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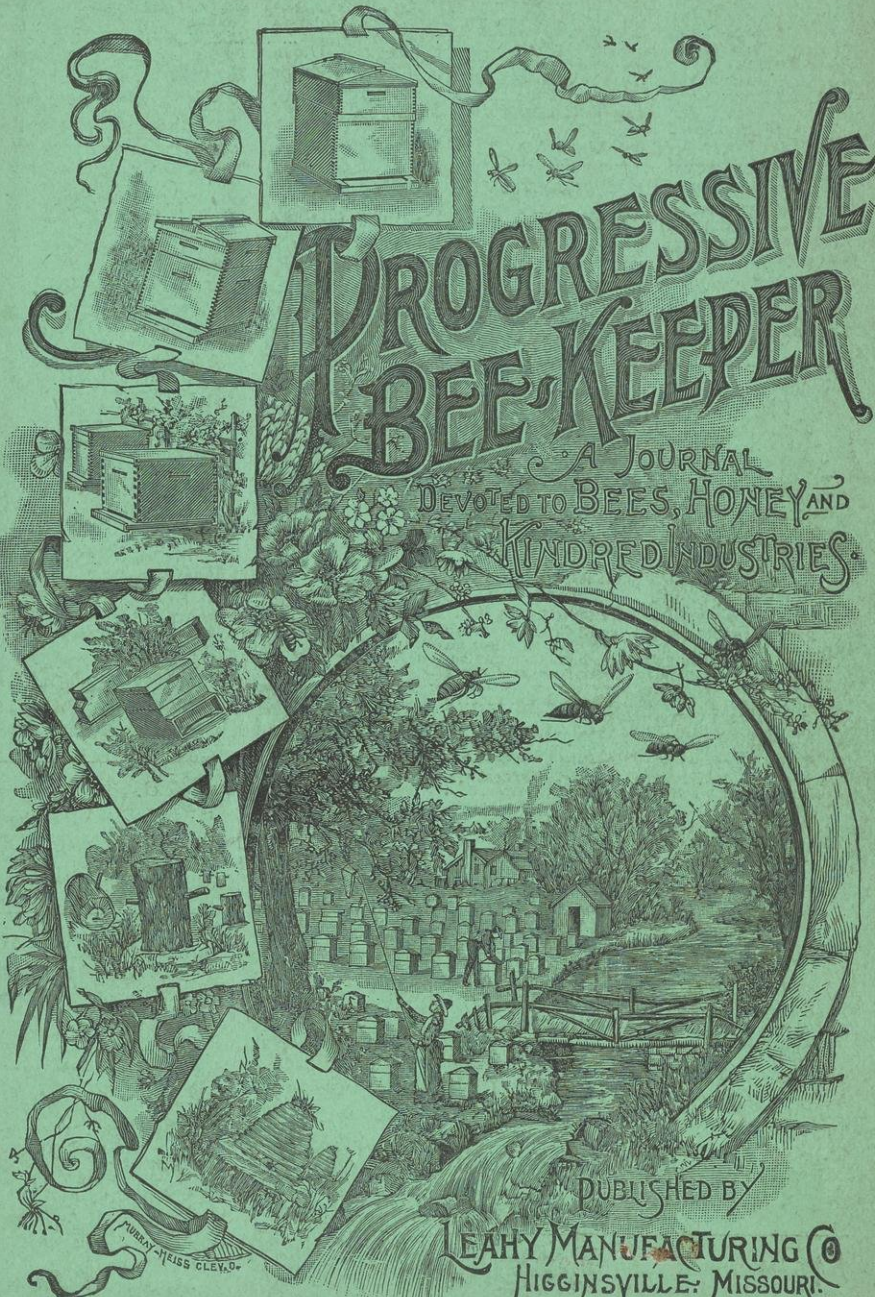
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OCT. 1900.

PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND
KINDRED INDUSTRIES.



PUBLISHED BY

LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO
HIGGINSVILLE, MISSOURI.

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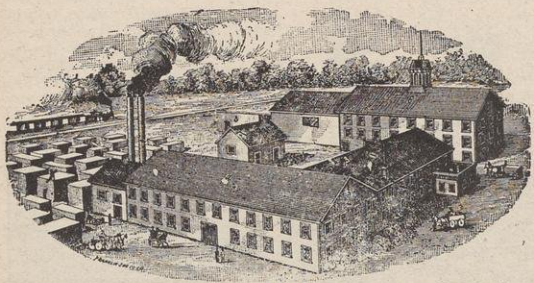
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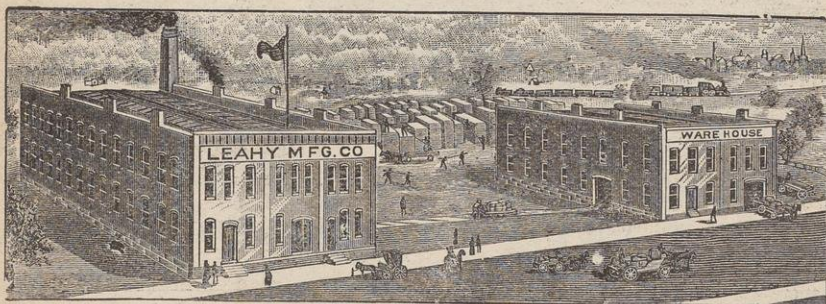
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The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey, and Kindred Industries

50 Cents a Year.

Published Monthly by Leahy Manufacturing Company.

Vol. X.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., OCT. 1900.

No. 10.

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Two Scenes.

I saw you lying there, the angry waves
Lashing their spray about your helpless form
A very demon seemed to sway the storm,
Liken some wretch who scenes of horror craves
And there was woe below the deep sea caves.
The lightning cleft the air so deadly warm,
Thor's thund'rous clouds more densely
seemed to swarm.
As though to dig the whole world dreadful
graves.
Changed in a flash the scene of horror dread,
A ray of sunshine thro the darkness crept!
Like magic every angry billow sped;
The silvery waters in the dayglow leapt,
Peace reigned, and you with kingly, crown-ed
head,
Sate throned with life, and love no longer wept.
—Will Ward Mitchell.

Honey-Dew not Always Produced by Insects.—The Right Way to Put Up Fruit with Honey.—Chaff Hives Rightly Managed a Good Thing in Colorado.

F. L. THOMPSON.

It is a matter of wonderment to me that Prof. Cook should be so stiff-necked on the subject of honey-dew. If his conclusions were arrived at after a survey of the whole field of information we now possess on the subject, they would be worthy of respect; but they are not the result of taking everything into account and sifting, but seem to be simply shutting the eyes of knowledge, in much the same manner as many church members profess the greatest contempt for higher criticism, without the faintest idea of what it is. Thus in a late issue of the American Bee Journal he said he was getting to be more and more confirmed in the belief that honey-dew was wholly the product of insects, and what sort of proof did the interested reader find? Just ONE instance given in which honey-dew was the product of insects—something which is not generally denied does occur frequently. Is that scientific? We expect such talk from the bigoted and prejudiced, but not from enlightened minds. No consideration of the subject amounts to anything, from a scientific and logical point of view, which does not fully and fairly present the experience of

ALL capable experimenters, and Prof. Cook has made a peculiarly flagrant omission in ignoring the exhaustive and careful researches of Prof. Gaston Bonnier, of Paris, which have been before the public for years, (having been quoted in the first edition of Dadant's Langstroth), and were supplemented by further studies a few years ago. Prof. Bonnier has proved that while honey-dew of insects origin frequently occurs, it is also produced in plants without the agency of any insects whatever, by atmospheric conditions, and this product is also sometimes gathered by bees.

The bee-keepers of Montrose discussed this subject in one of their meetings. Mr. E. Willis gave an instance of the bees working on the cottonwoods, gathering honey-dew, when no plant-lice were present. In the evening the honey-dew looked like scales of granulated sugar. The plant-lice came a week after the honey-dew had commenced to form. At Lake City and Del Norte he has seen quantities of honey-dew altogether disproportionate to the number of plant-lice present—barrels of honey-dew to gallons of lice. The latter seemed to be there for the same reason that gamblers assemble where there is money, or buzzards flock around a carcass.

Mr. Wm. Willis gave an instance of a field of oats plentifully secreting honey-dew, so as to stick the horses' legs all up that drew the mowing-machine (I suppose the oats were cut green for hay, as is sometimes done here). Plant-lice were seen on some of the leaves, but mainly on the UNDER side, while the honey-dew was on the UPPER side. He has seen honey-dew start as a small streak on hickory leaves in the morning, and the streak increase in size. Mr. E. Willis added that the bees worked on plant honey-dew in

the morning, but not in the evening. Mr. Nichols said that at Jaquinta, Oregon, they depended almost entirely on the honey-dew for bees. It was secreted at night, and gathered in the morning, and the people there were unanimous in saying there were no plant-lice. It made the finest honey he ever tasted.

