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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

Edited and Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland; Apiary, Willow Tree, N.S.W.
Circulated in all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

VOL. 12. No 3

JUNE 29, 1903

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TON.

RULES & OBJECTS.

1. The careful watching of the interests of the industry.
2. To arrange for combined action in exporting honey to relieve local glut when necessary.

3. To advise members as to suitable localities for establishing apiaries.

4. Any beekeeper can become a member on approval of committee, subscription 2/6 per annum.

5. That every member with more than 50 hives shall be allowed an extra vote for every additional 50 effective hives.

6. No member be eligible for office who has less than 50 effective hives, or his subscription is in arrear.

7. The Association to consist of a central body and district branches affiliated with it.

8. The principal officers be such as will undertake to meet each other in committee at least once in twelve months.

9. The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Executive Committee.

10. After the first election of officers, arrangements to be made by the Secretary to call for nominations for office-bearers, and issue ballot papers prior to the next annual meeting.

11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.

12. Members unable to attend meetings or conventions can authorise or nominate any member they know will be present to vote for them on any subject brought forward. Such vote or votes to be in addition to the member's present own vote.

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THE AUSTRALIAN
BEE BULLETIN.
A MONTHLY JOURNAL
Devoted to Beekeeping —
Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of
Australia — New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope

MAITLAND, N.S.W.—JUNE 29, 1903.

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in our present issue :—

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THE report of the Victorian Apiarists' Conference should be read by every beekeeper. In N. S. Wales the question of forestry has of late received

much interest, but not so much as it ought to have done, from the beekeepers' standpoint. The want of permanency in our bee pastures is the trouble of most beekeepers. Owners of private lands have a perfect right to destroy what they like. But do they not destroy very much of it ignorantly, to their own loss? In a large estate in our own neighbourhood, which had come into possession of a Sydney banking firm, a manager sent up had special orders to ringbark some thousands of acres, and there are now thousands upon thousands of splendid ironbark and pine trees decaying that in time would have been far more valuable than all that could have been realised by sheep, especially during the recent drought period. The privilege of being secured against unnecessary destruction of bee producing timber, or some security for value of capital laid out by beekeepers, most certainly by Government on forest reserves, should most decidedly be the subject matter of thought by every beekeeper.

A lot of good copy unavoidably held over.

Our warmest thanks are due to Mrs. W. L. Davey, for his assistance in various ways while on our visit to Victoria. Also to Mr. and Mrs. H. Russell, of Wartook, and Mr. J. McFarlane, of Lyndhurst, for

their kind hospitality. We must not also forget the many kind invitation and offers of pleasant drives to several other what we may call dear friends, that we were unable to accept, but won't forget if it should be our lot to again visit the Victorian beekeepers.

Note Mr. Davey's suggestion as to the cause of the disappearance of bees in spring. Plants not supplied with proper nourishment at the right time, as would have been the case in the time of drought, would develop a poison instead of nutritive food.

Surely every Victorian beekeeper, seeing the excellent work done at the Conference, will feel it his duty to join the Association. Persons joining now can do so by paying 2s 6d which gives them membership till next Conference when the annual fee is 5s.

After returning from the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Conference in Sydney first week in April, we placed ruberoid on top of all frames in our apiaries. Going to Melbourne and other matters prevented us looking at them till seven weeks after. The bees were then well clustered under the ruberoid, many of them might have been asleep. Only one or two were short of food, which was easily supplied from those that had honey to spare. By lifting the cover quickly, then removing corner of ruberoid, it was easy to see what condition the bees were in, then replacing cover quickly. Fifty hives so examined took only to 55 minutes. We have a few tops to paint now.

DR. HAMBLYN HARRIS.

A meeting of beekeepers was held at Mr. J. Trahair's, 347 King-st., Newtown, to meet Dr. Hambllyn Harris, a vice-president of the British Beekeepers' Association, who was passing through the city on his way to Fiji. Apologies were received from Messrs. H. Lord (Technical College) and W. Abram (Beecroft.) Dr. Harris, who is a practical beekeeper and honey expert, gave the few beekeepers

present an interesting account of the faults in honey export, and what was required by the English market, and suggestions how to remedy faults and errors of the past. In the first place, the English market required regular quantities and uniform quality, especially with the best and largest buyers, as the consumers repeat orders, and expect the same flavour; therefore for export purposes the honey should be graded into uniform samples, of which a regular supply can be assured, and at the same time the greatest care should be taken to have the honey thoroughly ripened, and advise it to be done by some artificial process, instead of waiting for natural ripening, but none should be extracted from the combs until fully capped. With the greatest care, however, in this respect, a few uncapped cells will be found, and without proper ripening, this is sufficient to start a ferment; large quantities from all countries show this when offered for sale on the English market, and especially Australian, owing possibly (in addition to the foregoing) to the various heats it is subjected in transit. This ripening is therefore a very important point if the export trade is to be satisfactorily worked. Several samples were shown to the Doctor, one of which (yellow box) he selected as being a splendid sample, and would retail in London in 1lb. or 2lb. packages at about 9d. per lb., leaving between 4d. or 5d. per lb. after paying cost of package, freight, &c.

STRAINING.—This is another very important point, as small particles of bread, pollen, etc., in honey will quickly start fermentation, therefore this should be done thoroughly and with great care. Chilian honey often arrives in England dirty, dark, and strong flavour, and sells at 3d per lb. This is generally bought by chemists, after proper treatment and blended with some good flavoured honey is sold as pure English honey at 1s per lb. The demand on the English market is always increasing, and this also induces more competition and reduces prices.

Have personally sold in large quantities best English honey at 6d per lb. The prices the beekeepers received for their honey only a few years back, is now a thing of the past; a few of the large shops may get from 1s to 1s 6d for fancy lines, but no big business is done at these prices. Germany and one or two other countries, who produce large quantities still get high prices. For instance, German beekeepers get 1s per single lb. at the present time, or 11d per lb. for small quantities. Combination is the only reason of this, as German Apiarists have a strong Association, and consequently control the markets.

A special tin with handle, say 4lb., would realise about 2/6 each, and would advise a uniform special export label, not with any particular name, but some such sentence as "Gathered by our own Bees."

Dr. Harris thought if the work was done by the Association for its members, small uniform charge made on each consignment, it would pay the beekeepers and insure a regular supply and uniform quality, which could then be shipped in large quantities at lowest rates, all coming from one centre. Several beekeepers then explained the attempts made re the above matter, and results of all attempts. The Doctor then concurred that unless the support of almost every beekeeper could be obtained it was very uncertain; but with a combination similar to that of Germany no trouble would really exist. Then to increase the local market he advocated spreading pamphlets with good recipes for honey cookery, and instanced many articles of food which if made with honey, would be cheaper and at the same time better. He hoped shortly to publish a book on this subject.

Proposed by J. Trahair, a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Harris, for his attendance and valuable hints on Export subject, which in the near future would produce good results if the beekeepers of N.S. Wales could only be induced to believe that to protect their own interest,

they must at the same time protect their countryman; and this by combining in one strong body, with confidence in the men they put into office, and by assisting such with all the advice and knowledge they could obtain. Unanimous combination was very difficult to get, where the particular class are so scattered as in N.S.W.; but trusted something may yet be done to help the beekeeper, and at the same time help every legitimate branch of the industry.

Dr. Harris in replying assured the beekeepers that although his remarks might lead them to think there was no fraternal feeling between the English and Australian beekeeper, he assured them that such was not the case. He was greatly pleased to have spent the short time with them, as it was instructive to him in having the views of Australian beekeepers, and if he returned to Sydney would be pleased to address them again on any bee subject of interest.

Mr. Trahair promised to convene a conference if the Doctor could advise him in sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

NATURAL SWARMING—FORMATION OF NUCLEI.

In nothing pertaining to bee-keeping have I spent more time and study than I have on natural swarming. I find it this way;

When the colony becomes inclined to swarm, the bees form embryo queen-cells in which the old or mother queen deposits an egg, one in each, that are to produce queens. In due time these eggs hatch into larvæ, which are fed royal jelly till the cells are sealed over. With the sealing of the first queen-cell (or cells) the swarm issues. This is the rule, and the exceptions are that the swarm sometimes issues on the day the eggs are laid in the queen-cells, or at about the time the first of the queen-larvæ hatch.

