daughters.

Hanford, June 2, 1897.

Our Foundation Goes One Ton a Month.

We are now making hundreds of pounds of COMB FOUNDATION by a process that enables one man to make 300 lbs. daily, 60 feet of wax sheets, at one operation, which makes the medium brood foundation as strong as the old style heavy brood; no broken or sagging of this Comb Foundation; it is much cheaper and better, and of perfect even thickness, the base of cell being very thin. Our Wax is thoroughly clarified, and of a good even grade "Better than Weed's." is what our people say.

Price of Comb Foundation.

Based on Wax at 25¢ per lb., subject to change.

Size.	No. sheets to the lb.			
	per lb.	10 lbs.	25 lbs.	100 lbs.
Heavy Brood, 7/8x16 7/8	6	\$0 50	\$0 40	\$0 35
Medium, "	7	50	42	37
Light, "	8	55	45	40
Thin, surplus, 3/4x15 1/2	21	55	45	42
Ex. Thin, surplus "	28	60	50	45

Price for Making Up Foundation

From Wax Furnished.

	per lb.	10 lbs.	25 lbs.	100 lbs.
Heavy Brood,	per lb. . . .	\$0 12	\$0 10	\$0 09
Medium "	"	13	11	10
Light "	"	15	13	12
Thin, surplus,	"	25	20	15
Ex. Thin, surplus,	"	30	25	20

Weed's Patent Process Foundation to cents per lb. above these prices

All Foundation is neatly packed in boxes, with tissue paper between each sheet, and delivered by railway or boat, by direct routes in Southern California, in lots of 75, or more, or with other goods.

Beeswax Wanted, 25 Cents a Pound

Paid for fair average Yellow Wax, well rendered, delivered at our railroad station; Dark Wax, 23 Cents per pound. This is Two Cents above the Los Angeles market price, and the prospect of a decline will allow Two Cents per Pound more in trade for our goods.

THE BENNETT BEE HIVE COMPANY,
LOS ANGELES, CAL.

what's that? 25c a year! Yes.

The Pacific Bee Journal

Begins a campaign with this number for three months, and offers to the apiarists a \$1 paper at 25c a year monthly—12 numbers. Every beekeeper's name on our list before the year's end is what we want. Hard times, yes, that may have been the cause for many not seeing our paper, but at 25c a year can take it. Send stamps, money order, or silver, done up in paste board.

The editor has spent time and money to make a California bee-paper second to none in the field. Many beekeepers have aided him splendidly, but still the paper is a monthly visitor to only one-quarter of the apiarists in this great honey-producing section.

Apiarist, each lend us a helping hand, and may the PACIFIC BEE JOURNAL long live, and be an aid to the bees and their keepers, is the wish of ye editor.

B. S. K. BENNETT.

Contributions solicited. Everything goes which pertains to care of bees and their profitable management. Aid the PACIFIC BEE JOURNAL.

HONEY "FIXINS."

Snow White Falcon Section	\$3.50 per 1,000.	\$16.25 per 5,000.	\$30.00 per 10,000.
Section Holders, any size, smooth sawed	\$1.25 per 100.	\$11.00 per 1,000.	
Pattern Section Slats, any size, smooth sawed	85 per 100.	7.00 per 1,000.	
Slotted Sawed Separators (Bisswood)	85 per 100.	8.00 per 1,000.	
Sawed Separators, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x 17, $17\frac{3}{4}$ or 18	60 per 100.	4.00 per 1,000.	
Followers Boards, with Wedges	3.00 per 100.	25.00 per 1,000.	
Daisy Foundation Fastener	\$1.25.	Without Lamp, \$1.00.	
Sections, Frames or Folders	50c per 100.	\$2.50 and \$3.25 each.	
Parker Foundation Fastener		25c. Roller, 20c.	

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