I often read of putting up fruit with honey, but seldom see any reference to what constituted a decided objection to using honey instead of sugar for that purpose, if not done rightly; namely, a strong twang about the product, which, to my taste, is not nearly so agreeable as the taste of fruit put up with sugar. This seems to be owing either to the change of taste which honey undergoes when heated too high, or to strong-tasting honey, or both. But once at Mr. R. D. Willis' house I tasted some peaches, put up with honey, which I would not have known had not been put up with sugar, if I had not been told. At one of the Montrose meetings Mrs. Willis told her method. She uses none but the whitest, first crop alfalfa honey, which has the least twang about it of any honey gathered here; puts a SMALL quantity of it in a shallow pan on the stove, together with a small quantity of peaches, and stirs constantly, removing before the honey is heated enough to alter its flavor, and never using the same honey twice. The idea is to keep from heating the honey all you can, and use only the whitest honey.

An impression seems to have gained currency in northern Colorado, owing to some unlucky experiences, that chaff hives are unsafe for wintering, and the editor of *Gleanings* also reports that opinion as if it were one of the settled things about Colorado wintering. I cannot do better in this connection than to

quote from the *Western Bee-Keeper* for March, 1899, a part of the report of a Denver meeting.

[H. Rauchfuss said] In his chaff hives in the spring he has to take out honey-combs in order to make room for the brood. [This in a locality where the consumption of honey in single-walled hives in winter is usually a source of loss.] This was also the experience of Pres. Rhodes, who has tried chaff hives on a large scale for a number of years. During two seasons, however, they were not satisfactory, because moisture froze in the hives during a cold spell, and the upper packing became wet, which ordinarily it does not do . . . This is NOT AN OBJECTION TO CHAFF HIVES, as moisture freezes every winter in single-wall hives. It can be overcome by airing the hives promptly. He made a test three years in succession of chaff hives by the side of single-walled ones. Every spring the chaff hives had enough more honey to pay for the hives. He thinks it a bad thing to entice the bees out every sunny day by covering up the storm side and exposing the sunny side. . . . Mr. Porter said he had always had trouble with his chaff hives, which being in an out-apiary were left to themselves. They wintered very poorly. He thought hives ought to get the benefit of the Colorado sun, by not being packed, so the bees could get warmed up enough to eat. The sun here acts as it did on a man at Leadville who had to put his overcoat on to walk on one side of the street, and take it off on the other. In response to queries, however, Mr. Porter said the hives were painted white, had thick walls and had the same quilts on in winter that they had in summer, and it was pointed out that not more than one or two inches of packing between the walls is nec-

essary, that propolized cloths prevent the benefit of the upward ventilation of the chaff, and that dark-colored hives on a winter day will be comfortably warm when the sun is shining.

Mr. F. Rauchfuss said the chaff hives were all right in summer, too. Generally the nights and mornings are cool; at such times the bees in chaff hives do not desert the supers. In exceptionally warm spells the covers can be raised.

Mr. Martin said that when a colony gets warmed up considerably it scatters, and some bees get on the south side of the hive; then a cold freezing night pinches off these stragglers. It would be better for the colony to be kept in a compact cluster, even if it did not get so warm.

Mr. H. Rauchfuss instanced some colonies of his on the side of a building which do not get the sun all winter, but winter as well as any.

Mr. Martin also said that another reason for taking the tops off hives and airing them at the conclusion of a cold spell, is that honey combs are slow to change temperature, and condense moisture on their surfaces from the warm atmosphere at those times."

Some time ago Mr. Doolittle referred to Mr. Honnett's statement, as given in the *Western Bee-Keeper*, that it does not matter which way hives face (that statement being made at a COLORADO convention), as one of the worst pieces of advice ever appearing in a bee-paper, or some such expression. Mr. Doolittle should remember that the world in general, and Colorado in particular, may differ somewhat from the north-eastern quarter of the United States, and that the advice he went on to give may be just as misplaced for Colorado as that which he criticised would be if given for New York (which it was not). Besides the ex-

perience of Mr. Dodds, given on pages 153 and 154. I can add that the bees of Ranchfuss Bros. have for a number of years been facing to the four points of the compass, about an equal number each way, and that those facing north wintered just as well every year as those facing other directions. At another Denver meeting Mr. Moon, an old and extensive bee-keeper, said his bees were mostly in the shade, and faced all points, and those colonies whose entrances faced north came through just as well, and perhaps, better, as they do not consume so much honey. Mr. Martin favored facing south, in order to keep the entrances clear, and objected to keeping the hives in a grove, on account of the snow drifting; though in a winter when not much snow fell, it would be an advantage, on account of the windbreak. Mr. Moon said 40 of his colonies were in a cherry thicket, and they made more honey and swarmed less than the others; but the snow does not drift there, but stays when it falls. He has not lost ONE good colony there. Mr. Martin said that if the colonies are protected so that the snow does not drift and clog the entrances at a time when the bees want to fly, shade in winter is not so bad. One apiary in a grove lost 50 per cent, because the entrances were clogged up at the wrong time. Mr. Brock said he wasn't much in favor of hard work. It is quite a little job to grow timber. He has a broad fence to the north and west. His hives face south. He has had fair crops for twenty years, taking trips away in the winter of three or four months. He leaves the entrances open, and puts gunny sacks over the frames, with nothing between them and the covers, which are deep ones (6-inch, I believe) resting on cleats around the top of

the hive. At this and other meetings the great importance of sufficient ventilation in Colorado wintering was emphasized. A very contracted entrance causes more dead bees than one wide open; and the only reason for a contracted entrance is when the colony is so weak as to liable to be robbed.

At Montrose, Mr. R. D. Willis had a very favorable experience with chaff hives. This was especially noticeable in the spring of 1899. In one yard he has a number of both chaff and single-walled hives; and once when I was there when he was examining colonies, I could readily see a great difference; for that year the colonies in single-walled hives became short of stores very early, and were not particularly populous, while those in chaff hives presented a great contrast, having a plenty both of honey and bees. Mr. Wm. Willis does not use chaff hives, but has covers deep enough to slide down over two supers, and which rest on the outside edge of the bottom-boards when no supers are on. His colonies also build up well in the spring, and do not desert the supers in summer. For wintering, he folds a gunny sack so as to make four thicknesses, puts three little sticks under it, over the frames, with honey-board over the sack and the cover over all. He wants nothing to rest flat and tight on the sack, for that will cause it to get wet. He says his hobby is top ventilation, which he prefers to secure in this manner. Mr. Nichols reported some colonies in double-walled hives in Delta Co., that wintered disastrously, becoming wet and mouldy, but said they had no top ventilation.

Mr. Bruce told of a farmer bee-keeper near by who has fifteen colonies, and always has the same number, very rarely losing in winter, and preventing swarming by cutting

out queen-cells. He simply puts an empty super on each hive with nothing at all between it and the cover, which is a telescope cover.

From all this it is proved, I think, that chaff hives, when KEPT DRY, and VENTILATED, are a good thing in Colorado. But now a question arises that I am unsettled about. How much of this good is done by the mere sheltering from the wind? In other words, would, or would not, an effective wind-break for the whole apiary, or a separate wind-break for every eight or ten hives, accomplish so nearly the same thing as to make the expense of individual chaff hives unnecessary? They certainly pay for themselves in comparison with unprotected single-walled hives. Has any Colorado bee-keeper the experience with both that would enable him to answer?

Morrison Colo.

Old nature has trimmed up her bonnet in hues
vari-colored and gay.
With taste that no milliner knoweth, Jack
Frost is her modiste, they say.
She is weary of lilies and roses, the tint of the
golden-rod, too.
And, feminine-like, with the autumn appar-
els her beauty anew.

The matinal music of autumn from hilltop to
valley is heard,
The brook as it sings in the woodland, the leaf
by the fall zephyrs stirred;
The bird with a melody, sober perhaps to the
fanciful, sings
Of the glory and glow of October, the beauty
of everyday things.

—Will Ward Mitchell.

The Red Clover Problem.

W. H. RITTER.

In Sept. 1st Gleanings, Friend Hasty, gives us a long and somewhat discouraging experience in his efforts on the red clover problem. Now if it is possible to so shorten the clover heads so the bees can reach all the honey it contains it will be a regular bonanza to bee-keepers, and a great quantity of the finest of honey saved that now goes to waste its sweetness over the fields. But wait a bit. I said the finest of honey—well that's a supposition only so far as I know. Everybody supposes that red clover honey is just as white and fine as white clover, but is it? Who knows? As Dr. Miller used to say, "I don't know." Who does just know he knows? Now there is a nice little old adage that used to say, 'be SURE you're right, then go ahead.' It would be a great disappointment to labor for years on this stubborn clover question and after getting it so the bees could get all the honey, then we discover that after all our painstaking that the honey was no better than buckwheat honey. Has any bee-keeper ever got any pure unmixed red clover honey? If there is such a bee-keeper we want to hear from him right away, and we want to know how he knows that he has got the "Simon pure" red clover honey.

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It tells how to select, care and
breed, with much other informa-
tion.....

HAYWARD RABBITRY.
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October.

October is here with a glory that no other
month may possess,
With coronal leaves in her tresses and colors
divine in her dress;
With skies brightly blue-eyed though hazy, a
chill in the touch of the air,
As feelings delightfully lazy dispel all moni-
tions of care.