Only under conditions of unfavorable weather have I known this rule and the

exceptions to be violated. With the sealing of the queen-cells we have seven days intervening before the young queen emerges, so that it could not possibly be said that "the young queen is about to hatch." The only time when it could be said, would be when the swarm was kept back by foul or unfavorable weather.

Where any of the first queen-cells are sealed between one o'clock p. m. and six o'clock the next morning, a swarm may be expected during the next nine hours, if the day is favorable. Should there be high winds, cold or rain, the swarm will stay quietly in the old hive, and if such weather continues unabated for one, two, three, four, five, six or seven days, the colony *may* keep these queen-cells, and swarm on the first favorable day that comes; in which case should they be kept back from four to seven days, it might be truthfully said that the young queens were about to hatch or emerge from their cells. But not one swarm out of 500 ever issues under these circumstances, for by the time three or four foul days have occurred, the bees begin to feel poor from the lack of honey coming into the hive, give up swarming, tear down the queen-cells, and carry the embryo queens from the hive. But I have known, in one or two cases, the bees to preserve these young queens under unfavorable weather till the eighth day, when one or more of the young queens would emerge from their cells soon after the swarm had left; and one of these cases was this last summer, during which it rained 28 out of the 30 days in June, and 24 out of the 31 days in July. Then the writer says that the young bees "are allowed to remain and rear a queen."

We often hear that the old bees go with the swarm, and the young bees remain in the old hive. This is as I find the matter: Bees of *all* ages, except those so young that they can not fly, accompany the swarm, and those of *all* ages stay with the old colony. Hundreds of times have I seen the ground in front of the hive covered with bees from six to ten hours

old, all white and fuzzy, and too young to fly, that had tried to go with the swarm, and I never yet hived a swarm but what I could find hundreds of these young bees just a little older, enough so that they could barely fly, hanging in the cluster with the other bees, some of which were so old that their wings were nearly worn off. Nature makes no mistakes. If only old bees accompanied the swarm, these old bees would die of old age before any young bees would emerge from the cells in the newly-formed home, for where bees build their own combs, as they always do when combs are not supplied by man, it must be 23 to 24 days before many, if any, young bees appear, and this is more than half of the lifetime allotted to worker bees at this season of the year.—G. M. Doolittle, in *American Bee Journal*.

FORMALIN GAS FOR FOUL BROOD.

A correspondent of *Gleanings in Bee Culture* writes as follows, on the killing of foul brood with formalin gas: "You may recollect that when in Denver, I was talking to you about killing the foul brood germ by fumigating it with formalin gas, by Professor Harrison's method, I mentioned to you that I would experiment with his fumigating cure just as soon as I arrived home. With the assistance of a beekeeper I began operations—immediately. This gentleman had a hive infected with foul brood. We took the infected frames from the hive and placed the bees in another hive. We then fumigated it with the formalin gas, and when disinfected replaced the infected frames in the old hive. We then shook the bees back on to the original frames. The result was that the colony cleaned up the combs nicely, and a few days later the combs were filled with eggs and later larvæ, the latter being perfectly white, and no signs of foul brood since in the colony. Later in the season I tried this method for friends who had colonies affected in the same manner. As

the season became too late for brood-rearing I could not ascertain any results. About three weeks ago I sent two frames which had been badly infected (but which I had previously fumigated to kill the spores of foul brood) to Professor Dr. Guyer, of the University of Cincinnati. I requested him to endeavour to restore life to the foul brood, which he promised to try to do. A few days later I sent him another frame infected with foul brood (this frame I did not fumigate.) To-day, two weeks after, I visited the professor again, and he reported that he had made about 20 trials, all told. The frame not fumigated, he says, flourishes with foul brood. To the other frames, which were fumigated by this process, he said it was impossible to restore any signs of life. He still has part of the fumigated frames, which he will experiment with further, and will then report results. I will acquaint you further with any results we may secure.

APIS DORSATA.

In my own published articles I have been able to state positively the size, appearance, and something of the qualities of the workers, drones, and queens of this species. I was able to determine that the tongues of the workers of this species are appreciably longer than those of our own honey-bees; also that the combs were not merely three or four feet in diameter, but often reach a length of five feet, and sometimes even six; that they are composed of hexagonal cells, twenty to the square inch, the brood-comb being $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, and the upper portion of the comb where honey is stored often six to eight inches in thickness; that no distinctive drone comb is built, but drones are reared in the same sized cells as the workers; further, that multiple combs are sometimes built; that is, two or three combs side by side, where the attachment permits, contrary to the statements frequently seen in print to the effect that *Apis dorsata* is strictly a unicomb bee. As to their habits, I have been able to

state that they are most industrious workers, good honey and wax producers; that they fly with great strength of wing; and that the drones fly in great numbers just at night fall, even after the flights of the workers have ceased for the day; further, that the sting of *Apis dorsata* is not more painful than that of our honey-bees, nor is the bee any more inclined to sting when brought into frame hives, and that it seems to be quite amenable to the use of smoke. Moreover, the colonies which I placed in frame hives did not desert their combs in the frame hives except under conditions which would have caused any bees to do the same thing—conditions beyond my control, and largely brought about through enforced neglect of the colonies, occasioned by protracted illness.

I was able to determine that the workers of *Apis dorsata* are very tenacious of life; in fact, possess remarkable vitality. The bees are often found at altitudes of 4000 or 5000 feet, where forests occur, yet seem to withstand this temperature successfully. They are rarely seen in the lower or coast regions. This indicates a certain degree of hardiness.—Professor Benton in *Gleanings*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

O.L., Sutton Grange, Vic.—The size of strips of wood used instead of wire are the same as bottom strips in Langstroth frame, but of length to fit tight between end bars. A little bit of wax may be put on ends. We can make labels of any size of paper so as to go round tins and fix properly.

A.H., Mount Torrens, S.A., June 14—Will you be importing any Carniolan queens for coming season, or do you know of anyone that has any for sale, or do you know of anyone that has any Cyprian queens for sale? Do you think it advisable to stock an apiary with them?

[We do not know of anyone importing Carniolan queens. They are too great swarmers. Several Victorian beekeepers are importing Carniolans. Their advent will appear later on. Cyprians are very good.]

D. S. M., Hastings, N.Z., June 15— I must say I receive the A.B.B. very regularly; I have not missed one since I started, close on five years ago. I can't give you any bee news this time, as I have been that busy with fruit trees this season I have had no time to look after taking honey. I intend to look after them next year, come what will. I will promise you some news then. Am going into winter with 30 hives, all strong.

D. C., Marlo, Vic., June 18.—The honey crop this last season has been a complete failure. Buds formed upon mahogany, but did not open, so I have packed bees in winter quarters, and am hoping for better luck. I am pleased to see that the V.A.A. is making a determined effort to prevent wholesale ring-barking on Crown lands and hope that the Association will succeed in doing so, as I cannot see why the grazier and saw-miller should practically hold possession of the forest trees. Surely we beekeepers are entitled to some share of them also, although as far as I am concerned the surrounding country (with the exception of the Snowy River flats) is only fit for honey production, the land being useless for grazing, and the trees worthless for timber. Yes, let us have a bonus on all first-class honies that are exported, but why only on box and ironbark? The mahogany of this part of Victoria yields a honey of excellent quality, light amber colour, heavy body, and a fine flavour, and should, in my opinion be considered quite equal to either box or ironbark. I think that it would be very foolish policy to destroy our eucalyptus trees. If we did so, what trees does M. Kinkoff suggest we should supply in their place, that would supply us with honey, timber, shade and oil, and that would thrive well in this dry country.

[Glad to hear you mahogany gives such good honey. The trees in N.S.W. are so different to Victoria.]

HONEY MARKET.

Queensland Country Life.—Honey 3d. per lb.

Maitland Mercury.—Farmers' Produce Sales, honey 2½d to 3d, small tins 2/6 to 2/9.

N. M. Herald.—Choice, 3d, some ask 3½d, good to 2½d, inferior to 2d lb. for tins containing 60lb.

Adelaide Garden & Field.—Honey continues to meet with ready sale at the improved rate. Clear extracted at 3d. Beeswax 1s.