If there is such a man anywhere he can just tell us how good it is—and if it's just as good as white clover, then we are all ready to go on with the red clover problem. It looks as though Friend S. P. Culley is on to this red clover problem about the right way. He tells us now—here in August—to save seeds from first crop. Why didn't you think of this sooner, Bro. Culley? Now we will be a year late about it—However I believe you are on the right trail to “get there.” If the honey bee is the only insect that is able to be around when the first crop of red clover needs fertilizing, then it can't make seed by any other mode; then it stands to reason that the only seed-heads found on first crop of red clover have been visited by the bees, and if so, they have found it short enough to reach the honey. Then the only seed found would be in the short heads and by saving such seed, it seems very possible to succeed. About a year ago I suggested another clover problem to the PROGRESSIVE readers—that was to so manipulate the white clover plant as to prolong the time of bloom till mid-summer or later. That would be as good a plan as the red clover scheme and perhaps as easy to accomplish. Last year we had an enormous crop of white clover and not half enough bees to save it all. If it could have been prolonged two and a half or three months, instead of three weeks, it would have been a grand boom for the bee-keepers. I hope we may be able to solve both problems in the near future.

Springfield, Mo.

Albino Queens.

If you want the most prolific queens, the best honey gatherers, the best comb builders, and the hardest bees known, try my Albinos. Untested Queens, \$1.00,

J. D. GIVENS, Lisbon, Tex.

Alfalfa.—About Its Cultivation and Uses.....

R. C. AIKIN.

Alfalfa is a clover. In form and general appearance it is very like sweet clover in the leaf; in the stems much like red clover, but grows almost to twice its size. In the roots it is like the sweet clover, growing straight down into the ground, with but few fibrous roots near the surface of the ground. It is a perennial, and lives for several years; hence the strong deep root keeps enlarging from year to year, until it makes quite a hole in the ground. So large and tough do these roots become that an ordinary plow and two horses cannot break an alfalfa sod. I have many a time seen three horses doing their best, and yet were not able to cut all the roots with a sharp plow. It is no easy job for four horses.

On account of the deep strong rooting of the plant, it is the plant of all the clovers for dry climates; if there is any moisture in the soil, it gets to it, and so is sustained thro drouths. This dry country could scarcely maintain a hay producing crop, if it were not for alfalfa. It is the hay producer of the arid and semi-arid districts.

I believe it is almost invariably sown with spring wheat, this wheat being the grain crop of the country. I have doubts about it succeeding if sown in the fall; I know that here the drouth of the winter would kill the small plants. Sown in the spring drilled in with the wheat at the rate of 15 to 20 pounds of seed to the acre, the wheat shades and protects the plants till they get strength and depth of root to resist drouth. The preparation of the soil is practically same as for clover. There is one thing may discourage one who is not used to the

plant—it is the fact that it takes a field about 2 or 3 years to get to its best. I believe the first fall after the planting there is but a spare growth, while the first summer's hay (a year after planting) will not be much if any more than half what the third crop should be. Plant it one year with wheat, next year take light crop of hay, the next a fair crop, and the the third crop good, and good ones thereafter as long as you want to continue the field. Here where the growth of crops is about two weeks behind that of southern Iowa in the spring, the alfalfa is cut about June 15 to 30, having been irrigated usually about once, say in May, then is irrigated again as soon as the hay is off the ground, and will be ready to cut again in 20 or 40 days, then watered and left till about frost for the third cutting. Where the season is a month or so longer, a fourth cutting is made. The yield after the first year after the year it is planted, is from 5 to 7 tons to the acre.

Alfalfa is bad to bloat cattle and sheep, nor will it stand severe pasturing. Here where there are very many cattle there is but little pasturing of this plant. Stock are kept off it during the growing season, and if the continuous cropping for hay is kept up, and the last cutting at or after frost, there is no pasture left for anything. Perhaps one reason there is no growth in the late fall, is the fact that there is such a scarcity of water that by frost it is too dry to make a growth. It might act differently with plenty of rain. The plant delights in bright, warm sunshine.

There is one thing I feel rather confident about; if the plant will succeed in other and eastern countries as it does here, it would be a grand thing for the farmers to have a field of it, and just keep that field

for years to supply his hay crop. A ton of clover or timothy will feed farther than the alfalfa; the latter is more watery; but a cow on alfalfa will milk quite well without any other feed. A horse not at hard work will keep fat on this hay alone. It is not suited for driving horses at all.

One beauty of the plant here is that it will crowd out every other thing except sweet clover. It is indeed a beautiful sight to see a field of it, a rich light green, even as a field of nice wheat, and not a weed to be seen in it. Being a clover, and the stems some heavier than red clover, it is hard to cure, and in rainy climates not very easy to handle. The method of curing here is to let it lay about a day or two, according to weather for curing, till the curing is just so it can be raked into windrows; then it is cocked with forks into little bits of cocks of about a good forkful. Put up this way, the air gets through it to continue the curing, and yet there is not so much exposed to the sun to bleach. It is often left in these little cocks or bunches several days or a week; some turn the bunches over once to get better curing. As the leaves easily drop off when very dry, care is taken to handle it when slightly damp, say in the morning.

Alfalfa hay is very nice to look at, when carefully and properly cured, for it will retain its green color till it looks almost like fresh mown. The parts exposed to sun and weather will lose all its greenness, but cut into a stack, and it will be green inside. It is like clover in that it will not shed water when in stack; water will go right down through a stack like through a sieve, and if the rain is heavy enough, it will wet clear through a stack. I think it proper here to

speak of these things, for the desire to know of this plant is no doubt to plant for honey, but unless it can be made profitable in other ways the honey alone will not pay. Like many other things, if we understand the thing we are dealing with it may become very profitable, but how often we cast aside a very profitable and good thing only because we do not know how to use it.

Now comes the question as to the honey producing qualities of this plant. The quality of its nectar is not excelled by any. The quantity which it will yield is an open question. I have never yet seen an alfalfa field in which the bees could be said to be "just swarming" in it, though I have heard a few farmers speak of such when cutting for hay a field in full bloom. Usually when the honey is coming the fastest I am too busy to go to the fields to look, but I have frequently stopped by fields, and going in two or three rods observed that there were bees at work on the bloom. Some plants yield both nectar and pollen, and on such we may expect to find bees in greater numbers than on that which yields only one or the other. Sweet clover is a good example; it gives both, and is a great favorite with the bees, and they visit it in great numbers. Alfalfa yields nectar only, and I think usually not very freely. The fact that our flows are nearly always slow is evidence that it is not a free yielder.

I know there is a prevailing opinion that alfalfa is a sure yielder, that all one has to do is to get beside alfalfa fields, and have the bees, and his crop is sure. He who leaves a fair field to get into the alfalfa country, with such an idea, will be quite sure to find blasted hopes. Such a thing as a full and complete failure is rarely known, but I at-

tribute this fact to the following: First, there is a great extent of acreage of the plant. Second, there is almost sure to be at least a few fields that are watered at just about the proper time, so that conditions in these fields cause a secretion. (Your clover fields are rained on by general rains, or dried by a general drouth.) The time that an alfalfa field here is rained upon depends on the supply of water in the ditch or available, and on the farmer's ability to apply the water; he may be behind with work, even one or two weeks. Remembering that the weather is such that there are VERY FEW DAYS that bees will not work at least part of the day, and the just described condition that causes one field to be well watered while others are not so, you will see that it may come about that there is almost always a little nectar and available to the bees because of the bright favorable weather. It is rare that we have to feed for winter stores; there is always some scattering bloom that gives the bees a tedious yield that enables them to get winter stores when they would not store any surplus. It is my opinion that if we were dependent upon rain, or, rather, that if alfalfa was the source of dependence for honey in the east, just as is white clover, and subject to wet and dry, as the clover, it would be just as unreliable.

It is said that sweet clover will never fail to secrete. The years '98 and '99 our alfalfa yielded poorly and sweet clover well, but this year alfalfa gave me almost my entire crop (only a fair one), while very little came from the clover. I had built hopes on the clover, it following the other; it having been fair, I thought the sweet clover on top of it would make me a fine crop, but the clover failed.

Loveland, Colo.

no business or dealings with each other; there must be dealings, and if not proper and just, there is not harmony.

Apiarists are, as a class, limited or small producers. As such, our product cannot get to market and compete with large producers, and with those who do a wholesale buying and selling. To have the advantage that is obtained by the greater combination, we must be combined and co-operate. We do this to get better facilities, and to better protect ourselves and fight our battles. An organization of honey producers cannot say we will sell honey at so much and positively no less—such would often be suicidal to our interests. We have many things to contend with, greater and more powerful organizations than ours, and above all, the law of supply and demand. When we talk of organizing, the first thought of many producers is that honey ought to bring so much, and we will just unite and ask so much. Well, if asking would get the price, all right; do it; but it will not, so we must do the best we can.

To do the best we can means union and strength. We unite, and one of the many in the union will act for all and get in touch with the various markets. He will be posted as to reliable firms, and the rascally ones as well. Will be familiar with the rules of business governing in transportation, and in collecting the money on the goods. In short, prepares himself with a vast fund of information that is necessary to the conduct of the business that we single-handed small producers cannot do, and so is able to do for us what we CANNOT do for ourselves.

I do not consider organization wrong, either from a religious or a business standpoint, but in harmony with all principles of right and jus-

tice. It may even become a duty to organize, that justice and right may prevail. That such a time is now with rural producers, ought to be patent to all. Many efforts have been made in various parts of the country to bring together honey producers in the marketing of their product, and with varying degrees of success. Some are jealous, some suspicious, some selfish; others do not seem to be able to comprehend the situation or the benefits to be derived.

It is not a matter of monopoly, either in the sense of setting an arbitrary price on our produce, or of keeping out of the field other and proper competitors, nor a matter of extortion. It is a matter of co-operation, of proper and equal distribution, of self-protection, and a bettering of the condition of the weaker. Millions are starving, other millions have an existence but not a competency, very many more have necessities but no luxuries. Could proper co-operative methods be introduced everywhere, fair and just rates of carriage, and a proper planning to put the produce to the proper places in the proper manner to do the most good, there would be such a revival of business, such a demand for produce, and such a general demand for the brains and muscle of man that none need be idle nor any starving.

What then is our duty? Get together as a body of producers, aid each other, co-operate and try to better produce, pack and market our production.

But how shall it be done? Talk with your neighbors, discuss in private and public, meet in convention, find out your own and neighbors' needs, cast aside jealousies, be friendly and get acquainted. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

After rubbing together and sharpening each other, select the best business talent among the brethren, and let these, as a committee, proceed to lay plans and manage the affairs of the masses. Organize according to law, and do things both legally and orderly. You are now selling your goods at less than they should sell for, all things considered, partly because you have not the facilities to know what you can and ought to get, or, if knowing, cannot command the work in its details. You have small shipments that must be transported at local rates, whereas if you had a car load you could just about cut in two the freights, get better prices, and draw buyers that you could not with the small lots.

A small community can do business in a small way and without the middle-man, but when our goods—both what we buy and what we sell—must be transported long distances, we cannot go after that we buy nor deliver that we sell, but one or more go-betweens must be associated with the transaction. Corn, wheat, cattle, sheep and hogs are shipped by car and train loads. Go to Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Illinois, and there you can witness the transportation of these products by the train load; yes, I have seen several train loads of hogs pulling along close one after another, and on the same time, a system of aggregated wealth and organized effort.

I can tell you of a fruit growers' organization. There was a time when these producers were selling EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF. There was no system, no co-operation, just selfishness, jealousy lest there would be too many producers, too much competition, some other fellow would ship to MY MARKET, etc. The growers did not know where, when, nor how to ship. Were

afraid the business would be overdone. Many sold (shipped) to irresponsible dealers, could not collect, and had a world of trouble. At last they got together, formed an association, selected a BUSINESS MAN to do the selling, shipping and collecting, and today there is a large increase in the production, the fruit is better distributed, and what is of importance, losses by dishonest or irresponsible buyers is almost eliminated. Do not forget this: MORE FRUIT IS PRODUCED, IT IS BETTER MARKETED, THE PEOPLE AVERAGE BETTER PRICES, and yet a go-between or middle-man gets a nice profit out of it.

I can sell berries, honey or other products to my neighbor, but I cannot successfully ship and deal with distant consumers unless I can do so in a wholesale way and with a knowledge of many things not common to nor necessary in the producer. Get these things thought out, brethren, then get up and organize and do business in the way demanded by conditions you MUST face, and even if you have to pay some of your best men a good salary to do the business for you, you will be ahead in the end.

Loveland, Colo.

Recapitulation by G. M. Doolittle.

Ex. 18:21.—Did the reader take any special note of the quotation of Scripture given by Bro. Aikin? If not, let him or her turn back and read it again. And after having read to fully understand, then let us ask ourselves if in our government in these United States we have listened to the instruction given by God. Have we provided ourselves with rulers, "such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness"? If we have, how comes it about that we covet the isles of the sea, that we establish canteens in our army, which

takes these isles for conquest, to the debasement, shame and death of our soldiers; and worse still, if possible, protect brothels and houses of prostitution by the score, in the city of Manila, government officials inspecting the inmates once a week to guard our soldiers from indescribable diseases? And if we have not heeded God's command, and have not provided ourselves with rulers, "such as fear God," but instead have chosen men who *care not for the truth*, and those which *love covetousness*, is it any wonder that this spirit of greed and selfishness, which Bro. A. speaks of, has taken possession of the majority of the people of this Christian (?) nation? It is because we "have sown to the wind" that we are reaping the suspicion and dishonesty Bro. A. tells us about in his third paragraph. If we as a people only had heeded another of God's commands, that one *like unto the first*, to "*love thy neighbor as thyself*," no bee-keeper would ever have thought of "organizing for protection," and much less of claiming that an organization for the purpose of forcing up the price of honey was *right*. *No, no!* Away with such sophistry. The higher we force up the price of honey, the higher will railroad rates go on the same, and the more we shall pay for the things the wealthy control through laws made by an unjust government. The trouble is *not* with the *railroads*, the *trusts* and *monopolies*; but with our *unjust laws* which gives a *few* of the people the *right* through *special privileges* to rob and pillage the rest of the nation. It is not *charity* or *sympathy*, or anything of that kind, that the masses want; they want *justice*. And it was just this justice, first and last and altogether, that God told Moses to instruct the people in when they were about to provide themselves with rulers.

Two Ways.—And this brings me to this sentence found in Bro. Aikin's fourth paragraph: "There are just

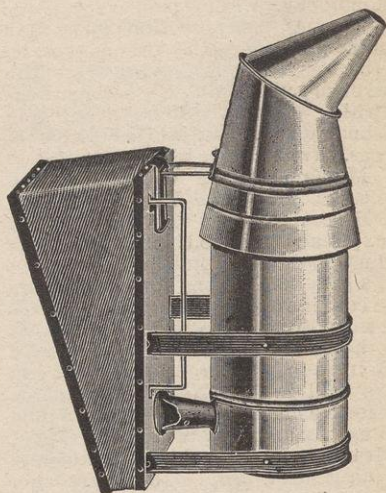
two ways that appear possible to overcome in a measure these drawbacks to our success; one is to be a wealthy and wholesale producer and shipper; the other to combine with other small producers and so get the money advantage by united wealth." Oh, Aikin! Have you lost sight of *justice altogether*? When the *people* of the United States put themselves on the side of justice, we shall have no use for either of your two ways. Had you read the "Story of a Great Monopoly," and learned how the railroads put up freight rates to the small oil producers, (who combined to "get the money advantage by united wealth" so as to stand on a level with the Standard Oil Co.) while they gave the Standard rebates to such an extent that they actually paid the Standard Oil Co. ten cents a barrel for the privilege of carrying their oil, you certainly would never have proposed your second way. And as to the first way, where is that "wealthy and wholesale producer and shipper" who will measure up besides a Rockefeller, a Huntington, a Gould, or a Vanderbilt? When you come to try to "climb up" to where these ways of yours can prove successful, you will find that the "other feller" will always be ahead of you, and the higher you climb, the more out of proportion will be your race, to where it was when you first began. And why? Because *all* such climbing is *wrong*. It is not based on *justice*. The only combination that can possibly be right, is a combination of *all* of the people for the mutual benefit of *all*. Nothing short of this can possibly fulfill the command of loving thy neighbor as thyself; and thus loving, will bring equal justice to all.

The Remedy.—I have now read Bro. Aikin's article through to the finish, and without doubt he and thousands of the readers of the PROGRESSIVE will think me a fool, in thinking that the remedy he proposes is *no* remedy. All

he proposes, as I look at it, is for us *bee-keepers* to try and *compete* with an unjust system. Will Bro. A., or any reader, give us a good, logical reason why the railroads, whose right of "eminent domain" or franchise was given to them by the *people*, should afterward dictate to the people the terms by which the people could use something they themselves have granted? Are the railroads which the people have *created*, to have their say so that they can make the people their slaves? Has Bro. A. never thought that all this discrimination in freight rates, so that the small honey producer cannot secure as good rates as the car load shipper, comes about because the people do not control a thing of their own creating? They just created a great big monster; then gave the monster the right and power to stalk through the land and crush and eat up everything which seemed good to the monster. And when the people, and bee-keepers especially, found that they were being crushed, bruised and eaten, they fell on their knees and begged the monster to be considerate. And when he would not do this, the little handful of bee-keepers proposed co-operation as the remedy. The bended knee part had the more probability of succeeding. Wherein, then, lies the remedy? Thro the people taking possession of the thing which they have created, and making it subject to the creator. And how is this to be done? By the *people* making their own *laws*. Don't the people do that now? No! They think they do, but in this they are mistaken. Probably not one who reads this ever voted on a governmental law in their life. They have "whooped 'er" up for this and that candidate to *represent* them at the law making seat of our government, and when the representative "got there," the trusts, railroads and monopolies buttonholed and bought him, leaving the bee-keeper shouting for co-operation, while freight rates on

honey continued to boom up. Only one way to effectually overcome these difficulties of which you speak, Bro. A., and that is for the *people to rule in righteousness at the ballot box*, by ushering the day of *direct legislation*. And until the people *do rule*, times for bee-keepers will grow harder and harder, on the whole, until they join the "starving millions" you tell us about. I quite agree with Bro. Aikin's "talk with your neighbors, discuss in private and public, find out your own and neighbors' need" thus creating a public sentiment; but instead of discussing an effect, let us discuss that which will do away with the cause, and bring justice to all by doing away with our unjust system of government, and establishing a government wherein the *people shall rule in justice and righteousness*, which means direct legislation.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, Borodino, N. Y.