Tamworth News.—Messrs. Searle and Davidson—Honey 2s 3d 7lb tin. Beeswax 8d lb. Farmers' and Settlers' Co-Operative Society, Ltd.—Choicest 3d to 3½d, second quality 2d to 3d.

Australasian, Melbourne.—Honey and Beeswax—Honey is selling at 3½d to 3½d for prime clear; but dark and inferior lots are dull at about 2d. Beeswax is unaltered at 1s to 1s ¾d, extra choice white being worth 1s 1d.

Leader, Melbourne.—Honey—Continued slackness in trade is reported. Extracted lots are saleable at 3½d, from 3d to 3½d being accepted for clear garden, and from 2½d for cloudy and congealed consignments. Beeswax.—Business was transacted at from 1s to 1s 1d, the latter rate being realised for prime lots.

CAPPINGS.

From American and other Bee Journals.

† PROPOLISIN FOR PILES.—Take propolis and olive oil enough to make it soft when mixed. Put into a vessel and heat slowly until the propolis is melted, then strain through a cloth and let cool. I suppose about 3 measures of oil to 1 of propolis would be about right; if too hard, add more oil. This is the best remedy for piles I ever knew anything about. Made with castor-oil it seems to be especially adapted for the cure of this disease. The way to use it is to cleanse the parts thoroughly with water warmed, then

insert a lump at bedtime, and again in the morning.—L. C. ROUSSEAU in *American Bee Journal*.

A Jamaican beekeeper writes in the *Jamaica Times*. My crop of 1902 was, thirty barrels of honey. I sold my first 23 at 1s. per gallon in Jamaica. I refused the offer of 9d. per gallon for the remaining seven barrels and I shipped them through the Association. I got 1s. per gallon as an advance, amounting to £8 10s.; and on arrival of my account I was paid £8 10s 6d. more, making a total of £17 0s. 6d. net for the seven barrels, whilst the former 23 barrels sold locally at 1s. per gallon amounted to only £28 19s. 6d. so that in summing I found that my loss was a long way over £20 and near £30.

The commission man is always between two fires. On the one hand he must secure good prices and make prompt remittances in order to retain the confidence of his consignors; on the other hand, he must meet the opposition of his competitors. He usually goes broke; if he does, it is usually after he has left, and his consignors are "left" also. Who pays the fiddler in such cases? The last paragraph is not meant as a slur at honest commission men, but there is more truth than poetry in the assertion.—S. E. Miller in *Beekeepers Review*.

It has been repeatedly alleged that a colony with a young queen will not swarm during the season in which she is reared. Apiarists, whose careful observations entitle their statements to belief, inform us, that the colony is safe from swarming only where the queen is reared therein and is of its current season's breeding, and that introducing a young queen, of the current season's rearing, to a strong colony, offers no safeguard against its swarming. If this is not an absolute certainty, it seems fair to assume, in view of the statements by experts on these points, that the likelihood of a natural swarm issuing from a colony that has reared a young queen during its current

season, prior to swarming time, is quite remote.—C. H. Huchison, in *Rocky Mountain Bee Journal*.

I will give you my experience with sweet clover this season at Dell, Oregon, where I had an apiary leased. There were 250 colonies in this yard and the neighbours had a few, so there were probably 300 colonies in reach of the pasture my bees were working on, and during the time between the first and second cuttings of alfalfa there were about thirty days that there was no alfalfa in bloom, and as near as we could estimate there no more than fifteen acres of sweet clover and perhaps one acre of catnip in reach of our bees. Still, they stored honey rapidly during all this time, and a good many supers were finished in fifteen days, that is, fifteen days from the time they were put on the hives full of sections with full sheets of foundation, they were ready to come off the hives and go in the shipping cases.—Writer in *Rocky Mountain Bee Journal*.

Dr. Miller in *Gleanings* says:—It is claimed that a bee, for all its thousands of eyes, doesn't see as well as a man. Likely he's right. Although they work in the dark, they can do that by the sense of feeling. But they can't get around outdoors without a lot more light than is absolutely necessary for a man. Bees don't sting as much in a house-apiary, because they can't see so well. In the evening, when it is still light enough for you to see quite distinctly, throw a bee in the air and it will never find its hive. When a cloud comes up on a bright day, the bees hustle home for fear it will get too dark for them. The editor remarks that is true. Bees do not seem to see clearly. To get rid of a lot of bees when I had suddenly brought on an onslaught, I on one occasion dodged behind a post, dropping down low. The bees bumped into the top of the inanimate thing just as if they thought they had got their man; but as soon as they struck they flew off, concluding they had

made a mistake. In the same way a lot of bees will follow one up to an open door; but just the minute he steps inside, they will stop and hover around, for apparently it is blank darkness to them. It is probable that all the operations in the hive are performed more by feeling and smelling than by sight.

Doolittle advising how to fill combs with syrup says: "To get it into the cells, pour in a fine stream from a dipper or some utensil having a spout which should be held a foot or more above the comb, etc."—I can tell you a better way. Take a fruit can, about a 3lb can, one that has been used and cast aside is good enough, punch the bottom full of small holes, about such as a three penny nail will make. If the holes are punched from the inside the syrup will flow more freely than if punched from the outside. An old file with the point intended for inserting in the handle shaped to the proper form and size makes a puncher for the purpose. Having your perforated bottom can prepared, lay the comb in the bottom of a tub on its side. Hold the can about a foot above the comb with the left hand, and with the right hand take a dipper and fill the comb with syrup. Pass the can over all parts of the comb until one side of the comb is filled, when the other side can be turned up and the operation repeated. If there is about half an inch of syrup in the bottom of the tub it is all the better, as it will prevent the syrup from running out of the side first filled, while the other side is being filled. You see by this means we have one hundred or more streams of small size instead of only one. Try it, the next time you have an occasion to fill combs.—S. J. Miller in *Progressive Bee-Keeper*.

Mr. I. Hopkins was specially engaged by the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association, N.Z., to proceed to Christchurch to give a practical demonstration on handling bees at their "grand harvest festival and floral fete." The festival, which turned out a great success, was held on the association's show grounds

at Addington on March 19. Dr. Levinge, medical superintendent of the Sunnyside Asylum, formerly president of the above association, and chairman of the Festival Committee, kindly supplied three colonies of bees for the occasion, and the secretary Mr. Pemberton, gave Mr. Hopkins every assistance in preparing for the demonstration. A space on the ground about 60ft. square had been fenced off with hurdles, and around this at 2 p.m., the time advertised for the demonstration to take place, were fully 1000 people anxious to witness the "bee charming," as it had been advertised. The affair was a complete success, and gave great satisfaction to the secretary and committee as well as the onlookers.—*Apis*, in *N.Z. Farmer*.

As early as practicable draw a frame of hatching brood well covered with bees from each of your strong colonies, replacing the same with the previously prepared full frames of foundation. One frame of brood and bees should be placed in each prepared hive together with a frame of honey or sugar syrup and moved to a distant part of the apiary. Contract the entrance to about one-fourth its usual size and plug it with green grass. By the time the old bees gnaw out they will mark their new location and stay with the nucleus. By the next morning these little nuclei will be fairly howling for queens and they may be safely introduced with very little ceremony.—*Rocky Mountain Bee Journal*.

Candy should only be resorted to, as a rule, in cases of necessity, or at times of the year when syrup feeding would be injurious. Solid food is, however, even then only a makeshift, and is no full substitute for bees. Yet during the period of repose it is the only food which should be placed in any hive, but only as an extra or supplemental dish.—*Beekeepers Record*.

See that your neighbouring beekeeper takes the "Australian Bee Bulletin." Write for sample copy, which will be posted free.

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A Conference of the above took place at the Federal Coffee Palace, Melbourne, commencing Monday morning, June 8th. There was about 40 present.

The President, Mr. T. Bolton, opened the Conference at 9.45 a.m. In the course of his opening speech, he stated that the outlook as far as regards beekeepers were on the up grade.