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ESTABLISHED 1860

Central Texas Bee-Keepers' Convention.

Sixth annual meeting of the Central Texas Bee-Keepers' Association, held at Hutto, Williamson county, Tex., on July 12 and 13, 1900.

Southland Queen.

(Continued from Sept. PROGRESSIVE).

J. J. Waldrip has produced extracted honey. For many years he produced section honey, which paid very well. For shipping honey, sections go as first class freight and as the other goes as fourth-class, there is a saving of freight in favor of bulk comb over section honey, which goes at owners' risk, gets smashed up and is lost, while bulk comb, in cans, saves honey, besides freight.

M. M. Faust is for the dollar, and gave same evidence as Pres. Hyde.

R. B. Leahy talked on this subject. He explained why he thought that the production of bulk comb honey was not such a great thing, and for bee-keepers to be convinced he told them just to ship some of it to the North. But if it is to the benefit of the producer it is a move in the right direction. As it can not be sold in the North it remains only for Texas and therefore there may be danger of an over-production. Then, too, it seems to him like bee-keepers are going backward to 30 years ago, when he first started with bees, the only difference being in better hives, foundation and more scientific methods. He also said that it was hard work to produce fine section honey.

"Queen-rearing;" by Mrs. Jennie Atchley, who described her methods. As they are largely queen-raisers their methods are based on a large scale. Ten or fifteen of their best cell-building

colonies are dequeened and made ready. Before doing this an old comb is put in one of the breeders' hives to get young larvæ to graft cells. The cells are then attached to the under edge of a comb, cut out rainbow shaped, which is preferred to Doolittle's stick for the cells. About fifteen cells are used to a colony, to build out, and on the seventh or eighth day go around and pinch off all small cells that are started on the combs. Nuclei are formed beforehand and on the ninth day one cell is given to each. Sometimes two cells are built too close together to be cut apart, when both are put in.

H. H. Hyde—"Have a good breeder to start with, i. e., prolific, gentle, one that produces honey-hustlers and that will keep a strong colony of bees during the time of scarcity. For securing cells and large queens the Doolittle is the best plan. Prepare colonies in early spring." Has not found any difference between Italians and hybrids, for cell-building, but prefers a queen of year-before-last. Gets his colonies to running over with bees by using a division-board-feeder to stimulate. Makes Doolittle cell-cups with Pridgen's cell-dipping arrangement. This he exhibited and explained. He next takes the dipped cells and fastens them to the sticks, 18 on each. He then secures larvæ from 26 to 48 hours old to graft cells. Larvæ should not be too old, as queens from such hatch too early. Uses royal jelly for grafting and a little spoon-like cane to dip larvæ out with, at which great care has to be taken; the little larvæ should not even be turned over or the bees will not accept the cells. He next cuts out half of a comb and inserts stick containing cells below this and gives to cell-builders, in upper story above an excluder. He puts combs of young brood on both sides of the cell-comb, so as to draw up a lot of young bees. Says putting unsealed brood up above, with a lot of young bees to feed it and no queen there, makes the same condition as that of a colony at the time of superseding thier queen, as there is a small amount of larvæ in proportion to young bees present at the time. When cells are ready they are removed to nuclei, one in each. If he has a surplus of cells he inserts them in introduction cages, filled with candy, and then puts these in a frame and hangs in hive to keep over until he has a place for them. He uses this same cage when introducing virgins. When he has a valuable queen he uses the wire

cloth comb cage. He takes a piece of screen wire cloth, about six by eight inches in size, ravel off about one inch around the edge and bends the edges over so as to form a sort of shallow box. The sharp, pointed walls are then stuck into a side of a brood-comb containing *hatching brood*. The queen is to be put into this cage and after a while she will be found laying and a lot of young bees to protect her. But don't make a mistake and stick this cage into a comb of honey or a newly-built comb, for it will not work, besides the bees will undermine the edges of the cage and kill that valuable queen. As he rears queens quite extensively he runs a large number of nuclei. Here one must be careful or he will soon run his nuclei down. Never take out a queen except you have a cell or a virgin to give them and then it is best to let the young queen lay a few days to strengthen the nucleus. In this way he has his nuclei strong, and during cotton bloom he gets quite an amount of extracted honey from them. He also touched upon laying workers, those pests of queen-rearing, and told how he gets rid of them. He says that no matter how careful one is he will have trouble with such, but when he has such he simply takes a frame with bees, queen and brood and gives to colony containing the pests and it soon stops it.

M. M. Faust prefers medium-sized queens to extra-large and very small ones, which latter are no good. With the Doolittle plan most all are good and none small.

E. J. Atchley does not question about the methods used when wanting good queens, for if any of the plans are used right good queens can be raised. He says that all the methods are good.

G. F. Davidson does not agree with him, as he prefers the Alley method, which he believes to be better than any other. He repeated his description of this plan, as given at the meeting; at Milano, last year, on account of some not having understood him then. The plan is to use narrow strips of comb, only one row of cells, containing eggs. With a match he destroys every other egg, and attaches this to the bottom of a comb that has been cut away about half. E. J. Atchley then asked Davidson if there was any difference between the Atchley plan and Alley's plan, as Atchley's move the little larvæ, cocoon and all into dipped cells, which does not make any difference.

W. H. Laws says that it is not meth-

ods that make good queens, as all plans produce some good queens. With the Doolittle plan he secures all good queens and like told by H. H. Hyde, above an excluder, in condition to superseding.

A motion:—Judge E. Y. Terral was requested to make a speech on apiculture in the assembly hall at College Station next year.

Upon motion J. Salyer was appointed a committee to prepare a programme for next meeting.

Requested the secretary to have badges printed for next meeting and to mail them to members, at least fifteen days before the meeting, with the request to attend.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON.

Upon motion the secretary paid Mr. E. J. Atchley five dollars for lithographing and publishing convention report in *THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN*. This motion was unanimously carried.

The committee on resolutions reported:—

1.—Resolved that the Central Texas Bee-Keepers' Association properly remunerate our secretary for his untiring and efficient labors, in such amount as this association may deem proper.

Committee, { E. J. Atchley,
W. H. Laws,
J. H. Faubion.

2.—Resolved that the minutes of this convention be published in one or more of the bee-journals, and the secretary is hereby requested to furnish minutes of this convention to publisher who will agree to publish the same in full as presented by our secretary.

Committee, { E. J. Atchley,
W. H. Laws,
J. H. Faubion.

3.—Be it resolved that the thanks of the association are tendered to the people of the city of Hutto, for their unstinted hospitality extended to us during our stay among them; to Mr. O. P. Hyde and family for their unceasing efforts to care for each and every member of the association, and we will each retain kindly memories of this meeting.

Committee, { E. J. Atchley,
W. H. Laws,
J. H. Faubion.

4.—Resolved that this association tender to our ex-president, E. R. Jones, our sincere thanks for his kind and efficient services in behalf of this association.

Committee, { E. J. Atchley,
W. H. Laws,
J. H. Faubion.

5.—Resolved by Central Texas Bee-Keepers Association in convention assembled that we petition the next legislature through Prof. Connell, of the A. & M. college, of Bryan, Texas, for an appropriation for the establishment of a state bee-keeping experiment station at College Station, and, also, for a sufficient appropriation to pay a man to manage and experiment at this station.

Committee, { E. J. Atchley,
W. H. Laws,
J. H. Faubion.

All the above resolutions were discussed and adopted unanimously, except the last; it was deemed best to go down to College Station and meet there before taking this step, and it was also best to wait, as it was yet quite early.

So far, all the business matter was attended to and settled. There being no more time to discuss the regular subjects, the "Question Box" was open.

Question No. 1.—Does it pay you to rear your own queens?

Answers.—Yes. No. Depends on circumstances. When during swarming season it is good, but otherwise not, and prefer to buy from breeders who are prepared for it. Then, queens are cheap now.

Q. 2.—What is the best to do with weak third swarms?

Ans.—Hunt out queen and put back. If a valuable queen put in nucleus.

Q. 3.—Which is the best size super and frame for bulk comb honey?

Ans.—After a long discussion by many, the shallow super and frame were greatly in preference. Especially the 5¼ inch deep super and 5⅝ inch frames.

Q. 4.—Can anyone give light on why so many virgin queens sometimes disappear?

Ans.—Many are caught by birds or insect-loving animals when they take their wedding flight. Many are balled by their own bees and other ways by which they get lost. Mostly during bad weather it seems as though the bees want to force the virgin queen out to do her duties, as more are balled on this account, and it does not happen often when the weather is all favorable. Some are balled when returning from their bridal trip.