The question of ring-barking and its effects on the honey production industry, he suggested that before the Government granted applications to destroy timber, the apiarists in the immediate area affected, should be consulted. His bee farm in the Dunkeld district had been seriously affected by ring-barking. In regard to the Blue Blocks areas in that locality, he pointed out that on the figures supplied by the sheep farmers the country when used for sheep would only be productive to the extent of £30 per square mile, or with ring-barking £40, while the bee farmer in a good season could receive £150 worth of honey from the same extent of country, or taking good years with the bad, an average of £75 per square mile. The bee farmer only really occupied about an acre of ground for his hives, and the bees generally ranged over an extent of six square miles. From 100 hives, from January 1902, to May 1903, he had realised £561.

As regards the Forest Timbers we seemed to be nearer a definite solution of one difficulty, mainly owing to the splendid effort of the Forest Protection League and their secretary, Mr. Blackburn.

The President also said, I hope during to-day and to-morrow that the public will be educated up to the subject of the value of trees. I do not hold with the narrow view that only the grazier, saw-miller and honey producer should be considered only. I am flatly opposed to anything that reduces the land to support one industry only, when it is capable of supporting more than one.

We were afraid that freetrade between the colonies would about wipe us out with low prices, but so far we could fully hold our own.

The Secretary then read the minutes of the last conference, which were confirmed.

The Secretary and Treasurer's report was then called for.

Balance last year	£3 15 6
Subscriptions for year	3 10 0
	£7 5 6
Printing	£2 8 7
Rent of Room	1 0 0
Shepparton expenses	1 11 0
Postages and stationery	1 9 6
Balance	0 16 5
	£7 5 6

Mr. W. L. Davey, the Secretary, read his report:—

It is now the commencement of our 4th year, having on May 24th last completed our first three years of existence as an association. It is hardly necessary to review the growth and influence of this Association since its inauguration on May 24th, 1900. No doubt all present are well aware of the great need that then existed for a real beekeepers association.

Such we have in the present time, and to-day it is found uniting by affiliation with kindred organisations, and is without doubt the leading Beekeepers' Association in the Southern Hemisphere. Your Executive have met during the year and transacted important business for your special consideration.

In my report last year I stated that we had 66 members, to-day we have 80 with a prospect of reaching the century within a few weeks time. Although not a prophet, I stated in my last report that at any moment we may have a harder fight than our first, our forests, our very calling, may so need that we must make ourselves felt in this land. I did not, alas, expect my words to come so true as they have. This meeting must feel the great responsibility which is placed upon it of preserving our forest timber, and of fighting for our undoubted rights as citizens of this State.

The Beekeepers License is one of our present successes. We must go the next step and secure the tree tops, we must agitate and agitate, until success attends our every effort.

Mr. Beuhne, the Correspondent, read his report:—

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

According to instructions received at the last annual meeting I attended, together with Mr. W. Murray, the Conference of Farmers of Rural Producers, held at Shepparton, on July 1st, 2nd. and 3rd.

As you had left it in my hands, how best to represent this Association I decided to read a paper on the "Beekeeping Industry in Victoria" drawing attention to the possibilities of our industry in the future, and the obstacles to progress at the present time. The reading of this paper was well received and it appeared in the principal newspapers at the time. Most of you have no doubt read it in the August issue of our official organ the "Bee Bulletin". The principal points of the paper were 1. The Destruction; 2. Diseases of Bees; 3. Honey production; 4. Markets for honey; 5. Characteristic flavour and colour of our honey. All these points will according to our programme be dealt with in one way and another. Apart from the attention this paper drew to our Association as the mouth-piece of our industry, I had the privilege of personal interviews with people in official positions whose knowledge of our wants and interests in our industry I tried my best to increase.

Some of the hints I learned then I have already acted on, and others are at your service for any time they may be needed. At the Shepparton Meeting of Farmers and Rural Producers Association amalgamation with the Chamber of Agriculture was decided, and the meeting adjourned to Melbourne for October. At the Melbourne meeting our Association was not represented, no instructions as to representation and affiliation having been given at our annual meeting. In the light of subsequent events, as Mr. Bolton can inform you, it is to be regretted that this Association has no representative on the Council of the Chamber of Agriculture and R.P.A.

The correspondence for the year has been rather large ranging from letters to Government Departments and Experts to supplying information concerning this Association to beekeepers intending to join. Answers to inquiries from members for advice as to Beekeepers' Rights on Crown Lands, suitable localities for new apiaries, distances and expense of shifting to different localities, difficulties with honey buyers, bee paralysis and foul brood, and other subjects.

Some of the information was somewhat difficult to supply, and did not always come strictly under the heading of duties to your Correspondent.

Of the correspondence with Government Departments etc., I may mention that on July 1 I submitted a new test (from a European paper) for the detection of glucose in honey to the Department of Agriculture. July 8th, I supplied Mr. Cox, one of our Vice-Presidents with a statement of defects and delay in the issue of beekeepers licenses, and suggestions as to the appointment of hon. foresters, and the leasing to beekeepers of tracts of bee pasture. Mr. Cox at a favourable opportunity brought these matters under the notice of the then Minister of Lands.

September 10 to the Secretary for Agriculture, reminding him of promise given to have a scientific investigation of bee diseases made and suggesting that an expert be sent to localities affected. November 15, Secretary for Agriculture inquiring what steps, if any, were being taken in reference to bee mortality. A few weeks later I had a visit from Dr. Cherry, Bacteriologist of the Department, who expressed his opinion on the subject of mysterious mortality, and promised to arrange, if possible, a series of comparative analysis of different honeys. Feb. 18th, to Dr. Cherry, submitting for examination bees supposed to have died of grasshopper fungus. March 14, to the President, Mr. Bolton, suggesting a letter from the Association to the editor of the "Age" in the matter of timber on Blue Blocks. 2nd April, personally interviewed Secretary for Agriculture in regard to scientific investigation and research for improvement of honey. Conservator of Forests in reference to ringbarking. All applications for permits to come before him for decision, obtained map of Reserves for the use of this Association. I also interviewed the proprietor of the *Leader* on behalf of Association. Good leading article on forest conservation followed also insertion of Association's letter "A plea for beekeeping."

To meet the apparent want of information on Bee Culture in the Journal of the Department of Agriculture I agreed to become a voluntary contributor to the Journal and my first article, "Selection of locality for any apiary" appeared in September issue page 908. Since then the journal has been discontinued. I had previously agreed to a range and rewrite in pamphlet form some reports of bee diseases obtained from America for publication by the Department of Agriculture through this Association, but as the investigations to be made here to complete the information to be published have not been made the matter is at present in abeyance.

Keeping in touch with the Department I thought would facilitate matters between the Department and this Association.

One result I had not looked for was that in consequence of the publication of the returns from befarmings in the Western district there

were inquiries at the Department for information, and as a result of that it fair-ained intending bekeepers upon me during the Easter holidays.

In view of the interest taken in honey-producing plants I have obtained a small quantity of this locally grown seed available for members I have also ordered from Europe a few pounds of another variety very highly spoken of, *phacelia tenacetifolia* which should arrive in August, packets of which I will supply to members at cost price, or free if the Association will foot the bill.

I am indebted to members and even friends outside our ranks for their thoughtfulness in sending me clippings from newspapers bearing on our industry, or drawing my attention to articles and letters which I have in many instances acted upon, and I trust they will continue to do so, so that no opportunity may be issued to further our interests, and no misrepresentations may go unchallenged.

FOREST PROTECTION.

Mr. Blackburn, of the Forest Protection League, addressed the meeting. He was very pleased indeed to be present at such a gathering, and he could heartily wish them every success. He had seen 25 years in the service of the Forest Department, and subsequently thought he could speak with some authority on the subject of timber values. They had started the movement in Maryborough, which resulted in the formation of the Forest Protection League. During the early stages of the League he was afraid that the movement would fall flat, through the need of public support and sympathy. He could assure the Conference that the first communication of sympathy which he had received, was one that he would value as long as he lived, and was one that gave him great pleasure, coming as it did from the worthy Secretary of the Victorian Apiarists' Association. The movement had grown apace. Branches were formed in many parts, and support and sympathy were manifest in all parts of the country. He freely supported the contention of the president that the areas of timber country which were suitable for bee-farming should be preserved. He was sure that the body which he represented would

give the association its whole-hearted support. (Hear, hear.) The timber which the beekeeper desired to preserve was of little use to the miner or the saw-miller, and there was therefore no reason why the beekeeping industry should be ruined by the ruthless ringbarking of large areas of country. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Blackburn then read a paper on the subject of Forest Timbers which was attentively absorbed by the Conference, which passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Blackburn, at its termination.

Mr. H. Gore (Chamber of Mines) said that he had come to the Conference to learn, he was afraid before he attended that meeting that the beekeepers would clash with the mining interests, as they wanted to cut down the timber suitable for mining purposes. He could see from the remarks that he had heard that they would not clash, but could heartily accord each other support, as the crooked trees and the short trees would supply honey to the beekeepers, whilst the high and small limbed trees were best suited to the mining pursuits. He wished to emphasize that the four items he would mention must be considered:—

Rainfall—If we destroy our timbers our year's fall of rain would suffer.

Mining would be difficult to carry on for want of mining timber.

Honey production would be destroyed for want of timber.

Commercial timber must be preserved.

He wished to say that once you allow the land to pass into the hands of the settler without strict instructions as to spoilation of the timbers, you could at once say good-bye to the timber forever. He believed in tree-planting, but it would take 70 years for a tree to mature. He thought they should preserve what they already had. He was glad he could report to his committee so favourably on the beekeepers attitude on the subject, and advised them to endeavour to get the Timber Reserves, etc., placed under the control of the Mines Department.—(Hearty applause).

Mr. Beuhne said with regard to beekeepers paying the Government for the use of the tree tops there was no legal method by which payment could be received for tree tops when another man leased the land.

Mr. Kneebone said that in his district the land was very poor, but the timber was very good, and was most suited for honey production, and should be conserved for that purpose.

Mr. Bolton suggested that notices of intention to ringbark should be published so that the beekeepers should have right of giving their evidence as to why ringbarking should not be allowed. The case should be gone into by a land board, and decided only after full publicity had been given to every side of the matter. A man can spend a large amount of capital in bee-farming only to see it wasted away, through the waste and wanton destruction of timber of great value in its commercial aspect and honey value. It was a crime and a shame to allow such things to go on from day to day.

Mr. W. D. Russell said he had proved that the mountainous country was by far the best honey producing country. He said we must be more scientific as regards our timbers and their products, and whoever heard of red gum and yellow box being planted in Victoria? but why should they not do so.

Mr. Wills said he thought they take too long to mature.

Mr. Freeman stated that Cape Colony imported thousands of pounds worth of timber, and in that colony a penalty of £10 was enforced against persons destroying timber.

Mr. Bassett said that wherever a tree was taken out, another one should be planted in its place.

Mr. Cox believed the State schools should be trained to planting trees. It would be a good thing if all the State schools throughout Victoria had a day for tree planting.

After Messrs. Smith and Colston jun. had spoken, it was resolved unanimously

to affiliate with the Forest Protection League, on the motion of Mr. McFarlane seconded by Mr. Cox.

The Secretary then read the suggestion from the Executive Council which was unanimously adopted as a resolution from the Conference to the Hon. Minister of Lands, as follows:—"That this Conference of Beekeepers protests most emphatically against the indiscriminate throwing open of land and destruction of timber without regard to its legitimate value, present and future for beekeeping, mining, and saw milling purposes."

THE DROUGHT AND BEE DISEASES.—Mr. W. L. Davey said he thought the subject was one of great importance. It was possible for the drought to have so affected the honey flow, that the honey was unsuitable as food for bees, and which was probably the cause of Mr. Beuhne's losses. If we took as an analogy the simple garden lettuce, and planted it in good soil at the right time, and gave it the right nourishment, it would produce an article to put in with lamb and green peas, such as a lettuce salad so pleasant to the taste, and so good for the body. If, however, we did not give the plant enough water and nourishment the lettuce would not form a heart, but would form a poison instead, which in drug term was named La. So that in two different aspects we had the one plant producing nourishment at one time and at another producing poison. He thought that many of the diseases would be found eventually to be from the honey not being suitable as a food, through some chemical cause produced by the conditions prevailing at the time the honey was gathered.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. Bolton in the chair.

The Chairman announced that Mr. Tipper, of the *Australian Bee Bulletin* was present.—Announcement received with cheers.

The Chairman read the rules, which were adopted.

THE QUESTION BOX—"QUEEN-REARING."

Mr. McFarlane said queen-rearing did not pay.

Mr. Beuhne had come to the conclusion that queen-raisers pay too much attention to the amount of brood contained in the hives. It was a mistake to take a too prolific queen. Paralysis was due where queens were bred from too prolific mothers. Bees from such queens have a great tendency to paralysis. Breed from moderate prolific queens. He had adhered to that rule for several seasons and paralysis had disappeared.

Question: Why do the queens I buy from good breeders live three or four years whilst those reared only live twelve to eighteen months, and are poor layers during the last six months?

Mr. McFarlane said it depended on the conditions under which they were reared. To breed good queens there should be honey coming in and plenty of pollen and larvæ 18 hours old, the bees in the right condition, three days queenless, hatching brood in the upper story.

Mr. Beuhne.—Take three hives, it would be quite sufficient. The queen with a moderate amount of brood was best. It was not quantity of brood that gives the best result in honey, but the bees that lived to old age—the honey gathering age. If they have any brood in spring they would rapidly disappear.

Mr. Bassett said there was a cure for paralysis. Believed it was inbreeding. He had reared a few queens that had never had paralysis. Paralysis sometimes would not develop the first year, but in the spring of the second year. It was not safe to breed from any young queens at all till they were tested. Queens that were mismated the first cross did not resist.

Mr. Beuhne did not think black queens were less subject than the Italians. The

importance in the cross was on account of the black blood that was introduced.

Mr. Smith found the black nearly as bad. Mismated queens were the worse for it.

Mr. Garrett said it was going in too large for colour.

Mr. Tipper had no paralysis for several years. He reared from best honey gatherers and got fresh queens from different rearers every year.

Mr. Beuhne attributed the not having paralysis in Mr. Tipper's case to different climatic conditions.

Mr. Penglaise said the district and climate had the doing with it.

Mr. Beuhne said he was under the impression that half that was taken as paralysis was no paralysis at all. There were three forms of paralysis—one with the swollen body; another with a quivering motion; another form, the virulent form, the bees dying in a body, they simply looked paler and faded in colour. It was not paralysis at all, but a species of poisoning by eating bad stores.

Mr. Penglaise and Mr. Bassett had tried requeening with success.

Mr. Russell said it was a predisposition to disease.

Mr. Bassett wanted to know if queens reared under the swarming impulse were better than others.

Mr. Jacob said more regard should be paid to the time they chose to raise the queens. He had tried queens with paralysis by exchanging queens with those in a strong hive, and they had got on splendidly.

Mr. Beuhne said the only remedy was requeening. He had practised it. On one occasion he had killed several prolific queens, and then introduced a queen from a diseased colony, and they got on well. Queens raised out of season under the swarming impulse did not live nearly as long as those raised by Doolittle or any other method. You must have a strong force of young worker bees present.

Mr. Bolton said there must be a change of food to produce bees that were immune from paralysis.

Mr. Jeckell gave an instance of changing queens with success.

Mr. Skury left the bees to raise their own queens, and they all came out as well as any, and wintered well too.

Mr. Blackburn laid on the table a book to show five photographs of timber in the Fumina country, which was to be opened for selection. To kill forests of that description was a national calamity.

Mr. Beuhne laid on the table sprigs of phacelia.

Mr. Tipper spoke of the excellence of our forest honey.

Mr. Colston, jun., said the ironbarks of N.S. Wales were different from the ironbarks here. It blossomed in summer, not in winter as here.

Mr. Beuhne read a letter from the Chamber of Agriculture urging the advantages of affiliation with that body.

Mr. Tipper spoke of the advantages the N.S.W. Bee Farmers derived by joining the N.S.W. Chamber of Agriculture. Any great matter wanted, there was a large and influential body to back it up.

Mr. Beuhne said that should there be a conflict of interest between the Chamber of Agriculture and the Association. It was better we should be joined to them.

On the motion of Mr. McFarlane, seconded by Mr. Cox, it was resolved to associate with the Chamber of Agriculture.

A request from the Dunkeld Beekeepers' Association to be allowed to affiliate was granted on payment of an annual fee of one guinea and the district society was allowed to send two delegates to the annual conference with the right to vote.—On the motion of Mr. McFarlane, seconded by Mr. Garrett.