A list of bee-keepers was taken:

| NAME AND ADDRESS. | NO. HIVES. |
|------------------------|------------|
| E. Y. Terral, Cameron, | 50 |
| J. H. Tom, Georgetown, | 12 |
| Jas. Gage, Elgin, | 44 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| T. B. Bounds, Davilla, | 51 |
| W. H. Calwell, Thorndale, | 165 |
| Louis Scholl, Hunter, | 53 |
| E. R. Jones, Milano, | 65 |
| Tom Houston, Del Valley, | 25 |
| D. C. Milam, Uvalde, | 390 |
| E. Letz, Hunter, | 20 |
| W. H. Madely, Rogers, | 150 |
| O. P. Hyde & Son, Hutto, | 550 |
| J. Atchley Co., Beeville, | 1200 |
| Udo Toepperwein, Leon Springs, | 80 |
| B. A. Guess, Heidenheimer, | 200 |
| L. Stachelhausen, Converse, | 250 |
| H. Jahn, San Antonio, | 25 |
| R. C. Knowles, Aultman, | 31 |
| J. J. Waldrip, San Marcos, | 130 |
| F. J. R. Davenport, Nash, | 181 |
| F. A. Davenport, Nash, | 10 |
| Rebus Guess, Heidenheimer, | 2 |
| G. F. Davidson, Fairview, | 400 |
| J. B. Salyer, Jonah, | 225 |
| F. L. Aten, Round Rock, | 300 |
| W. H. Laws, Round Rock, | 263 |
| Emmet Hyde, Hutto, | 3 |
| Chas. Freirich, Rosanky, | 60 |
| Lonnie Gage, Elgin, | 4 |
| Rogers & Harden, Hutto, | 50 |
| E. B. Norwood, Garfield, | 19 |
| W. A. Evans, Goebel, | 185 |
| Geo. Henley, Round Rock, | 35 |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. R. West, Waxahatchie, | 15 |
| M. M. Faust, Floresville, | 295 |
| L. E. Heigguest, Georgetown, | 50 |
| W. S. Burson, Hutto, | 70 |
| Henry Schmidt, Hutto, | 50 |
| Gus. McCormick, Phluegerville, | 60 |
| Total | 5808 |

There were many other questions answered and discussed by all. The apiarian exhibit at the hall consisted of many useful tools, implements and appliances, besides the fine honey and bees.

Next year a grand exhibit is expected to be held at College Station when the Association meets there.

There will be prizes offered for the different exhibits, of which a great many have already been donated to be awarded by a committee of four, appointed by the convention, which are, Louis Scholl, W. H. Laws, J. B. Salyer and O. P. Hyde.

The secretary has been requested to solicit donations for prizes and a list will be given later.

This was indeed a grand meeting of bee keepers.

O. P. HYDE, LOUIS SCHOLL,
President. Sec'y and Treas.

Subscribe for the PROGRESSIVE.

**Good Things in the
Bee-Keeping Press.
Somnambulist . . .**



In American Bee Journal of April 19th, an essay read by Miss Ada L. Pickard before the Wisconsin convention, is given in full. A few of the thoughts are herewith presented to the readers of the PROGRESSIVE:

"Apiculture opens the book of Nature to any who like to look upon and study the marvelous pages she is ever waiting to unfold. She is ever presenting the most pleasurable surprises to those on the alert to receive them. Apiculture spreads an intellectual feast, furnishing the rarest of food for the observing faculties—that which the old philosophers themselves would have coveted.

Must the male sex of our race only enjoy this intellectual feast? Nay! nay! the Creator never intended that the wonder and beauty of nature should be revealed to man only. Man and woman were created equal, and why may not the feminine enjoy the pleasures and fascinations that the apiary may afford? If more of our ladies, instead of seeking the office-chair, the place behind the counter, or the position at the school-desk—all of which shut out fresh air and sunshine, until pallor and languor points sadly to departing health and vigor—would seek apiculture as an avocation, we might have, instead of pale, wan cheeks, roses and blooming health."

Miss Pickard is a successful apiarist, and knows whereof she writes. It is to be regretted that her influence will reach so few of her sex. Not a day passes over us but that the complaint of "no opening" greets our ears, and that, too, when avenues diverge from our pathways in numerous directions. The real trouble lies in the fact that existing routes to success are either neglected or totally ignored. Possibly there are some who would question the creation of more bee-keepers, but let them remember the unquestioned law of survival. Those already in the business have little to fear from honest competition, so let us extend a welcome of such a degree of warmth as to leave no room for doubt. The past season will prove a trying test to the half-hearted, and a few may be tempted to succumb. Others may contem-

plate a change of location. Let me warn them that surroundings do not alone control success. In a new country there are new difficulties with which to cope, and until you cultivate their acquaintance, they are most stubbornly unmanageable, and by the time you have conquered them, you are not exactly sighing for "more worlds to conquer," but for the old home on which you turned your back. Among strangers, new friends to make, and though you get enormous crops, that frequently mean **SHORT PRICES**, and the countries giving these great yields also furnish, quite frequently, severe drouths by way of variety of climate. In short, has bee-keeping proved with you an **ignis fatuus** in your **PRESENT** locality, don't follow the alluring light to far-off countries, for there's no assurance whatever of its being anything but a **Jack-o'-lantern** there. Most of those who have made the business pay are fixtures, not appliances. "Know thyself" is a command that all, both male and female, should heed before entering any avocation, and whether this guiding star points to an office of state or the most humble of employment, a complete mastery of our calling will render it a success, and inasmuch as it is a success, an honor. Looked at in the right light, there is no greater proportion of failures in bee-keeping than in other occupations. Take its next neighbor, farming, one year with another, what per cent of the farmers prove prosperous? Is the occupation of farming held responsible for the failures? To the too wide prevailing sentiment that **ANYBODY** can farm, is due most of the defeat. The Great Instructor warned us that "not every one that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord!' shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven." Only those who make preparation; and

this principle is equally applicable to the affairs of everyday life. A few old soap or cracker boxes, nail kegs or barrels tenanted by bees, do not constitute an apiary. No more does a season's experience constitute an apiarist. Like all other lines of business worthy of consideration, active training is an ESSENTIAL, and success arrives only after ardent invitation, and after elaborate preparations have been made for her entertainment.

As novelties are relished by most folks, I will cite you to one or two. One man reports the use of strong colonies for bottom heat in the growing of early plants, by placing boxes of soil in which seeds are planted, over the brood nest, and over all, of course, glass. And still another successfully hatches chicks, thus converting his strongest colonies into incubators. If tempted to indulge in these freaks, 'twould be well to keep in mind the IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION OF HEAT FOR ALL CONCERNED. In view of these new departures, who is there to say what are the possibilities of bee-keeping? As I must confess to defeat in my desire to even touch upon the very many good things to be found in the American Bee Journal, and it is encouraging to note any assistance given through the press outside of bee-keeping, I will close with two extracts culled from Garden and Farm:

"In these droughty times when the white clover has been killed out to such a large extent it behooves every one who has any sort of fruit to encourage the growth of bee-food, for if bees cannot get honey these friends of the farmer, fruit-grower and gardener must starve and our blossoms will fail to be fertilized and we shall miss of having full crops of fruit. It seems to me that by the roadside this clover is far preferable to any other weed." It kills out the detestable ragweed, which smells so dreadfully and causes all the hay fever, and should it get into our fields it is no harder to get out than any other weed."
—Emma Hey, Illinois.

"Experiments at the Colorado station show that bees which are furnished foundation combs make almost as much in finishing the

foundation as they would if allowed to make their own foundation. Man is considerable of a bungler when he tries to make honey comb."

This in the face of all those highly illuminated "fancy" tales with which we are AMUSED if not enlightened, as they are presented by our many customers, or, more properly, as coming nearer the truth, WOULD-be customers.

Naptown, Dreamland.

Comb Foundation.

S. P. CULLEY.

Every bee-keeper knows it pays, and pays well, to use comb foundation. One doubles, even triples, his money on foundation furnished bees during a strong honey flow. But it seems from what follows that the art of foundation making is carried on in a very imperfect and bungling way.

Bulletin No. 54, Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colo., gives an account of a series of experiments with comb foundation conducted by Prof. Clarence P. Gillette. These experiments seem to indicate that our present foundation is wasteful in the extreme. We quote a few of Prof. Gillette's conclusions:

"If the mid-rib of the foundation is thicker than the mid-rib of the natural comb, it will result in a comb with a mid-rib thicker than the natural.***A foundation with a heavy mid-rib and very slight cell-walls will still produce a comb with heavy cell-walls.***When foundations containing an abundance of wax to build the entire comb are used, the bees still add much more wax, sometimes nearly enough to build the comb without the help of the wax in the foundation."

If the Professor's conclusions are correct, we have been wasting one-half the wax used in our foundation.

Think of what this means. The various foundation factories sell at least two hundred tons of their product annually. One hundred tons of the wax in this foundation is wasted or even worse; because if thick mid-rib cause the bees to build the cell wall also thick, then we waste the superfluous wax we give and tax the bees to secrete other wax to build thick, heavy cell walls. Here is a condition that needs remedying. One hundred tons of wasted wax per year in the form of foundation at 40c per pound equals \$80,000. Still, mind you, it pays to use foundation; we cannot dispense with it without far greater loss. Were the bee-keepers to require their bees to secrete all these tons of wax during honey-flows, the cost would exceed by many times over the sum of 40c per pound.

This waste of wax is caused solely by the mechanical difficulties of manufacture—it being necessary to make the mid-rib thick and heavy to prevent sagging while being drawn out.