A discussion took place on a proposal to have a beekeepers' tent, filled with bee products and appliances, at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, and numerous offers of assistance were tendered to

the executive if the arrangement can be carried out.—After discussion this matter dropped.

Question: Is there honey produced from maize?

Mr. Tipper.—A beautiful honey with a green tinge.

Question: "How should a beekeeper begin so as to make a success of it?"

Mr. Bolton—Go to a successful beekeeper.

Mr. Tipper—Pay a premium to an experienced beekeeper.

Question: "When beekeepers of modern methods hold the honey crop, why cannot they agree instead of competing against each other and reducing the price?"

Mr. Beuhne moved—"That a member of the Executive should interview the city commission houses with a view to reducing the tare on 60lb. tins from 3lb. to 2½lb. Mr. H. Russell seconded.—Carried.

Mr. Bassett thought Mr. Davey's services as Secretary for four years should be recognised, and moved that he be paid a salary of £10 a year.

Mr. Tipper knew a little of the work Mr. Davey had to do. He was well worthy of it.

Mr. Beuhne thought it should come out of the regular funds of the Association.

Mr. Peter Smith seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller suggested Mr. Davey be presented with a locket for past services.

The question of remunerating Mr. Beuhne for the splendid work he had done as Correspondent being suggested, Mr. Beuhne declined to receive anything for his services, as what he did he could do without interfering with his situation as Mr. Davey. He would do his little bit still as he had done in the past.

Mr. Bolton said Mr. Beuhne often came to Melbourne for their business, and he should be paid his expenses for such.

Mr. Beuhne said he would not involve the association in any unnecessary ex-

penses. The Secretary should be able to act in emergencies when they arise in the interests of the Association, subject to the approval of the Association at the following meeting.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Cox, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The matter of bee diseases was brought up.

Mr. Bassett thought if bees were properly protected during cold weather the disappearing disease would go away.

Mr. Beuhne said it was what they were feeding on—early gathered or late gathered honey.

Mr. Wells spoke to the question.

Mr. Bolton said it was not necessarily white box, but if the larval food was different they stopped out in spring instead of going home. His out apiary suffered much less than the home apiary. We should get Government expert opinion at the earliest opportunity. He moved "That this Association wait on the Minister for Agriculture and ask him to take early steps to get a diagnosis of the disease."

Mr. Penglaise seconded and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Bolton spoke of the excellent manner the "A.B.B.," the official organ of the Association was conducted, and called for a recognition of same, which was done by acclamation.

Mr. Tipper briefly responded.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Mr. Davey's paper.

Mr. R. Beuhne (Tooborac) addressed himself to the question of clarifying honey for the English market. It was generally acknowledged that Australian honey was much stronger in flavour and darker in colour than the standard honey which appeared on the markets of the world. Some ten years ago an effort was made in Victoria to create an export trade

in honey by the Government offering a bonus of 1d. per lb. for all exported. Under the bonus about 80 tons of the finest honey was exported to England, and it was sold there at prices ranging from 1d. to 4d. per lb.; but, notwithstanding the bonus, the senders were almost in debt over the transaction. It was at first thought the low prices obtained were due to a brokers' ring, but this was found not to be the case. There was nothing wrong with the Victorian honey. So far as its nutritive value was concerned, it was superior to most English honey; it had less water and a larger amount of saccharin. But most people in England was used to the milder honey and that was the reason that the Victorian article did not obtain a footing. He pointed out that beet sugar originally had an objectionable smell and colour, but by a refining process it was now hardly to be distinguished from cane sugar. He argued by analogy that if it should be possible to so refine the Australian honey as to bring it up to the English standard. Wine that had previously taken years to ripen was now done in a very short time by electricity. He had proved that by keeping Cape weed honey in open tins for a length of time its objectionable features were removed, and he suggested that the Government should be asked to obtain the expert opinion of a sugar chemist as to the expediency of removing the flavour and color of Victorian honey in an expensive way.

Mr. W. D. Russell thought it was impossible to take the flavour out of honey, the dark colour will have to remain.

Mr. Beuhne had been inclined to bring a sample to show it could be done. The question was could it be removed at a price to pay.

The question of holding honey over from good seasons to bad ones, it was suggested the Government might provide say £5000 to advance in honey, beekeepers to pay interest, the Government to provide storage room for it.

Conversation on the subject of the flavour preferred by the English market, in which Mr. Russell, Mr. Colston, Mr. Tipper and Mr. Bolton took part, the white clover seemed to be the standard.

Mr. W. D. Russell, speaking of the bonus of £10 per ton given by Government some few years ago, said it was only intended by the Government for no person to get the bonus for more than one ton, but several received the same for more by putting honey through persons who were not beekeepers.

Inquiry into the matter was promised.

Mr. Bolton alluded to the production of honey vinegar. He believed it need not take ten minutes to make. It could be brought about by mechanical appliances. And a great deal might be done in that way. Wine that had previously taken years to ripen could now be done in a very short time by electricity. He suggested that a good deal of the Fumina country might be profitably taken up by beekeepers if only there was an outlet for the production of honey. He thought that persistent effort might overcome English prejudices. He believed there were openings for Australian honey at Hong Kong, Calcutta, Colombo and other eastern centres.

Mr. W. D. Russell (Elmhurst) suggested more co-operation amongst beekeepers, and the sending of an agent to England.

After further discussion it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Skurrii, (Ararat) that the Government should be asked to provide the expert as suggested, and also to assist the association in reference to by-products, and in opening up a market in South Africa.

The members were asked to furnish the secretary confidentially their returns for honey and wax during the past season.

In the afternoon the member waited on Mr. Taverner, Minister for Lands, in a body.

Mr. Davey introduced the deputation. He wished Mr. Taverner to understand they were in full sympathy with him in settling the people in the land. A resolution had been passed at our conference to protest against opening of land without reference to its value for honey. He had brought samples of honey for inspection. There were gentlemen who could tell him how much they could produce, and its value that could be secured. If we took this land for agriculture, mining and grazing, the honey produce in value comes out on top. We desired to put people on the land, but if the timber was cut down beekeepers would have to go to California or elsewhere for a living. They had spent in capital some £20,000. The honey producing timber in the Blue Block country were not surpassed in any country in the world.

Mr. Bolton said he had been misunderstood somewhat, that we desired the Blue Blocks solely for the timber. The value for our product and the value for grazing. The value of sheep to four acres was £30 per square mile, when ringbarked it was increased by £10, or £40 altogether. The beekeeper, in order to gain £150, would be willing to pay rental for the tree tops only, year in and year out. If the graziers could destroy the tree tops the whole would be lost forever, as we could not replace the timber. If the timber was reserved we could support a population double what the rung trees would. In the case of the grazier who applies for permission to ringbark the trees, those beekeepers who are in the vicinity should be informed and given an opportunity to put his side of the question. With permission as applied for ringbarking the beekeeper knows nothing of it till the trees are ringbarked and gone. He gave an instance of ringbarking of trees in the middle of a flow. Security against such was being wanted for the future to enable beekeepers to embark or keep in the industry.

Mr. Smith said the land goes back through ringbarking. It was only improved for a time, when ringbarked it was wasted.

Mr. Chambers had been connected with beekeeping for the last 20 years, more particularly as a supply dealer. He knew as a fact often people that had invested their capital in beekeeping had to go to something else because their timber was destroyed. Instanced a man who had started beekeeping was able to make a home of his own from the bees, who had taken 25 tons from 200 hives, could not find a bee at work more than a mile and a quarter away.

Mr. Beuhne, in reply to what could be made by beekeeping, said inquiries were made by the Department. Four applications were made for the information. Those gentlemen were referred to him. They asked straight away, "Where can we go and settle? Were these situations permanent? Will we be put so we will not be disturbed?" During the last eight years his average had been 100 pounds per colony. His answer was none of the reserves were permanent. We would like to have some indication what is likely to remain and what is likely to go. A lot of trouble would be done away with if the present regulations were enforced. Now ringbarking is done first, and permission asked for afterwards.

Mr. Taverner suggested that a committee should meet him on some other occasion, as there were some points he would like to understand. He was anxious to establish those industries. He thought it was the conditions the Association would like to be regulated. Would like to confer in regard to the timber. There was an aspect that might be considered—how we can utilise some 4,000,000 acres throughout the State for the purpose of promoting the bee industry. What he thought was they were inclined to think that he was trying to ruthlessly destroy the timber. The timber areas they had dealt with was

timber that had been excised. They had been adopting a kind of chance policy. He blamed them for sitting so long and allowing the department cutting and selling and making no provision for the future. We should adopt the policy of France and Italy. He would do his best to induce his colleagues to help in such policy. So far as he was concerned there would be no indiscriminate throwing open of good forest land. He found that for 1901 the output of honey amounted to 427 tons, which meant £8540; and 15,269lbs. of beeswax, which at 1s gave £763. There were matters in connection with the industry that he would like to discuss with them in company with the Director of Agriculture. He would be pleased to meet a committee of the deputation as there were one or two points to be discussed, and he thought we could work together in settling people on the land, and also at same time to help the industry.

Mr. Davey thanked the Minister and the deputation withdrew.

The deputation was then photographed outside the building.

On returning to the meeting room it was carried on the motion of Mr. Davey, seconded by Mr. Colston, sen., to thank the Minister for Lands for his consideration of the subject.

The next business was the presentation to Mr. W. L. Davey, the worthy and energetic Secretary, by the Chairman, who spoke very warmly of the services rendered by that gentleman, and how much it was appreciated by every member of the Association.

Mr. Davey, in responding, said he had only worked to benefit the industry. He felt it the proudest moment of his life. He hoped to always have that confidence, and would always endeavour to do his best as he had done in the past.

The following officers were elected:—

President: Thos. Bolton, Esq., Dunkeld. Vice-Presidents: R. Miller, Esq., S. Melbourne; E. Cox, Esq., Northwood.

Correspondent: R Beuhne, Esq., Tooborac. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. W. L. Davey. Executive Council: Messrs. Jas. McFarlane, Lyndhurst; V. R. Davey, Blackburn; W. S. Freeman, Fairfield; L. Mills, Essendon; and all office bearers. Official Organ: *Australian Bee Bulletin*. Advisory Committee: Messrs. Geo. McFarlane, Avoca; S. Hallam, Telangatuk E.; C. J. Duncan, Outrim; G. Smith, Baileston; B. Buck, Rheola; C. Willyan, Huntly P.O., via Bendigo; E. Jackel, Berwick; J. Bennet, Axedale; C. Garrett, Briagolong; E. Gippsland; E. P. Penglase, Fernbank, Gippsland; J. Bassett, Wodonga; J. Yates, "Whitelaw" Gippsland; D. M. Morgan, "Deep Lead," Stawell; H. Russell, Wartook; Mrs. K. L. Willan, Mansfield; Messrs. Scurry, Ararat; Mr. P. Moorfield, Howlong, N.S.W.; Mr. Hoper; P. Smith.

A letter was read from Mr. H. Byron Moore, author of a pamphlet entitled "Her Royal Highness Queen Bee," with copy of pamphlet. It was resolved the pamphlet be inserted in the official organ, the "A Bee Bulletin."

A new rule was added empowering the executive of the Association to affiliate with kindred societies if occasion required and Rule 2 rescinded, to be subsequently endorsed by a subsequent meeting of the Association.

Conversation ensued on the lax way in which statistics were collected by the police, and it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Penglaise, "That the Executive be instructed to obtain more reliable accounts of beekeeping statistics."

Mr. Chambers informed the meeting, that he had £8 in hand belonging to the old Beekeepers' Association, which he was prepared to hand over to this if he was considered to be free from any blame. He was entitled to do it legally.

A notice of motion that life and honorary members be admitted on receipt of £1 was carried.

It was recommended that Conferences be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays in future.

The question of the annual members' subscription, an increase of which had been recommended by the executive council, was fully discussed, and a resolution was finally carried that the annual subscription be 0½d per hive above 50 hives, minimum 2s 6d, with a vote for every 2s 6d paid up.

At the suggestion of Mr. Davey it was proposed by Mr. Beuhne, seconded by Mr. Kneebone, that new members be admitted on payment of 2/6, to carry to the next Convention.

Notice was received next day (Wednesday) that the Minister was prepared to confer with a committee from the previous deputation. Accordingly Messrs. Bolton, Davey, Beuhne, H. Russell and McFarlane met him.

Mr. Beuhne spoke of bee diseases, and getting the matter inquired into by Dr. Cherry. The Minister said Dr. Cherry would be at liberty and would take the matter up, applying, when needing samples of fresh bees, to Mr. Beuhne. Mr. Beuhne spoke of the advisability of finding means to modify the flavour of dark honies which if it could be done, it would mean all the dark honey going to waste would be harvested and get a market value.

Mr. Bolton also spoke of the matter of quick vinegar production.

Mr. Wallace thought it was only fair and just as far as he could see, and the improvement to flavour was very important. He would get it followed up by the analytical chemist who would do all he could in the matter.

The members of the deputation afterwards sampled samples of different kinds of foreign honey in the rooms of the department.



F. J. BAKER & CO.

At the Water Police Court, before Mr. W. M. Macfarlane, S.M., Frederick James Walsh (19), described as a grocer's assistant, was charged with stealing a Royal Speedwell bicycle, valued at £18, the property of Albert Gallagher, on March 18 last.

The informant stated that on March 17 he answered an advertisement in one of the daily papers, and the next day the accused called at his place to look at the bicycle which witness had for sale. The accused asked if he might try the machine, and after having done so said he was quite satisfied. He subsequently said he would like to try the back rim brake, and getting on the machine again he rode away and never returned.

The accused reserved his defence, and was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions on June 1.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the following communication from the Sydney Detective Office:—

Detective Office, Sydney,
May 22, 1903.

The detective officer appointed in accordance with Mr. E. Tipper's communication, reports that no such firm as F. J. Baker & Co. exists. 69 Sussex-street is occupied by E. Webster, carrier, who informed him that a man giving the name of F. J. Baker was renting 12 feet of floor space from him for the purpose of storing honey, and that a number of letters addressed F. J. Baker & Co. were delivered to him daily. The detective kept 69 Sussex-street under observation for some time with the result that he caught Baker on the 11th inst. in the act of receiving his letters, which were chiefly from country people who were desirous of forwarding consignments of honey and beeswax to F. J. Baker & Co. On being questioned, Baker admitted that the whole thing was an attempt to obtain possession of consignments of honey and wax by

fraud. The Detective, after careful enquiries is satisfied that Baker failed "through his timely arrest" to obtain any honey or beeswax, so there is no charge against him except the charge of attempting to obtain the honey and wax by means of a false pretence. To prove this charge it would mean inconvenience to witnesses, who would have to be brought from the country, as well as the expense to the Police Department. This the Detective considers unnecessary, as Baker, "under the name of F. J. Walsh" is under committal to the forthcoming Sydney Quarter Sessions on three strong charges of felony. **The information forwarded by Mr. E. Tipper has undoubtedly prevented an extensive fraud being perpetrated upon the honey producers of this State.**

From the Superintendent of Detectives, Sydney.

The above matter gave us a lot of thinking. We are now very satisfied at the result of the steps we took. Had we not inserted the advertisement the unfortunate culprit would doubtless have found some other vent for his peculiar talents instead of as now being taken care of.

RESULT OF EVIL INFLUENCES.

At the Quarter Sessions, Sydney, Tuesday, June 2, Frederick James Walsh, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing on April 29, a mare the property of James Oliver Smith, Petersham, also a carriage, harness, rug, and lamps, the property of J. O. Smith.

The same accused pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a bicycle, the property of Albert Edward Gallagher, Sydney, on March 18.

The accused, who was apparently a gentleman by birth, and who gave his age as 19, handed a statement to the judge. He said he had received a first-class education in England, and came out to Australia 12 months ago to make his

way in the world. He was from a good family, and he came with several letters of introduction to Australia, including one from an admiral. While in this State, however, he regretted to say that he could not get a position suitable, and was led amongst people who had an evil influence over him. He was entitled to an allowance from home of £52 per year.

His Honor: Will you make restitution for the articles stolen?—Yes, willingly.