Prof. Gillette's experiments show that, to use his words again: "Wax seems to be given with the best economy when the mid-rib of the foundation is of the thickness of the mid-rib of natural comb, and when there is a small, or at most a moderate amount of wax in the cell walls."

As stated above the difficulty is a mechanical one. An "extra thin" brood foundation is impractical on account of sagging. The only way yet devised to prevent this is wiring the frames.

While mechanical problems are being worked out and a brood foundation with a thin mid-rib is being secured, it would pay bee-keepers to buy the light brood foundation and prevent sagging by wiring the frames in the usual manner—only

use more wires and take pains with this part of the work, as it will pay.

Can too much foundation be used? That not one-half as much is now used as should be by bee-keepers generally is truth. But hiving swarms in hives filled full of foundation is, we think, poor economy—is too much of a good thing in that one line. Why? When bees handle honey they secrete wax freely, and we should so manage as to have all this wax used to a good purpose, never wasted, nor used in building combs with cell walls and mid-ribs as thick again as is necessary. The best way to accomplish this and yet not require too much comb-building is a fine point.

If we have a frame or two in a hive for the bees to build comb, we are apt to get drone comb; however, it is better to have drone comb to use for extracting over excluders, or even to melt up into wax, than to have these wax scales wasted. To furnish a use for the wax scales secreted, we think it pays to have some little comb building going on at all times when there is a honey-flow. Of course when section boxes are put on, they meet this requirement, even though they are filled full, as they should be, of extra thin foundation. Where colonies are run for extracted honey and furnished plenty of empty combs, there is a constant waste, especially with Italian bees. We should say, furnish plenty of empty combs and have some comb building going during a honey flow.

This has been a very poor, a very peculiar and TANTALIZING season. Where last year we had honey by the ton; this year is giving no surplus. The tantalizing feature has been this: White clover promised fairly well; it bloomed, and the flow was strong—for about one week, when it stopped short off. Spanish

needle promised well; it bloomed; the flow was lovely; bees had secured ample stores for winter; prospects fine for extracting to start "next week"; Monday morning comes, and lo! whiz! zip! bang! Atmospheric conditions stop the flow; bees are expelling drones; Tuesday, they rob like demons, and ball young queens for pastime.

We are speaking now of the "common run" of Italians. We have a few colonies that started last spring rather weak, yet gave about 100 pounds each surplus of white honey, and about the same from fall flowers. These are they that work on red clover, too, by the way. We are breeding from these queens, and propose to have every colony contract similar good habits.

Speaking of foundation as it is made at present, the American Bee-Keeper for September says: "Mr. F. L. Thompson, than whom we have no more forcible and practical writer on apiarian matters,***he never minces matters, etc.,***has used twenty-five pounds of Weed foundation, which was just enough to fill 2,950 sections—and found it to be 'very brittle stuff'. He says that at a temperature at which other foundations would cut all right, this will crumble and waste, while, if sufficiently heated to cut well, the sheets stick."

Mr. Thompson recommends as best the new process Higginsville foundation, as made by the Leahy Mfg. Co. Also Mr. John Bruce, of Montrose, Col., used 125 pounds of Leahy's latest process foundation, and reports it the best he ever used.

We wonder why the Leahy Company does not advertise more extensively the merits of its NEW PROCESS FOUNDATION? I was very much surprised in the fall of '99 when Mr. Leahy took me through the wax-rooms, to find he had invented a

new machine and new process that I then regarded as a wonder and far ahead of anything yet brought out. He has sold three of his machines to leading foundation makers, who bestow unstinted praise upon it. Yet Mr. Leahy seems backward or slow about advertising his triumph. True, his catalogue says "Latest Process" and "by our new process," etc., etc., but nothing is said to call attention to the fact that a real, improved process is being used—a process, too, which I believe will actually accomplish the results Mr. Weed aimed at and advanced toward. We want to testify to the fact that the Leahy Company's "new process" foundation is the best to date. We tested a small amount of the "1899 deep cell" foundation, and it stood the test all right. But Editor Root now says that owing to mechanical difficulties in making the rolls to manufacture, it will never be more than a "mechanical wonder." The 1899 deep cell, in justice be it said, was slightly ahead of the Leahy Company's 1899 foundation; but not ahead of their new process 1900 foundation.

All bee-keepers should get a copy of Bulletin No. 4, and study it. It will enlighten them on points that will save them money when they buy next year's foundation, and make them money when they use it. We shall have something further to say later on this most important and practical subject.

A word of caution: In the study of the bulletin one may easily reach an erroneous conclusion, unless on guard. For example, on reading page 16 one might conclude that brood foundation was of little advantage, since, apparently, it does not lessen the secretion of wax by the bees. But there are other factors to consider which we may analyze later on in a more extensive re-

view of the bulletin above referred to.

Higginsville, Mo.

Shall Bees Be Taxed?

D. L. TRACY.

Shall bees be taxed? No! Unless there be a proviso, that bees being taxed in any year, and no revenue having been received from them for that year, the tax paid upon the bee valuation SHALL BE REFUNDED.

concerned as PROPERTY, sometimes, quite FREQUENTLY—they ain't in it.

I do not profess to be a scientist as an apiarist, but my success as a producer of honey and my experience in my apiary in Colorado in former years warrant me in saying that I have had moderate success, and to try and fortify my idea that bees should NOT be taxed. I herewith submit some of my experience in my apiary. In referring to my book of record I find that in the year 1885, that is, the first year that I com-



A BEE-KEEPERS' PICNIC IN KANSAS (NO. 2.)

I make the assertion here that from my experience bees are the most uncertain property that can be classed as property in the long category of names found in the list of what is called property. An Irishman once who had OWNED fleas, said, "Be jabers I had 'im in me hand and yit he war'nt there." So with bees; a person may have what he thinks and values a good stock in bees, but when he tries to put his hand upon them as far as they are

menced to keep a record of my account with my apiary;

| | No. of stands | Honey surplus. | Per lb. |
|------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1885 | 10 | 58 | .20 |
| 1886 | 23 | 52 | .15 |
| 1887 | 40 | 48 | .15 |
| 1888 | 70 | 56 | .15 |
| 1889 | 85 | 60 | .14 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 1890 | 135 | 56 | .11 |
| 1891 | 170 | 42 | .10 |
| 1892 | 242 | 20 | .09 |

In 1893 I sold off all but 70 stands,

and these 70 stands kept dying and dwindling down until 1897. In the spring of that year, i. e. at the time pollen was just commenced being carried in by the bees, the bees had died and dwindled down until I had only 15 stands. In 1888 they increased to 55 colonies, and they gave me a surplus of 84 lbs. of salable honey per stand.

Taxes Webster defines: "In free governments are usually laid upon the property of a citizen according to the INCOME or the VALUE of the estate."

Now to my experience. Up to and including the year 1891 my bees were profitable, and I received a revenue from them. But in the year 1892 when I had 240 colonies of bees, and until the year 1897, I did not receive any return—in fact the apiary ran me in debt, counting all sides of the question. I had a larger number of stands and I laid in in the spring a goodly supply of hives and and fixtures for the season and worked diligently. I used as much judgement and skill in the management of my apiary as I had the years gone by. Yet how could I place a valuation or how could an assessor place a valuation upon my bees in 1893? A horse, a cow, a hog and a sheep have a valuation, and the first day of May an assessor can fairly value that animal, but your bees? No. As regards my value of bees, were I a money-lender and a stranger—a friend may importune—came to me to borrow money upon the security of bees, I would not loan him ten cents per stand upon them for the reason that I believe so thoroughly that a VALUATION in a colony of bees is not so sure a thing.

The idea advanced by the bee-keepers—as well as many others—that bees should be taxed, the apiarists may be reorganized as property-

owners, so that with a bold face the apiarist may go into our legislative bodies and ask for laws protecting their industry is a sort of a farce to advance. We talk against CLASS legislation and think it wrong, yet please point out to me a law relative and pertaining to property that is NOT class legislation if you can. If we will only think for a minute we will see that most laws are for classes.

The cutter of coupons sits back and directs your legislative bodies, yet he pays no taxes upon that bond. He in idleness reaps the profitable return for the sweat that falls from your brow. He TOUCHES the button—you do the rest (work).

I believe in the law and in the justice of the law that says "all men"—all property—should be taxed alike in proportion to run all governments, be they national, state, county or municipal. I do not believe that one kind—or class—of property, or an individual, be he in a financial situation to pay, be exempted from taxation while another is taxed upon his \$1.00 in other property. But with bees in general in Colorado I do not think that they can be counted and taxed as other property. While there are hundreds of thousands of pounds of honey sold each year and many thousand dollars realized therefrom, yet look at the failures, first this state, then that, this PART of the state, then that, such is the record. No locality has two bounteous seasons in succession, and while this is the case, there can be no just levy of a tax upon a stand of bees unless a provision may be made that as—under oath—the valuation of the bees are listed, so under oath the tax may be returned. But this would leave a complication of affairs that would be hard to rectify and the account be kept straight upon a

tax record.

I pay taxes upon property, and I believe that all property should be taxed. But I do not believe from my experience that it would be right or justice to call bees taxable property.

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Gallatin, Tenn.

Entirely Pleased With Foundation.