The Accused: I came out to Australia to make my fortune, but I regret I made a deplorable mess of it.

His Honor: People in some parts seem to have a peculiar idea of the conditions of Australia. I have been here all my life trying to make my fortune.

The accused: The people of England have a very different opinion of the state of Australia and the opportunities of prosperity to what the place really is.

A sentence of six months hard labour on each charge was passed, sentences to be cumulative; but on Walsh entering into a recognisance in £50 to be of good behaviour for 12 months, and to find a surety in a similar amount, the sentence to be suspended. He was also ordered to make restitution for the articles stolen. The surety was immediately forthcoming.

We cannot conclude this without a word of praise to the Sydney Detective Force, for their energy and promptitude. Evidently they are right men in the right place.

The following letter, which we sent to Baker & Co., and to which we received no answer at the time, has been returned to us through the Dead Letter Office:—

May 13, 1903.

Messrs. F. Baker & Co.

Sir,—Quite a number of beekeepers are referring to me to know your bona fides, and whether it is safe to send honey to you, as you are quite unknown. Will you kindly give me some reference or satisfaction in the matter.

Yours truly,

E. TIPPER.

CAPPINGS.

In the County of Essex, England, there are 4,350 stocks of bees.

In newly imported queens, especially from Europe, there is great danger of diseases being imported. Be careful over this matter.

To unite two swarms of bees put an empty hive between the two. Smoke both, or sprinkle with some scent. Then transfer the frames alternately from each hive to the central empty one.

Pea flour and roller wheat flour in equal proportions, if given every day on shavings in a box or old skep, placed in a sunny nook, will induce breeding.—*Beekeepers Record.*

An aged queen can be judged only by the absence of pubescence or hairiness on the abdomen and the jagged and torn edges of the wings, along with other symptoms of age from the "worn-out" look of the insect, very plain to the eye of an experienced beekeeper.

To get bees to start on flour pollen scatter a few drops of honey on the exposed flour. Pack the flour tightly in the vessels and then set them at an angle of 50 degrees. This, it is said, will enable the bees to gather the flour while on the wing without getting themselves smothered in it.

Watering-troughs filled with moss or tea-leaves, may be placed in sheltered, sunny spots about the apiary, and kept regularly supplied with water, if there are not convenient drinking-places close by. If, however, running water-courses are near at hand, it is a waste of labour to provide troughs, which bees pay no attention to.—*Exchange.*

Editor Hall, of the *American Beekeeper*, recommends for testing tins to see if they are leaky to place the lips firmly in or against the aperture, draw into the lungs and exhale through the nose all the air possible, by repeated draughts, which necessarily become shorter as the air is pumped out of a tight receptacle. By this means much more power, with less

effort, is exerted; and in case of a leak, in testing cans, the inrushing air from outside, while the breath is momentarily held to listen, will reinflate the partly collapsed tin, thereby keeping up a constant crackle and ring as the sides readjust themselves to the original position. In testing barrels, when a leak occurs, and while the bung is yet stopped by the human pump, the hissing of rushing air may be audible; or if the leak be very small, the suction at bung will be gradually reduced, and readily recognised by the pumper.

When bees are storing rapidly, and the supply is for winter use, the thicker we can supply the liquid food the more do we assist the bees, as it saves them considerable labour in evaporating the surplus moisture. If it is given them in too watery a condition, in their haste they may consign it to the cells in such a state that when cold weather comes it sours and becomes unwholesome food, causing illness, and, in extreme cases, death—for such poor stuff is a fertile source of bowel distension and consequent dysentery. This last ill is one which the ethics of feeding, properly understood, has of late years done much to eradicate from the list of diseases which bee-life falls heir to. Thin syrup, on the other hand, is best when bees start breeding and when stimulation is going on. It should be our aim to save storing up, and the thinness is then really a saving of labour, coming as it does instead of the water, which they have to collect at great pains and labour to thin and tone down the food for the young bees. It follows, therefore, that when rapid storing for a winter supply, syrup should be thick and consistent; but when stimulative feeding is going on it should be thin.

After trying many kinds and sizes of hives, from eight-frame Langstroth to ten frame Quinby, I have decided upon the ten-frame Langstroth as the best for the production of extracted honey in this locality, as there is no size that produces

any more honey. Besides, everything larger has to be contracted during the cold months to winter well out-doors; and, with my system of working, to get the most honey with the least labor, it is out of the question to handle brood frames to any extent. I have four yards at present—about 350 colonies altogether. So much confidence have I in yards at distant points, that I expect to leave the four yards mentioned, and go 100 miles north, a year from now, and place 200 colonies there. Why do I place apiaries so far apart? I do it to put bee-keeping on a solid, paying foundation. You know, that bee-keeping has the name of being uncertain, not an occupation to be depended upon wholly for a living, and I am trying to overcome most of these uncertainties by placing apiaries so far apart that I will get a crop at some of the locations. Without going into particulars, all old bee keepers know perhaps to their sorrow, that one location may be yielding a splendid crop, while the bees are in a starving condition only a few miles away; and, that, too, with the same kind of pasturage. The weather conditions make the difference.—D TOWNSHEAD in *Bee-keepers' Review*.

Bee Study and Observations.

[BY W. ABRAM.]

In my long course of beekeeping in different parts of the globe and under various conditions, and being a keen observer and reader of the writings of other beekeepers, I have had great opportunity to study bee life in extenso. Some writers are carried away in their enthusiasm into quite untenable grounds. Take the not infrequent assertion that to breed from non-swarming stocks only will gradually result in obtaining a non-swarming strain of bees; or the selection of the best honey-gatherers as breeders will ere long make all stocks equal to the best of that class. And so on in respect to other qualities.

Before going into the proof or disproof of any of these points it must be taken into consideration that bees are destined by Nature to fulfil certain purposes. These are reproduction, propagation, and the aiding of Nature's ways in its particular sphere. Reproduction as well as propagation are absolutely essential to prevent extinction, and for that purpose bees are implanted with the natural instinct to that effect. Reproduction goes on almost unceasingly in various degrees; when the highest degree is reached and other conditions are suitable then the desire for propagation arises. The stocks send out a swarm to form a new home wherein to continue reproduction, but when the conditions appear unsuitable for the purpose of propagation the degree of reproduction gradually declines without swarming, and by the end of the year stocks have again attained their former conditions. Should, now or at any time, some stocks succumb as does happen from various causes, the number would be decreased; on the other hand, should each stock swarm regularly every season the increase would be excessive. Thus the difference of seasons, the variation of qualities of bees, etc., counter-balance one another. But besides their reproductive instinct of the bees we must consider their utility as aiders of nature indirectly. For that purpose bees possess the inborn instinct to gather honey and pollen, which is their food on the one hand, but in the gathering of which they assist nature's ways on the other hand. Pollen is the essential for the fertilisation of flowers and blossoms; pollen is not so readily distributed by any other means than by the aid of bees who, in gathering it for their use at the same time distribute quite enough to other plants of the same class to effect fertilisation. Nectar is a surplus product of the tree or plant, and its sweetness and aroma attracts the bees—it is their main food. In gathering it the bees provide food for themselves, and at the same time enable the flowers or blossoms to set fruit or seed, which in

their turn provide propagation of their kind. If the bees would not remove this over-product it would dry into a hard crust and prevent fruit or seed from setting. Thus it goes on—wheel within wheel.

I am not an advocate, therefore, of the breeding of any particular habit or trait to the detriment of others. To breed from non-swarming strain only to establish that strain more firmly improved would be as much against nature's ways as would be the breeding for best honey gathering quality only, or for that matter any special trait. As climatic and other conditions vary considerably, it follows that any one particular habit must be admirably adapted for the purpose, or else bring failure and ruin ere long. Should the swarming desire be so latent that in a suitable season not a swarm would issue, what would happen in seasons partly or wholly unsuited for swarming? The same as regards best honey gatherers. What would happen in a season when honey is plentiful? They would crowd the breeding space to such an extent that soon the number of bees would be few to gather much more. The stocks that accredit themselves best in a bad honey season are by no means best in a good honey season; they gather rather too fast, to the detriment of anything else. Perhaps the disappearing trick and spring dwindling belong to the same cause, but anon some other time.

To be continued.

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