Foundation came on time. I wish to tell you I am entirely pleased with the quality. When a firm sends out goods better than sample, it deserves appreciative words and here they are. There

were no charges at this end of line. Thanking you very kindly I am

Yours truly, T. LYTLE.

Manzanola, Colo.

From Texas.

The sample copy of the PROGRESSIVE was received and appreciated. My friend Jenkins liked it so well he has sent you his subscription.

Yours truly, W. G. THOMPSON.

Powderly, Texas.

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Our 2-inch ad in the PROGRESSIVE brought us more direct results than the same space in three other prominent bee journals who claim double the circulation of the PROGRESSIVE. We will recommend and remember your journal to all who desire profitable advertising at a moderate cost—the journal that DOES bring results.

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EDITORIAL.

The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

A journal devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Industries.

TERMS: Fifty cents per year, in advance.

R. B. LEAHY, }
G. M. DOOLITTLE, } - - - Editors

Mr. and Mrs. L. Mollart, of Watertown, Wis., made us a pleasant visit of two days duration this month. Mr.

Mollart is connected with the G. B. Lewis Co., and is well versed in the manufacture of bee-keepers' supplies, and we received many valuable suggestions from him while here.

The Leahy Mfg. Co. now owns Belgian hares, as we recently got a trio from C. R. Root, of Denver, Colorado, whose advertisement appears in another column under the head of the "Haywood Rabbitry." These are fine pedigreed animals, and cost considerable money, and should we have success with them, we will tell you "how it all happened;" if we fail, why,—you will hear no more about them, from us. We see no reason why a few Belgian hares, some bees and poultry, will not make a home happy, as well as bring the necessary wants of life.

An interesting series of articles on Belgian hares is now being published in *Gleanings*, from the pen of our old friend, Prof. A. J. Cook, formerly of Lansing, Mich., now of California. Like all of Prof. Cook's writings they are scientific and give both sides of the question.

"I am asked if there is not danger that the Belgian hare may gain its liberty in the United States, and become as great a pest as did the English rabbit when introduced into Australia. It will be remembered that, soon after the English rabbit was taken to Australia, it became so common as almost to threaten the very existence of profitable agriculture. So serious seemed the impending danger that a very large reward—I think it was \$100,000—was offered for some cheap and practical method whereby the new comers might be exterminated."

To this Prof. Cook makes the following remarks:

"Belgian hares that escape from domestication would mean speedy death and extermination. We may be perfectly sure that they would fall much behind even the English rabbit in power to resist the hard conditions which meet all such life from Colorado to the Pacific Coast. I feel, then, that, while we should exercise the utmost caution in intro-

ducing new species of bird or mammal into every part of our country, we run no risks whatever in bringing in these favorites of the fancier, the Belgian rabbits. It is probable that few if any will escape from the breeder. We should almost as soon expect the short-horns and Herefords of the western plains to escape into the wilds of upland and mountain, and would be hardly less surprised if the latter should develop into disturbing factors than we should to learn that these handsome rabbits had done so."

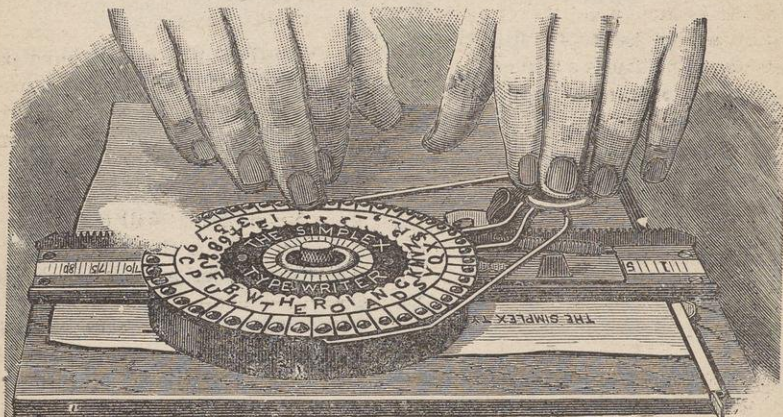
For several months past, I have paid little attention to the editorial department of the *PROGRESSIVE*, it having been looked after by our good friend, Doolittle, and Will Ward Mitchell. I fear the future has so much other work in store for me that I will write little if anything at all, for these columns. It is unpleasant to let go of a work that has been my pride so long, but in doing so, I feel that greater success awaits me in another direction. Over seven years ago, our company purchased the *PROGRESSIVE* from Mr E. F. Quigley with its 250 subscribers. Since the first issue up to last spring, I have exerted every effort to make it a success. And while I was unable to bring it to the first or even second place in circulation, I have brought it from the sixth up to the third place, which is something over 2500. In closing these remarks, I recall the first editorials that I ever wrote for these columns or any other. As no one would help me I was compelled to go it alone. I have never been to school a day in my life, and had I an education, am not blessed with the eloquence requisite to make a successful editor, but with one or two exceptions I have written everything that has appeared. I should be ungrateful indeed if I did not remember those who have given their kind words, their hand of brotherly love and their assistance by sending in their subscription and the subscriptions of others. Bro. Mitchell, who will assume my place on the *PROGRESSIVE* force, will address you in these columns next month.

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Selection. . . .

Selection has been the chief factor in the development and building up of our improved breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. Men have devoted the best years of their lives to a single line or branch of this work—and not without their reward. In bee-keeping but little has been done in this direction. The development of a bright yellow bee has been the most noticeable thing that has been done in this line. This is the most easy of accomplishment, as results are so quickly and easily discernible. To breed for honey-gathering qualities is a much slower process. As soon as bees hatch out we can decide in regard to their color, and as to whether we wish to rear queens from their mother for the purpose of improving the color of our stock; to decide in regard to their working qualities requires months—perhaps years.

Every experienced bee-keeper must have noticed how much more surplus is stored by some stocks than by others. Time and time again, when visiting bee-keepers, have I been shown some particular colony, and heard the owner tell with pride how much honey it had stored year after year; always coming through the winter in good condition, or doing this or that that was so desirable. The strange thing is that bee-keepers so seldom seem to realize the value of such a colony, or queen, as a starting-point from which to improve the stock of their whole apiary. If they do realize it, they seldom take advantage of the knowledge. Suppose, by the introduction of improved stock, a man can increase his surplus, on the average, one year with another, ten pounds per colony, and that is not an extravagant estimate, on 100 colonies his crop would be increased 1,000 pounds. The cost for hives, grounds, labor, wintering, etc., is nearly the same with one kind of stock as with another, just as it costs as much to keep a scrub cow as it does to keep a Jersey, and a gain in surplus that comes from improvement in stock is the most profitable that can be secured. To improve your stock, get the VERY BEST that you can for breeding purposes, and with this stock your apiary; then watch carefully, and breed from the colonies that do the best. Continue this year after year, and you will be surprised at the results.

This matter of beginning with as good stock as you can get is all important. Don't lose years of time by commencing with common or inferior stock. Get the best; and thus be able to commence right where some other breeder left off.

As explained in previous advertisements, I am selling queens from stock upon the development of which a good man has spent twenty years; making crosses, and then each year selecting the best to breed from. I have several times tried this strain, and know it to be the best I have ever tried.

The price of these queens will be \$1.50 each. This may seem like a high price, but the man who pays it will make dollars where this breeder and myself make cents; and when you come to read the conditions under which they are sold, it will not seem so high. The queens sent out will all be young queens, just beginning to lay, but as there are no black bees in the vicinity, it is not likely that any will prove impurely mated. If any queen SHOULD prove to be impurely mated, another will be sent free of charge. Safe arrival in first-class condition will be guaranteed. Instructions for introducing will be sent to every purchaser, and if these instructions are followed, and the queen is lost, another will be sent free of charge. This is not all; if, at any time within two years, a purchaser, for any reason **WHATEVER**, is not satisfied with his bargain, he can return the queen, and his money will be refunded, and 50 cents extra sent to pay him for his trouble. It will be seen that the purchaser runs **NO RISK WHATEVER**. If a queen does not arrive in good condition, another is sent. If he loses her in introducing, another is sent. If she should prove impurely mated, another is sent. If the queen proves a poor layer, or the stock does not come up to the expectations, or there is **ANY** reason why the bargain is not satisfactory, the queen can be returned and the money will be refunded, and the customer fairly well paid for his trouble. I could not make this last promise if I did not **KNOW** that the stock is **REALLY SUPERIOR**.

I said that the price would be \$1.50 each. There is only one condition under which a queen will be sold for a less price, and that is in connection with an advance subscription to the **REVIEW**. Anyone sending me \$1.00 for the **REVIEW** for 1900, can have one queen for \$1.00; that is, I will send one queen and the **REVIEW** for 1900 for only \$2.00, and in addition I will send 12 back numbers of the **REVIEW** free. Just see what you can get for only \$2.00: 12 back numbers, the **REVIEW** for all of 1900, and one of those superior queens. I can now fill orders for these queens of Superior Stock by return mail. This is something that I have never before been able to do.

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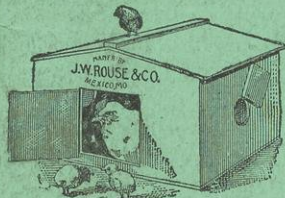
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